

*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**

August 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](http://www.stjohnskenton.org)  
Email: [stjohnskenton@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnskenton@gmail.com)

### **Vacation Bible School: August 14-17 from 5-7:30 pm**

Kids are naturally curious, and when you're curious about who God is it's easy to grow your relationship with Jesus. That's why, in this 4-days of Vacation Bible School, we're going to engage kids' imaginations! We can't wait to have your kids join us for dinner each night, followed by worship, games, crafts and a Bible lesson.

\*August 14th- 17th 5pm-7:30pm

\*Transportation is available within city limits.

\*To register or with any questions email Michele at [michelesjyouth@gmail.com](mailto:michelesjyouth@gmail.com)



# 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)

AUGUST 2023

## THE PASTOR'S PAGE

E-mail: [PastorRandall@stjohnskenton.org](mailto:PastorRandall@stjohnskenton.org)

August marks a big transition for the church. We move from our summer schedule to a more active ministry calendar as our community transitions from its summer vacation to an active school year beginning. In no time, the church's quiet halls will be filled with the laughter of children as Bible School begins. In no time at all, the Fair will be here, and then our Wednesday evening programs will begin.

In some ways, it seems like a never-ending cycle. In other ways, it feels like time flew by and these events have snuck

expertise, or our experience. In reality, we need to humbly open our hearts to allow the Holy Spirit to enter into our lives and empower us. As Paul reminds us in **Colossians**, it is God that gives us a strength that allows us to endure and to have patience.

We endure not to just do the same things over and over again. We endure to teach the timeless Word of God in a new way to a new generation. For instance, Bible School doesn't look like it did fifty years ago or even five years ago. We experiment with different schedules and

experiences for the children, but the teaching doesn't change. We always teach the B-I-B-L-E (and the full Bible at that) with its timeless Truth.

We need God's patience because we have to teach the Word over and over and over again to a generation that has so many other voices claiming to speak

We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light.

Colossians 1:11-12

up on us. In other ways still, no matter how many times we do this, we recognize that we need God to empower us to do this work as we minister to children and their families with love and grace.

This year, I may be on the sidelines a bit more than I wish as I still recover from my cancer surgery and endure ongoing treatments. Whatever state I might find myself in and whatever place the church may find herself, we can always turn to **Colossians 1:11-14** for a reminder that God is the one who strengthens us for the work that we are to do in His name.

It is too easy to find ourselves relying on our strength, our

"truth." We need to take what time we have with these children, and we need to demonstrate God's love and grace to them.

In doing so, we share in the inheritance that belongs to God's people. All we are doing is simply following in the footsteps of our Savior who did likewise when He walked this earth. He has been patient and endured with us. How can we not do likewise in turn for those to whom we are called to minister? It is not natural to us, but thankfully, God meets us and grants His supernatural attributes to us. What an amazing gift that we are called to employ for the Father's glory!

Our endurance and patience demonstrate that we live for a kingdom that is not our own. Again, it is not natural. As **Colossians 1:13** states, we have been transferred from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of the Son the Father loves. In Christ, we have a new identity and a new citizenship.

As such, we are free to live in a new way. Again, it comes back to endurance and patience. Doing something out of freedom is easier than something we are compelled to do. Gearing up for ministry is more about serving in joy than serving because the calendar dictates or volunteers are needed. It is demonstrable when someone serves out of the freedom that comes with God's empowering than a sense of obligation.

So, yes, the calendar turns from a season of rest and summer vacations to a season of activity in our church, but it is a time to be embraced and not dreaded. We are able to serve because we have been rescued by the gracious hand of God through His Son Jesus Christ.

As **Colossians 1:14** states, it is in Christ that we have redemption and the forgiveness of sins. We have been purchased by the blood of Christ. Let us set our redeemed faces forward as we serve and minister at Bible School, Wednesday evening, or any other ministries to which we commit ourselves here at St. John's Evangelical Church.

Our ministry and service can bring to life these few short verses, which are packed with a lot of Gospel Truth. They remind us of where we have come from and where we are going. In reading these verses, our hearts should be elevated. We should feel vigor returning to our muscles and bones. We should be like a horse chomping at the bit—always hoping to be allowed to run and not simply trot through one's paces.

## ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL CHURCH:

MAKING AND MATURING  
DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST

### THE PASTOR'S PAGE

As the calendar turns and the season of rest ends, I hope and pray that you will review the church calendar and read through this newsletter and the weekly bulletins. Look for those opportunities to see where you may serve. Even if you feel it is a stretch, pray and seek guidance from me or a ministry leader. Commit yourself to being

### Colossians 1:13-14

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness  
and brought us into the kingdom  
of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption,  
the forgiveness of sins.

a part of what God is doing here.

God will grant you the endurance and patience you need to succeed for His glory. You simply have to live in the freedom granted to you in Jesus Christ. Live for His Kingdom and show the world that you are a citizen of His.

In Christ's freeing name,

*Pastor Randall*



## Preaching Series

I want to thank the church for your ongoing support during my transition from patient to recovery to being restored. I am looking forward to that day when this all is a distant memory. Right now, I am still in the middle of recovery.

God is teaching me a lot about patience and endurance. I hope that the messages that the Holy Spirit has given to me speak to your soul as much as they speak to mine.

I will be so happy when I can focus more of my energy on others and less on myself. If you have something that you would like to share or have me share with the congregation there is still time. I am currently praying for themes for September, October, and Advent.

God will provide, and sometimes that means God speaking through His people. If you feel you are receiving such a word, please speak with me. Together, we will pray before the Lord and find a way to share that with the whole family of God (or whomever that word may be for).

In my absence, the church (the people of God) has come to the fore. May we continue to build on that foundation. God has gifted His people here to do great things. Let it begin by sharing His good word with one another.

May the Lord bless our worship together. Let us hear and respond to what the good Lord is saying to us in this season!

06 August	
Scripture	<b>Genesis 50:22-26</b> <b>Mark 15:42-47</b>
Message	<b>This Bag of Bones</b>
See also	<b>Hebrews 11:22;</b> <b>Exodus 13:19;</b> <b>Joshua 24:32;</b> <b>Matthew 28:10;</b> <b>John 19:6</b>
13 August	
Scripture	<b>Nehemiah 8:1-8</b> <b>Luke 4:1-15</b>
Message	<b>Ways and Means</b>
20 August	
Scripture	<b>Habakkuk 2:9-11</b> <b>Luke 19:28-40</b>
Message	<b>Sing of God's Glory</b>
27 August	
Scripture	<b>Deuteronomy 30:15-20</b> <b>Luke 14:25-35</b>
Message	<b>Count the Cost</b>
03 September	
Scripture	<b>Deuteronomy 24:19-22</b> <b>Hebrews 1:8-14</b>
Message	<b>The Work of Your Hands</b>
See also	<b>Deuteronomy 2:7; 28:12</b>



# Upcoming Events



## Church Family Fellowship Luncheon

On August 6, following the morning service, we will have a luncheon in the fellowship hall. Food is provided and All are welcome to attend.

## 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.



## Back to School Activities—August 13

We will have a **Backpack Blessing** during the worship service on August 13. All are welcome to bring their backpacks to receive a blessing for the upcoming school year.

The **Community Back to School Bash** will be August 13 from 4-6 pm at Boy Scout Lake/Veterans Memorial Park. Area churches, including St. John's, will be providing school supplies for the upcoming year. They will also have food and bounce houses.



## Blanchard Place Nursing Home Ministry (First Tuesday)

Please watch the bulletin for our next date. We had to cancel our August date due to illness and the first Tuesday in September is during the fair. If you would like to participate, please contact the office or Janet Jones. You can lead parts of the worship service, visit the residents, or come to be supportive of this outreach.



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



## Texas Roadhouse Peanut Fundraiser

Hardin County Collective Youth are selling Texas Roadhouse Peanuts. \$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.

## 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.

August 4—Frances Lake (Kenton)

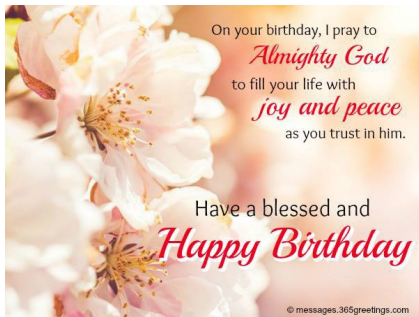
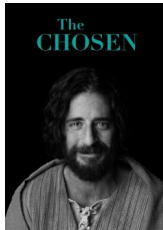
August 18—Tilton Hilton (Indian Lake)

September 1—Western Sizzler (Lima)

September 15—Plaza Inn (Mt. Victory)

## 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.



## Birthday Blessings (over 80 yrs. Young)

### August Birthdays on File:

August 8: Rita Baughman  
7692 SR 53  
Kenton, OH 43326

August 28: Robert Height  
115 Harding Ave.  
Kenton, OH 43326

**Back to School Bash:** You can donate to the event through the mission of the month or purchase items directly from the list below or order directly through Amazon on the link provided below. Any questions, please contact Michele Sherman.

### School Supplies Needed

- 24 pack crayons (Crayola): \$0.50
  - Pack of large markers (Crayola—10 pack): \$0.97
  - Pair of scissors (Fiskars): \$1.47
  - Glue sticks (small) 2 count: \$0.54
  - Pack of 12 wooden pencils (Ticonderoga): \$2.94
  - Low odor (broad tip) dry erase markers (black): \$4.88
  - Pair of headphones: \$1- \$10
  - Large Pencil erasers (3 count): \$1.44
  - Package of pencil top erasers (25 count): \$0.47
  - Wide ruled spiral notebook: \$0.25
  - Highlighter (4 count): \$2.77
  - Post it notes: \$1.00
  - Folder with 3 hole punched: \$0.97
  - Wide ruled loose leaf paper (150 sheets): \$0.84
  - Composition notebook: \$0.50
- Total for school supply pack: \$19.54-\$29.54

### Amazon Wish list Bulk items

- Fiskar Scissors (9)
- Pencils (4)
- Dry Erase markers (3)
- Earbuds (1)
- Lg. Pencil erasers (3)
- Highlighters (12)
- Post-its (4)

### Walmart Items

- Crayons (100)
- Makers (100)
- Glue Sticks—2 count (100)
- Pencil top erasers packs of 25 (100)
- Spiral notebooks (100)
- 3 ring binder folders (100)
- Loose leaf paper (wide ruled) (100)
- Composition notebook (100)

\*these numbers reflect each church doing 100 kids each. On Amazon list, the total is for all churches, so 500 kids.

**To order bulk items on Amazon (2023 Back to School Bash):**  
<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/>







Hey families! Happy August! Can you believe a new school year is already here? You're probably busy trying to enjoy the last few moments of summer, so we'll keep this brief so you can get back to the beach.

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

**August 6<sup>th</sup>**- Hardin County Collective Pool Party 6-8pm

**August 13<sup>th</sup>**- Hardin County Back 2 School Bash 4pm @Boy Scout Lake

**August 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>**- "I Wonder" VBS 5pm-7:30pm

**August 27<sup>th</sup>**- Urge Concert with HCC

**Hardin County Collective-** We are kicking off the year with a Pool Party at Kenton City Pool. Admission is FREE. This is for Youth grades 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. Pizza and snow cones will be served.

**Back 2 School Bash-** We have 9 area Churches coming together for this event for the Community. We will be giving out school supplies to each child that attends. There will be bounce houses, food and more..

**Vacation Bible School-** August 14<sup>th</sup>- 17<sup>th</sup>. If you or anyone you know would like to help, please reach out, we will be serving dinner this week as well. For registration you can email myself at [michelesjyouth@gmail.com](mailto:michelesjyouth@gmail.com) or call the Church office.

***Wednesday Night Programs will start back the week after Fair. If you would like to volunteer with these groups, please feel free to reach out. The more hands the better.***

**ROCK THE LAKE 2023**  
**August 5, 2023**  
Old Field Beach - Lakeview, Ohio  
RockTheLakeOhio.com #RTL0H23

Jeremy Camp

David Leonard

Rachael Lampa

RVW RV WHOLESALE

RISE FM

website: [stjohnskenton.org](http://stjohnskenton.org)  
Facebook: St Johns Kenton, Ohio  
Youtube: 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.



Lots goes on now in August that is changed from a few years ago. Schools are starting earlier than before and it seems the end of summer is coming earlier for the children. Our Vacation Bible School has moved to August this year and that will give us a head start into our Wednesday night program. Children have always been at the forefront at St. John's as is evident in our founding constitution. Aside from our programs we have partnered with the Child Evangelism Fellowship for a number of years and this year we will again host their Hardin County fundraiser on November 4<sup>th</sup> so please mark your calendar for a day of bidding and eating.

Luke 9:47-48. <sup>47</sup> Jesus, knowing their thoughts, took a little child and had him stand beside Him. <sup>48</sup> Then He said to them, "***Whoever welcomes this little child in My name welcomes Me; and whoever welcomes Me welcomes the One who sent Me. For it is the one who is least among you all who is the greatest.***"

Matthew 18: 1-6 At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "*Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?*" He called a little child and had him stand among them. And He said: "***I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes a little child like this in My name welcomes Me. But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.***"

In today's world and in our own County about 80% of the children are unchurched. **Our mission as commanded by our Savior is to bring the Gospel to them.** As a Christian Church family, we need to support these programs with more than lip service and occasional funds. We need to actively help Michele in her ministries be it at Vacation Bible School, Sunday nights or Wednesday nights. **Volunteer to help Michele!** Volunteer to teach a Child Evangelism Fellowship Good News Club. Churches  $\frac{1}{4}$  the size of St. John's give 5-fold what we do and host functions. **Step up this year and support this mission** and attend the fundraiser held at our Church. **Not following Jesus commands is a sin of omission; Jesus demands action.**

Jerry Pfister, Historian

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### **Mission of the Month— Gideons**

**Gideons International** distributes Bibles and New Testaments around the world. Having God's Word can and does lead people to faith in Christ, and those new Christians then grow by studying their Scriptures and even use them to share their faith with others.

For this reason, they focus on distributing complete Bibles, New Testaments, or portions thereof. These copies of God's Word are printed in more than 90 languages and are either given directly to certain individuals or placed in selected public locations where large numbers of people, who may be searching for answers, will have the ability to encounter the Word of God.



The Gideons International  
**Spreading the  
Good News**



St. John's Evangelical Church  
Church Council Minutes  
Thursday, June 8, 2023  
6:00 PM

Call to Order - Anna LaWarre, President

Opening Prayer— Pastor Randall

Leadership Development - Pastor Randall

Officer Reports

Secretary's Report - May 11, 2023 with corrections— to approve in July

## REPORTS

1) Financial Report—Jerry Pfister

- Financial Reports to be accepted in July.

2) Christian Education—Michele Sherman—written report submitted

3) Women's Ministry—Kay Rush

- Kay Rush updated Council on the status of the Buckeye Banquet to be held in June.
- The Ice Cream Social will be on July 11.
- Council should be there to help with both events.

4) Worship, Arts & Music—LeVern Weaver

- Discussion was had regarding the uncertainty this issue was causing in church and people are asking where is the conflict that is continually being raised. A couple council members were approached by several members, 2 of which were attending the former contemporary service. It was commented that if no one who wanted a more contemporary component in the service was willing to commit to support it, this issue should be considered closed. Perhaps make an announcement that if no one volunteered in one week to address the issue, no further changes to the service would be considered.

5) Personnel Committee—Hal Elsasser—nothing to report

6) Pastoral Relations - Anna LaWarre—will resume in July

7) Trustees (Jerry Pfister, LeVern Weaver, Greg Martin)

- HVAC and painting projects should be completed in June. To include consistent thermostats for all units except the North Hallway split unit. Kevin Grant who volunteered to help the Church in any way has been working on the flower beds around the church and doing an excellent job. It was decided in the last meeting to pay him for the work and it will be expanded to include new mulch.
- AV report submitted

8) Missions, Evangelism

- The Blessing of the Bikes was very successful on Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup>. The CMA indicated they want to do it again next year. Anna said we should reserve the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in May of 2024. Discussion was had about how we could expand this ministry.

9) Pastor's Report - Pastor Randall report submitted

## Old Business

- With the Pastor's change in the scheduled for his surgery and recovery, the Communion service was discussed. We are blessed in having a retired Pastor, Steve Merold attending St. John's who has offered to help in any way he can during Pastor Randall's recovery. In the event Pastor Randall is not able to bless the elements He approved asking Steve to do this prior to Council serving as usual. Council will also formalize who will be serving on Communion Sundays to avoid confusion.

## New Business

- Nothing brought up due to the lack of quorum

Next Meeting: July 13 at 6 pm

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