

*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

September 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

Sewing Fellowship Day

September 19

10:30 am-2:30 pm



Sewing Fellowship Day
September 19 from 10:30-2:30
All Are Welcome!

On September 19 at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall, we will be making pillowcases to put in the Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. You do not have to be a "seamstress" to participate. Come out and have fun or stop by and have lunch with us and spend time with each other. Items to bring: scissors, rotary cutter, cutting mat, cutting ruler, pins, sewing clips, thread, sewing machines or sergers, seam ripper. Each case will use a yard of fabric. We will have some fabric, but if you would like to donate, please do. Keep in mind, they are for children ages 2-4, 5-9 and 10-14. Bring a sack lunch. Even if you cannot sew, come anyways, there will be other jobs to do. Any questions, please see Toni Pfister or Teresa Broseke

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)

SEPTEMBER 2023

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

E-mail: PastorRandall@stjohnskenton.org

It is rather ironic, but the one constant of life is change. Change has come our way in rather seismic ways in recent years. Our culture has undergone great change. Our church is undergoing change. Change impacts our families and community at various levels.

Author Thomas Friedman writes of the rapid changes society has experienced:

If [a 1971] VW Beetle had undergone as many changes to its power and speed as has occurred to computer microchips, today that Beetle would be able to go about three hundred thousand miles per hour. It would get two million miles per gallon of gas, and it would cost four cents! Intel engineers also estimated that if automobile fuel efficiency improved at the same rate as [microchips], you could, roughly speaking, drive a car your whole life on one tank of gasoline.

[Thomas Friedman, Thank You for Being Late: An Optimist's Guide to Thriving in the Age of Accelerations (Picador, 2017), p. 38]

There are a whole hosts of responses to change in our world. On one extreme, we can embrace change for change's sake. On the other, we can try to hide from it even when we know it will come and find us. In the Bible, we see both responses by God's people. Sometimes, Israelites pursued other gods and other religious expressions than prescribed by the LORD in the hopes of changing their fortunes. Other times, they believed God's prophesied changes would never come to pass. In **Ezekiel 12:27**, we read: "'Son of man, behold, they of the house of Israel say, 'The vision that he sees is for many days from now, and he prophesies of times far off.''"

Part of being faithful to be God is understanding our times and how the Holy Spirit is leading us to respond to them.

Are these VW Beetle times that need to be maintained and preserved, or are these microchip times when innovation and transition are to be embraced? Instead of an either/or answer, the response that is called for should more likely be a bit of both/and.

After all, God is immutable (the fifty-cent theological word for unchanging) as are His way and His Word. Still, we have been called to change to keep up with the times. As a church, we 'lost' our use of the German language to embrace our community and better engage with our wider culture. More recently, we have placed our worship online to continue to minister to members who cannot be with us in person.

As we begin our search for a new family minister/associate pastor, we know there may not be an ideal candidate available. The role this individual takes in our midst will be shaped by their spiritual gifts, practical abilities, and willingness to step out in faith. Being part-time, there will be sensible limits on what they can accomplish.



Even hiring someone will not necessarily solve all our needs. We will still need volunteers to support many roles within ministry. People will need to attend the programs offered if they are going to succeed. Our members will still be the best 'billboards' that we have—pointing others to our open doors and embracing those who enter this house of God.

At this time, St. John's Evangelical Church needs you to remain engaged. We cannot go back to the former days; they are in our past. However, we can maintain traditions that continue to feed the souls of our people. We can stay true to the foundational truths that have been handed down through the generations. We will maintain our focus on God's **Word**, the sacraments, and the

sharing of God's love with one another and with our wider community.

The means by which we do those things may change. We need to honestly assess how to minister to our wider community. We need to seek for ways that effectively share the Gospel and plant seeds of hope into the lives of others. Internally, we need to compel one another to grow in the faith. We have to be willing to ask how to disciple one another and urge one another to grow spiritually, so that we may be engaged in ministry and mission that impacts our surrounding world.

Change can seem daunting at times, but we also need to see it as an opportunity. Change one letter in the word change, and it becomes chance. Let that remind us that change is a chance—an opportunity—to grow and thrive in new ways.

Let me reiterate, we do not want to change for change's sake. Just because our culture changes doesn't mean that those changes should impact our ethics or practice of the faith. However, as our culture changes, we have opportunities to share God's love with those impacted by those changes. With 'free love' and the breakdown of the family, we have the occasion to be an alternative where God's ethical boundaries allow individuals to truly flourish. We can demonstrate what it means to be the family of God. We can be a refuge from the tumult of a broken home. We can share love and grace that is not demanding or demeaning but pure and freely given.

Where we are the Church has been before. Throughout her long story, the Church has been forgotten and neglected. We see it in the Bible, and you can see it in history. There have been times when people have thought the Christian faith was obsolete or the Bible would be proven false or irrelevant. There have been times when people pursued worldly ways and left the church or tried to graft those worldly ways onto the Church's foundation.

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL CHURCH:

MAKING AND MATURING
DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST



Time and again, those false ways have fallen apart and blown away like chaff in the wind (see **Luke 3:17; Psalm 1:4, 35:5, and 83:13**). Over and over again,

God has left a holy remnant that stood firm in the midst of changing times. They held to the firm anchor (**Hebrews 6:19-20**) that is the hope of our faith, the eternal truths. At the same time, they were willing to try a new thing for God even when it seemed nigh

impossible. They did not run away from the challenges of change, but took the chance to engage as the Holy Spirit led them to do. Such a way was the victorious path even though it was more arduous and narrow (**Matthew 7:13-14**).

In September and October, the preaching will focus on **Numbers 13-14**, where we see God calling the people of Israel to a great change, but the people rebelled against Moses and Aaron. We will see how Joshua and Caleb stood resolute in desiring to follow God's way. There is much in those two chapters that speak to our times. There are people following their own devices over and over again and failing over and over again. Then, there are those who stand in God's way and receive blessing even though it takes time, hard work, and diligence/vigilance.

The times they are a changing. That is as true today as it has ever been. But in these times, there are great opportunities to share God's love and to advance His kingdom. It takes attentive ears to hear and willing eyes to see. It also takes heart to compel our feet to go where God would have us to go and hands willing to embrace the work before us. May we be so willing.

In Christ's freeing name,

Preaching Series

The LORD bless thee, and keep thee:
The LORD make his face shine upon thee,
and be gracious unto thee:
The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee,
and give thee peace.
Numbers 6:24-26

In September and October (after a Labor Day Sermon), we will look at a couple of pivotal chapters in the book of **Numbers**. It is a book that is often neglected in preaching, but it has vital lessons on faithfulness and following God's leading as an individual and as a group. While much of the book focuses on the grumblings of the masses, **Numbers** also gives us the priestly blessing above, a prayer I have prayed over my children many times, especially before bedtime. I hope this series provides you much blessing and little reason to grumble.

03 September
Scripture **Deuteronomy 24:19-22**
Hebrews 1:8-14
Message **The Work of Your Hands**

10 September
Scripture **Numbers 13:1-24**
Matthew 10:16-23
Message **The Lay of the Land**

17 September
Scripture **Numbers 13:25-33**
Matthew 11:16-19
Message **Reading the Times**

24 September
Scripture **Numbers 14:1-12**
Luke 19:41-44
Message **Earned Ire**

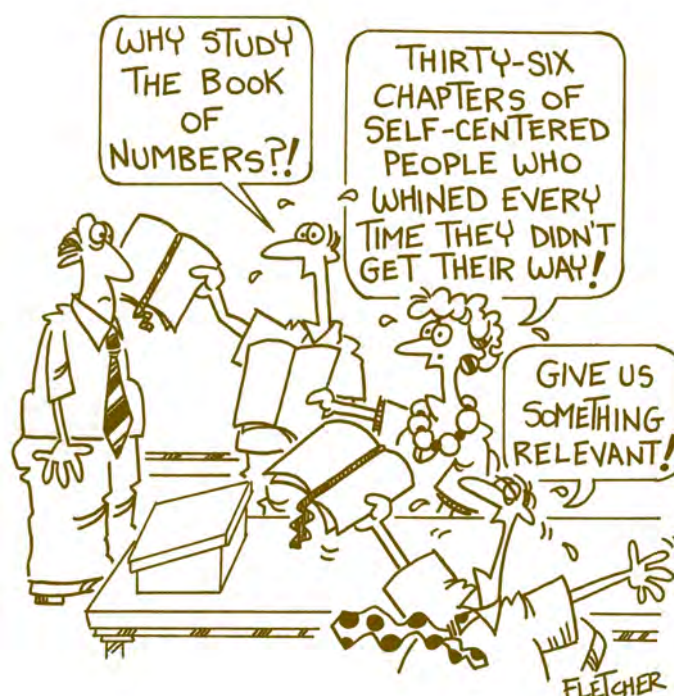
01 October
Scripture **Numbers 14:13-19**
John 14:12-17
Message **Intercessory Prayer**

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**

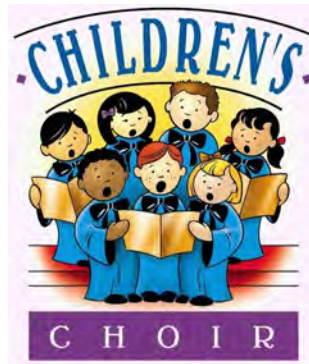
29 October All Saints Sunday/
Memorial Sunday
Scripture **Revelation 7:9-17**
Matthew 5:1-12
Message **Blessed Are You**



Upcoming Events

Children's Choir

Hey kids, we are starting a choir just for you! Come sing to praise the Lord! Practices will be at 5 pm on Tuesdays, beginning September 12. We will sing on the 2nd Sunday of each month for church. Parents please help us make worshipping a part of your child's life! See Toni Pfister with any questions.

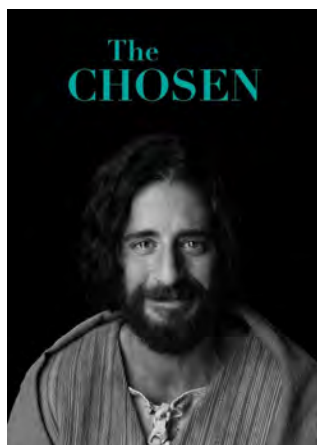


Seeking part-time Family Minister/ Associate Pastor

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.

The Chosen Bible Study

We are planning to start the Bible Study in October. We are looking at Saturday mornings from 8:30-10. It takes approx. an hour to watch an episode and 30 minutes for discussion. Watch for more details to come. If you would be interested in this Bible Study, please contact Anna LaWarre or the church office.



Blanchard Place Nursing Home Ministry (First Tuesday)

We plan to return on October 3. 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.



Upcoming Events Mark Your Calendar

Hardin Co. Fair: Sept 5-10

Children's Choir Begins: Sept. 12 (5:00)

Sewing Fellowship Day: Sept. 19 (10:30-2:30)

Memorial Sunday: October 29

Women's Celebration: Nov. 16 (6:30)

First Sunday of Advent: December 3



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.

September 1—Western Sizzler (Lima)

September 15—Plaza Inn (Mt. Victory)

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)

September Birthdays on File:

September 5: Janice Rall
18241 CR 120
Kenton, OH 43326

September 5: Barb Breidenbach
11927 Hillcrest Drive
Kenton, OH 43326

September 11 Dan Erwin
421 Stone Gate Drive
Kenton, OH 43326

Mission of the Month— Not By Choice

We are a 501c3 Non-Profit. NBC Outreach offers:

- Help anyone, anywhere battling cancer
- Free wigs
- Free breast support
- Free gas cards
- Free food pantry
- Support groups:
- Valiant – Support for Clients
- R.O.S.E Group for the Caregivers
- Look Good, Feel Better Program
- Sponsored by the American Cancer Society

Address

3 North Detroit Street,
Kenton, OH 43326

Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday:
10:00AM–2:00PM

First and Third
Tuesday & Thursday of each month:
5:00PM–7:00PM

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





Wonderful September, the kids back in school, the County Fair, hunting season starts, the autumn Equinox, activities at the lake wind down and the celebration of my 10th anniversary with my love, Toni. Today our Septembers are tied closely to our everyday activities and secular events, but it wasn't always so.

September in our old Lutheran Calendar was noted as "The Time After Pentecost". This was often viewed as a time to reflect on the Holy Spirit and His presence in our lives. What an amazing gift!

The oldest Christian Church known as Orthodox celebrates three events in September and it is interesting to reflect on a few of the recitations spoken by the Congregations at these special Holy Days.

Sunday of the Beheading of the Glorious Prophet, Forerunner, Baptist John

The memory of the just is celebrated with hymns of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for you, O Forerunner; for you have proved to be truly even more venerable than the Prophets, since you were granted to baptize in the running waters Him Whom they proclaimed. Wherefore, having contested for the truth, you rejoiced to announce the good tidings even to those in Hades: that God has appeared in the flesh, taking away the sin of the world and granting us great mercy.

Sunday of the Nativity of the Theotokos (Mary)

Your birth, O Theotokos, brought joy to the whole world, for from you dawned the sun of righteousness, Christ our God. Freeing us from the curse, He gave us His blessings. Abolishing death, He granted us eternal life.

Sunday of the Elevation of the Cross

You who were lifted upon the Cross of Your own will, O Christ our God, bestow Your compassions upon the commonwealth that bears Your Name. By Your power, gladden our faithful rulers, giving them victory over their adversaries. May your alliance be for them a weapon for peace, an invincible standard.

These are powerful expressions of faith. In September be thankful, humble and strong for Christ as do our Christian brothers.

Jerry Pfister, Historian

Jordan St. Cyr in Concert

Saturday, September 9

Food trucks and activities begin at 5 pm.

Concert begins at 6 pm.

Ghost Town, Findlay

10630 County Road 40, Findlay, OH
45840

FREE Admission

Food trucks available.

Bring a lawn chair for seating.



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

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

Secretary's Report - The May Report and June Report were Motioned for Approval and seconded. Accepted by unanimous vote.

REPORTS

1) Financial Report—Jerry Pfister

- This month we began the process of simplifying the understanding of the financial position of the Church. Henceforth the detailed 7 page report by account from Church Windows system will be presented in three summarized reports. (this full report is available on request by any Church member by contacting either Kay Rush or Jerry Pfister). A Financial Summary of our income versus operating expenses; a listing of payments made during the month by vendor and amount which shows exactly where the funds are being spend and a report on the church assets as presented on the balance sheet. If no material changes are made to assets this will be verbal as was the case in June.

2) Christian Education—Nothing to report, Michele on a much-deserved vacation.

3) Women's Ministry—Kay Rush

- Kay Rush reported a very successful Church Social for the benefit of the Hardin County Recovery Court. Conversation was had about changing the advertising of our events. If for a cause where net proceeds are passed through to benefit the community there will be no free food. If the church wants to sponsor a free meal event it will be advertised and run as a specific event. The Women's Ministry will take up this issue at the next meeting.

4) Worship, Arts & Music—LeVern Weaver

- LeVeren reported that Nancy continues to decorate the church however there was no new activity in June.

5) Personnel Committee—Hal Elsasser—nothing to report

Pastoral Relations- Anna LaWarre—Anna will now schedule a meeting when Pastor is further along in his recovery. Membership on the committee is down to two and Kay will ask other members if they would be willing to serve.

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

- HVAC update from Jerry: ATR is waiting on the replacement thermostats. When they arrive, they will be programmed to a tablet that has been donated. This system will control all of the main systems in the church. All Trustees, Richard, Denny and Kathy will be trained on it. It requires the use of a telephone number and that will be decided on by the user group. Kay will have access for fellowship hall functions.
- Painting update from Greg: C&Y has had problems with their bucket lift and are now talking about using a ladder to install the plexiglass. They are also bidding on restriping the parking lots.
- (A/V): Richard has acquired two microphones for use in the sanctuary which will eliminate the amplification problems we have encountered with the existing systems. He has also found a solution for the use of Microsoft systems by the church which significantly reduces the cost of our running that software. He will work with Jerry to attain as soon as possible.
- AV Report Submitted
- (Van): LeVern advises will be ready for VBS
- (Farm): Greg advised crops are growing and need rain.

8) Missions, Evangelism

- Anna reported that the committee was getting ready for the September review with their proposals for monthly missions.

9) Pastor's Report - Pastor Randall report submitted

Old Business:

- Kay mentioned that Toni had received a decline answer regarding restarting the Cherub Choir. They had jointly asked another member to consider taking on this endeavor.

New Business: None

Next Meeting: August 10 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 early November. Watch for deadline.

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.**

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)**

2 "WOW" ITEM

Select a quality "wow" toy such as a doll, soccer ball with pump, or stuffed animal to bless a child.

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!

3 OTHER GIFTS

Pack full with other fun toys, hygiene items, and school supplies. **A suggestion list is provided for your convenience.**

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

