

# faith

in action

OCTOBER 2023  
NEWSLETTER  
Edition 264



**We are a Community,  
seeking to be in stride with Christ.**

## *Pastor's Corner ~*

What's next for our church, our mission, our pastoral leadership? These have been topics of discussion this year at the meetings of the session. On Sept 17, we brought the discussion to the congregation so that we all can enter into the discussion about what is next in ministry for our congregation.

The Session has looked at the long- range financial picture. With pledges to the budget, the investment/ legacy monies available from several sources, we are doing fine for another few years. Cutting back on costs for pastoral services would help extend that time.

When we looked at numbers, we also considered the age and energy level of our congregation. We are stable in numbers of active people but not growing. Our "worker bees" are also aging and while we want to continue our ministries, particularly to the community, we need help. We instigate community ministries with Tools for Schools and Coats for Christmas; we can gather in more helpers and planners to work with us in making these community ministries thrive.



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Of Defiance

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## ~ Pastor's Corner continued~

The Session agreed to begin this planning while we have a pastor on board, particularly since this pastor has some experience in shared ministry- that is, having served in two different shared ministries as a full- time pastor in both Missouri and Oklahoma.

The Session met with the Consistory (board) at St John United Church of Christ in July; we are in the same basic situation with respect to finances and numbers of people at worship and in mission. We agreed to form a joint steering committee to work toward a shared ministry covenant between the 2 congregations. The shared ministry would involve the two congregations sharing a pastor. Both congregations would remain open and active in work and worship; the 2 congregations would share a full- time pastor and the costs for having a full- time pastor. Any changes will not happen immediately; there are several give and take discussions to be had on the topics of worship times, ministries, financial obligations, and more.

The discussion has begun. We plan to use time this fall to continue the discussion around our dinner tables perhaps at Pizza & Program on Oct. 25 or our November 8 Wednesday night dinner.

### **Pastor Ann**

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### **Upcoming Events:**

Tod Bolsinger author of "Canoeing the Mountains" will lead Presbytery Workshop at First Presbyterian Church in Sandusky on Saturday, October 7th. Cost is \$ 35 including lunch. Tod uses the Lewis and Clark expedition to discuss the changes we must navigate in our post- Christendom world. Lewis & Clark began by navigating the waterways from the east in our (and felt highly successful) - but then hit the Rocky Mountains- and had to use ingenuity, skills, and the knowledge from unexpected sources to change course. It will be an interesting discussion. Pastor Ann is going and will leave from the church by 7:30 am if anyone wants to ride with her.

Worship at Auglaize Village for the Johnny Appleseed Festival! Sunday, October 8th at 10:30 am. This has become an annual event. Once again, we will worship and picnic with our friends at St John UCC. Please bring a dish to share and a donation to cover the cost of meat. You may stay for the Johnny Appleseed Festival. We give a donation to cover the entry fees for those who come for worship. This year we will reflect on the story of Ruth (Chapter 1).

Presbyterian Women and Friends begin the new Bible Study – "Sacred Encounters: The Power & Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts". This year we will focus on the 4 studies of women who encounter Jesus, beginning with Elizabeth in Luke 1 who encounters Jesus while he is in Mary's womb. The writer Olive Mahabir lists this as the main idea: God calls us to make ourselves available for God's purpose. Join us to see how this unfolds. Monday, October 9th at 12:30 pm.

Coats for Christmas gets underway October 11th when we set up the coat racks. The deacons are preparing the barrels to go out into the community. If you are overseeing a barrel, please be ready to take it with you on October 11th and set it in place. This is our 36<sup>th</sup> year and this year we welcome some volunteers from St Mary's & St John the Evangelist Catholic Churches to help us with collection, laundry and distribution.



We will meet on Mondays and Thursdays beginning on October 19th at 10 am to sort coats and get laundry bags fixed for you to take home to launder. Mercury Cleaners once again has agreed to dry clean for us pro bono. We are grateful!

## October Birthday's



01 ~ Jennifer Price  
06 ~ Melanie Puehler  
10 ~ Emily Stotts  
11 ~ Ann Culver  
12 ~ Pam Reid  
15 ~ Lynn Bishop  
17 ~ Christopher Sindel  
22 ~ Raif Peffley  
24 ~ Sandy Youkers  
26 ~ Linda Richards  
26 ~ Lora Richards  
28 ~ Pastor Ann  
28 ~ Mike Price  
29 ~ Sue Price



## October Anniversaries

07 ~ Judd & Kathryn McBride  
20 ~ Bobbie & Doug Brown




Thank you to **Don and Kay Kraber** for sponsoring the **October** newsletter. This enables us to print the newsletter in color.





# October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>Worship</b> <b>10:00 am</b> <b>Sanctuary</b>  <b>World</b> <b>Communion</b>	<b>2</b>  <b>AA ~ noon</b>	<b>3</b>  <b>Cleanup in</b> <b>craft &amp;</b> <b>WeKirk</b> <b>Rooms</b> <b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>  <b>Worship</b> <b>Team</b> <b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  <b>Tod</b> <b>Bolsinger</b> <b>Event</b> <b>Sandusky</b> <b>All Day</b>
<b>8</b> <b>Worship at</b> <b>Auglaize</b> <b>Village</b> <b>10:30 am</b>  <b>Picnic-bring a</b> <b>dish to share</b>	<b>9</b>  <b>AA ~ noon</b>  <b>PW &amp; F: Bible</b> <b>Study on</b> <b>Elizabeth</b> <b>12:30 pm</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  <b>Church</b> <b>Fellowship</b> <b>Meal &amp; Set up</b> <b>of Coat Racks</b> <b>5:30pm</b>  <b>(Deacons will</b> <b>meet after)</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b>  <b>Worship</b> <b>10:00</b> <b>Sanctuary</b>  <b>Holy</b> <b>Communion</b>	<b>16</b>  <b>AA ~ noon</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>  <b>Worship</b> <b>10:00</b> <b>Sanctuary</b>	<b>23</b>  <b>AA ~ noon</b>	<b>24</b>  <b>Session</b> <b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>25</b>  <b>Pizza &amp;</b> <b>Program</b>	<b>26</b>  <b>Defiance</b> <b>Halloween</b> <b>Trick or</b> <b>Treat</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  <b>Lions'</b> <b>Halloween</b> <b>Parade</b>
<b>29</b>  <b>Worship</b> <b>10:00</b> <b>Sanctuary</b>	<b>30</b>  <b>AA ~ noon</b>	<b>31</b> 				



1st  
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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE