



First St. John Journal



Volume 39, Issue 10

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THIS AND THAT – THOUGHTS FOR LIFE

Good descriptions:

Pessimist Somebody who sees difficulties in the opportunities.

Optimist Somebody who sees opportunities in their difficulties.

God, hear me...

I ain't what I want to be,
I ain't what I ought to be,
I ain't what I'm gonna be,
But OH! Thank You, GOD,
I ain't what I used to be!

The Power of Belief

Faith is not simply an intellectual assent to Christian dogma. Taken in a much richer sense faith involves a belief in God that arouses us to action, that fills us with a lived conviction that the universe is permeated with a redeeming love. God did not create men and women as automated robots or helpless puppets but enabled them somehow to shape their own destiny within the innumerable possibilities created by his divine love.

Such a faith gives meaning to human love — and to life itself.

Let Us Become What We Ought To

Lord our God, we thank you for revealing your rulership, which is for the good of each of us. Each one of us will become what we ought to be when our faith is united with your divine power. Protect this faith in us through every temptation and through all we have yet to endure in this earthly life. Free us again and again for one thing alone, that your kingdom may come into being within us and around us, to the praise and glory of the everlasting truth you have given us in Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

~Pastor Rayl

J.A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL

Dear Parents,

We have been asked to hold our J.A.M. Sunday school during the church service at 10:30 am. We would like to try this concept starting October 11th.

Families will attend church at 10:30 am. About 15 minutes into the service, Pastor Rayl will present the children's sermon. The children's sermon may be a video and/or an introduction to the day's lesson. After the children's sermon, the J.A.M. teachers will direct the children to the basement to continue with J.A.M. The children will stay in the J.A.M. area until the church service is completed. The exception is communion days. On communion days, the children will return to their families to partake in communion together.

We hope this change will enhance our learning of God working in our lives. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me at coach1245@yahoo.com

*Sincerely in Christ,
Bill Hamilton
Church Council President*

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 8:00 am and 10:30 am.**

Our **Adult Sunday School** will meet every Sunday at 9:15 am in the church lounge.

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 11:00 am in the lounge.



TRUNK OR TREAT!

**Sunday, October 25,
2026
2:00 - 4:00PM**

In the front parking lot of First St. John Lutheran Church.

What is Trunk or Treat?

Trunk or Treat is a safe, fun-filled family afternoon where children and families will walk around to cars and be greeted by FSJ volunteers with their trunks open handing out candy. Cars will be decorated, and volunteers will wear costumes. This is a great opportunity to invite friends and for us to embrace our new students plus their families in both the Sunday School and the Day School.

Please help by registering your car or donating bags of candy. Here is the link to register your vehicle: <https://forms.gle/fyEKJQoMCkBeiz2v5>



BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP

We meet on Saturday, October 10th at 8:30 am at American Table restaurant on Wheeling Street. Please join us!

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
10/4	John Roth Bob Haar	Bill Nelson Matt Miller
10/11	Kevin Ruedy Mike Winslow	Bob Haar Sherrie Haar
10/18	Bill Nelson Matt Miller	Bob Haar Sherrie Haar
10/25	Ted Hagedorn Jeff Smith	John Roth Bob Haar

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 22nd.

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 5th 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 calling (419-691-7222), or mailing this form to: 2471 Seaman St./ Toledo, OH 43605. Or email us: office@firststjohn.com

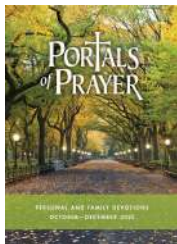
Name _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____ Phone _____

PORTALS OF PRAYER

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



MEMORIALS

(as of 9/30/26)

CURRENT FUND

In memory of **Mary Ellen Miller** by Joan Sheldon.

In memory of **Eric Dickey** by Bob & Sherrie Haar.

JAM SUNDAY SCHOOL IS ON FACEBOOK!

If you use Facebook, 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

None.

Marriages

None.

Deaths

None.

Transfers To / From First St. John

None.



Our focus item for October is laundry soap and fabric softener. 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.

CANDY CRAWL

We will once again be participating in the annual community Candy Crawl that will take place on Sunday October, 18th 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. 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.



ALL SAINTS DAY

November 1st is All Saints Sunday. We will remember those of our church family who passed away from November 1, 2025 to October 31, 2026 (we already have those names). If you would like to honor a friend or family member who passed away prior to November 2025, 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 18th. See Beth Hugueley for more details.

The Quilters Group will also have some of their quilts on display for purchase after each service. They are \$40 for large, and \$20 for baby quilts.

After each service, please join us in the lounge for cider and donuts.

**November Newsletter Deadline
October 23rd**

WELCA NEWS

October already!! The year is going by quickly. The Board met on Monday, September 21st. Four members were present. Emily and Joyce were under the weather. They are both doing better now.

First, we are looking for a Treasurer to replace Esther Bell. Esther is retiring at the end of the year. Please let one of the board members know if you are interested.

Second, it saddens to have to cancel the Spaghetti Dinner which was scheduled for October 3rd. Ticket sales were low. Chris Hunsaker is looking into different ways to help fund the WELCA.

Our Christmas party will be held on December 6th right after the 2nd service in the Fellowship Hall. Instead of having baskets this year, we are taking donations of gift cards or lottery tickets. We are planning on putting the gift cards in frames and having a lottery tree made into a shape of a Christmas tree.

We are having our Christmas cookie sale again this year. Cookies only. No bars, buckeyes, or Hungarian cookies, just cookies. This will take place on December 13th after both services. Please bring your cookies in on the 12th to the lounge between 10:00 am and noon. Thank you always for supporting the WELCA.

Have a fun and safe Halloween!! If you haven't registered for the Trunk-or-Treat yet, please register.

Our next meeting will be on October 19th at 6:30 pm in the lounge. All women of the Church are invited to attend.

— President, Sue Ann Rogers

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

A finance meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 13th. The finance committee will be meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm in the finance room. This will give us a week to review prior month financial report and discuss any pending and future expenses prior to Council meeting.

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 on Saturday, October 3rd at 11:30 am in the lounge.

Ruth Circle will meet on Tuesday, October 6th at 11:00 am in the lounge.

Miriam Circle will meet on Wednesday, October 7th at 10:00 am in the lounge.

Hannah Circle will meet Wednesday, October 7th at 6:30 pm @ Debbie Smith's house.



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 17th 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 17th, 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, 2026)

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:

Elaine Cutcher
Family of Eric Dickey
Tom Tedrow

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:

Stephanie Paul
Randy Bless
Rick Adams
Jim Guido
Janet Morrison
Marjorie Counterman
Olivia & Delaney Dawkins
Bob Hecklinger
Gary Henningsen
John Rowley
Owen Baker
Pam Chronberger
Carlene Trost
Steve Welling
Raetta Zeisler
Rita Riegler
Karen & Tony Herrera
Vickie Berrier

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

Darlene Lorenzen 419-351-6293
Gloria Ross 419-836-7166
Church Office 419-691-7222



TUESDAY @ 1 P.M. CONCERT SERIES

The following mid-day concerts will be presented at First St. John Lutheran Church.

The next Mid-day Concert will take place on **Tuesday, November 10th** featuring Nolan Johnson; pianist, performer and private instructor. He is a 2024 graduate of the University of Toledo with a Bachelor of Piano Performance degree, and received the Music Department's Outstanding Student of the Year Award. He will play a recital featuring the music of Scarlatti, Schubert and Scriabin among other composers.

On **December 1st** featuring Patricia McCauley and Kristina Davis. Both vocalists and longtime members of Monroe Street United Methodist Church, and its music staff, presents an "Advent-themed" concert, designed to help bring peace of mind through music, for what normally becomes a hectic time of the year. Enjoy the soothing music of the holiday season featuring voice, instruments, and the collaborative accompaniments of Dr. Anthony Pattin.

On **December 8th** featuring Amy Heritage and Amy Brucksch. Flutist, Amy Heritage is a member of the Toledo Symphony and teaches at the Toledo Symphony School of Music.

Guitarist, Amy Brucksch, once a Toledo resident and guitar instructor at the University of Toledo, now lives in Tyron, North Carolina where she performs with the Avanti Guitar Trio and conducts the Blue Ridge Classical Guitar Orchestra. The two Amys will combine their artistry in a program featuring the History of the Tango and arrangements of traditional hymns and carols. Pianist Dr. Anthony Pattin will join them for selections from Claude Bolling's Picnic Suite.

These recitals are free and open to the public. Please make plans to attend!

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/Installation 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.

—Andrea Buckley



Tickets are \$25 a piece. Prize includes a Disney gift certificate or Disney gift cards in the amount of \$4,000. Second prize will be awarded in the form of a \$500 Kalahari gift card. Winner is responsible for all transportation and all taxes, including federal, state, and local where applicable. If \$5,000 worth of tickets is not sold the raffle will become a 50/50 raffle benefiting First St. John Day School. Tickets will be sold until December 17th. Winners will be randomly drawn on December 18th and notified that day via email and/or phone. Winners do not need to be present to win. The prizes are non-transferable and there are no cash substitutions. Participants must be 18+. Tickets can be purchased in the Day School office, Church office, or on the Day School website.



OCTOBER DARTBALL

The Dartball Season is underway with games hosted in the gym at 7:30 pm.

Upcoming dates for October are:

- October 5th - St. Petri @ FSJ Team #2
Messiah @ FSJ Team #1
- October 19th - FSJ Team #2 @ Trinity
FSJ Team #1 @ Prince of Peace

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

MOVIE NIGHT



It is time for our next Movie Night on Sunday, October 11th. The movie's name is "Do You Believe". This movie will be challenging because there are 12 different story lines that all lead to the cross. There will be a light dinner at 5:30 pm. The menu will be ham/turkey sliders, dill pickle slice, Costco cookies, Donna's homemade applesauce, popcorn, snacks, pop, & water. 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 enjoy an evening with church family and friends.