



APRIL 2026

THE LIGHT

**Monthly Newsletter of
St. John United Church of Christ
Strasburg, Ohio**

ST. JOHN
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 AM
ONSITE AND ONLINE
FACEBOOK
YOUTUBE
@STJOHNSTRASBURG

SUNDAY SCHOOL - 10:45 AM

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
TUESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY
9:00 AM - 5:00PM

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

By Jason Rissler

I am often reminded of the words of our former association general minister the Reverend Nayiri Karjian. She would say, "As Christians, we are people of resurrection. We should be joyful and full of resurrection life, not gloomy and sad people."

Life does however, have sadness and pain. I don't need to persuade you of this. The Easter story has sadness and pain. There is betrayal. There is denial. There is torture. There are dreams dashed. There is weeping and sadness.

Yet this isn't where the Easter story ends. Friday night is on the road to Sunday morning. The grave is on the road to the resurrection. Death is on the road to eternal life. Weeping is on the road to the Easter morning sunrise.

Regardless of what disappointments this life brings, these things aren't the end of the story. Death, pain and heartache doesn't have the final word. Jesus has defeated death and the grave. We are a people of resurrection hope!

I leave you with these words from I Corinthians 15:55, "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

May you know the resurrection hope and joy this Easter!



Council Notes

Pastor's Report - Pastor Jason made many home, nursing home and hospital visits, as well as holding services at two nursing homes. He attended many meetings within the church and community with many more scheduled. He attended the first of two preaching classes with three other members and officiated at one funeral.

BOCE - A bake sale will be held on Palm Sunday with proceeds going to the Campership fund. Discussed Balloon Blessing as a possibility for Valentine's Day.

Congregational Care - A celebration of life memorial service is scheduled for Warren Welz on May 16. A donation of puzzle books has been made.

Fellowship - A Ladies luncheon will be held May 3.

Finance - A grant request of \$20K toward the total cost of \$42,200 has been submitted to assist in paying for the completion of protecting the remainder of the stained-glass windows in our church. The embezzlement case court ordered restitution amount is \$6,515.

Missions/Outreach - Discussion continues on combining Missions and Outreach committees.

Music and Worship - The committee is very pleased with the new unit to control the temperature in the combination bell/counting room.

Property - A donation of a new vanity top by Tower Countertops for the women's restroom will be installed as soon as it is received.

Sanctuary - Will be decorating for Palm Sunday and Easter soon. Would like to purchase some new decorations.

Sound and Electronics - Purchased new batteries and battery charger. Replaced light in sanctuary. Discussed safety of that procedure.

Old Business - A Congregational meeting will be held on April 12 to seek approval to proceed with the installation of new protective glass over the stained-glass windows. A Ring doorbell and cameras at church doors have been installed. Contact has been made regarding turning the grassy area into additional parking.

New Business - A updated funeral meal policy was reviewed and accepted by council. Denise Hartline completed term of service coordinating funeral meals. We are grateful for her service. Council approved the purchase of a new office computer and updating an existing computer. A \$25 stipend will be paid to a person operating the camera for special events held at the church. Noted loose back railing needs repaired and siding on steeple blew loose during the wind storm.

Next Council Meeting - April 16, 2026, 6:00pm.

**We communicate regularly through e-mail and text messages. If you are not receiving these and would like to, please let the church office know.



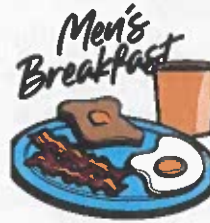
Did you know that we have an online giving option? To give online, go to stjohnstrasburg.org or use the QR code. Thanks for your generosity!



April 2026

Men's Monthly Breakfast - April 10, 8:30 am

The group will meet at the church with a breakfast served. A book study of Max Lucado's, "Ten Men of the Bible: How God Used Imperfect People to Change the World" will take place.



The next **Senior Luncheon** is Thursday, April 9th at 12:00 noon. The menu includes Yummezetti (Johnny Marzetti), Applesauce and Pineapple Mandarin Orange Cake. Country singer and funny entertainer, Mike Wikoff, will join us for light entertainment. Please RSVP to the church office by Friday, April 3.

**Fellowship of Christian Athletes
Community Church Service**

The FCA Community Church Service will be held Sunday, April 19th at 10:30 am at the Strasburg School. Maty Boylan and Millie Richards will be presenting and all Strasburg churches will be participating. There will be NO worship service at St. John that Sunday.



Camp Washington Work Trip May 21-24

The Board of Christian Education is planning a weekend service opportunity for our congregation to assist our friends at Washington UCC in Cincinnati. The group will be doing preparation work for the summer children's program. The work will include cleaning, moving, setting up rooms and some maintenance/repair jobs. There will be something for every skill level. If you are interested in attending, please let John Gerber or Cole Hutchison know. This is a great opportunity to meet the church there and serve together with them.

Youth Summer Service Trip to Cincinnati - June 7-11.

Campership

The Board of Christian Ed. offers financial assistance for students K-12 who are planning to attend camp this year. Please turn in paid receipts to the church office by May 15th to get reimbursed. Reimbursement amounts will be determined by the number of applications and available funds.

If you have any questions, please see Heather Rissler.



ACOLYTES

- April 05 - Ty Palmer
- April 12 - Landon Dayton
- April 19 - FCA at Strasburg
- April 26 - Hannah Rissler

LAY LEADERS

- April 05 - Kelly Henry
- April 12 - Suzanne Black
- April 19 - FCA at Strasburg
- April 26 - Deb Burrier

SPECIAL MUSIC

- April 05 - Handbell and Chancel Choir
- April 12 - Joy Diehl and Gary Garber
- April 19 - FCA at Strasburg
- April 26 - Chancel Choir and Special Guest for Hispanic Awareness Day

GREETERS

- Pat Pappas
- Kelly Henry
- Donna George

USHERS

- Ron Burdett
- Steve Chaney
- Al Osler
- Kelly Henry
- Dan King
- Ron Reiger

"GriefShare helps you understand that each person heals in their own way and time—and that's okay."

Donna



GriefShare

God is your refuge
& strength -
Psalm 46:1

The GriefShare program will be started again on Friday, February 13, 1:00-3:00 PM. Grieving is a normal response to the loss of your loved one, but grief can also be unpredictable. Your GriefShare group will help you learn how to cope with the daily challenges of grief. You can register for this session by calling the church office or Deb Burrier at 330-413-0685.



We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family of Leon Smith on his passing March 11, 2026.

Speaker Series

The Life Learning Speaker Series will continue April 9, at 6:00PM with Judge Adam Wilgus as guest speaker. Judge Wilgus will be sharing information on recommended probate court. This informative Series is open to all, so please invite your friends. Please RSVP to the church office.

Future speakers are:

May 14 - Ruth Ann Martin (Pastor Jason's mother) - Downsizing and Decluttering our lives

Ladies Gathering



The Ladies Gathering will be held on Sunday, May 3rd at 1:00 pm in the social hall. Cost is \$11 for adults and \$7 for children ages 4 to 10. Tickets will be available for purchase April 12 and 26 after worship and in the office during regular office hours. We need to sell 50 tickets to keep this cost for the dinner.

The menu includes: Stuffed Chicken Breasts, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Green Beans, Seven Layer Salad, Fresh Fruit with Dip, Blueberry and Strawberry Delight, Rolls and Beverages

Graduate Information

We will highlight our graduates in our May newsletter. Please provide information (picture, family, highlights, future plans, etc.) to the church office by April 26.

Vacation Bible School
Strasburg VBS will be held
June 15-18
at the Strasburg United
Methodist Church.



This is a costume used in an Easter play at St. John from the 1940s. It is on display in the Gathering Room.

Thank You!

A Big Thank You!

I would like to thank our church family for the Valentine bag of goodies I received! So many items of chips, candy and chap sticks, peanut butter crackers, etc. I am still enjoying the goodies.

With Love,
Mary Jane Aul



Pictured are Avery Louise Garber (parents are Austin and Anne Garber) and Ellie Anne Clark (parents are Rick and Amanda Clark) who were baptized at St. John March 22, 2026. We promise our love, support and care.



- April 4 - Liz Sundheimer
- April 5 - Richard Courtney
- April 6 - Bob Klinger
- April 7 - Mary Bitikofer
- April 8 - Richard Longfellow
- April 14 - Mary Jane Aul
- April 19 - Ruth Dreher
- April 25 - Paula Baker
- April 27 - Shirley Kuecher
- April 28 - Mary Bender



Celebrating Our Latino Neighbors

During our Sunday morning worship on April 26, we will have various guests with us who will help us get to know our Hispanic neighbors in our county. This service will include special music, a message, a testimony and a delicious meal following the service. Thanks to Dan and Jeanette King for helping to pull this service together.

Dear St. John UCC,

We at Tuscarawas County Council for Church and Community would like to take this time to say thank you for your generous donation to our non-profit organization.

Your contribution allows us to serve those in Tuscarawas County. The programs we currently offer are assistance with Eviction and disconnect of utilities, Gas Vouchers, Healthy Choices for Youth, Share-A-Christmas, Fostering Bags and Free Community Laundry Days.

In addition to Share-A-Christmas we are doing a program called Bless-A-Senior where we bless a senior with hygiene products and cleaning supplies.

We appreciate you and your assistance in our efforts.

Without your continued support we would not be able to serve those in our wonderful community.

Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more. - H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

Thank you,
Leslie Booth
Executive Director

Prayer Chain Call Service

The prayer chain call service is ending April 30. Future notifications will be a text message.

Please notify the church office if you would or would NOT like to receive these messages. In addition, please be sure to contact the office if your number changes.



Sunday at 9:30 AM

Easter Morning Worship

EASTER PHOTO BOOTH
BEFORE AND AFTER THE SERVICE



BRING YOUR PHONE OR CAMERA AND GET A PICTURE

St. John UCC

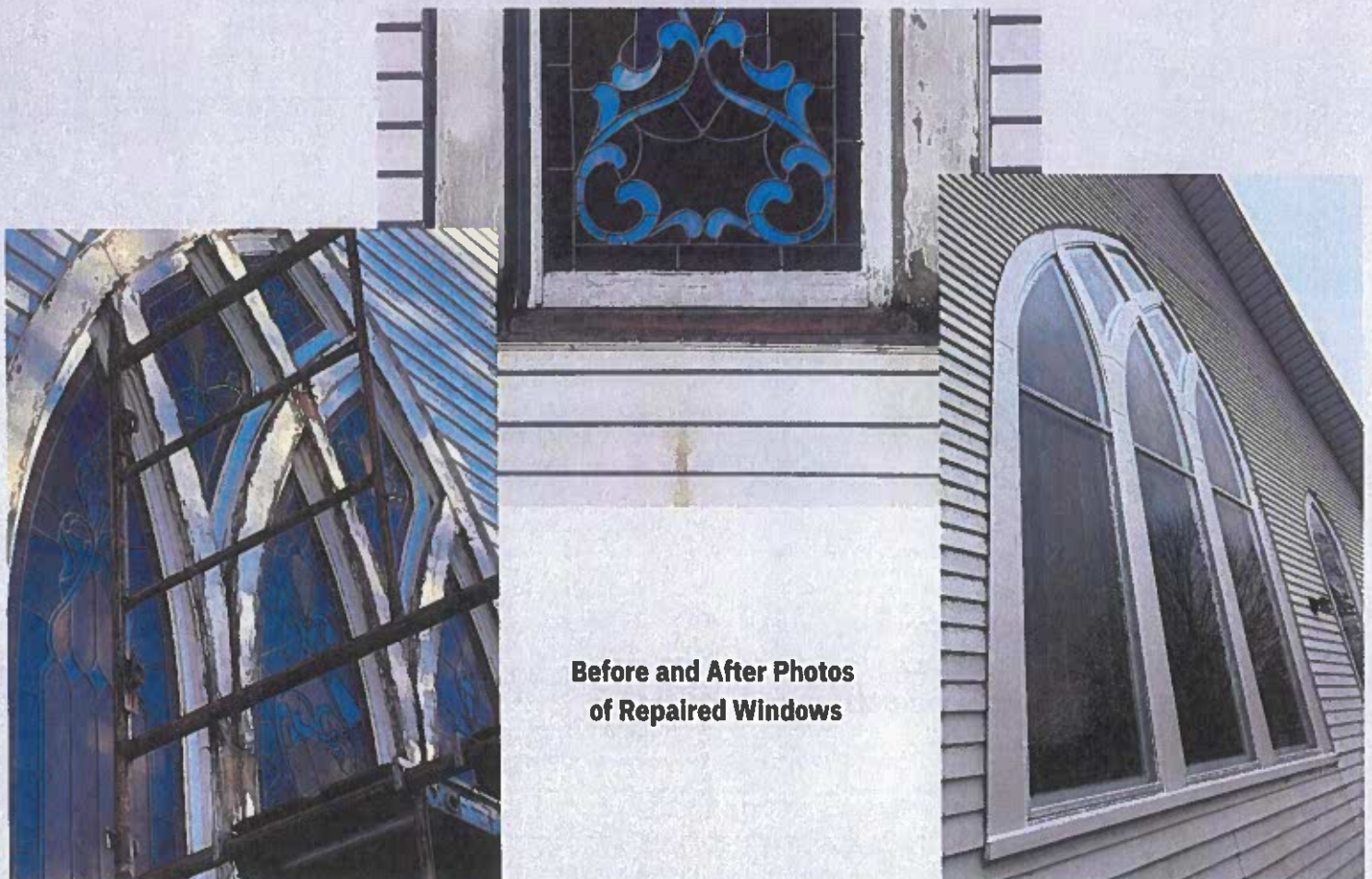
Stained Glass Window Restoration and Preservation Project

Our congregation previously approved restoring, repairing, and glazing the stained glass windows in the church. Approximately one-third of the project was completed last year at a cost of \$20,000 for the repairs on the south side of the church. To complete the remaining two-thirds of the window restoration and preservation, the cost will be \$42,200. The finance committee has developed a plan detailing where funds exist that could cover the cost of the stained glass window project. Following are the accounts from which funds would be withdrawn:

Beulah Hensel Endowment Fund	\$ 636.00
Invested Memorial Funds in existence prior to 2021	\$ 6,700.00
Council Approved Transfer from Local Fund to Capital Improvement Fund	\$10,000.00
Interest Earned from CD's and Money Market Investments (Insurance Settlement)	\$26,171.00
Interest Earned from Local and Pass Through Money Market Accounts	<u>\$ 2,568.00</u>
Total Funds Available	\$46,075.00

Since this total amount of \$46,075 exceeds the total cost of the project (\$42,200), these figures verify that funds are available to cover the cost of the stained glass window restoration and preservation project. However, because the cost of the project exceeds the council approved limit of \$6,000, congregational approval is required for this project to move forward.

There will be a meeting following the worship service on Sunday, April 12, 2026 to vote on this project.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 9:30am - Worship-Palm 10:45am - Sunday School	30	31	1 5:30pm - Handbell 7pm - Choir Practice	2 9:30am - Lenten Study 2:30pm - Action Now 6pm - Maundy Thursday	3 1pm - GriefShare Class 7pm - Good Friday@First	4
5 9:30am - Worship-Easter 10:45am - Sunday School	6 3pm - Tiger Paw Packing	7 6pm - Music & Worship 6:30pm - Faith Family	8 2pm - Park Village Service 5pm - BOCE 5:30pm - Handbell	9 12pm - Senior Luncheon 6pm - Speaker Series-	10 8:30am - Men's Breakfast 11am - Machele Miller 1pm - GriefShare Class	11
12 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School	13	14 9am - Congregational	15 9:30am - Finance Mtg. 1:30pm - Hennis Service 5:30pm - Handbell 7pm - Choir Practice	16 6pm - Missions Meeting 6:30pm - Church Council	17 1pm - GriefShare Class	18
19 9:30am - Worship-FCA 10:45am - Sunday School	20	21 6:30pm - Faith Family	22 5:30pm - Handbell 7pm - Choir Practice	23	24 11am - Machele Miller 1pm - GriefShare Class	25
26 9:30am - Worship 10:45am - Sunday School	27	28	29 5:30pm - Handbell	30	1 1pm - GriefShare Class	2