

*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

October 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
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Trunk or Treat at St. John's

The church will be having a trunk or treat on Saturday, October 28 from 3—5 PM in the South Parking Lot following the parade. This will provide a safe place for children to gather treats. Participants are asked to bring their vehicles, open up their trunks, and hand out treats to the children of the community. **Cars should arrive no later than 2:30 PM and enter from the alley by the Kenton Times and stay parked until 5:00 PM for the safety of the children.** Cars may be decorated or participants may dress in a costume or theme that is church appropriate. You do not need to come in costume or decorate your vehicle to participate. **Donations of candy are WELCOME!**

If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 419-673-7278 or stjohnskenton@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)

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OCTOBER 2023

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

E-mail: PastorRandall@stjohnskenton.org

As we have spent time in **Numbers**, I have related the caricature of the book as nothing more than 36 chapters of people complaining about their circumstances and rebelling against God's will for them. In chapters 13-14, the scripture for our current sermon series, we see those traits laid bare. Their complaints, their rebellion, and their actions are easily relatable to our current times and even to ourselves at times.

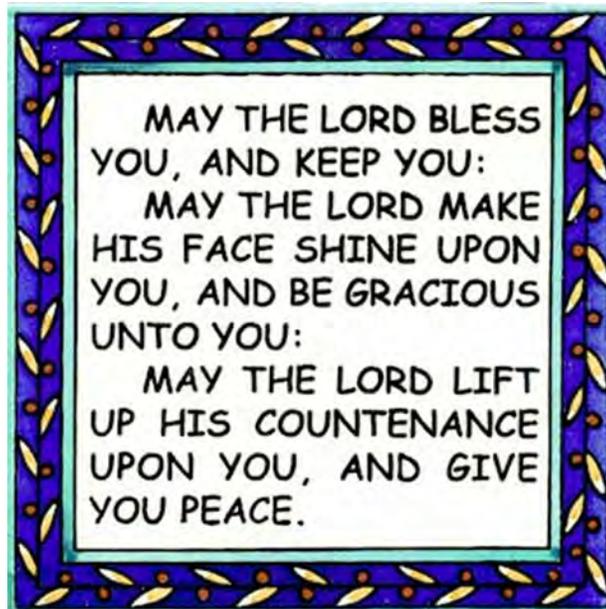
Thankfully, the story of the Israelites in **Numbers** doesn't end with the consequences of their disobedience. In the face of their open rebellion against God and His faithful followers, we still find God standing firm and offering His redemptive grace and peace. He offers this gift to the most obstinate from His enduring faithfulness and boundless love.

In these pages, I have shared with you how I conclude my correspondence most often with "Grace and peace." It is a habit I picked up from the apostle Paul. Paul was obsessed with grace—God's freely given love that expects nothing in return. Every one of Paul's thirteen letters mentions grace in the opening and closing. He reminded people that all things flow from the Father above.

Grace always comes first for Paul. He then added peace, the common Jewish greeting in his time. He let people know that he was concerned about them. The purpose of his letters was to instruct people to follow the Lord faithfully in all things. To accomplish that, you have to start with the Lord's will, so it was always "grace and peace" and not the other way around. Following the Lord first and foremost would lead to a proper understanding and execution of God's plan for His people. Paul knew that and emphasized it in his ministry.

There is much more one can glean from a study of that

simple phrase "grace and peace." You may have noted that I am captivated by that phrase, Paul's use of it, and the impact it has on us as Christians. One insight I found recently is that Paul may have used that phrase as a bit of shorthand for the priestly blessing that is found in the book of **Numbers**. As I noted in last month's newsletter, that blessing is important to me as well. I use it to bless my children at their bedtime, and I pray it over them constantly.



That blessing had been used for over a thousand years as the priests of Israel would bless the people by asking the Lord to "make His face shine" upon them, "be gracious" unto them, "turn His face" toward them, and "give peace" to them. Paul seems to have Christianized that blessing in his phrase "grace and peace." Hopefully, it set people's hearts to searching for the deeper meaning behind it as found in its original setting in **Numbers 6:24-26**.

That priestly blessing that was prayed over Aaron and his children as they were ordained as the first priests would be passed down through the generations. They were called out of the people for a particular and special service. They were to be empowered by God's presence in their lives. It was the Lord's grace and peace that would enable them to fulfill the calling upon their lives.

While much of the book of **Numbers** dwells on the faithlessness of the people in general, we still see God's faithfulness. He desires to bless His people with grace and peace. Even when they do not believe in Him (**Numbers 14:11**), God relents from His wrath and spares people so they may repent. His grace and peace outweigh the demands of justice.

After all, is that not the Gospel message? God sees a corrupt world that has fallen into sin. He responds by giving His only begotten Son to the world knowing that He will be despised and forsaken. Not only that, but the Son submits and allows Himself to be given over to humiliation and death (**Matthew 20:17-19**). God does all that, so that we could be free from the bonds of sin and death.

In the book of **Numbers**, God's grace and peace precedes much of the people's disobedience. God's blessings do not rely on our performance or faithfulness. They are derived from God's unfailing love. [By the way, "unfailing love" is another fascinating word study in the Bible.] Our God is

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

Still, faithfulness to God is the currency of the true believer, and it is worth more than wealth or fame. God has proved Himself over and over as one who blesses His



GOD'S AMAZING GRACE
will lead you to a peaceful, joy-filled life.

loving and generous with that love. He seeks to bless.

Again, we see that in **Numbers 13-14**. God is calling His people to faithfully live out the calling He has placed upon their lives. Instead of the promise being enough, the people rebelled. Even though they had received God's provision previously, they doubted that He would do it once again. But we know that God is faithful. In scripture, we see the Israelites enter the Promised Land and thrive there...when they were faithful, which is a story for another time.

God is calling us to respond in faith in this generation. Sometimes, we may feel like Moses or Caleb or Joshua as we try to speak to people who do not want to hear or to lead God's way when people want to follow their own fickle hearts. It can seem like a daunting task just to remain true in a world that has traded the truth of God for a lie.

faithful followers.

May we hold unswervingly to the faith we have. May we step out in faith as we share the Good News with one another in prayer, study and worship. May we faithfully serve the Lord as we live out our calling to minister to our world, our community, and our neighbors.

As we do these things, may we do them all simply as acts that bring glory to God. May we follow wherever the Holy Spirit will lead. May we be driven by nothing else but faith. May the grace and peace of our heavenly Father be all the reward that we will ever need.

May the grace and peace be the place where we reside; may they be our Promised Land.

With grace and peace,

Pastor Randall

Preaching Series

In October, we will conclude our journey through **Numbers 13-14**. While the focus of these chapters is on the faithlessness of the majority, we see how the faithfulness of the few (the remnant) has a powerful impact.

At the beginning of the month, we will witness Moses going toe-to-toe with God. After God tells Moses that He is done with the people's open rebellion, He offers to start anew with Moses as a new Abraham, the father of a new chosen people. Instead of accepting this offer, Moses intercedes on behalf of the people.

Even though the people still rebel, we see the emergence of Caleb and Joshua as faithful leaders. They are men who will stand with God no matter the cost and no matter how many others may oppose them. The series will conclude with a sermon on God's faithfulness to His promises.

As the month comes to a close, we will lean on our heavenly Father's faithfulness as we remember those who have gone on before us. We are assured that those who are in Christ will be gathered into His eternal rest for His people.

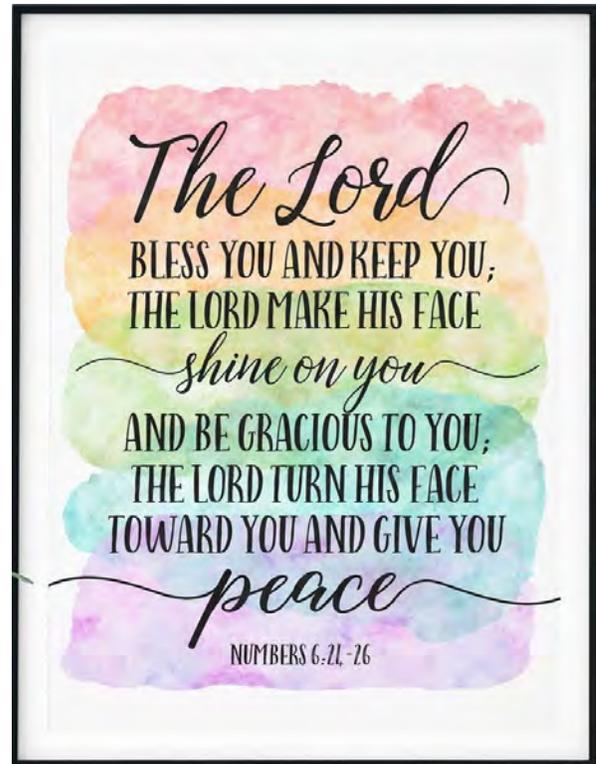
In the previous pages, I referenced the priestly blessing in **Numbers 6:24-26**. God seeks to pour out His grace and peace upon His people. We see that in our lives, and we see it fulfilled when He calls His saints home.

May we be found faithful to God's calling upon our lives in this generation that we may stand with Him in eternity.

01 October
Scripture **Numbers 14:13-19**
John 14:12-17
Message **Intercessory Prayer**

08 October
Scripture **Numbers 14:20-38**
Luke 13:1-5
Message **Repent, Repent, Repent**

15 October
Scripture **Numbers 14:39-45**
Mark 8:27-38
Message **Profit and Loss**



22 October
Scripture **Joshua 14:6-15**
Matthew 25:14-30
Message **The Faithfulness of God**

29 October All Saints Sunday/
Remembrance Sunday
Scripture **Revelation 7:9-17**
Matthew 5:1-12
Message **Blessed Are You**

Upcoming Events

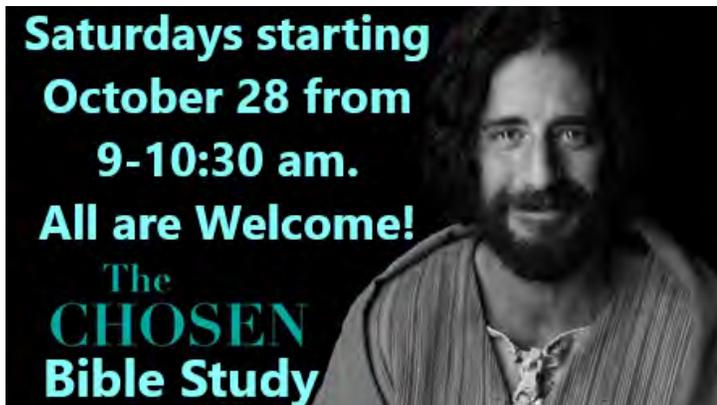


Blanchard Place Nursing Home Ministry (First Tuesday)

The First Tuesday visit to Blanchard Place is October 3. 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.

The Chosen Bible Study

Do you know about Jesus? Would you like to know who He is, or learn more about Him and don't know where to start? Come join us as we follow the life of Jesus as we watch The Chosen series by Angel Studios. We will begin meeting weekly on Saturday mornings from 9-10:30 am starting October 28. It takes approximately an hour to watch an episode and 30 minutes for discussion. There are study guides available on Angel Studios' website on each season but are not required. The Chosen Series has 3 seasons with a total of 22 Episodes. If you would be interested in participating or have any questions, please contact the office at St. John's Evangelical Church by calling 419-673-7278, email stjohnskenton@gmail.com, or just come to the church Fellowship Hall on Saturday mornings. **All are Welcome!**



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

Trunk or Treat: October 28 from 3-5 pm

Memorial Sunday: October 29

OCC Shoeboxes Due: October 29

CEF Fundraiser: November 4

Decorate Fellowship Hall: November 11

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

Women's Celebration: Nov. 16

First Sunday of Advent: December 3



The Women's Ministry Committee would like to announce that October is **Pastor Appreciation Month**. Thank you Pastor Randall for your continued service at St. John's Church!

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:

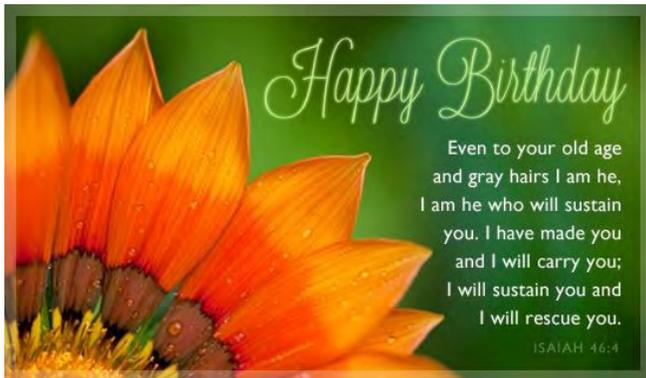
If out of town, meet at St. John's, corner of Wayne St. and E. Carrol St. to carpool. They leave sharply at 10:45. Still eating at 11:30 am.

October 5—Homecoming (Bellefontaine)

October 20—Skinny's (Kenton)

November 3—Eagles (Kenton)

November 17—Don Tomaso's (Upper Sandusky)



Birthday Blessings (over 80 yrs. Young)

October Birthdays on File:

October 6: Barb McQuown
18677 SR 309 E
Kenton, OH 43326

October 7: Doris Heilman
c/o Hardin Hills
1211 Lima St.
Kenton, OH 43326

October 27: Julie Pfeiffer
10152 TR 215
Kenton, OH 43326

October 29: Shirley Bushong
7280 Township Road 120
Alger, OH 45812

Mission of the Month— Safe Haven of Hardin County

Safe Haven helps domestic violence clients and their children to get away from the abuser. They can be reached at 419-679-4147. They hold several fundraiser events throughout the year. They also hold a candlelight vigil in October, which is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, to remember those lost in the last year as a result of this senseless crime.



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





October in the 1920s meant two things to the members of St. John's, The Rally and The Canvass. The Rally was the celebration of and graduation ceremony for the Church School. The Canvass was the annual drive for pledges and tithes.

1925 Rally

"Rally Day came and went, principally "came" and principally "went". Sure it looked dreary outside and it rained too, and to some that is an absolute and sufficient reason why everything else should not be made dreary and drowned with a rain of indifference. But in spite of all these handicaps there were some 306 present according to the report published in the Newspaper. And sure, somebody's goin' to say Whatcha kickin' for? We will admit, for no reason at all, we were happy to these 306 present and rejoice over the Inspiration they gave us, and for the fine songs the little Beginners sang, and for the happy smiling faces of the 306 present and for the promotion exercises."

1926 Rally

"our attendance at Rally Day totaled 282. Over 400 invitations had been sent out, and we are wondering where were the other 118. It seems strange that some folks absolutely cannot be roused out of their indifference and lethargy no matter how hard others try to help them. and the poor blinded ones lack all sense of anything wrong. As an example to everyone we would hold up before all the record of three of our honor students: Carlos Wolf, Miss Emma Scheidemantel and Peter Grauel, who did not miss a Sunday during the past year. Such folks put inspiration into our work, and we compliment them most heartily."

1926 Canvass

"The annual congregational canvass will be made by the members of the Church Council within the next few weeks. We give this advance notice that everyone may be prepared to state with further argument what is to be his or her pledge toward the Church and the Synodical Benevolence for the coming year. Giving is by far more a part of one's Christianity than many realize, Yes, we may say that Christianity is the religion of giving. God gave the best he had, His only begotten Son, that you might enjoy the best you have in life. And the best you have in your life is Jesus Christ and Christianity. Christianity teaches that possession and ownership are not the same thing. We may possess a thing but do NOT OWN IT, rather we OWE IT to God. We are His stewards, and as His stewards we are to be not only honorable but honoring. God says, "Honor the Lord with they substance" for "those who honor Me, I will honor". You employ the honor system in business, why not in Church affairs" Good business methods are as important in the Church as in a bank.No matter how you may look at your giving, to pay Church dues... is the most honorable thing you can do, if you consider yourself any kind of a Christian at all and have a streak of honor in you.Why always expect to be carried along by other in the matter of your Church obligation? Be prepared to sign up for an honorable amount.

It is obvious that in those days our Sunday School had significant attendance and participation. Also, Pastor Kuenzler took supporting the Church very seriously and was frustrated with a portion of the Congregation. Is there a reason why we cannot make the same commitments today to expanding our Sunday School attendance or supporting our Church? Sure, we live in broken times, but just look at what it took back then. Let's do what we can to resurrect these institutions that are critical to our survival as a church.

Jerry Pfister, Historian

St. John's Evangelical Church
Church Council Minutes
Thursday, August 10, 2023
6:00 PM

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

Secretary's Report - The July Report was Motioned for Approval and seconded. Accepted by unanimous vote.

REPORTS

1) Financial Report—Jerry Pfister

- Kay Rush and Jerry Pfister discussed the July results stating that giving in the month was significantly below last year. We hope for a rebound in August. The expenditures continue to be under control and we do have a chance of losing less than the planned loss should the giving trend pick up.
- We discussed the ending balance sheet which reflects the addition of the additional funds from the Estate of Marilyn Klingler. Our balance sheet remains strong.
- Motion to accept Financial reports, seconded, and passed by unanimous vote.

2) Christian Education—Michele Sherman—Report Submitted

3) Women's Ministry—Kay Rush

- Kay Rush reported that the annual Woman's Celebration would be held on November 16th. The proceeds from the event will go to "Not by Choice".
- Operation Christmas Child box program is being headed up by Toni Pfister. Teresa Broseke came up with the idea for a fellowship event inviting the Women of the church to join in making pillow cases for the boxes. This will happen on September 19th in the Fellowship Hall
- Steve Christopher will accept the check from the Church Social from Anna Lawarre and Toni Pfister.

4) Worship, Arts & Music—LeVern Weaver

- At the last meeting, Toni Pfister was given the go ahead to resume the Children's Choir. She will contact Dave Beazley to coordinate start date and monthly schedule.

5) Personnel Committee—Hal Elsasser

- Michele Sherman has formally resigned her position as Family Minister at St. John's to spend more time with her family. She stated she would stay on until someone else is found to run the program and help in the transition. She did mention her family does prefer a contemporary service that is no longer available on a regular basis.
- Discussion was brought up that we should be looking for someone who can handle the family ministry and potentially be an Assistant or Associate Pastor with the talents necessary to run a contemporary service. Copies of the appropriate job descriptions are to be given to Council members. Pastor Randall stated that we would probably have to build a description around the abilities of the individual that we find.

Pastoral Relations- Anna LaWarre—Anna is going to set up a meeting

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

- AV Report Submitted
- (Van): LeVern stated the van was either in need of a new battery or alternator. He will resolve as soon as possible.
- (Farm): Greg said crops looked good, nothing else to report.
- Greg also said he was going to follow up on the plexiglass replacement with C&Y.
- Jerry said the HVAC program is close to conclusion and includes a blue tooth control program that will require training and monitoring.

8) Missions, Evangelism

- Anna said that they plan an open meeting September 12th to discuss any issues with the 2024 proposed program.

9) Pastor's Report - Pastor Randall report submitted

Old Business: None

New Business: Ways to help the Pastor

- We need to begin the process of redefining the Council as outlined in the Pastor's report. The suggestion was made to ask Richard Katterjohn to join Council as a Trustee. Jerry Pfister would then move to Elder and begin work on expanding Church communications. This was supported and Jerry was to ask Richard and also contact Janie Risner about working on the communications along with Richard.

Next Meeting: September 14 at 6 pm

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

St. John's will be participating in the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Project this year. Shoeboxes, labels, and instructions will be available in the back of the church. We also have supplies available to include in your box already donated of toothbrushes, toothbrush covers, dental floss, wash cloths and other items. You can use any cardboard shoebox you may have or you can also purchase a plastic one. Examples of completed shoeboxes will be on display. Please follow the instructions provided. A list of suggested gift items is also listed below. You may wrap your shoebox but do not seal it shut as Samaritan's Purse adds material inside each box. **We will be collecting the completed shoeboxes through October 29.**

If you have any questions, please contact Toni Pfister or the church office. More information can be found at samaritanspurse.org/OCC.



How to Pack Your Shoebox Gift

As you prayerfully prepare to pack your shoebox gift, please remember that your shoebox gift will be an expression of God's love to a child. In fact, it may be the only gift the child receives. So, plan to pack quality items that will last, **and don't forget to make it FUN!**

- 1 SHOEBOX**
Get a standard size shoebox to pack for a boy or girl. Need shoeboxes? Great preprinted boxes are available on our website. **You can also use plastic shoeboxes.**
- 2 "WOW" ITEM**
Select a quality "wow" toy such as a doll, soccer ball with pump, or stuffed animal to bless a child.
- 3 OTHER GIFTS**
Pack full with other fun toys, hygiene items, and school supplies. **A suggestion list is provided for your convenience.**
- 4 PRAY**
Most importantly, **pray** for the child who will receive your gift. Include a personal note and photo to delight the heart of the child. **(optional)**
- 5 Women's Ministry & Missions will pay the \$10 shipping fee.**
If you use our **Follow Your Box** feature online, you can also discover the destination of your shoebox!
- 6 DROP OFF**
Return your shoebox to St. John's church by Sunday, October 30.

SAMARITANSPURSE.ORG/OCC

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

PENS
PENCILS & SHARPENER
ERASERS
CRAYONS OR MARKERS
STAMPS AND INK PAD SETS
WRITING PADS OR PAPER
SOLAR CALCULATORS
SCISSORS
COLORING AND PICTURE BOOKS



ACCESSORIES

T-SHIRTS
SOCKS
BALL CAPS
SUNGLASSES
HAIR ITEMS
TOY JEWELRY
WATCHES
FLASHLIGHTS (WITH EXTRA BATTERIES)

TOYS

SMALL CARS
BALLS
DEFLATED SOCCER BALL WITH PUMP
PUZZLES
DOLLS
STUFFED ANIMALS
KAZOOS
HARMONICAS
YO-YOS
JUMP ROPES
SMALL ETCH-A-SKETCH
TOYS THAT LIGHT UP OR MAKE NOISE (WITH EXTRA BATTERIES)
SLINKY

YOUNGER CHILDREN

BLANKETS
STICKER AND PICTURE BOOKS
BLOCKS
FINGER PUPPETS
PAGES OF COLORFUL STICKERS

OLDER CHILDREN

SMALL TOOLS
TAPE MEASURES
SEWING KITS
FABRIC SQUARES OR YARDAGE
DEFLATED BALLS WITH PUMPS AND NEEDLES
SOLAR CALCULATORS
RULERS
SCISSORS
JEWELRY
DEODORANT

NON-LIQUID HYGIENE ITEMS

TOOTHBRUSH
MILD BAR SOAP (IN A PLASTIC BAG)
COMB OR BRUSH
WASHCLOTH
DEODORANT FOR OLDER CHILDREN

