



Pastor's Desk

Coming Back to What is Important



"Should old acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to mind? Should old acquaintance be forgot..." We all know the first line to that song, but many of us don't know the rest of it. It is probably one of the most familiar songs that no one knows the lyrics to. We have all heard it. It's the New Year's Eve song that is played after the ball drops at midnight. I guess, amid the confetti flying, couples kissing, friends embracing, and swaying back and forth, who cares about the lyrics! We will just hum our way along.

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I was interested in the back-story of this oddly familiar, yet unknown song. First, the name of the song is "Auld Lang Syne," and the song has a great meaning about old friends, who leave each other and meet again. In celebration of their reunion, they enjoy a beverage together, reminisce memories from long ago, and celebrate their long friendship. The song reminds us that we should not forget old acquaintances; we should celebrate them. The song is about reuniting and coming back together.

In Luke 2:41-52, we see a reunion, of sorts, taking place. Mary, Joseph, and Jesus went out of town and traveled to the big city to go to the Passover festival. I bet, the holy family had a great time and "got the T-shirts to prove it." But now, the festival was over, and it was time to go back home. As they were traveling on the road, Mary and Joseph had a *Home Alone* moment because they both assumed Jesus was with them among the big group. But, he was not. I could just see, Mary scream, "Jesus!" and then frantically travel with Joseph back to the temple, as fast as they could.

Like Keven in *Home Alone*, little boy Jesus had been doing just fine, all by himself. For three days, this pre-teen Jesus had just been chilling in the temple, listening to the theological lectures and learning from the rabbis. When his parents were reunited with him, Jesus exclaimed, "Why were you searching for me?" "Did you not know, that I must be in my Father's house?" I like the King James Version of it, which says, "Did you not know, that I must be about my Father's business?"

Beyond noticing that Jesus was quite the precocious child, there is something that I really respect about him. Jesus was FOCUSED and had a passion for his faith. More than anything, he wanted to surround himself: with what he loved, and what he wanted to become. Being at the temple was way more important to him than going home.



This month, many of us are thinking about New Year's Resolutions and what we can do to better ourselves. For many, resolutions are about: breaking bad habits and developing new, better ones. **No matter what our goals or resolutions may be, there is only one thing that will help make our dreams a reality! And that is, staying focused with our eyes on the prize.** I believe that we need to be like 12-year-old Jesus in the temple. We need to stay focused on what we want, and what we want to become. We need to surround ourselves with like-minded folks, who will support and help us reach our goals. For Jesus, he had the Rabbis at the temple.

So, this year on New Years' Eve, when the clock strikes midnight and the ball drops, and we hear that "Auld Lang Syne" being sung on the TV. Let us start the year off right and be focused. Let us surround ourselves with people who support and inspire us. Let us get rid of all the distractions. Amen.

**St. John's
United Church of Christ**
409 North Wooster Avenue
Dover, OH 44622

Rev. Dr. Cassandra Granados
Senior Minister

Natalie Peterman
Director of Christian Education
Hours Tues-Wed-Thurs
11:30am-2:00pm
or by appointment

Sunday Morning Schedule
9:00 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM Fellowship
10:30 AM Worship

Church Office Hours
Monday through Friday
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Telephone answers
24 hours a day
(330) 364-4458
Fax: (330) 364-4459
Website: <http://doverstjohns.org>

E-mail Addresses:

natalie@doverstjohns.org
church.secretary@doverstjohns.org
newsletter@doverstjohns.org

Join Our Prayer Chain

A **prayer chain** is a group of people, often associated with a church, who share prayer requests and commit to praying for specific needs as they arise. The members are "linked" by prayer, passing requests from one person to another in a continuous chain.

We are looking for people to join us on the prayer chain. It is easy as you make a phone call and pray for whoever might want you to say a little prayer for them. Contact Marge Burkhart at 330-343-1731 to express your interest. She'll guide you through the process.

Hospital News

Members and friends of the St. John's family hospitalized between November 29 - present include: there have been **no reports of any members in the hospital.**

Thank You

Whether you kept us in your thoughts and prayers, helped with the funeral luncheon, or shared fond memories with us at the service, your love and kindness brought us great comfort and will always be remembered. Our mom and grandma, Carol France, loved St. John's and was a member all her life. She's left us with a lot of great memories.

Thank you,
Scott and Kim Thomson, Sawyer and Conner
Susan and Kerry Steiner, Brooke, Becky and Kenzie
Matt and Lynne France, Micala, Caroline and Christian
Jon and Martha France, Calista

Barb and St. John's Christian Cancer Care,
What a fantastic mixture of useful items..... can't thank you enough for such a thoughtful act of kindness. I truly appreciate receiving this and the concern and prayers of all!

God Bless you,
Dave Birney

Thank you so much for the cancer care bag given for my daughter Anita. It contains so many generous and thoughtful items that she is using during her chemo treatments and it is very much appreciated. Also thanks to Marge Burkhart and all the prayer chain for your prayers during this difficult time.

God bless you all,
Sherry Jones

Altar Flowers & Bulletin Sponsors



Forms for **2025** are now available in the church office to sponsor altar flowers (\$12.50 made payable to **St. John's UCC Sanctuary Committee**) or bulletin covers (\$25.00 made payable to **St. John's UCC**). Please **stop in soon** to reserve your date or **mail your form along with your check**. Thank you!

Card Party



At Fourth & Faith
Wednesday, January 8
1pm-4pm
Cost of \$10.00 includes food

Please contact Bev Smith
at 330-343-2231
Benefit the Cancer Care Bag



MEET THE MEMBERS OF THE BRIAR CLUB

Join the women who live at the Briarwood House, a rooming house in Washington DC, during the politically charged years following the second World War. Essentially very different women ranging from English beauty to frustrated women's baseball star, they meet weekly in the room of newcomer Grace March for dinner. How they come together in the spirit of loyalty and friendship after a shocking act of violence is the core of this intriguing novel.

Join the Bad Girls on **January 13, 2025 at 6:30** in the Conference Room to gossip about the women in The Briar Club by Kate Quinn.

Recycle! Recycle!

When you and your neighbor recycle aluminum cans you are helping the problem of global warming. Cans may be placed in the big brown box in the handicap parking lot. The box was built by Sawyer Thomson as part of his Eagle Scout project. Rudy Tschantz will take the cans to Speedy Salvage. The money received from the cans will go to the organ maintenance fund.



Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed on **Wednesday, January 1, 2025**, for New Year's Day

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the St. John's congregation will be held on **Sunday, January 26**, following the worship service. A review of the year and the election of Church Council members will be the major portion of the agenda.



Carillon Deadline

The deadline to get information and articles into the next regular issue of the Carillon is **Monday, January 20, 2025**. Please mark your calendar! This will be for the February 2024 Carillon. We want to continue to keep each mailing loaded with information, dates, articles, etc. pertaining to the life of St. John's. **Remember ... you can now send your articles, thank you's, etc. by E-mail to: church.secretary@doverstjohns.org**

DOVERSTJOHNS.ORG/YOUTH

Isaiah 40:31

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

We had a wonderfully busy Fall 2024!

Our focus has been church connections centered around supporting St. John's missions, making new friends, and continuing much-loved church traditions. As we enter the season of new beginnings, we look forward to furthering our goals while taking youth group "on the road" with new experiences.

Brightest Blessings,
Natalie Peterman



Live Nativity

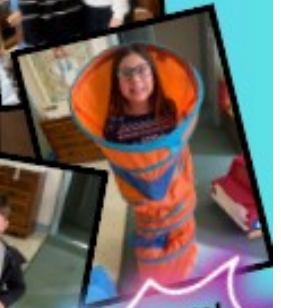
OFFICE OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Advent Festival



Youth Christmas Pageant



Cast Party Fun

St. John's UCC Church Council Meeting December 10, 2024 at 7:30 pm

Opening Prayer-Reverend Cassandra lit the Christ candle and opened the meeting with a prayer. There were 16 members and baby Sonya in attendance.

Minutes of the Last Meeting-Approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report- Reported by Holly Gonter

Month of November

General Fund Income for the month of \$17,242 is \$5,966 less than the budget

Expenses for the month of \$25,181 were under the budget by \$3,900

Resulting shortfall for the month of \$7,940 is \$2,067 worse than the budget

November 2024 YTD General Fund Income year-to-date of \$260,754 is \$1,234 less than the budget

Compared to last year thru the same month (center column) income is lower by \$13,342

Expenses year-to-date of \$341,446 are less than budget by \$23,220

Resulting shortfall year-to-date of \$80,692 is \$21,986 better than the budget

Cash

Beginning cash balance for the year was \$75,644 and ending cash is \$11,099

We have transferred \$19,553 from investments to cover General Fund expenses

In addition to General Fund shortfall of \$80,692 we have disbursed \$16,703 from the Capital Improvement Fund for plaster repairs, lighting upgrades & replacement of the freezer in the Social Hall Kitchen.

M/S/C by Rob Gump and Sue Ferbrache to approve the Treasurer's Report.

Senior Minister's Report

Reverend Cassandra reported on the scammers who are texting church members asking for Apple gift cards for cancer patients. Just a reminder that she is NOT asking for anything so please do not respond to those texts. She will only be contacting parishioners through her email and cell number with area code 469.

Reverend Cassandra performed one graveside funeral service. She also had several church and community contact conversations including one initial wedding consultation. Christmas Eve services on December 24th will be 3pm and 7pm. This year the services will include a "No Room" original Christmas Play written by Reverend Cassandra. The play offers a modern reading of Luke 2:1-7.

Director of CE Report

Natalie Peterman reviewed the Youth Group activities for the month and upcoming activities. Thank you to Laura Brown for her time sorting through and evaluating the nursery toys.

Reports of the Boards

Elders

Sue Ferbrache reported Reverend Cassandra and Jean Paddock are working on an evaluation form for church staff.

Trustees

Dan Dummermuth reported. No more than \$145,000 was approved by the congregation for new air conditioning in the sanctuary building. The Trustees are soliciting bids for the project. There are leaks in the heating system in the back office that are being repaired. Thank you to the Trustees for the great job they have done this year. It has been a huge responsibility to keep our facilities in tip top shape.

Deacons

Jen Conkle and Bev Smith stated January ushers are secured. They reviewed ushers and candle lighters for the Christmas Eve services.

Reports of Committees

Nominating Committee

President Dave gave an update on nominees for Elders, Trustees, Deacons and Board of Christian Education. Candidates will be voted on at the Congregational Meeting after the church service on January 26th.

Congregational Activities

- Card Party at Fourth & Faith – 12/11/24 (2nd Wed monthly) – benefit Cancer Bags
- Ring Bells for Salvation Army at Dover Buehler’s – 12/14
- Live Nativity – 12/14 & 15
- Homeless Awareness – 2/15 & 16
- Youth Worship Service- a Sunday in the Spring

Unfinished Business-None

New Business

- Annual Report articles due to church office – Jan 3, 2025
- Annual Congregational Meeting – Sunday, January 26, 2025 following worship

Comments for the Good of St. John’s

Closing with the Lord’s Prayer

Meeting Adjourned- 8:11pm

Elder of the Month

In an effort to better meet the needs of the congregation, we will be printing the contact information for the Elder of the month. The purpose of doing this is to provide another contact person, in addition to Rev. Cassandra should you have a personal or family emergency

Tim McCrate
2009 Tremont Street
Dover, Ohio 44622
330-243-3561

**November
Financial Report**

Actual Income	\$ 17,242
Actual Expenses	\$ 25,181
Average Worship Attendance	97

Pre-K Registration

preschool registration



Registration for the 2025-2026 school year **for St. John's members** will begin on **Monday, December 2, 2024** in the church office.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

Pre-K 5's - child must be 5 years old by January 1, 2025

Pre-K - child must be 4 years old by September 1, 2025

Wee Three - child must be 3 years old by Sept. 1, 2025 and potty trained

REGISTRATION FEE: All Classes - \$50.00 (non-refundable)

*MONTHLY TUITION and CLASS SCHEDULE:

Pre-K 5's \$ 185
Monday - Friday
9:00 - 11:45 am only

Pre-K 4's \$ 120
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
8:45 - 11:30 am
1:00 - 3:45 pm

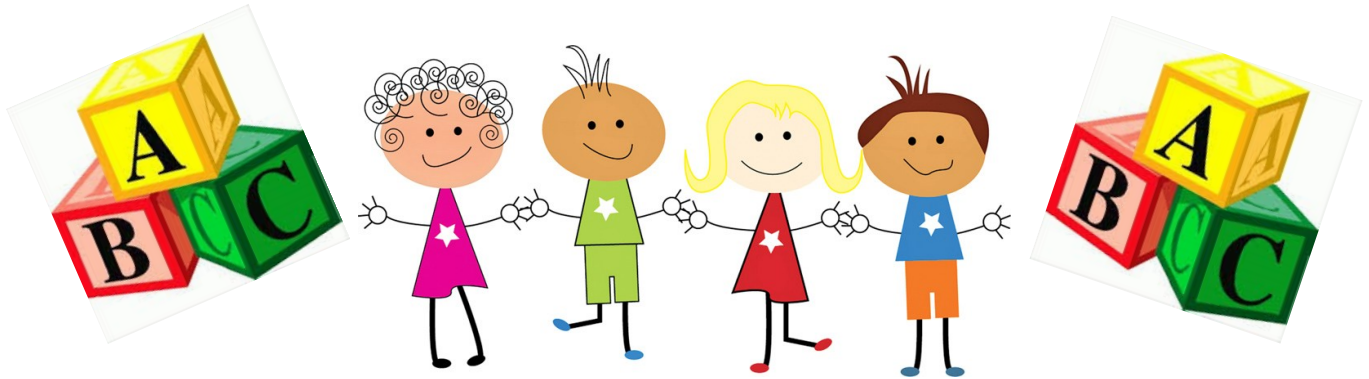


Wee Three \$ 85
Monday, Tuesday,
1:00 - 3:30 pm

Wee Three \$ 85
Thursday & Friday
9:00 - 11:30 am

Registration is open to the public on Monday, January 20, 2025 from 8 a.m. to Noon and 4pm to 6pm in the Pre-K rooms. **Director & Teacher Amanda Jeffery; Teachers, Julie Van Fossen and Nichelle Edwards; Aides, Sharon Finnie, Kim Love, and Lillian Bucevac.**

**All fees are subject to change.*





Kindness Calendar January 2025



New Year, New Beginnings

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Wish someone a Happy New Year	1 Give a compliment to someone everyday throughout January	2 Create a kindness journal to capture wonderful moments throughout 2025	3 Write a letter of appreciation to someone who made a difference in your life last year.	4 Donate pre-read books to charity
5 Switch off your phone for the whole day	6 Give a homeless person a warm scarf or gloves	7 Be generous with compliments	8 Play a game instead of watching TV	9 Pay for a stranger's coffee	10 Post happy photos on social media	11 Turn off lights when not in use
12 Offer to help someone who needs it	13 Have a long soak in a bath with candles and relaxing music	14 Tell a silly joke to make someone laugh	15 Call a friend to ask about their day	16 Read a story to a loved one	17 Say hello to someone new	18 Let someone in front of you in line
19 Give others your full attention	20 Write a letter to someone	21 Take treats into work or school	22 Hold the door open for someone	23 Tell someone why you love them	24 Tip your server a little extra	25 Stay in your pajamas and read a good book
26 Smile at everyone you see	27 Pick up litter around your neighborhood	28 Tape some coins to a vending machine	29 Be gentle with yourself, you're doing the best you can	30 Change three small things about your routine that will help the environment	31 Text someone a positive message	

Small acts of kindness, when multiplied by millions of people, can change the world!



January Birthdays

- 1
Kenneth Huprich
Samantha Sayre
Zack Wallick
- 2
Joshua Baumberger
- 3
Mitchell Ladrach
- 5
Jason Jones
Nadine Russell
Kennedy Wallick
- 6
Beth Ann Norris
- 7
Adam Gunnish
Larry McMillan
Diana Schroeder
- 8
Holly Klar
David Worth
- 10
Ellen Keener
Doug Peterman
- 11
Gavin Herman Jr.
- 12
Renee Ladrach
William McCrate
- 13
James Cox O.D.
Abby Dryden
- 15
Stephaine Sayer
Gale Varnes
- 16
John Deitrick
Joshua Devore
Jennifer Lauber
Nancy Smith

- 17
Jayne Armstrong
- 18
Lindsay McIlvaine
- 19
Sarah Schumacher
- 20
Kim Kaser
Judy Wherley
- 21
Kathleen Baker
Jim Murphy
- 22
Koen Schwenk
- 23
Sue Dummermuth
Michael Edwards
- 24
Gemma Dotts
- 25
Dan Dearth
Taylor Mathews
- 26
Nathan Penrod
- 28
Rita Wallick
- 29
Adam Herman
Sandra Kaiser
Cooper Russel
- 30
Frank Ellwood
Zach Meechan
Michael Smith
- 31
Scott Hart
David Schaar



January Anniversaries

- 6
Robert & Judy Clinton
- 31
Jeffery & Debbie Wallick

Hand Bell Choir

Hand bells practice has resumed on **Sunday mornings at 11:30 am**. Recalling all past ringers and inviting any new ringers to join us.

Adults and children grade 6 and up are welcome. Some music knowledge is helpful, but not mandatory as the music will be numbered and color-coded. Practices are on Sunday mornings.

Come try it out!!! Any questions---call Nancy Smith at 330-364-2195.



CHAIR YOGA

Ideal for everyone! Improve strength, flexibility, balance and body/mind awareness without getting on the floor!

Feel free to join us **on Mondays & Thursdays at 10 am at Fourth & Faith.**

It is a low-stress, relaxing half hour to concentrate on yourself.





Troop 86

BOY SCOUT SPAGHETTI DINNER

CARRY-OUT AVAILABLE

Sunday February 9, 2025

11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Tickets \$10.00

Children age 5 and under **FREE**





St. John's United Church of Christ
409 North Wooster Avenue
Dover, Ohio 330-364-4458

Tickets
available from
any member of
Troop 86, or
in the church
office.



January



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 CHURCH OFFICE & BUILDING CLOSED	2 10:00 Chair YOGA @ Fourth & Faith	3 <i>Year End Reports</i> due into the office today	4
5 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship/ World Communion 11:30 Bell Choir practice	6 10:00 YOGA @ Fourth & Faith 2:00 Needles & Hookers 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Barbershop	7 6:00 Cub Scouts/ Webelos	8 Card Party 1-4 @ Fourth & Faith 7:00 Chancel Choir	9 10:00 Chair YOGA @ Fourth & Faith	10	11 
12 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bell Choir 5:00 Youth Group @ Fourth & Faith	13 10:00 YOGA @ Fourth & Faith 2:00 Needle & Hookers 6:30 Bad Girls/ Conf Rm 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Barbershop	14 6:00 Cub Scouts/ Webelos 6:30 Elders/Trustees /Deacons 7:30 Council Mtg.	15 7:00 Chancel Choir	16 10:00 Chair YOGA @ Fourth & Faith	17	18 12:00 Fellowship Ctr. Reserved
19 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bell Choir practice	20  Preschool Open Registration Carillon Deadline 10:00 YOGA @ Fourth & Faith 2:00 Needles & Hookers 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Barbershop	21 6:00 Cub Scouts/ Webelos	22 7:00 Chancel Choir	23 10:00 Chair YOGA @ Fourth & Faith	24	25 
26 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bell Choir practice Annual Congrega- tional Mtg.	27 10:00 YOGA @ Fourth & Faith 2:00 Needles & Hook- ers 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Barbershop Boy Scouts Pack 86 Pinewood Derby/ Social Hall	28 6:30 Cub Scouts/ Webelos Boy Scouts Pack 86 Pinewood Derby/ Social Hall	29 7:00 Chancel Choir Boy Scouts Pack 86 Pinewood Derby/ Social Hall	30 10:00 Chair YOGA @ Fourth & Faith	31	