

St. John Presbyterian Church



The Messenger
November 2019



Pastor's Thoughts:



In Greek the word for “saints” is *hagioi*, which comes from the word *hagios*, which means “holy”. In fact, it’s the same word that is used for Holy Spirit (*hagiu pneumatos*). Thus, saints are “holy ones”

We begin the month by honoring those saints who have gone before us by lighting candles during a special communion service. But the biblical understanding is that saints are the worldwide communion of the faithful, both living and dead.

Our understanding is different than that of our Catholic brothers and sisters because we don’t believe sainthood comes because of some special merit or veneration; instead, it comes through the covenant faithfulness of any and all believers.

In Paul’s letters, he often addressed entire community of believers as saints in that city or region. What if we considered ourselves that? The saints of Saint John?

That doesn’t mean we are to think ourselves perfect or better than others, just that we know that we are saved by grace and do our best to be faithful to our baptismal vows to be not only believers but active disciples of Jesus Christ.

This month let us then not just light candles for those sacred people in our lives who have gone before us this year, let us be lights ourselves, shining Christ’s love faithfully as his beloved saints in and for the world.

Trying to shine my light brightly,

Pastor Allen

Session Notes

From October's Stated Meeting

- Opened with prayer
- Discussed the search process and officially welcomed our new financial coordinator, Diane McCartin
- Looked ahead to upcoming Great Banquet weekends and special services including Christmas programs: youth musical (12/15); choir cantata (12/22); and Christmas Eve (12/24)
- Decided that in lieu of providing our own Thanksgiving boxes we would hold a monetary drive from 10/27 - 11/10 to support Hope with theirs
- Looked ahead to Miles for Merry Miracles week, starting 12/08 with load in and concluding 12/14 with the dinners; note the catering will be different this year, possibly a "breakfast with Santa" theme
- Noted that there will be training for our Spiritual Caregivers on 10/19; note that if you ever need anyone to talk to on a regular or short-term basis, these caregivers are trained to offer such support alongside Pastor Allen
- Discussed Plant & Property matters including: front entryway, thermostats, and lighting needs
- Continued planning for the Stewardship luncheon, with area coordinators and heads of committees to find some way to participate
- Reviewed finances
- Received a recap from Harvest Homecoming, another profitable endeavor
- Spent time discussing how to attract and retain more visitors, including blending worship, more fun gatherings, rebooting dinners for eight, etc.
- Closed with prayer

Dear St. John Presbyterian Church,

Hello! Thank you so much for your warm welcome. In the two short months that I have been a part of this congregation, you have shown me great love, support, and the strength and stamina it takes to make thousands of apple dumplings over the course of a few days. I have loved getting to know the My Club kids, the adult Bible Study group, and several of our members who have been in the hospital or nursing homes, as well as those I greet on Sunday mornings during worship. My main goals in my time at St. John include learning how to build relationship with people, primarily through pastoral care. Personally, I am also learning how to maintain and articulate boundaries. Both relationships *and* boundaries are essential to ministry.

I wanted to take a second to introduce myself a little more. I was born and raised in Erie, Pennsylvania as the eldest of three. My two younger brothers, Ryan and Hayden, are a huge part of my life. I went to Westminster College in New Wilmington, PA and graduated with a BA in Christian Education and a minor in music. I worked at Irvington Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis in 2017 and 2018 before coming to Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. For fun, I love to go to coffee shops, play piano, read, walk in nature, and watch Netflix with my boyfriend, Dan. I also enjoy meeting new people and exploring new places.

I have loved being a part of SJPC. You truly have adopted me into your family, and I appreciate all that God is doing through this congregation. I pray God's movement and blessing in the continuation of our time of learning together.

Peace and Love,

Rachel

Rachel.lemke@my.lpts.edu



PRESBYTERY PRAYER PARTNERS

November 2019

The Presbytery of Ohio Valley encourages all our congregations to pray for each other throughout the year. Over a two-year period, a week will be designated for each of our churches and other organizations. Items listed below have been sent to us from the churches and organizations on our prayer list for the weeks shown. Sharing prayers with each other works!

Note: The person who prepares your worship bulletins and/or church newsletters may request this information in a Word document from bbsnyder22@gmail.com. It is also available on the POV website.

Week of November 3 Vincennes, Upper Indiana Alan Finnan, Moderator

The Upper Indiana Presbyterian Church is often referred to, especially by those in the congregation, as the prettiest little church in the country. We have a rich history in Knox County by maintaining a presence for well over 200 years. Our start was a humble one, gathering to worship in a barn! But our Bible based teachings have allowed UIPC to continue on. And with faith we hope to be around for another 200 years!!

Week of November 10 Washington, Westminster Rev. Cheryl Thorne

Westminster Presbyterian Church is celebrating the addition of our new prayer garden, thanks to the blessing of a shared grant by our presbytery. We are looking forward to outside services and the added spiritual outreach to our community. A labyrinth will be purchased this year to be used in the interior of the garden for even more spiritual nurture. We pray this will be a wonderful addition to our community and to our church.

We continue to need prayers for Helping Hands Ministry, which is going on our 5th year of ministry to our community. We continue to make new relationships every week, whether it is to our local drug rehabilitation homes, the Lighthouse, or to those coming out of jail for the first time with nothing but the clothes on their back. We have been assisting 150 or more a week. Volunteers from the community have been assisting us, without whom we would not be able to maintain the pace. Much sweat and muscle go into this ministry, and it takes many to make it run smooth. Please pray we continue to have the strength it takes to keep this ministry going for our community.

We continue to be blessed by our children and youth ministry. This year we were blessed to send 7 youth to Camp PYOCA. Six of these were first time campers. Now they are life-long campers, they loved it so much. Please pray that more of our youth and children through Camp PYOCA find God.

Week of November 17 Presbytery of Ohio Valley Staff

Administrative Associate for Office Support: **Rhonda Seymour** lives in Bloomington with her husband, Ken, and their two sons, Roman and Donovan. She asks for prayers for all young people learning to navigate decisions about their future.

Administrative Associate for IT Support: **Stephanie Worden** lives near Ellettsville with her husband, Bill, their children, Logan and Caroline, and their dogs, Storm and Thor. She appreciates your prayers for continued peace and happiness.

Treasurer: **Jean Brown** and husband, Larry, live in Bloomington. They have two sons, Greg (and Lanett) who are the parents of her two grandsons, Maxton and Preston, living in Frisco, TX, and Eric (and Katy) who live in Bloomington, IN. She requests prayers for family and friends dealing with cancer.

Stated Clerk: **Joe Kimmel** lives near Paoli Indiana with his wife Nancy. Their three sons, two daughters-in-law, and 11 grandchildren (one in heaven) celebrate family. Prayers are appreciated for each of them in their varied missions with people of all races, disabilities, and religions.

Susan McGhee has served as Executive Presbyter since 2009. She lives in Bloomington with her Calico kitties Kate and Allie. In addition to prayers for her family, she also welcomes your prayers for her many good friends, especially Margot, Gavin, Joyce, Chet, and Shelly.

Week of November 24

POV Assembly Commissioners

Please pray for all of the pastors and commissioners who will be traveling to Mitchell next week for the December 3 POV Assembly. Pray for good health, safe travel, and discernment as they receive reports and make decisions.

USHER / GREETERS

**** The Usher/Greeter assignment has changed. ****

In the past, Ushers and Greeters were assigned by Fran. Starting with Sunday, October 6th there was a signup system put into place.

"SignUpGenius" online is available for you to sign up for the Sundays you are available to volunteer for. **WE NEED YOUR PARTICIPATION.**

Please go into this system and sign up. There are several positions still open for November. Don't need to stop there. The rest of the year is also posted in the **SignUpGenius** program. We need 2 months filled at all times.

We need this program to work, so please sign up.

Thank you in advance for participating.

Kathi

Music Notes



As we approach the beginning of the new church year, focusing our minds and hearts upon the coming of the Christ Child becomes utterly important. This is especially true of those of us involved in the music ministry. Advent and Christmas are two of the most regarded seasons in the church year. Preparation for these momentous occasions began quite some time ago. As we continue our preparations, we would like for you to prepare to support us with your attendance at each of the musical presentations during these seasons.

December 15: Youth Advent/Christmas Musical featuring St John's Children's Choir and Youth Handbell Choir during worship.

December 22: Chancel Choir and Chamber orchestra will present Kneeling in Bethlehem during worship.

Hope to see each of you at these presentations and invite some who does not have a church home.

Yours in Christ

Charlie Mitchell Director of Music at St John Presbyterian in New Albany

HARVEST HOMECOMING 2019

Another successful Harvest Homecoming is in the books. We had a great weekend preparing and selling apple dumplings even with the rainy weather on Friday. We should net approximately \$18,000.

Many thanks to the team of St. John volunteers who rolled dough, set up the booth, worked in the kitchen and booth, and the team of drivers who kept the dumplings and ice cream supplied to the booth. Also, a shout out to the gentleman who picks up and composts our apple peelings. Your contribution is invaluable to our success.



SPRIT OF THE SEASON 2019



St. John is joining HOPE for their Spirit of the Season Thanksgiving Food Basket Program. Hope's goal is to assist 300 families, 450 children achieve stability throughout the holidays.

Session requests our St. John community to cheerfully and generously offer a monetary donation to Hope to meet their goal.

Our donations are used to purchase food items for the baskets. Gift cards are provided for families to purchase the meat item of their choice. The baskets are prepared based on the size of each family. (see below).

DONATIONS ACCEPETED THROUGH NOVEMBER 10TH

Hope says, "Through these programs, churches organizations, and individuals come together to BLESS our families in the Holiday Season."

Thanks to all the St. John Community for supporting Hope! Fran

"SPIRIT OF THE SEASON" HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS

Family Size 1 or 2	Family Size 3 or 4	Family Size 5 or 6	Family Size 7 or 8
Turkey or ham	Turkey or ham	Turkey or ham	Turkey or ham
2 pkgs stuffing	2 pkgs stuffing	3 pkgs stuffing	4 pkgs stuffing
2 bxs macaroni & cheese	2 bxs macaroni & cheese	3 bxs macaroni & cheese	4 bxs macaroni & cheese
1 box instant potatoes	1 box instant potatoes	1 large box instant potatoes	1 large box instant potatoes
1 can gravy	2 cans gravy	3 cans gravy	4 cans gravy
1 can green beans	2 cans green beans	3 cans green beans	4 cans green beans
1 can corn	2 cans corn	3 cans corn	4 cans corn
1 can sweet potatoes	1 large can sweet potatoes	2 lg cans sweet potatoes	2 large cans sweet potatoes
1 can cranberries/cranberry sauce	1 can cranberries/cranberry sauce	2 cans cranberries/cranberry sauce	3 cans cranberries/cranberry sauce
1 can cream of mushroom soup	1 can cream of mushroom soup	2 cans cream of mushroom soup	2 cans cream of mushroom soup
Bread	Bread	Bread	Bread
Dessert	Dessert	Dessert	Dessert

Thank you for sponsoring with holiday food this year!

WINTER IS NEAR

EXIT 0:

Donate your used winter coats, jackets, mittens/gloves, scarves. Exit 0 accepts any size blanket, quilt, comforter.

HOMELESS COALITION:

Accepts only cot size blankets.

ST. MARKS:

Regular daily wear clothes is accepted, as well as warm winter items.

Fran

Wreaths Across America

This year the St. John will once again be involved with Wreaths Across America at New Albany National Cemetery on Saturday, December the 14th at noon. There are two ways to be involved. The first is to donate a wreath or wreaths for \$15. You may donate a wreath specific to someone who is buried at New Albany National Cemetery or you may donate a wreath in honor of someone who is currently serving or has served this nation in the military or as a first responder. Go to this link: www.usmvmcin.org/donate.html and it will take you to the New Albany National Cemetery site where you can either donate a cash donation or click on the banner at the top of the page and it will take you to where you can sponsor a wreath, buy a wreath in honor of a living veteran, in memory of a fallen hero, or purchase a grave specific wreath for the New Albany National Cemetery. The second way to be involved is to come to the wreath ceremony on Saturday, December the 14th at New Albany National Cemetery on Ekin Ave at noon to lay wreaths on veteran's graves and honor their service for this country.

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Hoke Plunkett at 502-262-9969. I will be happy to take your \$15 and complete your donation online for you.

Thank you for your participation in this honorable project.



Men's Weekend – October 31st through
November 3rd

Women's Weekend – November 14th through
November 17th

St. John Presbyterian Church
1307 E. Elm Street in New Albany

For applications or more information call
(812)945-3531

November 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					Men's Great Banquet	Men's Great Banquet
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Study Group 9:30 am Worship 10:20 am Youth Music Adult Handbells Ladies Day Out Bread Sales ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY	Flower arranging 9-12 BH My Club 5:30 Group 6pm Parlor History Comm 6pm	Men's Basketball 7:00 PM	RSVP Quilters 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Chandle Choir rehearsal 6:30	Staff Meeting 1 pm Pastors Office	Basketball (2 gps) 3:30 - 7:30 Wedding 5:30	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Study Group 9:30 am Worship 10:20 am Stewardship Meeting following Worship Youth Music Adult Handbells	Flower arranging 9-12 BH My Club 5:30 Group 6pm Parlor	Sermon Club 10:30 - Parlor Lady's Day Out 11:45 AM Men's Basketball 7:00 PM	RSVP Quilters 9:00 am - 2:00 pm WNL Chandle Choir rehearsal 6:30 Women's Set Up SIGB	RSVP Meeting 10-12 Benninger Women's Great Banquet	Women's Great Banquet	Women's Great Banquet
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Study Group 9:30 am Worship 10:20 am Youth Music Adult Handbells Women's Great Banquet	Flower arranging 9-12 BH Group 6pm Parlor My Club 5:30	Sermon Club 10:30 - Parlor Deacons 6pm Session 6:30 Men's Basketball 7:00 PM	RSVP Quilters 9:00 am - 2:00 pm WNL Chandle Choir rehearsal 6:30		Basketball (2 gps) 3:30 - 7:30	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Study Group 9:30 am Worship 10:20 am Youth Music Adult Handbells	Flower arranging 9-12 BH My Club 5:30 Group 6pm Parlor	Sermon Club 10:30 - Parlor Men's Basketball 7:00 PM	RSVP Quilters 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Chandle Choir rehearsal 6:30	Thanksgiving	Basketball (2 gps) 3:30 - 7:30	

Notes:

If you would like to contribute an article to the newsletter, please submit **by November 20th** for the December Newsletter.

Send to: stjohnpres@gmail.com

CONNECT WITH US

On the web at www.stjohnpres.com

On Facebook and Twitter (@stjohnpres)

And on You Tube!

WE EXIST TO BRING PEOPLE INTO THE TRANSFORMING PRESENCE OF JESUS CHRIST,
THROUGH STUDY, WORSHIP, PRAYER, AND FELLOWSHIP.

ST. JOHN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1307 E. ELM STREET
NEW ALBANY, INDIANA 47150

**NOVEMBER
2019**