

St. John's Evangelical Church
211 E. Carrol Street
Kenton, Ohio 43326
(Non Profit Organization)

Do Not Delay
Dated Material



St. John's Evangelical Church Newsletter

June 2023

211 E. Carrol Street
Kenton, OH 43326
Church Phone: 419-673-7278
Pastor Randall cell: 724-290-3651

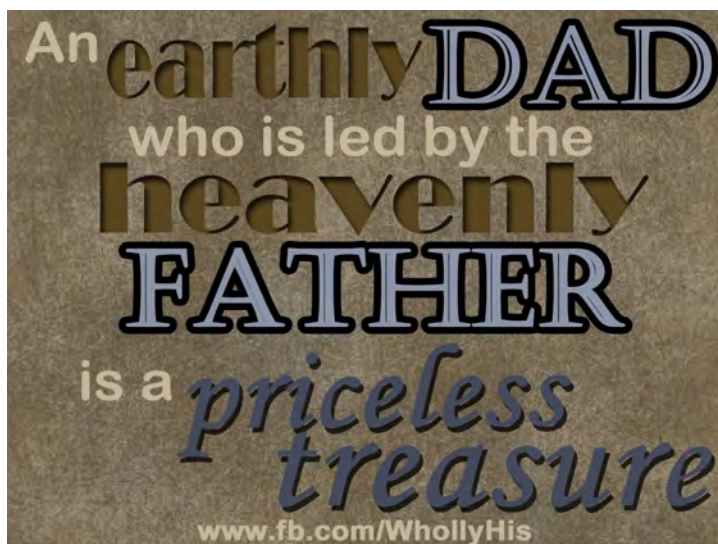
Rev. Dr. Randall J. Forester, Senior Pastor
Website: www.stjohnskenton.org
Email: stjohnskenton@gmail.com

What Makes a Dad

God took the strength of a mountain,
The majesty of a tree,
The warmth of a summer sun,
The calm of a quiet sea,
The generous soul of nature,
The comforting arm of night,
The wisdom of the ages,
The power of the eagle's flight,
The joy of a morning in spring,
The faith of a mustard seed,
The patience of eternity,
The depth of a family need,
Then God combined these qualities,
When there was nothing more to add,
He knew His masterpiece was complete,
And so, He called it ... Dad

Author Unknown

Happy Father's Day!



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL CHURCH

211 East Carrol Street
Kenton, OH 43326

REV. DR. RANDALL J. FORESTER, PASTOR & TEACHER

Phone: 419-673-7278 (o)
Phone: 724-290-3651 (c)

E-mail: PastorRandall@stjohnskenton.org

JUNE 2023

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

Farewells are never enjoyable. It's bad enough when they are temporary. It's worse when they are permanent. The worst is when we do not know what they are. Words escape us. Do we fawn over each other? Do we pour out our hearts? Do we hold our tongue and simply embrace? Do we become paralyzed and let the moment pass without uttering a word?

That is the quandary I have been living with since 07 February of this year. Do I share everything that is in my heart? Do I try to cram two decades of sermons into a few weeks? Do I tell you everything that is in my heart? Do I keep to the tasks at hand and preach the words that were already on my preaching calendar? Do I create some hodgepodge set of answers to all those questions?

If you have interacted with me in any way over the last few months, you will know that I have chosen to answer the last question? Sometimes, I have overshared. Sometimes, I have remained silent. Often, I have ignored everything in the hopes it would just go away. (For those who may be wondering, that last bit just doesn't work.) Through it all, I have tried to live my life faithfully to God and in service to you, the community of saints to whom God has called me to serve as pastor and His emissary.

It is hard to lead (or to live for that matter) when you do not know what tomorrow holds. Thankfully, we have survived transitions, turmoil, and uncertainties in this past decade (thanks COVID!). We will find a way through in this time, and we shall do much more than simply muddling through (as the British would say).

Jesus, before His great departure, said to His disciples: "A little while, and you will see Me no longer; and again a little while, and you will see Me" (**John 16:16**). I can say that to you as well. I will be going a way for a little while, but you will see me again. I hope it will be in this body, which may have a few more scars and missing a few aspects of it. If not that, we may have to wait a little while longer to greet each other with our new bodies in glory. I don't

share that because I lack faith or to depress you. I say that to be honest. I say it because I want you to know that I am assured that my outcome leads me to glory. I say that because I want you to have that same assurance in your life.

In **II Corinthians 4:8-10**, Paul writes, "We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed,

but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies."

Everyday, we carry in our bodies the death of Jesus Christ.

Recently, I have physically carried a tumor in my chest that reminds

me that death has a grip (quite literally) on me. Even greater, is the death of Christ that holds me. I manifest it as I walk in His way of suffering as I serve others and care for them. I give my life for Him and for His children as He did so to the honor and glory of His heavenly Father.

Paul and I are conveying the same message to you and to the Church, the believers in Christ: we may suffer for God in this life, but that suffering is not wasted when it is done in Christ, and for Christ, and through Christ.

Ultimately, that suffering allows us to shed our selfish and sinful desires and to focus on what is truly necessary and what is good and pure and noble in God's eyes (see **Philippians 4:8**).

The irony is this: when we accept our death and dying daily, it is then that we can truly begin to live. When we die to ourselves, it is then that the life of Jesus can also be manifested in our bodies. As I have walked this journey to my cross-my surgery, I have attempted to demonstrate to you and to the world that I travel with Christ, and for Christ, and through Christ. While you have watched me wither and dying from chemotherapy, radiation, and cancer, I hope you have also watched me live, even with labored breath and weakened body.



I hope even more to have you bear witness to me being restored to you by the power of Christ just as Jesus did for a widow by raising her son from the clutches of death (see **Luke 7:11-17**). For me, restoration is a selfish thing as I feel there is more for me to do here as your pastor. I feel there is a need to grow our ministry as a church as we grow together in our faith. Personally, I want to watch my family grow alongside our church family.

Even more, I want you, dear friend, to grow in the light of God's love. I want you to always know the Father's compassion for you. I want you to know the grace and mercy lavished on you by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Most of all, I want you to know the power of the Holy Spirit that is yours. After all, this is the season of Pentecost.

Many Christians live their lives in fear. They hide their light instead of letting it shine for the world to see. We may not be a city set on a hill, but God has placed us near the center of this town for a reason (see **Matthew 5:13-16**). We are called to be a witness to what God has done in us, and for us, and through us in Christ and by the Holy Spirit. We are called to minister actively in Jesus' name to one another, to our community, and to this world.

And yet, many Christians do not bear witness as they should or serve in ministry as they should. Why do many Christians sit on the sidelines instead of "getting into the game?" The answer is quite simple: they experience dying more than living. They quietly experience daily what I have been living aloud the past few months. Many Christians are ashamed at their suffering, their pain, their stumblings. They think that dying, and the weakness it reveals, is a point of shame, but it only is if it is a dying apart with Christ.

God redeems our weakness in Christ. In fact, as Paul emphasized in **II Corinthians 12:10**, "For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong." Biblically, we are not to hide our weaknesses, but we are to reveal them. For in doing so, we reveal Christ at work in us.

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL CHURCH:

MAKING AND MATURING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST

Dear Christian, do not be like many Christians who hide in the shadows for fear that people will see their weaknesses, their shortcomings, or their dying. Step out of those shadows and step into the Light of Christ. Let the Holy Spirit shine through you—all of you! God will use you...even at what you perceive to be your weakest, He will work in and through you. It is then He will reveal His strength and the power of your testimony. It is then that the Holy Spirit shines through us most powerfully for we are in the darkest of places, and the world sees that and will be convicted by a faith (a gift itself from the hand of God!) that illuminates our lives and those around us.



Loving God and Loving Others
Serving God through Serving Others

If my life (and my dying) and my ministry here has meant anything, I hope and pray it has compelled you to live for Jesus in a more sincere manner and with all your heart, mind, soul and strength (see **Matthew 22:37, Mark 12:30, Luke 10:27, Deuteronomy 6:5**). I

hope that you are moved to take your life, dedicate it to God, and to live for Him as the Holy Spirit guides you in the understanding and usage of your spiritual gifts.

Then, I hope that you come together with your brothers and sisters in St. John's (and believers all around us) to minister in this community and world to glorify Christ. I hope that together you bear witness to the life of Christ at work in you. I hope that what was said about the early church can be said of you: "And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all" (**Acts 4:33**).

May great grace be upon you, dear friend in Christ, and may we greet one another soon.

With Christ's eternal love,

Pastor Randall

Preaching Series

When the pastor is away, the congregation will play. Isn't that the old saying. Perhaps, the original saying had something to do with a cat and mice. Still, I hope it does not apply here.

In June, I will lead my final service here before surgery, which has more to do with exposing our congregation to a different (for us currently) Communion service. As always, I want to provoke you to think while encouraging you to explore our faith more deeply. Hopefully, as I have mentioned at different times on Sunday mornings, some of you may wish to discover possible worship formats for upcoming services.



I pray that you will use my time away to do that. Please encourage our speakers and worship leaders. Have thoughtful conversations with one another. For me, please pray diligently that I may return to at least preach June 25th.

However long my absence may be, be faithful in service, support one another, commit to constructively build the ministry of this church, and be present in worship.

Preaching Calendar

04 June	Scripture	Acts 1:12-26 John 21:20-25
	Message	The End Is Never The End
11 June	Scripture	Acts 12:1-19 Acts 21:1-14
	Message	You Don't Always Get What You Want
18 June		Pastor's Recovery
25 June		Pastor's Recovery
02 July	Scripture	Pastor hopes to return Galatians 5:16-26 (our freedom!) Galatians 6:1-10 (our responsibility!)
	Message	Our Freedom in Christ
09 July	Scripture	I Thessalonians 2:17-3:5 Luke 10:38-42
	Message	Glad to Be Home
16 July	Scripture	II Samuel 6:1-15 Luke 7:21-23
	Message	Mortify Our Pride
23 July	Scripture	II Samuel 6:16- Mark 6:21-29
	Message	I Just Wanna Dance
30 July	Scripture	Genesis 50:22-26 Mark 15:42-47
	Message	This Bag of Bones
	See also	Hebrews 11:22; Exodus 13:19; Joshua 24:32; Matthew 28:10; John 19:6

Upcoming Events



Blanchard Place Nursing Home Ministry (First Tuesday)

Our nursing home ministry at Blanchard Place is June 6 at 1 pm. We visit Blanchard Place the first Tuesday of the month to provide a time of song, scriptures, reflections, and prayers. If you would like to participate, please contact the office. You can lead parts of the worship service, visit the residents, or come to be supportive of this outreach.

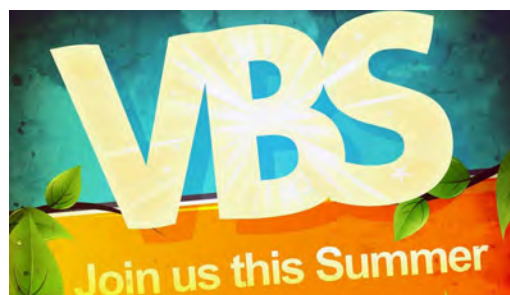
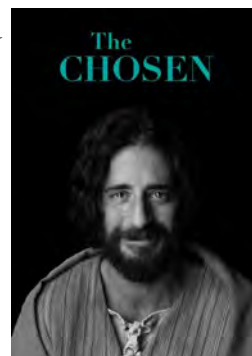
Operation Christmas Child



A decorated box is located in the skylight room to place any items for this year's OCC shoeboxes. See Toni Pfister with any questions.

The Chosen Bible Study

We are gaging interest in starting a Bible Study in the fall on The Chosen Series. We have received permission to view the episodes at church. There are study guides available on Angel Studio's website on each season. We are looking at Saturday mornings from 8:30-10. It takes approx. an hour to watch an episode and 30 minutes for discussion. If you would be interested in this Bible Study, please contact Anna LaWarre or the church office.



VBS will be August 14-17 from 5-7:30 pm. Transportation and meal provided. To register, please email Michele at michelesjyouth@gmail.com or call the church office at 419-673-7278. Please pray bout volunteering in some way, even if you are praying for the kids in the program.



PEANUTS ARE IN!!! Texas Roadhouse Peanut Fundraiser: Hardin County Collective Youth are selling Texas

Roadhouse Peanuts again. \$5/bag plus a coupon for a free appetizer (with purchase of meal). The proceeds will help with the cost of food each month and activities which include, bowling, movies, swimming, camp etc. Please contact Michele to purchase them.

All Church Social St. John's Evangelical Church



Fellowship Hall—Air Conditioned
211 East Carrol Street
Kenton, OH 43326

Tuesday, July 11, 2023

4:00—7:00 PM



Menu: Sandwiches, Noodles, Salads, Pie, Cakes, Ice Cream and drinks

Free Will Offering



Everyone is invited to fellowship and eat some of the **BEST** home cooking in Hardin County!



Carry-Out Available
419-673-7278

O taste and see that the Lord is good...

Friday With Friends

Friday With Friends is a wonderful group of widows and widowers who meet twice a month for a special time of food, fellowship, and fun. They meet the first and third Fridays of every month. Please join them if you are a widow or widower. This is not exclusive to St. John's, so pass the word along to someone that you know who could be blessed by this special group. For more information, contact Ethel Koch at 419-674-6344.

Forthcoming outings will be as follows:

If out of town, meet at St. John's, corner of Wayne St. and E. Carrol St. to carpool. They leave sharply at 10:45. Still eating at 11:30 am.

June 2—Cranberry's (Indian Lake)

June 16—LaPizzaria (Indian Lake)

July 7—Luke's (Bluffton)

August 4—Frances Lake (Kenton)

August 18—Tilton Hilton (Indian Lake)

September 1—Western Sizzler (Lima)

September 15—Plaza Inn (Mt. Victory)

Summer Church Office Hours

The church office hours will change in the summer until July 7. The office will be open Monday—Friday from 8:30 am -12:30 pm. Starting July 10, they will return to 8:30-10:30 am & 12:30-2:30 pm due to summer preschool at Simon Kenton. Please call if you have any questions.



Birthday Blessings (over 80 yrs. Young)

June Birthdays on File:

June 7 Jerry Pfister
207 Hideaway Drive
Kenton, OH 43326

Mission of the Month— Angels for the Elderly

Angels For The Elderly is a non profit organization helping the Elderly have food. They do food boxes for the needy elderly every month. Mary Roby has been doing this ministry for about 4 years. She started doing this with Deanna Wages with Helping Hands. She does not get help through the state or any organization. all is with donations and fundraisers.

Summer Preaching

Feel free to submit topics, themes, or scriptures for summer sermons. Also, you may submit songs or hymns or other elements of worship (like a call to worship or prayer of confession) that you may like to see as part of the worship life of the church. You may contact the pastor or the church office by phone or email, or you may put your suggestions in the offering plate during the worship services. With the pastor's return and recovery dictating events, these items may or may not be used in worship. Still, Pastor Randall would like to begin the process as he continues to reflect on worship and his service here to St. John's Evangelical Church.

Celebrate Recovery Meal Sign Up

St. John's supplies a meal for Celebrate Recovery twice a month. The meals is the second and Fourth Tuesday of each month for approximately 10-15 people. If you are able to provide food, please sign-up in the back of the sanctuary. Please have the food at the church at 6 pm in the kitchenette across from the chapel. Any questions, please see Anna LaWarre or Jerry Pfister.

website: stjohnskenton.org

Facebook: St Johns Kenton, Ohio

Youtube: St. John's Evangelical Church





Hey dads, step-dads, grandpas, brothers, and dad-figures. Happy Father's Day! Thank you for all you do to love, guide, and father the teenagers in your life. You are incredible.

Here are a few things coming up in our ministry...

June 26-30th- Hardin County Collective Youth Camp @ Cedarville

Wednesday Kids & Youth- That is a wrap on our program until we come back in the Fall. We ended the year with a great group of kids and Youth. We averaged 25-30 each week, and was making 3 trips each way. We have 10 kids moving up to Youth next year so at our end of the year party they were all recognized and received a certificate of promotion along with a 30-day devotional for over the summer months. The growth has been amazing to watch this year, and I can't wait to see what the Fall holds for us.

A HUGE thank you to all my Volunteers, without each one of you this program would not be possible. Thank you for sharing your time, and love with each child that walked through our doors. You are a true blessing to this Church and to me.

Hardin County Collective- Last month we recognized all the Seniors. The event was to take place at Boy Scout Lake but the weather did not want to cooperate, so our event got moved to Kenton Christian Missionary Alliance Church. We had guest speakers for Heartbeat of Hardin County and Safe Haven. We will not be meeting this month, due to the camp at Cedarville at the end of the month.

Sunday School- We will have class after the Children's message on June 11th & 25th.

Vacation Bible School- August 14th- 17th. If you or anyone you know would like to help, please reach out, we will be serving dinner this week as well.



Always remember the WHY in your marriage, parenting, discipleship, ministry, etc.



June in Hardin County and the crops are (for the most part) in the ground. June has in our history a special place in terms of celebrating God's gift of the seasons with trips and festivals. With the arrival of train service, our early congregants were particularly fond of trips to Lake Erie. Of course, the train stopped in Grant and Forest before even leaving Hardin County so it was in no way an express ride. This leisurely excursion meant there was ample time for fellowship.

Our Pastor has been stressing the importance of fellowship events as crucial to the health of our Church. The following are quotations reinforcing this Biblical imperative:

The physical presence of other Christians is a source of incomparable joy and strength to the believer.

*A Christian fellowship lives and exists by the intercession of its members for one another, or it collapses. I can no longer condemn or hate a brother for whom I pray, no matter how much trouble he causes me. His face, that hitherto may have been strange and intolerable to me, is transformed in intercession into the countenance of a brother for whom Christ died, the face of a forgiven sinner. **Dietrich Bonhoeffer***

*Some Christians try to go to heaven alone, in solitude; but believers are not compared to bears, or lions, or other animals that wander alone; but those who belong to Christ are sheep in this respect, that they love to get together. Sheep go in flocks, and so do God's people. **Charles Spurgeon***

*Aloneness can lead to loneliness. God's preventative for loneliness is intimacy - meaningful, open, sharing relationships with one another. In Christ we have the capacity for the fulfilling sense of belonging which comes from intimate fellowship with God and with other believers. **Neil T Anderson***

*There is nothing in this world that can compare with the Christian fellowship; nothing that can satisfy but Christ. **John D. Rockefeller***

*When a Christian shuns fellowship with other Christians, the devil smiles, When he stops studying the Bible, the devil laughs. When he stops praying, the devils shouts for joy. **Corrie Ten Boom***

Let us commit ourselves to emulate our forefathers, who spent significant time traveling together. As Pastor has pointed out, we can do it in many ways. This summer let's practice fellowship in earnest. We are called to do this by scripture, and we will be stronger as a Church and as Christians.

Jerry Pfister, Historian



Volunteers and Donations Needed

It is time again to plan for the upcoming All Church Social. It is scheduled for Tuesday, July 11, 2023, with serving between 4:00 and 7:00 p.m. The social has been a success in the past several years only because of **YOUR** help. We again are asking for donations of foods and monies to help with this event. We also need as many helpers as possible on the day of the social to prepare and serve the food as well as set up for and **clean up after the social**. If you are able to help in any way, please let the church office know by returning the Volunteer postcard as soon as possible.

The following items are needed:

Cakes—5

(2) *Strawberry Angel Food Cake* desserts, (2) *German Chocolate Cakes*,

(1) *Carrot or Spice Cake*

Cherry Cheese Cakes—2 (9 x 13 size)

Home Made Pies (*all kinds*) - 30

Hamburger—30 lbs.

Decaf Coffee—1 Large can

CASH to purchase chicken and advertising.

- **Donated items need to be at the church by 12:00 Noon on Sunday, July 9.**
- **Pies and Cakes need to be at the church by 12:00 Noon Tuesday, July 11 (*day of social*).**

(Complete and detach below volunteer/donation card)

Thank you for all your continued support. Remember, this all church social works only because you are willing to help and make it the success it has been in the past. We need your continued support.

I will donate the following for the Church Social:

I am willing to work (*please mark which apply & times available*)

_____ **Prepare Food on Monday, July 10 starting at 10:00 AM**

_____ **Help Serve Food from 4:00 - 7:00 PM**

_____ **Clean-Up 5:30 PM - ?**

Name

Phone Number

St. John's Evangelical Church
Church Council Minutes
Thursday, April 13, 2023
6:00 PM

Call to Order - Anna LaWarre, President
Opening Prayer— Pastor Randall
Leadership Development - Pastor Randall
Officer Reports

Secretary's Report - March 9, 2023 were approved

REPORTS

- 1) Treasurer's Report—Kay Rush
 - She stated that the giving trend has improved but we are still behind last year. The C D matured in time to make the second payment on the HVAC system and the Farm rent was received
- 2) Christian Education—Michele Sherman—written report submitted including upcoming events
- 3) Women's Ministry—Kay Rush
 - Kay Rush reported that the benefit for Pastor was very successful and praise Shane for his dedication.
 - 2023 Women's Celebration will be headed by Kay & Toni Pfister and is scheduled for Nov. 16th @ 6:30.
 - funeral for Shirley Draper on Saturday (Pastor officiating) and a meal served in the Fellowship Hall.
 - A fellowship meal will be served after services on April 23rd and a One Call reminder will be sent to the Congregation.
- 4) Worship, Arts & Music—LeVern Weaver
 - Pastor reported that the Planning Committee still needs a member to represent the contemporary worship component. Encouragement is needed to support Dave Beazley and Anna Lawarre in their rolls.
 - The Maundy Thursday service went well and feedback has been positive.
 - The June 4th Pentecost service will include a different Communion celebration.
 - The Blessings of the Bikes service is being planned for May 21st and at present coffee and donuts will be served.
- 5) Personnel Committee—Hal Elsasser—nothing to report
- 6) Pastoral Relations - Anna LaWarre—next meeting July or August depending on Pastor's recovery
- 7) Trustees (Jerry Pfister, LeVern Weaver, Greg Martin)
 - HVAC project completion of last phase is now scheduled to begin the week of April 24th.
 - The painting project has been expanded to cover the balance of the windows in the old building due to the discovered of improper sealing allowing water to penetrate around the stained glass. The additional cost will be \$3,760 plus any glass/plexiglass that requires replacement.
 - Audio Visual Streaming: Report submitted by Tom Mauer is available on request.
 - Van: LeVern has completed service required.
 - Farm: Greg reported planting will begin soon. The hunting lease payments are due May 1st along with the certificate of renewal for the liability policy.
- 8) Missions, Evangelism
 - Anna Lawarre and Pastor discussed the need to plan ahead for the Blessings of the Bikes.
 - Child Evangelism Fellowship has requested a meeting to discuss sponsorship opportunities that exist in Good News Club and CYIA with Evangelism(Anna) and Christian Education (Michele).
- 9) Pastor's Report - Pastor Randall report submitted

Old Business

New Business

- The following requests by members was approved:
- Michelle Becker is transferring her membership to Indian Lake Church
- Trish Wilcox requested removal. She is joining Kenton Nazarene Church

Next Meeting: May 11 at 6 pm

Adjournment – Motion and seconded to adjourn, Council Vote, motion carried. Lord's Prayer