



First St. John Journal



Volume 38, Issue 10

October, 2025

On October 12th and during both services, we will be hearing about the Christians of the Holy Land, and after each service we will be hosting at the church a nice display of handmade olive wood religious articles from Bethlehem available for purchase. These carvings include olivewood Nativity sets, crosses, Christmas ornaments, candle holders, angels and many other religious crafts that could make a nice wedding, baptism, confirmation, Easter and Christmas gifts. The carvings are handmade by Christian families from Bethlehem who rely on it for their daily bread. A Christian family from Bethlehem will be telling us the story of the Christians of the Holy Land and they will be presenting these carvings after the services. All proceeds go to support Christian families from Bethlehem.

A few more announcements from Pastor Rayl:

CATECHISM CLASSES: It is time to begin a new Catechism Class. All parents of children in the congregation in grades 5th through 7th at the beginning of this school year are encouraged join us for the beginning class on Sunday, October 12th, after the second worship service at 11:45 am. Any questions can be shared with Pastor Rayl by contacting him by email at pastor1@firststjohn.com or by a text message at 567-395-0143. This is a great opportunity for parents to fulfill the promises made at the Baptism of their child.

EPHESIANS BIBLE STUDY Paul's letter to the Ephesians is one of the New Testament's most profound explorations of God's purposes, the church's identity, and Christ's cosmic victory. Join Pastor Rayl to study Ephesians during the Sunday School hour beginning on Sunday, October 19th. The class will meet in the Catechism Classroom located down the hallway from the lounge. This study will examine the relationship between sin, salvation, and Christ's triumph, analyze Ephesians' structure, argument, and theological themes, clarify the church's role in God's plan to unite heaven and earth, and give you the tools to be able to explain

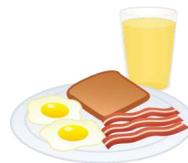
God's purposes more clearly. If you have questions or would like to enroll, just send Pastor Rayl an email at pastor1@firststjohn.com or a text message at 567-395-0143.

– *Pastor Rayl*

WELCA SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER



The women of WELCA will be hosting a Spaghetti dinner on Saturday, October 4th from 4-6:30 pm. Tickets will be \$10 for adults, and \$8 for children aged 5 or older. Children under 5 years old will be free. We will serve Spaghetti, salad, garlic toast, and a cookie or brownie. Dinners will be available for dine in or carryout. Carryout orders will be picked up in the lounge. The proceeds from this fundraiser will help fund the maintenance of our church. Hope to see you there!



BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP

We meet on Saturday, October 4th at 8:30 am at the American Table restaurant on Wheeling St in Oregon. Afterwards, we will reconvene in Founder's Hall (gym) to set up for the spaghetti dinner and drive thru.

WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL TIMES

As we settle into our new fall rhythm please be reminded that **worship services will be held every Sunday at 8am and 10:30am .**

Our **J.A.M. (Jesus and Me)** Sunday School for children ages 3-5th grade will be held at 9:15am in the J.A.M. area in the basement of the church.

Our **Adult Bible Study** will meet every Sunday as well at 9:15 am in the church lounge and will study the gospel message each week in depth.

Chapel Communion will be held every second Sunday of the month at 2 pm in the chapel, located on the middle floor of the educational building.



THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY

Pastor will again host a Thursday morning adult bible study every Thursday at 11 am in the lounge. If you are interested in joining and cannot make it in person, reach out to Pastor Rayl (pastor1@firststjohn.com) for an option to Zoom via computer.

| ELDERS FOR OCTOBER | | |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| We continue with our fall schedule of two services at 8:00 and 10:30 am. | | |
| | 8:00 am | 10:30 am |
| 10/5 | Bob Haar Sherrie Haar | Tom Gaskins Terry Ruedy |
| 10/12 | Bill Nelson Matt Miller | Kevin Ruedy Mike Winslow |
| 10/19 | Ted Hagedorn Jeff Smith | Dick Haar John Roth |
| 10/26 | Tom Gaskins Terry Ruedy | Bob Haar Sherrie Haar |



KROGER COMMUNITY REWARD PROGRAM

Did you know you can support First St. John just by shopping at Kroger!

This past quarter we earned \$82.80 in rewards donated to the church!

This program makes fundraising easy by donating to local organizations based on the shopping you do every day. Once you link your Kroger Card to an organization, all you have to do is shop at Kroger and swipe or enter your Shopper's Card. Here's how it works:

1. Create or sign into your online rewards account on Kroger.com
2. Make sure your Kroger Reward Card account is attached to your online account.
3. Under the Kroger Community Rewards Screen, search for First St. John Lutheran, or enter the NPO # WM368.
4. Select the organization and click 'Save'. You are all set! The selected organization will now show on the Kroger Community Reward Page!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Our goal this year is to collect 100 shoeboxes! We can do it with your help. Empty shoeboxes are in the lounge for you to use. A pamphlet with a label and instructions are in each box. Take a box and fill it up! We will collect boxes through Sunday, November 16th.

Remember, no candy, liquids, toothpaste, or war-related toys, or anything breakable. You can bring your box to worship or drop it off during the week (call the office when you arrive.) **This year, they are not allowing bar soap anymore as well.**

If you have questions, please call Deb Ladd at 419-250-1460. Help us meet our goal and share the message of God's love with children around the world who otherwise may not have anything to open for Christmas.



ATTENTION ALTAR GUILD

Our next meeting will be Monday, October 6th at 6:30 pm in the lounge.

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

To keep our office records up-to-date, 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 email us: office@firststjohn.com

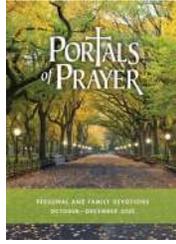
Name _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____ Phone _____

PORTALS OF PRAYER

Portals of Prayer devotional booklets in large or small print for October through December can be picked up in mid September. You can find these in the Narthex (lobby), lounge, or the small caddy by the choir loft.



JAM SUNDAY SCHOOL IS ON FACEBOOK!

If you use Facebook, now you can keep up with the latest news for our JAM Sunday School. In your Facebook search bar, just key in @FSJJesusAndMe.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

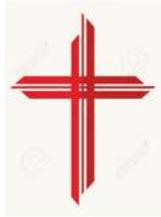
Births

None.

Baptisms

9-7-25

Reed Kenneth Hodges, born May 1, 2024 to Jamie (Rossler) and Benjamin Hodges.



Marriages

None.

Deaths

9-21-25

Florence Partin

Transfers To / From First St. John

None.

CANDY CRAWL

We will once again be participating in the annual community Candy Crawl that will take place on Sunday October, 19th from 4-6pm. This event takes place yearly and is a wonderful way to connect with our community. This year we were able to purchase the candy needed through a Thrivent grant. However, we ask that you donate candy if possible for the Day School Halloween event! Also, make sure to bring your kids to get candy at FSJ and around the community!



BELL CHOIR NEWS

Bell Choir has begun practicing every Monday at 5:30 pm in the church. New members are welcome and anyone with interest will be trained! Contact Cheri Sergent for more details (419) 410-3572.



MEMORIALS

(as of 9/15/25)

ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of **Jim Fox** by Gene Hagedorn, Bill & Cathy Caldwell.

In memory of **Lola Crouse** by Bill & Cathy Caldwell.

IMPROVEMENT FUND

In memory of **Jim Fox** by Penny DeWitt.

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY

In memory of **Jim Fox** by Bob & Sherrie Haar.

WELCA BEREAVEMENT

In memory of **Jim Fox** by Janet Fox.

MEMORIAL FUND

In memory of **Jim Fox** by Chuck & Betty Hyre, Elaine Gladieux.

In memory of **Andrea Schumaker** by Jeanie Free Family.

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY

Our focus item for October is adult toothpaste and toothbrushes (4 pack only). Please place your items in the in the bright green bin in the lounge. Thank you for supporting this ministry!



Remember, no travel or sample size items—families will need these items to last an entire month.

ALL SAINTS DAY

November 2nd is All Saints Sunday. We will remember those of our church family who passed away from November 1, 2024 to October 31, 2025 (we already have those names). If you would like to honor a friend or family member who passed away prior to November 2024, please sign the book which will be located in the lounge) or call the office at 419-691-7222 to have their names included on the list for that day. Thank you.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

We will once again decorate the church for Harvest Festival on Sunday, October 5th. The Quilters Group will also have some of their quilts on display for purchase. See Beth Hugueley for more details.

**November Newsletter Deadline
October 24th**

WELCA NEWS

The Board met on Monday September 15th. Four members were present. We discussed plans for the Spaghetti Dinner upcoming on Saturday, October 4th. You will have the option of dine in or carry out. Carry-out orders will be picked up in the lounge.

Cookie Sale will be December 21st, after both services. Please consider baking or donating cookies. Cookies are to be brought in on the 20th to the lounge between 10am and noon. We hope to have many different kinds of cookies to choose from so please remember to support the sale!

Our Family Christmas lunch will be held on December 7th right after the 2nd service. The lunch will consist of beef and noodles, mac & cheese, vegetable medley mix, salad, and a roll & butter. Our 2nd annual basket auction will take place again this year.

Our next meeting will be on October 20th at 6:30 pm in the lounge. All women of the Church are invited to attend.

— President, Sue Ann Rogers

ALTAR GUILD NEWS

Altar Guild will meet on Monday, October 2nd at 6:30 pm in the lounge.

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to place flowers on the altar to honor or remember a loved one, you can use the red sign up book under the main bulletin board in the Narthex (lobby). Just find the Sunday you'd like and jot down the needed information.

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.

CIRCLE INFORMATION

Rebecca Circle will meet Saturday, October 4th at 11:30 am in the lounge.

Ruth Circle will meet on Tuesday, October 7th at 11:00 am in the lounge.

Miriam Circle will meet on Wednesday, October 1st at 9:30 in the lounge.

Hannah Circle will meet Tuesday, October 28th at 6:30 pm in the lounge.

OCTOBER DARTBALL



The Dartball Season is underway with games hosted in the gym at 7 pm.

Upcoming dates for October are:

October 6th - FSJ Team #1 @ Messiah
FSJ Team #2 @ St. Petri

October 20th - FSJ Team #1 vs. Prince of Peace
FSJ Team #2 vs. Trinity

Please mark your calendars. If any questions, reach out to Bill Nelson (419) 836-4165, or Bob Haar (419) 250-9409.

WE ARE HIRING!



We are starting the search for a new church Office Manager to replace Jennifer. In the meantime, we will also need weekly volunteers to help with light office duties like answering the phones, or sorting mail. Please contact Pastor Rayl if you know of anyone interested or if you are willing to volunteer your time during this time (pastor1@firststjohn.com), or see Dave Wilbarger, council president.

JOIN US FOR CHOIR REHEARSAL!



The choir is off to a great start! If you have ever considered joining the choir this is a great time to check it out! The choir practices every Wednesday at 6 pm. If you have ever thought of joining the choir, please consider joining us each week and help us make a joyful noise to the Lord!

CEMETERY CLEAN UP



Fall cleanup of the cemetery will be Saturday, October 11th at 9:00 am. It shouldn't take too long, so if you can help we would greatly appreciate it. (If you have hand clippers, please bring them.)

Also, prior to October 11th, please remember to remove any items from your loved one's grave that you want to keep. Thank you.

PRAYER CHAIN LIST (As of September 30, 2025)

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:

Betty Anderson
Peggy Burke
Family of Don Charleton
Family of Jim Fox
Bob Hecklinger
Mary Ellen Miller
Family of Florence Partin
Peyton
Connie Singlar
Paige Smith
Susan Smith
Levi Wallace
Joyce Yard

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
Isaac Evans
Brian Everett
Janet Fern
Joe Frobese
Jody
James Goorman
Grace Harris Greenbank
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
Bill Nelson
Teresa Nye
Pam Pirolli
Janet Quiroga
John Ranchan
Sherry Reamsnyder
Rita Riegler
Steven Riegler
Rhonda
Sandra
Laura Scherer
Bill Shedron
Mary Alice Sheehan
Shelley Sherman
James Spenthoff
Julie Swanson
Tom Tedrow
Tiffany
Joyce Trowbridge
Terry Vogalsang
Deb Dusseau Warnke
Katelyn Weirich
Steve Welling
Jeff Wilbarger
Jean Wilson
LeAnn 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
Gloria Ross 419-836-7166

DAY SCHOOL NEWS

October brings many changes. We see and feel huge changes in the weather. Days of beautiful warm sunshine gradually, but often suddenly, change to dark, damp and rainy. Leaves on the trees become glorious colors of red, orange and yellow while our flowers all turn brown. Autumn has arrived and the students at First St. John Day School are excited about the upcoming events happening here at school. I would also like to congratulate the students for doing such a good job singing in church for Rally Day/Instillation Sunday. We are so glad that we could show the congregation what we have been working on. We hope to see more events that include both the congregation and our day school families.

As usual October is filled with many exciting events for the students. The teachers have planned field trips and class Halloween parties. The students will be studying the changing weather and the changing landscape as the days get shorter. In addition, students will be learning about local harvests and enjoying local Ohio produce.

October also brings some exciting fundraiser opportunities. The Day School is working with the ladies of the church to create a "Best of the Best" cookbook which should be ready to sell mid-October. We are also hosting a Halloween Fundraiser for the Sunday School and Day School children on October 19th. See the attached information for information on how to help.

—Andrea Buckley

J.A.M. NOTICE



Our Jesus And Me (JAM) Sunday School continues at 9:15 am. We will still gather in the JAM room in the basement of the church,.



WELCA and the Day School are teaming up to bring back a old classic! We are putting together a "Best of the Best Family Recipe Cook Book". The proceeds will benefit both groups. Please go through your favorite recipes and share a few of your best for the book. You can either turn them into Chris Hunsaker , the church office or email them to fsjdayschool@firststjohn.com. Be sure to include your name and the category that they would belong in. We can't wait to assemble the best recipes from our church family and our community.

Please turn in recipes by October 5th

HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

The Day School is planning a Halloween Carnival fundraiser for the preschool and Sunday School families. We need your help. We would love for church members to sponsor a table in the gym for the event. The tables will need to be decorated with a theme similar to a trunk or treat with candy for approximately 100 children. Feel free to get into the spirit and dress up! (Nothing too scary please) A small easy activity for the kids is a bonus! There will also be a bake sale during the event. If you are interested please complete the form on the next page and either return it to the box at the back of the church, the church office or email it to fsjdayschool@firststjohn.com.





I would like to help with the Halloween fundraiser October 19, 2025 from 12:00-4:30.

Name _____

Email _____ Phone _____

____ I would like to host a table and candy (the space is approx. 8'x4')

____ I can donate a baked good for the bake sale



A FINAL NOTE FROM THE CHURCH SECRETARY

It is crazy to think it has been a little over 2 years since I became your church secretary. Unfortunately, I will be saying goodbye to the position, but not the church. I feel very strongly that God called me to First St, John for a season and for a reason, and I cherish the time I have spent serving you all. The good news is that I will still be around as an attending member and will definitely still serve in the various church ministries that I have come to love. I was offered a position with a company that from a financial perspective was hard to turn down for my family as I am sure you understand (I still have a few more to send to college!). I have met so many wonderful people here, and I am glad I will still be able to see you from time to time.

One of the ministries that I feel very strongly about is our very own FSJ Personal Needs Pantry. It has been one of my passions since joining FSJ. Please continue to volunteer your time if you are able and also continue to donate products to keep our small but mighty ministry going. Each and every week we serve 10 families that are in need and it is a great blessing to our community. As of the writing on this newsletter, to date this year we have served 685 adults, and 160 children. In the coming weeks we will need help making sure with my departure that the pantry has a smooth transition so we are looking for more people who may be willing to help in various capacities. Please reach out to Eric or Cindy Johnson if you would like more information.

Thanks again for the privilege of serving you as your church secretary. Please feel free to email my personal email (jjhess10@gmail.com) if you need anything in the future!

~ Jennifer Hess