

## ANNOUNCEMENTS – April 26, 2026

**FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** are presented to the glory of God in memory of Richard Crouse, given by Dave & Toni Wilbarger; also in memory of Eardley Schuetz, given by the Schuetz & Cromly families; and in honor of Emerson Goa's 16<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 24<sup>th</sup>, given by her family; and in loving memory of Ilean M. Labuhn for her birthday on April 21<sup>st</sup>, given by the Hess family.

**HOMEBOUND OUTREACH:** given in honor of Shannon Aschemeier and her nephew Tyler Abbey on their birthdays, given by family.

### **CHURCH ATTENDANCE**

4-19-26: 8:00 am: 27 10:30 am: 51 Online: 26 Total: 104

**PRAYER CHAIN CRITICAL/NEW:** Deborah Kidwell, Family of Karen Bless, Family of Jim Dukeshire, Family of Eileen Young, Karen Herrera, Ron Robeson, Owen Baker

**\*\*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 will be included in the monthly newsletter. If you have any additions or changes to the prayer chain, please email office@firststjohn.com\*\***

### **CALENDAR FOR APR 26 – MAY 2**

<b>Today</b>	8:00 am	- EARLY WORSHIP SERVICE
	9:15 am	- Adult Bible Study in lounge / JAM Sunday School
	10:30 am	- LATE WORSHIP SERVICE / Communion
	11:45 am	-Community Outreach Program meeting in the lounge
<b>Monday</b>	5:30 pm	- Bell Choir
<b>Wednesday</b>	6:00 pm	- Choir Rehearsal
<b>Thursday</b>	11:00 am	- Bible Study
<b>Saturday</b>	11:30 am	- Rebecca Circle

**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!

**LIVESTREAM SERVICE:** You can find the 10:30 am service at [www.firststjohn.com/LIVE](http://www.firststjohn.com/LIVE) or by using the Online Worship link in the middle of the home page or the top navigation ('Worship' then 'Online Worship') on any page. We want to see you on the video recording. For those who sit in the back pews on the left side, please consider moving up a few rows. Currently, the video slide placement blocks that section. Please help us make the church pews look filled on Sundays. Thanks.

**JAM SUNDAY SCHOOL:** J.A.M. (Jesus and Me) Sunday School meets each Sunday at 9:15 am in the JAM room in the church basement. All children ages 3 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to attend each week and learn about Jesus! We plan weekly fun activities and events throughout the year!

**MARCH FINANCES:** *Income for month of March was \$36,512; the expenses were \$34,408. This leaves a positive outcome for the month of \$2,104; YTD, FSJ is at a deficit of \$21,177. Thank you church family for the positive March outcome. FYI, we had a total cost of \$9,341 for snow & ice removal this year; this is up over 50% compared to last year. Please continue with your stewardship in April in order to reduce our current deficit. Thank you, Bill Nelson (Treasurer)*

**CHURCH LIBRARY:** We have recently added some new titles to the church library. They are located on the long tables in the lounge. Our library uses a card checkout system, please remember to sign out your selections. If you have any questions or comments, contact Emily Kruse at 419-654-2842.

**MEMBER ADDRESS CHANGE:** Julie Moritz has relocated to Otterbein Pemberville Senior Life Community. The address is 20311 Pemberville Rd. Room 718, Pemberville, OH 43450.

**PORTALS OF PRAYER:** The new Portals of Prayer devotional booklets for April through June are available. Please pick up a copy in the lounge or at the back of the church.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM:** We believe God wants to reconnect people and families to their local church community, with a simple message that God loves them and that they are missed. Not by accident. Not just by people. By God. Please help us, by considering our prayers and remembering to pray each week. This is not about numbers – it's about people and what they need. If you would like to hear more about this outreach program, please meet in the lounge **TODAY** after the second worship service. Bob Kinsey will have a listening/information session to explain this program and answer any questions.

**MOVIE NIGHT:** It is time for our next Movie Night on **Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>**. The movie's name is "Faith of Angels". It is based on a true story and rated one of the best faith-based movies of 2024. There will be a light dinner at 5:30 pm. The light dinner will consist of hot chicken sandwiches (with cheese slice on top), dill pickle slice, popcorn, Costco cookies, homemade applesauce, snacks, pop, and water. A free will donation will be taken, and any extra funds will go to the Sunday School. The movie will start around 6:15 pm. Please plan to join us and bring a comfy chair. This movie is great entertainment for all, come and see what "faith can accomplish".

**QUILTERS:** Thank you for partnering with us to provide long-term safe shelter for survivors of domestic violence. Your donation of baby quilts helps us meet the critical needs of those fleeing intimate partner violence when they have nowhere else to turn. Because of your generosity, survivors served by Bethany House access job training, find employment, and secure safe permanent housing. Thank you for your faith and your investment in our mission. ~Bethany House

**WELCA:** WELCA will be running a plant sale fundraiser with Knitz Greenhouse. All you have to do is at the time of paying for your plant purchase(s) just tell the cashier this order is towards the First St. John Church fundraiser. It's simple and WELCA appreciates all of your support on this fundraiser as it helps us support the many-many charities and church donations that we fund. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact Chris Hunsaker at 419-376-7363.

**MUD HENS TICKETS:** The church family outing at the Toledo Mud Hens baseball game is rapidly approaching. The date is **Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>** at 2:00 pm. Gates open at 1:00 pm. Tickets are \$11.00 each. Remember that this is the weekend AFTER Memorial Day. Deadline to give Bob Haar ticket money is **Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>**. We have up to 30 tickets available and 11 are already spoken for. Also, remember that Fifth Third Field only accepts credit cards for food and drink payments and there is no Muddy shuttles on Sunday. Any questions, please call Bob Haar at 419-250-9409.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Join us **Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>** as we honor our veterans in the cemetery by placing American flags in front of their gravestones at 10:00 am. Help is needed as we have over 100 flags to place. Please call Bob Haar at 419-250-9409 with any questions. Thanks.

**DAY SCHOOL'S 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY:** The 2026/2027 school year will be the Day School's 50<sup>TH</sup> anniversary! So many children have passed through our doors, and I hope that we have successfully planted the seeds of God's love in those little hearts. On **Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>** the church and the Day School will be hosting a celebration at Oak Shade Grove. It will include an outdoor church service, BBQ, family activities and competitions and a free concert featuring Yancy, a nationally known children's Christian singer/songwriter. This event will be for church members, alumni, neighboring church parishioners and the community. After Easter, the Day School will be organizing volunteers for this

amazing event. Mark your calendar and get ready to praise God in celebration of 50 years of this amazing ministry.

**REGISTRATION FOR DAY SCHOOL:** Registration for the 2026-2027 Day School program has begun. The Registration Fee is waived for active members of the church, but you must still complete the Registration Form to reserve a spot for your child. The children must be at least 3 years old and potty trained. Our classes are from 9:00am - noon, with extended care available from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm. We will also be having our Summer Child Care program for children ages 3-10 years old. The Day School will host summer camps each week with a different theme. Both children needing childcare and children looking for fun activities will be welcome.

**HOMEBOUND COMMUNION:** If you or a loved one would like a homebound communion visit, please call Bob Haar at 419-250-9409. Bob is communing the homebound upon request, and he will return your call to set up an appointment.

**EPHESIANS BIBLE STUDY** meeting **TODAY** at 9:15 am in the lounge. Pastor Rayl is leading this study on Paul's letter to the Ephesians. Coffee and donuts are provided. Please join us after early service or before late service for this most interesting study.

**CATECHISM CLASSES:** It's time to begin a new Catechism class. All parents of children in the congregation in grades 5<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> at the beginning of this school year are encouraged to join us after the second worship service at 11:45 am. We will meet every other Sunday. Any questions can be shared with Pastor Rayl by contacting him by email at [pastor1@firststjohn.com](mailto: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.

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY** will be held each week on Thursdays at 11:00 am in the church lounge led by Pastor Rayl. All are invited to attend!

**PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY** donation item for May is men's and women's deodorant. Items can be deposited in the green bin in the lounge or the pull-out drawer in the Narthex or drop them off at the office during the week.

**MONTHLY MINISTRY:** This month's monthly ministry focus is the Helping Hands of St. Louis. Helping Hands of St. Louis has served more than 1.5 million meals to people in need. Special envelopes will be in the pews if you would like to donate to support this ministry. Please make your check out to First St. John and write "Helping Hands of St. Louis" on the memo line, then place it in the offering plate or mail to the church. Thank you!

**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).

**NEW MEMBER CLASS:** Anyone interested in attending a new member class or reviewing their Lutheran faith, please contact Pastor Rayl by email at [pastor1@firststjohn.com](mailto:pastor1@firststjohn.com) or by a text message at 567-395-0143. Classes will meet on Sundays after the second service.

**FEED YOUR NEIGHBOR:** Lutheran Social Services continues to need non-perishable food items-canned vegetables, canned fruits, shelf stable/powdered milk (no expired foods or items in glass jars). LSS Food Pantry relies on the generosity of local congregations to keep their pantry stocked, your donations are always appreciated! Collection bins are located in the Narthex and Lounge. Thank you for supporting this worthy cause. Remember, many local families find it hard to put food on the table during these difficult times. Always remember to support the Feed Your Neighbor ministry.