

ANNOUNCEMENTS – August 23, 2026

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of Uarda Houchin, given by Sandra Stahl & family.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

8-16-26: 9:00 am: 90 Online: 52 Total: 142

PRAYER CHAIN CRITICAL/NEW: Jim Guido, Bobb Vergiels, Janet Morrison, Family of Staff Sgt. Nicole Cisternas, Family of Mary Ellen Miller

*****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 AUG 23 – AUG 29

Today	9:00 am	- WORSHIP SERVICE/ Communion
Wednesday		- DAY SCHOOL FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL (car line at 9am, noon, & 3pm)
	6:00 pm	- Choir Rehearsal

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 9:00 am service at 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.

CHOIR: Our church choir is looking for new members! If you have a heart for worship and enjoy singing, we'd love to have you join us. No matter your experience, there is a place for you in our choir family. Music is a powerful ministry, and your voice can make a difference. If you're interested, please see Jo-Anne after today's service or email at chrysochoosjoanne@gmail.com. Come worship, serve, and make a joyful noise with us. We look forward to singing with you!

DARTBALL: The dartball season will begin in late September. We need players. Both men and women are invited to play. We will have dartball practice on **Monday, September 21st** at 6:30 pm in Founders Hall. No tryouts. Just come and have fun. The season starts on Monday, September 28th. We play every other Monday. Call Bob Haar at 419-250-9409 for more information.

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

SAVE THE DATE: We will return to two services on **September 13th** at 8:00 am and 10:30 am. Watch upcoming newsletters and announcements for more info.

FSJ JULY FINANCES: *For the month of July, FSJ total income was \$38,245; the total expenses were \$34,507 which results to a positive surplus of \$3,738.* This leaves FSJ with a YTD deficit of \$35,135 which is a great improvement compared to last month. Thank you church family for increasing your stewardship from last month in order to be positive for July. The church council will continue to stay within budget until the YTD deficit is reduced to zero. Treasurer - Bill Nelson

FRIENDS & FAMILY DINNER HIGHLIGHTS AND GRATITUDE: On Sunday, August 16th, First St. John hosted a wonderful Friends & Family dinner bringing together 80 members and friends for fellowship, a delicious Shorty's BBQ meal, and background music by Dr. Tony. Together, we celebrated our Outreach Ministries and raised \$1,430 in free-will offerings!

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who shared their time, talents, and prayers—especially the dozen steering our committee and the 30 volunteers who sent personal, prayerful invitations to our missed members. As we look ahead to our upcoming fall postcard and Valpak mailings to residents in the 43605 and 43616 ZIP codes, we encourage you to review our "Find Your Place" flyers to discover how you can get involved. God is alive and moving at First St. John!

WINSLOW GOLF SCRAMBLE: Thanks to all who helped out or donated to our annual David Winslow Memorial Golf Scrambles outing, which was held August 1st. We had 87 golfers and \$3,750 was raised for the Winslow Scholarship fund. We'll see everyone next year, the first Saturday in August!

RUTH CIRCLE will meet on **Tuesday, September 1st** at 11:00 am in the lounge.

REBECCA CIRCLE will meet on **Saturday, September 12th** at 11:30 am in the lounge.

HANNAH CIRCLE will meet on **Monday, September 14th** at 5:30 pm at Debbie Smith's house.

MIRIAM CIRCLE will meet on **Wednesday, September 2nd** at 9:30 am in the lounge.

BELL CHOIR will begin practice on **Monday, September 14th** at 5:30 pm. Contact Cheri Sergent for any questions at (419) 410-3572.

WELCA: The next WELCA meeting will take place on **Monday, September 21st** at 6:30pm in the lounge. All women of the church are welcome to attend!

ALTAR GUILD will meet on **Tuesday, September 1st** at 6:30 pm in the lounge.

SOUND BOARD: Help is needed to run the sound board. If you would like to volunteer, please call the church office at 419-691-7222 or send email to office@firststjohn.com Thanks!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL begins on **Sunday, September 20th**, at 9:15 a.m. in the Lounge. Please join us every Sunday for coffee, and donuts and good biblical conversation and learning.

CHAPEL COMMUNION will resume every second Sunday of the month starting **Sunday, September 13th** at 2:00 pm.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY: We will start meeting again on **Thursday, September 24th** at 11:00 am in the church lounge.

JAM SUNDAY SCHOOL: J.A.M. (Jesus and Me) Sunday School will kick off for the year **Sunday, September 13th** at 9:15 am in the JAM room in the church basement. All children ages 3 through 5th grade are invited to attend each week and learn about Jesus! We plan weekly fun activities and events throughout the year!

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS: Children and youth are encouraged to bring their school backpacks with them to church during the 10:30 am service on Rally Day, **September 13th**. During the service, pastor will bless all the backpacks and the children who will carry them during the new school year. Also, we will install our teachers from the Day School and Sunday School at the 2nd service as well.

MAINTENANCE: Please do not attempt DIY repairs in and around the church/dayschool. Refer all issues to Property Management. Thanks!

CATECHISM CLASS: Classes will begin on **Sunday, September 20th**. If you have a child in fifth through seventh grades, please contact Pastor Rayl. Please email any questions to Pastor Rayl at pastor1@firststjohn.com or text 567-395-0143.

SHARE-A-RIDE TO CHURCH MINISTRY: The Share-a-Ride to Church Ministry is a simple volunteer program in which church members provide occasional rides to worship services and church events for people who otherwise could not attend due to lack of transportation. The ministry is intended to: Help members and visitors attend church regularly, support elderly, disabled, or temporarily unable-to-drive individuals, and encourage fellowship and caring within the congregation. Volunteer drivers serve as they are available, usually no more than once or twice a month, and rides are coordinated informally through the church office. The ministry reflects the church's commitment to Christian care, hospitality, and helping neighbors stay connected to the life of the congregation.

If you feel God is telling you to volunteer to drive someone or you are in need of a ride, please let Bob Kinsey (734-716-2365) or Jessica Miller (419-691-7222) know, so we can arrange it.

THANK YOU: "Church family", I want to say thank-you for all of your prayers, concerns, get-well cards, phone calls, & performing my duties at church, while I was healing from radiation treatments for the last couple of months. Whenever I was in pain & feeling down, I would re-read my cards & remember how blessed I am to have God, family, & church family always by my side. ~Bill Nelson

FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST: The next fellowship breakfast will be on **Saturday, September 5th** at 8:30 am at Bob Evans restaurant on Navarre Avenue. (Please note the date and change in location) All are welcome! If you have any questions, please contact Bob Haar at 419-250-9409.

MONTHLY MINISTRY: The ministry outreach for August will be the **Lutheran Disaster Response** which shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. Special green envelopes will be in the pews for you to donate.

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.

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY donation item for August is **bar soap**. 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.

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).

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.