



# First St. John Journal



Volume 38, Issue 8

August, 2025

## **Jesus is our TRUE NORTH!**



On July 14-17<sup>th</sup> we hosted 'True North: Trusting God in a Wild World' themed VBS and it was a huge success! We had over 40 kids and teens each night, and 20+ volunteers! The kids learned

about God's great love for them, and that God is a friend who they can trust in all things. He can be trusted with all our worries and fears, and will stay with us during tough times!

We started every night off with a fabulous dinner provided by our volunteers and kicked things off in our Alaskan wilderness/northern lights decorated sanctuary. The kids also got to experience a fun skit with 'Scout' the not-so-great wilderness explorer, played by Paige Hess, who was working through the daily lessons of trusting God right along with us. On day one the lesson was 'When we wonder, we can trust Jesus'. We talked about John the Baptist wondering about God. He even penned a letter from prison, asking Jesus if he was truly the Messiah. We studied Matthew 3:11-16,, 7:24. People (even John the Baptist) wondered about Jesus. This passage can encouraged the children that it's ok to ask questions about Jesus-he will always help us find the truth!

On day two we learned that even when we feel alone, we can trust in Jesus! We studied the passage of Matthew 6:25-33; 18:12-14. Jesus affirms just how valuable we are to God. So when kids feel left out, or cast aside, they don't need to worry. They can trust in God's rock-solid love. The kids also got a kick out of pretending to be sheep while Mr. Bob Kinsey led them around to illustrate God leading his sheep!

On Day three we learned that when we feel powerless, we can trust Jesus! We learned about how a Roman officer came to trust Jesus in Matthew 8:5-13. Even a Roman officer knew he didn't have power like Jesus. When circumstances make kids feel

helpless, they can always trust Jesus. The kids got a kick out of Mrs. Jennifer dressing up like a make-shift Roman soldier and commanding order, and putting them through some impossible tasks. They learned that by trusting in Jesus and with help from their friends they could accomplish more!

Lastly, we finished on day four learning that when we need hope, we can trust Jesus. We studied Matthew 26:47-28:8 where we learned about how Jesus died and came back to life. The kids did an experiment with ice cubes to represent their sins, and when they were placed in the tomb with Jesus, he took them on and they were gone (melted). The best news is he came back from the dead! We learned about the encouragement that comes from knowing Jesus is our hope-both here on earth and in eternity!

It was an amazing week filled with food, games, Bible lessons, crafts, science experiments and a lot of smiles and laughs! We finished the week with welcoming some of the kids back on Sunday to share some songs we learned! I hope you were able to join us!

A very special thanks to everyone who donated items, cash or gift cards to help us provide the best VBS we could offer! Also, a shout out to all our volunteers who helped decorate and also worked all week in the heat! Without dedicated volunteers and our teens who helped all week it wouldn't have been possible. Thanks to all the parents and kids that made this a great week! You were all a part of planting the word of God in the hearts of the children who attended! We continue to pray that by the end of the week they learned that Jesus is a friend they can TRUST!

*~ Jennifer Hess*

## MEMBER UPDATES

### Births

None.

### Baptisms

6-29-25

Graham Alan Tilton, *born to Amelia (Schwiefert) Tilton, and Chase Tilton*

### Marriages

None.

### Deaths

None.

### Transfers to/from First St. John

None.

## SUMMER MEETINGS FOR CIRCLE MEMBERS

RUTH CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am at Tony Packo's on Front Street.

REBECCA CIRCLE will meet on Saturday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11:30 am at the Old Bag of Nails restaurant.

MIRIAM CIRCLE will not meet this month. Next meeting will be Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30 am in the lounge.

### HANNAH CIRCLE

Will not meet in the Summer. See everyone again in the Fall!

## MEET OUR NEW CHOIR/MUSIC DIRECTOR: JO-ANNE CHRYSOCHOOS



Jo-Anne Chrysochoos is a seasoned mezzo-soprano and voice educator with over three decades of performance and teaching experience. She has performed a wide range of classical and operatic repertoire, including arias from roles such as “Mimi” in *La Bohème*, “Rosina” in *The Barber of Seville*, and “Dorabella” in *Così fan tutte*, and has appeared in concerts featuring works by Mahler,

Schumann, and Pergolesi. Her performance history includes venues such as the Toledo Art Museum, Wildwood Manor House, and the Perrysburg Symphony, as well as collaborations with jazz artists and participation in major liturgical and fundraising events. As a voice instructor, she has taught at Owens Community College, the University of Toledo, and the Toledo School for the Arts, helping students gain admission to top vocal programs. Jo-Anne is a University of Toledo graduate with both Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in vocal performance. Please welcome Jo-Anne to FSJ!



## BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP FOR AUGUST

The next Fellowship Breakfast will be held on Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8:30 am at the American Table restaurant on Wheeling. Join us for a devotion, breakfast, and fellowship. For more information, please see Bob Haar.

## ALTAR GUILD NEWS

Our next meeting is Monday, August 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the lounge.



## WEEKLY BULLETIN DEADLINE

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

**SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE—AUGUST 22<sup>nd</sup>**

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## 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), emailing (office@firststjohn.com) or mailing the changes to: 2471 Seaman St./ Toledo, OH 43605.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_



## MEMORIALS (as of 7/25/25)

### MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of Dave Wilbarger Sr. by Sherrie & Bob Haar



### TUESDAYS @ 1PM Concert

Dr. Tony will once again host a 'Tuesdays @ 1pm' concert on Tuesday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at 1pm in the church sanctuary. The concert will feature Lesli McCage Simmons on Clarinet accompanied by Dr. Anthony Patten, piano. They will be joined by soprano, Carol Dusdieker, a member of the Heidelberg University faculty for a performance of Franz Schubert's Shepherd on the Rock. The concert is free and open to the public. Please make plans to join us!

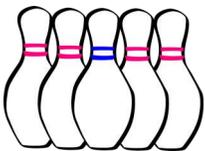
Our next schedule Tuesdays @ 1PM concert will be held on Tuesday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm and will feature our very own new choir/music director, Jo-Anne Chrysochoos, soprano.

Please make plans to join us on both dates and invite a friend or two! See you there!

### UPCOMING SPECIAL MUSIC:

Aug 10th - Special guests Merwin Sui, violin, and his son Kai Sui, vocals. Merwin is a principle violinist in the Toledo Symphony and the Artistic Administrator for the orchestra. His son, age 12, is a student at Ottawa Hills Middle School, and will provide vocals.

Aug 17th- Special guest Lesli McCage-Simmons will once again bless us with his skills on clarinet.



### TOLEDO LUTHERAN BOWLING ASSOCIATION

The USBC is about to kick-off their upcoming season. Anyone is invited to join or put together a team. The only requirements are that you are 18 years or older and able to bowl without using ramps or bumpers, even badly, as it is about fun! The season runs for 32 weeks and starts on Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$16 per bowler each night of play. There are cash payouts and awards, and there is a snack bar available, bowling balls are provided, and shoes for rent at the bowling alley. A pre-season league meeting will be held at Interstate Lanes on Friday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7 pm (attendance optional). If interested, contact Steve Mawhorter, [sdmawhorter@gmail.com](mailto:sdmawhorter@gmail.com).

## HOMEBOUND COMMUNION

If you or a loved one would like a homebound communion visit, please call the church office (419-691-7222). Bob Haar is temporarily communing the homebound at their request, and he will call you to set up an appointment.

### BUILDING MAINTENANCE

The week of August 4<sup>th</sup>, there will be scheduled building maintenance taking place in the education building, including floor waxing of the classrooms and hallways. There will also be some other scheduled work as well., and limited access to the building and office. Use church back entrance only as needed. For more info, contact Andy Hodges.



### PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY JULY UPDATE

In July, we served 92 adults and 24 children. 15 FSJ volunteers served 30 hours of time this past month to make sure the pantry ran smoothly. Our physical donations were quite down throughout the summer, but we did receive monetary donations that helped greatly. Recently we had a urgent need for paper products due to supplier issues though, and I am so impressed how the church always works to fill that need! This boosted and extra 122 donated products to close out July! Thank you for your generosity. We are still in need of paper products (toilet paper, tissues, and paper towels) as well as laundry detergent. Please help if you can!

#### JULY STATS:

**420 - TOTAL PRODUCT DONATIONS**  
**\$541- TOTAL ESTIMATED SAVINGS**  
**116 - TOTAL PEOPLE SERVED**  
**15 - TOTAL VOLUNTEERS**  
**30 - VOLUNTEER HOURS**  
**1,335- TOTAL PRODUCTS DISTRIBUTED**

### ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult Sunday School will begin again on Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, at 9:15 a.m. in the Lounge. We will explore the Old Testament. Please join us every Sunday for coffee, and donuts and good biblical conversation and learning.

### PORTALS OF PRAYER

Copies of the July-September Portals of Prayer are still available in the lounge and at the back of the church for pick-up.

## ***First St. John Lutheran Prayer Chain (as of 8-1-25)***

### **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:

**Peggy Burke**  
**Lola Crouse**  
**Norman Eck**  
**Diane Gerkenmeyer**  
**Mary Ellen Miller**  
**Rita Riegle**  
**Sandy Stahl**  
**Tiffany**  
**Levi Wallace**

### **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:*

Deb Ackerman  
Bennett  
Elizabeth Bland  
Karen Bless  
Amy Brumley  
Debbie Campbell  
Brenda Chambers  
Patrick Cleough  
Marjorie Counterman  
Olivia & Delaney Dawkins  
Doris  
Ann Dudics  
Duke  
Norman Eck  
Isaac Evans  
Brian Everett  
Janet Fern  
Joe Frobese  
Jody  
James Goorman  
Grace Harris Greenbank  
Bob Hecklinger  
Holly Henneman  
Gary Henningsen  
Katrin Howard  
Kathy Johnson  
Linda Joshi  
Kaitlyn  
Helen K.

Sharon Kassay  
Cindy Knavel  
Tom Kohn  
Marc LeDuc  
Diana McGovern  
Bonnie Meier  
Patty Meyer  
Deborah Miller  
Donna Miller  
Chad Milner  
Janet Mooney  
Mary Bell Moore  
Karen Morrison  
Logan Murphy  
Pam Pirolli  
Janet Quiroga  
John Ranchan  
Sherry Reamsnyder  
Steven Riegle  
Rhonda  
Sandra  
Laura Scherer  
Bill Shedron  
Mary Alice Sheehan  
Shelley Sherman  
Connie Singlar  
James Spenthoff  
Julie Swanson  
Tom Tedrow  
Joyce Trowbridge  
Terry Vogalsang  
Deb Dusseau Warnke  
Katelyn Weirich  
Steve Welling  
Jeff Wilbarger  
Jean Wilson  
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  
Gloria Ross 419-836-7166



Greetings from the Day School! The summer has been flying by and we are having a great time with our summer program. I am so grateful that our summer camp has been such a success, and that we have gotten to know so many new families. We are preparing for our new school year to begin. The first day of school will be August 18<sup>th</sup>.

We will also be hosting a back to school night/open house on August 15<sup>th</sup> starting around 4:00-7:30 pm (check Day School website for times by age group). This will give students and their families a chance to meet the teachers, see the classrooms and to have some fun before school starts.

If you or anyone you know is looking for child care or preschool this fall, classes are filling up quickly. Registration information can be found on our website at [www.firststjohndayschool.org](http://www.firststjohndayschool.org)

Our fall classes are as follows:

- **3-year-old preschool:** Monday through Friday from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm with the option for extended care hours.
- **3-year-old preschool:** Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm with the option for extended care hours
- **4-year-old preschool:** Monday through Friday from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm with the option for extended care hours
- **4-year-old preschool:** Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm with the option for extended care hours
- Our **Beginnergarten** program is for 5 year olds who have missed the kindergarten cutoff date for the public schools, or who need an extra year before kindergarten. Beginnergarten hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm with the option for extended care hours.

If you need additional information or have any questions, please call me at 419-691-6480.

— Andrea Buckley

**MUD HENS TICKETS ARE IN!**

For all those who ordered tickets for the August 16<sup>th</sup> game. See Bob Haar on Sunday, or pick up during the week at the church office (419-691-7222)

“BEGINDERGARTEN”



Our Beginnergarten class is for kids who will be five years old by November 1<sup>st</sup>. It runs 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Monday to Friday. On site before-and-after-school care also is available.

This program helps students who may have missed the age requirement of their public school, but who have already been through two years of preschool. Increasing academic demands for kindergarten students means public schools have less time to nurture social and emotional skills. So we offer more academics than regular pre-k programs, but also include play, which is important for little ones. Call Andrea Buckley at 419-691-6480 if interested.

**MONTHLY MINISTRY OUTREACH**



**COMMUNITY CARE-A-VAN**

The ministry outreach for August is **Community Care-A-Van**. The Community Care-a-Van service was established in 2000 to help those who are unable to get transportation to their important medical services. They pick up the patient, take them to their appointments, and then transport them back home. This service is free to the patient and is entirely supported by donations. They serve patients in East Toledo, Walbridge, Lake Twp., Jerusalem Twp., Northwood, and Oregon. If you would like to help support this program, please use one of the pink envelopes in the pews and place it in the offering plate during in-person worship, or you can mail your donation to the church office.

**TENTATIVE DATE FOR RALLY DAY!**



A tentative date is being held for Rally Day 2025. The hope is for this to be a church wide event again like years past where we can celebrate the start of Sunday School for the year and fellowship together! Please mark your calendars for Sunday, September 7th. A confirmation of the date and more details to come so stay tuned!