
First St. John Journal

Volume 37, Issue 5

May, 2024

Once upon a time there lived a man whose nickname was Mr. Will Power. As you might expect, Mr. Will Power had an iron will. He could do anything he set his mind to. He was the champion of mind over matter. People loved to challenge his powers of will. One of the ways he first caught people's attention was his ability to withstand hot and cold. They dared him to walk through a bed of fiery coals. They dared him to expose himself to the bitter cold for a full day. They dared him and he did it. "Just a case of simple willpower," he would say. "You can do anything you want if you just put your mind to it."

On another occasion they tested his ability to stay awake. They challenged him to sit upright in a chair staring straight ahead for 48 hours without sleeping. They dared him and he did it. "Just a case of simple willpower," he would say. "You can do anything you want if you just put your mind to it."


The people loved to see what Mr. Will Power could eat. They would come up with the craziest concoctions of food. I won't tell you what they were. I don't want to ruin your appetite. You will just have to use your imagination. They brought their horrible assortments of edibles and dared him to eat them and eat them he did. They dared him and he did it. "Just a case of simple willpower," he would say. "You can do anything you want if you just put your mind to it."

And then they got him. They got him with a simple dare. "We dare you to stay alive through your willpower alone. No food. No nourishment of any kind. Just some water to keep your mouth moist." Well, a dare is a dare and Mr. Will Power could not resist. He would do it, by golly! He would stay alive by the sheer force of his will. He took up the challenge. I suppose you can guess the outcome. There was, of course, no way he could will life itself. But try telling him that. He tried. Oh, how he tried. He willed life with every fiber of his being. That was the last dare Mr. Will Power ever accepted. This one did him in. The moral of the story is clear: there are things that our willpower cannot do.

We do not give glory to God by choosing to be obedient children of God. Mr. Will Power is not the model for Christian living. We do not prove that we are disciples by producing fruit as the product of our own willpower. There are some things that our willpower cannot do. We cannot will to be God's children. We cannot will to bear God's fruit. Becoming God's children and bearing God's fruit, rather, come only through abiding in Christ. And this comes as a gift through Jesus. "I am the true vine. . . apart from me you can do nothing," Jesus tells his disciples. The vine must nourish the branches. Just so, we must drink God's life into our bodies and spirits. This is a purpose of worship and devotions. Staying connected to Jesus is critical and vital. In this way Christ abides in us and we abide in him.

— Pastor Rayl

ANNUAL CARD PARTY



The Card Party and Luncheon is back! Join us on Tuesday, May 14th at noon. Tallies (admission) are \$15. For reservations, please call either the church office at 419-691-7222 or Jane Schuetz at 419-691-5506. The elevator will be available. We ask that you arrive by 11:30am if elevator access needed to avoid the noon car line for the Day School.

We need donations of door prizes and raffle prizes (\$25 or more for raffle prizes), either something you make or that you can ask a business to donate. Boxes are in the lounge and the Narthex for placing your donations.

Everyone is welcome to join us for a fun day!

SUMMER WORSHIP

Our summer worship schedule changes to one service at 9:00 am starting May 26th and running through September 1st.

ELDERS FOR MAY

5th	8:00 am Tom Gasins Terry Ruedy	10:30 am Dick Haar John Roth
12th	Bill Nelson Mike Winslow	Tom Hartford Bob Hecklinger
19th	Bob Haar Sherrie Haar	Ben Hodges Matt Miller
26th	9:00 am Tom Gaskins Terry Ruedy	

WEEKLY BULLETIN DEADLINE

News

As a reminder, please try to submit all weekly bulletin announcements no later than **Wednesday** each week for the upcoming Sunday.



CIRCLE NEWS

REBECCA CIRCLE will not meet in May.

RUTH CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday, May 7th @ 11:00 am in the lounge.

MIRIAM CIRCLE will meet on Wednesday, May 1st @ 9:30 am at Freight House Coffee in Oregon.

HANNAH CIRCLE will meet on Wednesday, May 15th at 6:30 pm in the lounge (please note the date change).

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
May 21st

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

To keep current information for office records, if your name, address or phone number changes, please notify the office by faxing (419-691-7220), or mailing this form to: 2471 Seaman St./ Toledo, OH 43605 or emailing us at: office@firststjohn.com

Name _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____ Phone _____

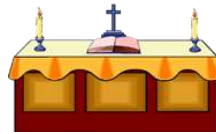
MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY



Join us on Monday, May 27^h for a brief Memorial Day Service of Remembrance. We will begin in the church sanctuary at 8:30 am in the cemetery. Please plan to join us. See Bob Haar if questions.

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY

May's focus item is men's and women's deodorant. Please, no travel sizes as products are supposed to last one month. You can deposit items in either the green bin in the lounge or the left pull-out bin in the Narthex under the main bulletin board. Thank you for your help. We are also have an urgent need for bars of soap and sanitary pads.



ALTAR GUILD MEETING

Our next Altar Guild meeting will be on Monday, May 6th at 6:30 pm in the lounge.

CONFIRMATION & VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL NEWS

Confirmation Sunday will happen on **Sunday, May 19th** at the second service.

Vacation Bible School will be **July 22nd to 25th** from 6:00-8:30 pm each night. We also will have dinner from 5:15-5:45 pm. Volunteers are needed for kitchen help, station leaders, and group leaders, as well as people to help set up and tear down. If you would like to help, please contact the church office or one of the JAM Sunday School teachers.



MEMORIALS

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY

In memory of Greg Contat by Bob & Sherrie Haar.

DAY SCHOOL

In memory of Pearl Hager by Sandra Stahl and June Smarkel.



MAY'S MINISTRY OUTREACH

Our ministry outreach is the Member Assistance Fund that helps support members who need temporary assistance with rent, utilities, etc. To support this effort, please place your check in one of the yellow envelopes in the pews and place it in the offering plate. Thank you!



TOLEDO MUD HENS NIGHT

It's time to play ball! The Toledo Mud Hens minor league baseball team is inviting area churches to their "Faith and Family" night at 5/3 Field on Sunday, June 30th. We are currently taking reservations for tickets. Please call the church office and indicate how many tickets you will need or see Bob Haar. The deadline for ticket reservation is June 1st. Stay tuned for ticket prices in upcoming bulletins and newsletter. It would be great if we could get a big group to attend from First St. John and support the Mud Hens!

WINSLOW MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The winners of the 2023-2024 Winslow Scholarship are Courtney Miller and April Church! Each of these young ladies is well deserving of this award and had amazing essays submitted. Please join us in congratulating both of our winners! They will be highlighted in the near future and also on graduation Sunday in June.



ORDERING ALTAR FLOWERS

If you'd like to place flowers on the altar in honor or memory of someone, the sign up sheets are in the red flower book in back of the church under the main bulletin board. You can sign up for the Sunday you choose. Flower vases are \$15 each; you can use an envelope out of the book for payment. Either place it in the small box on the wall next to the bulletin board, drop it in the offering plate, or mail it to the church office. Can't make it to in-person worship? You can call the church office to request a date for flowers, and Jennifer will sign up for you.



FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

The Fellowship Breakfast will be Saturday, May 11th (Please note the date change) at 8:30 am at the Woodville Diner. After breakfast, we will reconvene at Founders Fellowship Hall (gym) to help set up for the annual Card Party at 10 am. Please join us!

TACOS AND A MOVIE



The next movie night will be held on **Sunday, May 5th**. We will offer a "Cinco de Mayo" themed menu including tacos, along with our other usual snacks. The movie will be "The Case for Christ", based on a true story out of the Chicago area about an investigative reporter who does not believe in Christianity;; the twist is that his wife just became a born-again Christian. What he concludes may surprise you! Mark your calendars! A free will donation will be taken for this movie to cover expenses.



FAMILY BOWLING NIGHT A SUCCESS!

Thanks to all the families of JAM (Jesus And Me Sunday School) who joined us for a fun evening of bowling at Interstate Lanes in Rossford on Sunday, April 28th. We had 12 kids who attended plus teachers and parents. It was a great time!

MEMBER UPDATES

Births
None.

Baptisms
4-28-24 *Connor Cousino*, born September 14, 2020 and *Lincoln Cousino*, born March 15, 2022 to Robert and Alyssa Cousino.

Marriages
None.

Deaths
4-14-24 Phyllis Ann Sabin
4-20-24 Henry K. "Hank" Schumaker
4-22-24 Logan Nathaniel Roberts

Transfers to/from First St. John
None.



WELCA NEWS

Happy May Day everyone! The board met on April 15th in the lounge. We started making plan for the Fall. More information will follow in the September newsletter.

The Special Project in June will not go forward. We decided it would not be fair to take away from our Card Party this is so successful every year. So please support the Card Party!

I would like to thank all the congregation for the support you have given us this past year. It's nice to know our church family is willing to go over and above to help out like they do. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Our next meeting will be on May 20th in the lounge at 6:30pm. All women of the Church are invited. We would love to have your input!

— Sue Ann Rogers, President

**GRADUATE
RECOGNITION
SUNDAY
June 16, 2024**



We will publicly acknowledge all our graduates from high school and college at our 9:00 am worship service on Sunday, June 16th which is also Father's Day. Please plan on having your graduate attend this service as all graduates will be recognized. We will also recognize our Winslow Scholars.

If you know of a graduate, please complete this form and drop it in the offering plate, mail to the church office, or fax this page to 419-691-7220 by Tuesday, June 6th. Thank you.

NAME OF GRADUATE

GRADUATED FROM

DEGREE EARNED

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FUTURE PLANS (SCHOOL, WORK, ETC.)

YES, WE PLAN TO BE AT THE SERVICE _____



CHURCH LIBRARY REFRESH

Did you know we have a 'free-to-you' resource of Christian reading material in our church lounge? This includes fiction, non-fiction, devotionals, and even movies. We currently are in the process of refreshing our library located in the church lounge. We have a wealth of books available for you to borrow and we have recently added some new titles! Our library uses a card checkout system, and the instructions for borrowing are located on the shelf, along with the new titles available for ease of viewing. Once you sign a book out, we just ask that you return it within one month (or preferably two weeks) so others may enjoy it as well. Over the next few months, we will continue to add new titles and organize the library. If you have any questions or comments, please reach out to Emily Kruse (419-654-2842).

CHAPEL COMMUNION NOTICE

Our next Chapel Communion will be held on Sunday, May 12th at 2:00 pm in our chapel which is located on the second floor of the educational building. All our welcome to come!

First St. John Lutheran Prayer Chain (as of 4/29/24)

Crisis Prayer List

For those individuals who need our prayers in urgent matters such as upcoming surgery, emergency medical care (ICU), etc. Individuals will be moved to the chronic list after one month unless a prayer chain contact is notified:

Family of Lori Ansted
Bill Bartley
Peggy Burke
Family of Greg Contat
Ann Dudics
Duke
Martha Everett
Family of Pearl Hager
Jim Harrell
Sharon Kassay
Sue Knudsen
Rebecca Kohn
Helen K.
Fred Kruse
Laura Grace
Marc LeDuc
Julie Miller
Teresa Nye
Family of Rich Phillips
John Puhl
Family of Logan Roberts
Family of Phyllis Sabin
Tim Schmidlin
Family of Hank Schumaker
Skylar
June Smarkel
Jerry Smith
Family of Craig Traver
Steve Welling
Dave Wilbarger Sr.
Arlene Wilbarger
Eileen Young

Ongoing Concerns Prayer List

For those individuals who need our prayers for ongoing serious situations such as cancer treatments, medical struggles and recovery and/or personal situations. Individuals will be moved off after three months unless a prayer chain contact has been notified:

Esther Bell
Bennett
Elizabeth Bland
Karen Bless
Pastor Joe Brosious
Amy Brumley
Debbie Campbell
Brenda Chambers
Brittany Collins
Marjorie Counterman
Olivia & Delaney Dawkins
Brian Everett
Janet Fern

Joe Frobase
Grace Harris Greenbank
Holly Henneman
Gary Henningsen
Katrin Howard
Kathy Johnson
Linda Joshi
Grant Kessler
Cindy Knavel
Tom Kohn
Eleanor Lang
Darlene Lorenzen
Tina McQuilin
Bonnie Meier
Patty Meyer
Deborah Miller
Donna Miller
Janet Mooney
Mary Bell Moore
Karen Morrison
Sue Moszkowicz
Logan Murphy
Rosann Murray
Baby Nathan
Nick
Pam Pirolli
Janet Quiroga
John Ranchan
Sherry Reamsnyder
Steven Riegle
Rhonda
Kevin Ruedy
Sandra
Laura Scherer
Bill Shedron
Shelley Sherman
Connie Singlar
Jim Sommers Jr
James Spenthoff
Julie Swanson
Tom Tedrow
Joan Tilton
Joyce Trowbridge
Terry Vogalsang
Greg Wagner
Deb Dusseau Warnke
Katelyn Weirich
Jean Wilson
Donna Winslow
John Yard
Ruth Zasada
Raetta Zeisler
Bernie Zielinski

Check the list and let a prayer chain contact know if someone can be moved off the list.

Prayer Chain Contacts

Carol Abbey 419-351-9795 or cabbeyrn@aol.com

Lynn Folk 419-309-7977
Donna Koehn 419-705-9560
Darlene Lorenzen 419-351-6293



DAY SCHOOL NEWS

It is hard to believe that this is the last month of the school year. 2023/2024 has been a great year and we are so thankful that we were able to have an entire year with full classes. Beginning

May 28th we look forward to our summer camp program. We had so much fun the last few summers and this summer should prove to be another great experience for kids 3-10.

Enrollment is also going well for the 2024/2025 school year. We look forward to welcoming back our returning students and meeting new families. I would like to thank the church members for supporting the Day School. You are all part of our mission and I pray that we can continue to spread God's love to children for many years to come.

On May 4th the Day School will be hosting an end of year carnival. We look forward to celebrating with our day school families and enjoying some food on a stick, games and fellowship.

We are hiring for this summer. We need a full time aide (8:30-4:00) for our school age class for the weeks of May 28-31, June 24-28, July 1-3, July 22-26, and July 29- Aug 2. We also need a cook (9:30-1:30) for the following days May 30, May 31, June 5, June 10, June 13, June 14, July 18 and July 19. Please contact the Day School office if you are interested.

— *Andrea Buckley*

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY **APRIL UPDATE**

In April, we served 92 adults and 20 children. 12 FSJ volunteers served 24 hours of time this past month to make sure the pantry runs smoothly. Here is a breakdown of our #s for the month!

APRIL STATS:

247- TOTAL PRODUCT DONATIONS
\$308- TOTAL ESTIMATED SAVINGS
112- TOTAL PEOPLE SERVED
12- TOTAL VOLUNTEERS
24- VOLUNTEER HOURS
1,374- TOTAL PRODUCTS DISTRIBUTED

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE DONATED ITEMS OR TIME! WE ARE SERVING AN IMPORTANT NEED IN OUR COMMUNITY!

SUMMER DAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Registration for our summer camp is filling up quickly! Camp runs from May 28th through August 2nd and is for kids ages 3 through 10 (Must be potty trained). Camp is from 9:00 am to noon for preschool ages and 9:00 am to 3:00 pm for school age children. Extended care also is available from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm for \$5 per hour. Each week has a special focus:

- May 28-May 31: It's a Bug's Life
- June 3-7: Spectacular Storms
- June 10-14: Creative Creations
- June 17-21: Super Science Serendipity
- June 24-28: Big Top Blowout (preschool)
Crime Scene Capers (5+)
- July 1-3: Habitat Explorers**
- July 10-14: Stars, Aliens & Cosmos
- July 11-21: Team Spirit Retreat
- July 24-28: Under the Sea
- July 31-Aug 4 Fairy Tale (preschool)
Hollywood Red Carpet (5+)

A one-time registration fee of \$50 is needed. Cost is \$90/week for children ages 3-5, and \$180/week for ages 5-10 (this does not include after care hours which is paid separately). **Please note the week of July 1-3 will be \$50/week for ages 3-5, and \$100/week for ages 5-10. The cost includes meals, fees, supplies, and activities.

Please call **Andrea Buckley** at 419-691-6480 with questions. Registration is available online at firststjohndayschool.org.

ASK THE LORD FOR RAIN
IN THE SPRINGTIME;
IT IS THE LORD WHO SENDS
THE THUNDERSTORMS.
HE GIVES SHOWERS OF
RAIN TO ALL PEOPLE, AND
PLANTS OF THE FIELD TO
EVERYONE.

ZECHARIAH 10:1