

*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

November 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

Women's Celebration - November 16

Doors open at 5 pm

Meal served at 6:30 pm



The Women's Celebration is Thursday, November 16, with proceeds benefitting Not by Choice. Tickets are \$20. Please remit payment with your reservation to the church office, Toni Pfister, or Kay Rush no later than Sunday, November 5.

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)

NOVEMBER 2022

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

E-mail: PastorRandall@stjohnskenton.org

There's a singer who goes by his initials NF. He has a song called *Happy*. It's a prayer that begins:

Dear God, please, hear me out
I know it's been a couple years
Since I've reached out and said hello
I bet You're wondering

In that song, as in much of his work, he confesses his internal struggles. Nick had been abused or neglected in some ways in his childhood, which he struggles to leave behind even as he has achieved much success. In this song, he reveals:

Living in my agony, watching my self-esteem
Go up in flames, acting like I don't
Care what anyone else thinks, when I know truthfully
That that's the furthest thing from how I
Feel, but I'm too proud to open up and ask ya
To pick me up and pull me out this hole I'm trapped in
The truth is, I need help, but I just can't imagine who
Who I'd be if I was happy

A large part of NF's success is that he resonates with what many people feel but never know how to articulate. His words capture the moment, make people feel, and say, "Those are the words I have been searching for."

This year, I have struggled to be happy, truly happy. Enduring cancer treatments, feeling weak and useless, and peering into the Abyss will do that to a man. On a more general note, I have witnessed man's inhumanity to man around the globe, around the corner of the block, and closer to my heart than I'd like to know. Many of us wonder if we should be happy or grateful when the world teeters on the edge of another major war, economic collapse, or a set of natural catastrophes.



"How can I be happy when others suffer so much?" we ask, or "How can I be happy when I suffer [or lack something]?" Some of you have had personal struggles this year. Others carry a concern for family members, friends, and others. Some amongst us struggle to feel joy when others are not as blessed as they are. I know a part of me has survivor's guilt, which is when a person's guilt derives from being delivered from something when someone else was not.

God has always been good to me, and I still believe that. When I falter, He delivers a word to my heart. As I struggled with some of the issues I illuminated in the previous paragraphs, the Holy Spirit prompted me to read an old quote from Thomas Watson. "If God be our God, He will give us peace in trouble. When there is a storm without, He will make peace within. The world can create trouble in peace, but God can create peace in trouble."

Every now and then, God will awaken me in the night. I will sit in the dark and simply be still [see **Psalm 46:10**]. There I rest in the inky blackness of the late, late night. What has recently been a discomfiting place for me, is now becoming a place of comfort and peace. I am able to embrace the being in the Valley of the Shadow of Death knowing that the rod and the staff of the Good Shepherd are protecting me [**Psalm 23:4**].

I am reminded how blessed I am for no other reason than I have a faith and trust in Christ and Christ alone [see **Jeremiah 17:7-8** in the quote box above]. Right after Jeremiah speaks of the blessings of trusting of God, the subsequent reminds us that the heart is deceitful and sick above all else. Following our heart can lead us far and astray from God.

**"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.
He is like a tree planted by water,
that sends out its roots by the stream,
and does not fear when heat comes,
for its leaves remain green,
and is not anxious in the year of drought,
for it does not cease to bear fruit."
Jeremiah 17:7-8**

In our Fallen nature, the heart falls prey to all sorts of ungodly passions. It distorts reality. It craves the validation of others, except for the One who truly loves it unconditionally, purely, and wholly. Even when we "know better," we still succumb to the deceptions of our own hearts as we compare ourselves to people and things that do not deserve our comparison.

There, in my quiet moments, enveloped by the silence and blackest of night, I feel God's love wrapped tightly around me. It is not suffocating. Instead, it is enlivening. It reminds me of who I am and whose I am. It increases my trust in the Lord who has proven Himself over and over. The last part of that previous sentence is reminiscent of the chorus to the hymn *'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus*. You would think that I would begin to sing in such moments in worship and praise, or at the very least, such melodies would move through my heart and mind.

No, in those moments, I simply remain at repose in heart and mind and body. All aspects of my being are stilled and silent—no racing thoughts, no vacillating emotions, no muscles tightened to spring into action. There, in the dark, dark little void of my home, I simply stay in the Hand of God and feel His love and protection around me. When the moment is full, I am ready to utter my prayer: "Thank You, Lord for all that are and all that you given me. Thank You for family and friends. Thank You for protection and safekeeping, for watching over my family and guiding my steps."

Such composure and such a response are not my natural inclination. Recently, I read an article. In it, the author mentioned that in **I Corinthians 12**, Paul describes the body of Christ. That passage lacks imperatives which demand our action. Instead, it's a description of what we are and what we meant to simply *be* as the Church in the light of God's love. This is fitting as **I Corinthians 13** then relays to us what our love should look like when it is a sanctified and God-given love. Such love only flows from our being centered in God. It can only come from God and move through us. It bubbles up from our souls and flows into our lives from a spring imparted to us by the Holy Spirit [**Luke 6:45**].

All of that to say that God has been revealing Himself and His blessings to me in my darkest moments, sometimes in the actual moments of darkest night and more often in the

**ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL
CHURCH:
MAKING AND MATURING
DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST**

dark recesses of my mind, heart, and soul. In all those cases, He reveals Himself as good, gracious, gift-giver. It is then that I know I am blessed.

As your pastor, it is my prayer that you know yourself blessed as well. I want you to find yourself giving thanks this year not for what you have or by your circumstances. I want you to simply *be* in the presence of God and to still yourself before Him, so you may be enveloped by His loving mercy and grace. I want you to know the trust and faith anew, afresh, and deeper than you ever have before. I want you to experience a joy for being called into the body of Christ not in some vague, general sense, but I want you fall in love with the Bride of Christ in its particular form, in its present form, in its local form here at St. John's Evangelical Church.

Through everything I have endured this year, I have discovered a renewed love for this church, for service here, and for you. During this year, I have felt guilt for not being able to serve as I thought I ought to be. Then, I determined to return the gifts of love and service to you that you have expressed and done for me during my weakest moments. Now, I realize that such thinking was returning like for like, and as Jesus said, "Is that not what the Gentiles do?" [a poor paraphrasing of **Matthew 5:43-47**]. Instead, I hope my love for you comes from the wellspring of God's heart into which I have tapped after all my earthly striving has ceased. I hope it comes from a purer place. I pray that it more perfectly reflects His perfect love and fulfills Christ high and lofty command in **Matthew 5:48**: to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

I used to think such a being was impossible, but now I see it as a gift when we reside in God in perfect trust and faith. Then, thanksgiving, praise, worship, and love flow. May that gift be yours this season.

In Christian service,

Pastor Randall

Preaching Series

In the next two months, we will travel together to the end of two years, the liturgical year and the calendar. The new liturgical year begins with Advent while the new calendar year of course begins with January. Before then, we have much to commemorate and celebrate in worship and in our lives.

May Christ be at the core of it all as we give praise to the Father and are led by the Holy Spirit.

05 November	Stewardship Sunday
Scripture	I Peter 4:8-11 Luke 10:25-37
Message	Giving: Double Love



12 November	Christ the King Sunday
Scripture	Ezekiel 34:11-16 Matthew 25:31-46
Message	Sheep and Goats

19 November	Thanksgiving Sunday
Scripture	Deuteronomy 8:7-18 Luke 17:11-19
Message	A Good Land



26 November Guest speaker: Jim Legge
The Gideons

03 December	Advent I
Scripture	Isaiah 64:1-9 Mark 13:24-37
Message	Stay Awake

10 December	Advent II
Scripture	Isaiah 40:1-11 Mark 1:1-8
Message	Prepare the Way

17 December	Advent III
Scripture	Isaiah 61:1-11 John 1:19-28
Message	Make Straight the Way

24 December	Advent IV (10AM)
Scripture	II Samuel 7:1-16 Luke 1:26-38
Message	Here Am I

24 December	Christmas Eve (8PM)
Scripture	Isaiah 52:7-10 John 1:1-14
Message	The Glory of God

31 December Guest speaker: Dave Beazley



Upcoming Events

Daylight Savings Time Ends— November 5



Blanchard Place Nursing Home Ministry (First Tuesday)

The First Tuesday visit to Blanchard Place is November 7. 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.

Decorating the Church

We will be decorating the church on November 26 following the morning service. Plan to stay and adorn the church in preparation for the birth of Christ. Luncheon to follow. Come out for a great time of fellowship and fun.



Christmas Poinsettias

Starting this year, we will have artificial poinsettias to decorate for Christmas. They will remain at the church, but we are asking people to sponsor them with a donation to have your memorials/honors/gifts placed in the bulletin. All proceeds from your donations will go to Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive. Salvation Army keeps 90% of your donations for use in Hardin County to help those in need. Slips will be available as before to complete with your information. We will collect Sponsorship forms until December 15. Any questions, please see Nancy Weaver or the church office.



Seeking part-time Family Minister/ Associate Pastor

Job title, responsibilities, and compensation will be partially determined by the education, experience, and training of the candidate. Please contact the church office with questions or interest.



Upcoming Events Mark Your Calendar

CEF Fundraiser: November 4 from 11-2

HCC Youth Group: November 5 from 4-6 pm at Walnut Grove Church

Hostesses Decorate Tables: Nov. 13 from 8:30—11 am & Nov. 14 from 3-7 pm

Women's Celebration: Nov. 16 at 6:30 pm

Decorate the Church: November 26

First Sunday of Advent: December 3

Christmas Eve Service: December 24 at 8 pm



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.

November 3—Eagles (Kenton)

November 17—Don Tomaso's (Upper Sandusky)

December 1—Coonies (LaRue)

December 15—Pizza Hut (Kenton)

Birthday Blessings (over 80 yrs. Young)

November Birthdays on File:

We like to recognize members who are 80 years or older. Please contact the church office to add a name to our birthday list. Thank you so much!

* No November Birthdays on File

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.

Mission of the Month— Celebrate Recovery

A Christ-Centered Recovery Program

Recovering from Hurts, Habits and Hang-ups. This ministry meets every Tuesday night from 6:30-8pm. They meet at St. John's Church. If you or someone you know is struggling with addictions, depression, bad habits, past hurts, or hang-ups this group is place of Hope and Freedom. Dinner and childcare included.

Wednesday Kids Volunteers

If you are able to help on Wednesday Nights (even if you cannot be here every week or want to be a sub), please contact the church office or Cheryl Lee at 740-262-0939. Please prayerfully consider coming and sharing Gods love with these Kids. Areas you can help: van driver/riders, teachers and helpers for youth age.



With Gratitude

While many things have changed this year, your generosity and kindness towards me has not changed. For that, I want to express my gratitude. Thank you for the cards, gifts and well wishes for pastor appreciation month, my birthday, and my ongoing recovery. Some of you send one card, and others mark each event with a separate one. Some remember from year to year, and others are spurred by the Women's Ministry's annual action. Whatever you have done and however you have done it, I am grateful. You have touched my heart and caused the troubles of this year to be forgotten. The warmth of your love has made cold days more bearable. You have brought joy and love to my soul as you have imparted these gifts to me. For all that and more, I am thankful, and I give great thanksgiving to God for you and for calling me into service as your pastor here at St. John's Evangelical Church.

With a grateful heart,
Pastor Randall

Thank You

website: stjohnskenton.org

Facebook: St Johns Kenton, Ohio

Youtube: St. John's Evangelical Church





This is a reprise of one of my earliest articles and since there are so many attending that might not have seen or remember, here it is again.

There is a wonderful book titled "The One Year Christian History" published by Tyndale. This book presents a daily devotional for each day based on a historical event in our faith. The following article is included on pages 632-33.

"The date was November 11, 1620, and the place was the Mayflower, anchored off the coast of Cape Cod. One hundred and two passengers including thirty-four children had spent seven weeks crossing the ocean from England. Of the passengers, sixteen men, eleven women and fourteen children were Pilgrims, having been associated with the Separatist church in Scrooby, England. Refusing to conform to the Church of England, they had first sought religious asylum in Leyden, Holland. After twelve years there, they became concerned that their children would no longer identify themselves as English. Learning of the possibility of settling in America, they made arrangements with the Virginia Company to settle just south of the Hudson River within the northernmost boundary of the Virginia Charter. However, fierce winds blew them off course to the north-to the shores of Cape Cod.

They decided to settle on Cape Cod (*because they were short on rations especially beer which was the only drinkable fluid*) but then realized that since they would not be under the jurisdiction of the Virginia Company, they would be on their own because they had no agreement with the New England Company. On board the ship some of the non-Pilgrim bonded servants and those hired by contract greeted this newly revised plan as an opportunity for rebellion. The Pilgrim leadership saw that they must act quickly to prevent a mutiny.

The Pilgrim men wrote up a compact, now known as the Mayflower Compact, and presented it to those on board. Forty-one of the sixty-five men signed it. Thirteen of those who didn't sign were sons of signers, covered by their fathers' commitments. The remaining men, nine servants and two hired sailors, were probably too sick to sign. The Compact read:

"In the name of God, Amen. We whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord King James by the grace of God of Britain, France, Ireland, king, Defender of the Faith, etc.

Having undertaken, for the glory of God and the advancement of the Christian Faith and the honor of our King and country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia, do by these presents solemnly and mutually in the presence of God and one another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body politic, for our better ordering and preservation and furtherance of the ends aforesaid, and by virtue hereof to enact, constitute and frame such just and equal laws, ordinances, acts, constitutions and offices from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general good of the colony. Unto which we promise all due submission and obedience. In witness whereof we have hereunder subscribed our names at Cape Cod, the 11th of November, in the year of the reign of our Sovereign King James of England ...Anno Domini 1620."

Before leaving the Netherlands, the Pilgrims had knelt on the dock to ask God's blessing on their voyage, and now William Bradford recorded, "Being thus arrived in a good harbor and brought safe to land, they fell upon their knees and blessed the God of heaven."

During their first winter, forty-seven people died including thirteen of the eighteen women. Only three families were left intact. These humble Christian men and women were to be the seeds of what would become the United States of America."

God obviously had a purpose for these brave souls and they had the conviction to stake their lives on it. Do we have the same faith and conviction to follow God's purpose for our lives?

Enjoy a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Jerry Pfister, Historian

St. John's Evangelical Church
Church Council Minutes
Thursday, September 14, 2023
6:00 PM

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

Secretary's Report - August 10 minutes were Motioned for Approval and seconded. Approved

REPORTS

1) Financial Report—Jerry Pfister/Kay Rush

2) Christian Education

3) Women's Ministry—Kay Rush

- Motion: If an organization has a meal at the church, the facility rental may be waived by Women's Ministry. A motion was made seconded; motion passed

4) Worship, Arts & Music—LeVern Weaver

5) Personnel Committee—Hal Elsasser

- Hal will contact Autum Brown to see if she wants to continue in the Nursery

6) Pastoral Relations- Anna LaWarre

7) Trustees (LeVern Weaver, Greg Martin, Richard Katterjohn)

- AV Report Submitted
New microphones purchased; no bill submitted.
- Van: LeVern Weaver
- Farm: Greg Martin
- Parking lot lines to be painted.
- Gas leak in basement fixed

8) Missions, Evangelism

Missions of the month set; hoping to have a ministry activity once a quarter.

Missions of the Month

January—Pioneers (Jamie and Susan Range)

February—Gideons

March—Celebrate Recovery

April—SOUP

May—Angels for the Elderly

June—Bryan and Katie Crabtree (Thailand Missionaries)

July—Back to School Bash (school supplies)

August—Rise FM

September—Not By Choice

October—Safe Haven of Hardin County (Domestic Violence support)

November—CEF (Child Evangelism Fellowship)

December—Love INC.

Mission Activity—

1st qtr—Celebrate Recovery Meal

2nd qtr—Angels for the Elderly

3rd qtr—Rock the Lake

4th qtr—CEF Auction

Evangelism: 3rd Sunday of May—Bike Blessing; church parking lot

9) Pastor's Report - Pastor Randall report submitted

Old Business: None

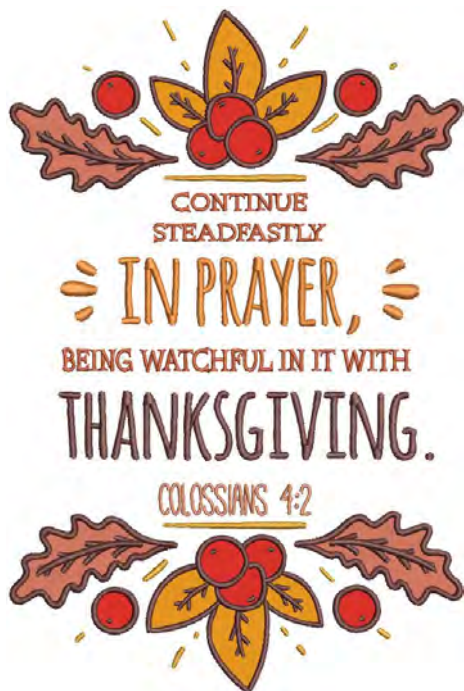
New Business:

- Denny – Cleaning schedule
At Denny's request, cleaning will generally be done on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. He may come in for more hours up to 20 hours/week. A motion was made and seconded. Motion passed.
- Carpet cleaning
No action needed.
- Chosen Bible Study starting the end of October. Flyers will be available in the back of the sanctuary this coming Sunday (17 September).
- Welcomed Richard to the Council.

Correspondence: none

Next Meeting: October 12 at 6 pm

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



CHILD EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP
**HARDIN COUNTY
LUNCHEON & SILENT AUCTION**



Come Join the FUN with the
Good News Club
FUNdraiser... Non Stop FUN!!

November 04, 2023

St John's Evangelical Church
211 E Carrol St, Kenton

Doors Open at 10:30
Event 11:00am to 2:00pm

Silent Auction Participation FREE

Prepaid Spaghetti Lunch – \$10
donation per person for tickets
call Jerry Pfister 567-674-6054

PROCEEDS BENEFIT
GOOD NEWS CLUB OF WEST CENTRAL OHIO
westcentralcef2022@outlook.com
419.957.0403



You are invited to attend our Wednesday Night Kids program!

Kids Preschool – Grade 6 are invited to attend our Wednesday Night Kids Program from 5-7 pm. Each night we begin with dinner and then have teaching activities and games. Transportation is available for in-town pickups when prior arrangements are made. Consent Forms must be completed for each participant. Any questions, please contact the church office.



Hope to see you there!

St. John's Evangelical Church
211 E Carrol St
Kenton Oh 43326
419-673-7278
stjohnskenton@gmail.com

