

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Oct 6th

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of Debra Hecklinger on her 10/7/1949 birthday and Karen Hecklinger Predmore on her birthday, 10/1/1949, given by her husband and brother; and in honor of Natalie Miller's 17th birthday on October 5th, given by Mom, Dad, Courtney & Vanessa.

MESENTERS are given in honor of Carol & Kevin Abbey's 48th Wedding Anniversary.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

9-29-24: 8:00 am: 26 10:30 am: 71 Online: 40 Total: 137
Adult Sunday School: 9 JAM Sunday School: 8

OUR KNOWN HOSPITALIZED:

None at the time of this printing.

PRAYER CHAIN CRITICAL/NEW: Deb Ackerman, Angela, Phyllis Brown, Peggy Burke, Carol Crosser, Dick Crouse, Doris, Ann Dudics, Duke, Norman Eck, Isaac Evans, Martha Everett, Linda Hagedorn, Jody, Kaitlyn, Sharon Kassay, Deborah Kidwell, Kaylea Kochanski, Rebecca Kohn, Helen K., Paul Lambrecht, Marc LeDuc, Rick & Judy Lepiarz, Angel Miller, Chad Milner, Teresa Nye, John Puhl, Skylar, June Smarkel, Marilyn Ulrich, Steve Welling, Dave Wilbarger Sr., Arlene Wilbarger, Donna Winslow

****To better manage the prayer chain, only critical and new requests will be printed in the weekly announcements. All ongoing requests will be posted in the lounge, and narthex (lobby), and be included in the monthly newsletter. If you have any additions or changes to the prayer chain, please email office@firststjohn.com****

CALENDAR FOR OCT 6 – OCT 12

Today	8:00 am	- Early Worship Service/Communion
	9:15 am	- Adult Sunday School (lounge)
	9:15 am	- J.A.M. Sunday School (church basement)
	10:30 am	- Late Worship Service
Monday	5:30 pm	- Bell Choir
	6:30 pm	- Altar Guild Meeting (lounge)
	7:00 pm	- Scouting Ministry Mtg (Room 204 – Catechism)
	7:00 pm	- Dartball (home)
Thursday	11:00 am	- Adult Bible Study (lounge)
	6:00 pm	- Choir Rehearsal
Saturday	8:30 am	- Fellowship Breakfast @ Woodville Diner
	10:00 am	- Cemetery Clean-Up

WELCOME TO FIRST ST. JOHN: If you are visiting with us, please sign the guest book, located in the Narthex (lobby).

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Please remember to silence your cell phone before church begins. Thanks!

FOR YOUR SECURITY, please make sure to secure any valuables and lock your car. Unfortunately, as a property with heavy foot and car traffic, unlocked vehicles can be an easy target. Lock it up, keep it safe!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL Join us each Sunday after first service for Adult Sunday School in the lounge at 9:15 am. We will be studying the New Testament lesson from the sermon each week. We hope to see you there!

EMAIL OUTAGE We experienced an email outage this past week. The office, Pastor, and Andrea in the Day School were unable to receive emails. If you sent an email on Thursday or Friday of last week and did not receive a response, please reach out to Jennifer in the office (419-691-7222). We apologize for any inconvenience.

J.A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL Join us every Sunday at 9:15 am in the JAM Room in the church basement for children ages 3-5th grade! We hope you will join us!

PASTOR RAYL wishes to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers, and patience the past few weeks while he has dealt with the injury to his back and the severe pain in his legs and feet. Hopefully things will be back to normal soon.

CANDY CRAWL DONATIONS are needed for the upcoming community Candy Crawl which will be held on October 20th. Please place any donations on the table in the lounge, or box in the narthex (lobby). They can also be dropped off to Jennifer in the church office M-F 9am-4pm.

FIRST YEAR CATECHISM Any parents interested in their child in 6th or 7th grade starting 1st-year confirmation classes should text Pastor Rayl at (567) 395-0143 or email him at pastor1@firststjohn.com or call Jennifer in the church office, 419-691-7222.

FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST The next Fellowship Breakfast will be held on Saturday, October 12th at 8:30 am at the Woodville Diner. Come join us for faith, fellowship, and fun!

BE A PART OF OUR SCOUTING MINISTRY! We will officially be starting up our meetings to plan for our FSJ Scouting Ministry. Mike Joseph (Mr. J) will be heading up our planning process. The first meeting for planning is open to any adult volunteers on October 7th at 7pm in Room 204 (Catechism room) of the educational building. We will then meet each first Monday of the following month at the same time and place. If any questions, please contact Mike @ (419) 262-7583.

DARTBALL The Dartball season kicked off a new year this past Monday. Please come out to support our teams this Dartball season! First St John Team #1 will face off against First St John #2 next Monday, October 7th at 7:00pm in the gym! For additional information, please see Bill Nelson, or Bob Haar.

MONTHLY MINISTRY The ministry outreach for October will be the **Lutheran Disaster Response** in response to the devastating Hurricane Helene that hit the coast recently. Millions are without power as heavy rains continue to fall, causing dangerous flooding and landslides, as well as downed trees and power lines. Lutheran Disaster Response has strong relationships in the region and is already at working alongside synods and other partners to expand to all impacted areas. By giving to Lutheran Disaster Response, you enable the ELCA to act quickly after disasters such as Hurricane Helene and to remain for as long as the recovery takes. To participate, place your offering in the green envelope in your pew and place it in the offering plate.

CEMETERY CLEAN-UP REMINDER: Fall clean-up of the cemetery will be done this Saturday, October 12th at 10 am. Please remove any decorative items from the gravestones that you wish to keep **BEFORE** the October 12th deadline to avoid them being taken down. Anyone able to help with cemetery clean up can meet behind the church on October 12th at 10am.

BELL CHOIR Our fabulous Bell Choir is looking for people to join us! They meet each Monday at 5:30 pm. We will give you instructions on how to hold and ring the bell. Come and give it a try! Contact Cheri Sargent for any questions at (419) 410-3572.

JOIN US FOR CHOIR REHEARSAL! Craig Whitaker, of Craig's Pianos and Keyboards has graciously agreed to temporarily helping fill in as our choir director as we begin to search for a permanent replacement. Choir practice will take place each Thursday at 6pm unless otherwise noted. If you have ever considered being part of our choir, please plan to join us!

PORTALS OF PRAYER The October-December Portals of Prayer are now available in the lounge and narthex (library) for pick up. Consider taking an extra to share with family or friends!

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER has been emailed out to all who have requested a digital copy. If you did not receive it, please check your spam or junk folder, or contact Jennifer in the office. Hard copies are available for pick up in the lounge and narthex (lobby). Those requesting a copy be mailed should receive it early next week.

ALTAR GUILD will meet on Monday, October 7th at 6:30 pm in the lounge.

WELCA will meet next on Monday, October 21st at 6:30 pm in the lounge. All women of the church are invited to attend.

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED: One of the hardest items for our pantry to stock is laundry soap and fabric softener, so that is the donation focus for October. We are asking for liquid laundry detergent (32 loads or larger) and Fabric Softener sheets (Qty 40 or more) to last our patrons a month or longer. Please consider donating! We also have an online Amazon Wishlist with items you can purchase and have directly sent to us! Email Jennifer in the office and she can send you the link if you would prefer to purchase items that way! Thanks in advance!

LAYETTE MINISTRY COLLECTION: The Women of the ELCA (WELCA) are collecting baby care items to make up kits that will be sent to needy families. If you would like to donate, there will be a collection box in the lounge, or you can bring them to the church office. Here are the items we need:

- lightweight cotton t-shirts (no onesies) *
- long or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet) *
- receiving blankets, medium weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, between 36" and 52" square
- cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
- jacket, sweater, or sweatshirt with a hood, or include baby cap *
- pairs of socks
- hand towel, dark color recommended
- bath size bars of gentle soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping (no mini or hotel size bars)
- diaper pins or large safety pins

* **Clothing sizes can be up to 24 months**

NURSERY WISH LIST As we are starting a nursery, we would like to gather some new items for a fresh start. Instead of a donation tree, we have created an Amazon wish list! The nursery will be an important ministry as it will allow parents to attend service with care provided for their young children. We are looking for wet/baby wipes, puzzles (large piece toddler/wooden ones), new baby dolls (at least 2), small and large plastic farm animals/people, plastic building blocks, stacking toys, and toddler toys (that are easy to wipe clean), a See & Say, or Pop-Up Pals to name a few. Please NO stuffed animals/toys. Donations can be dropped off during the week to the church office or if using Amazon can be shipped directly to the church. Email Jennifer for the Amazon wishlist link.

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED We will be offering a nursery in the fall and need volunteers that could commit to covering the nursery during the second service once a month, or as able. Volunteers will need to fill out paperwork and be background checked for insurance and liability reasons. The process is easy and simple, and your time will help to serve young families in our church! Please reach out to Darlene Paul or Jennifer in the church office at 419-691-7222.

LESSON READERS NEEDED As the summer comes to a close, we are in need of weekly lesson readers when we return to two services starting in September. You can choose to read for first service or second service, whatever works best for you! It is a great way to serve, and we would appreciate your help! Please reach out to Jennifer in the office if interested in helping fill our weekly readers or if you have any questions at 419-691-7222.

START A NEW DAILY DEVOTIONAL! As a reminder, the First St. John Library has a wealth of Christian literary available to be borrowed. Starting this week, you will find some devotionals featured on the table in the lounge that you are able to check out for up to a year! It is a great time to find the perfect devotional to start for this year or check out some other great books both fiction and non-fiction. Instructions on how to sign out a book or devotional are located on the shelves. For any assistance or questions, please see Emily Kruse or call the office at 419-691-7222.

ALTAR FLOWER SIGN UP NEEDED: Flowers on Sundays beautify the sanctuary and are dedicated to the glory of God. You can assist by signing up and using this as an opportunity to honor/remember a loved one. The flower sign up book is in the Narthex, \$15/vase, or call the church office. There are also weekly opportunities to honor or remember a loved one by donating the cost of messengers (\$10), homebound outreach (\$10) and chancel lighting (\$15).