



# The Beacon—March/April 2026

This Beacon is a March/April; Lent/Easter newsletter. So many themes for us: St. Patrick’s Day - The Armor of God; Palm Sunday and the end of our Lenten journey; Maundy Thursday and Easter. Starting with St. Patrick and the armor of God and a Celtic prayer. I find myself drawn to the Celtic prayers, many of which took up an embodied practice of binding to themselves armor against spiritual enemies and of dedication to God. Freedom was critical to Patrick’s faith – knowing Christ has set us free not to conquer the world or subdue it, but to love it. So in prayer they would honor the body, all parts of it, that glorify God because God glorified our bodies. I found a prayer famously attributed to him: St. Patrick’s Breastplate –

## Inside this Issue:

|                        |       |
|------------------------|-------|
| Pastor’s Article       | 1     |
| Making Music / Prayers | 2     |
| Birthdays/Anniv.       | 3     |
| Council Notes          | 4-5   |
| Office Notes           | 6     |
| Lent & Easter          | 7     |
| A Generous Gift!       | 8     |
| Back Bay & Bags        | 9     |
| Community              | 10-11 |
| OCWM                   | 12    |
| Honor Workers          | 13    |
| Treasurer Report       | 14-15 |
| Calendars              | 16-17 |

“I bind unto myself today the power of God to hold and lead, his eye to watch, his might to stay, his ear to hearken, to my need; the wisdom of my God to teach, his hand to guide, his shield to ward; the word of God to give me speech, his heavenly host to be my guard. Christ be with me. Christ within me. Christ behind me. Christ before me. Christ beside me. Christ to win me. Christ to comfort and restore me. Christ beneath me. Christ above me. Christ in quiet. Christ in danger. Christ in the hearts of all that love me. Christ in mouth of friend and stranger. I bind unto myself today the strong Name of the Trinity, by invocation of the same, the Three in One, and One in Three. Of whom all nature hath creation, eternal Father, Spirit, Word: praise to the Lord of my salvation, salvation is of Christ the Lord.”

When you know the full story of Patrick, his kidnapping, his being taken across the sea, his longing for home, his longing to live a life so entrenched in adoration of God that the redemption and love of Christ is what people speak of when they speak of him...where he went, Christ is before, behind, beneath, and within him.

But people of the Lenten journey – how this prayer speaks. As we walk in the darkness of Lent, as we contemplate the journey of Christ through these days, as we move into Holy Week with Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the loneliness of that Saturday – can we feel Christ before us, behind us, beneath us, and within us?

And as we reach Easter – here’s what I believe we celebrate:

Christ be with me. Christ within me. Christ behind me. Christ before me. Christ beside me. Christ above me. Christ in quiet. Christ in danger. Christ in the hearts of all that love me. Christ in mouth of friend and stranger. Praise to the Lord of my salvation, salvation is of Christ the Lord. Amen and Amen and Alleluia.

Blessings,  
Pastor Margaret

### UPCOMING LOOSE OFFERING SCHEDULE

**MARCH** - Elmore Food Pantry

**APRIL** - One Great Hour of Sharing

**LENTEN** - Utilities

**St. John’s mission...to live the love and grace of God through redeeming faith in Jesus the Christ by seeking justice, loving kindness and walking humbly with God.**

## LENTEN SONGBIRDS AND BELLS SCHEDULE

**SONGBIRDS** will rehearse after the Lenten services on Wednesdays from 7:30-8:15.  
**BELLS** will meet after Sunday services beginning March 1 from 11:15-12:00.

Lynn Grear, Music Director  
The Singers and Ringers of St. John's



### IN OUR PRAYERS

**Prayers from Congregation:** Cal Jennings, Andrew Barringer (diagnosed with Lyme Disease), Timothy (Mothman) Phillips in NICU and his family

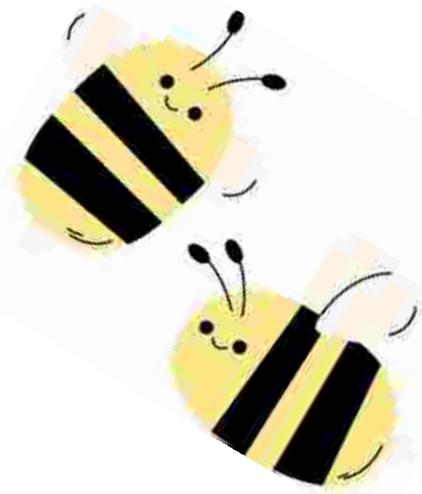
**Hospice:** Dolores Neeb

**Bereavement:** Jerry Beck

**Nursing Home/Rehab:** Mary Sue James, Al Amstutz, Nancy Weidner, Zoe Moore, Lois Rymers, Sharon Crozier

**At Home:** Joanne Busdeker, Carlton Giesler, Doris Klaustermeyer, Heidi Holub, Lois Rader, Catherine Aldrich (Sue Applegate's friend), Joanne Price, Sherry Sherman (Pastor Tim's wife), McKinley Blaussey, Jamie Irwin (Lois Rader's granddaughter), Dave Mate (friend of Paul Holewinski) and Debra Mate (Dave Mate's sister), Bob Hensel, Betty Walker, Helen Hollis (friends of Bill Verbryke), Ken Moore, Dolores Beck, Janet Ottney, Paul Holewinski, Rachael (neighbor of Sue Applegate.), Jennifer and Joe Shamy, Sandra Shaffer, Russ Krumnow, Jim Krumnow, Jim and Jane Garner, Loren Sampson, Jeff and Nancy Wegman, Tom Crozier, David Reimer, the Fielding family, Sharon and John Virtue, Karen Nolen (friend of Jamie Verbryke), Kim Applegate, Briann, Rosemary Acha, Don Brimmer (Deb Ferguson's brother), Sue Applegate, Mary Ann Zolman, Phyllis Brimmer (Deb Ferguson's mother), Bob Kuhlman, Mike (Susan Cole's friend's husband), Debbie Woody (Helen Shaneck's niece) John Brindley (Erica Baker's father), Kristi Lewis & Family (friends of Tim and Jana Sampson)

**Service Men & Women:** Kyle Babka, Dr. Samuel L. Preston III, Captain Benjamin Wideman



# Parish Record

## **FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES:**

Dennis & Diane Marquardt 2/15  
 Travis Calkins & Brittany Blausey 2/20

## **MARCH ANNIVERSARIES**

Bruce & Nan Card 3/29  
 Glenn & Kathy Truman 3/05  
 Richard & Marlene Beck 3/31  
 Tim & Cindy Calhoun 3/31  
 Paul & Brenda Roadarmel 3/29  
 James & Dawn Wilburn 3/10  
 Tod & Judy Baechle 3/27  
 Tim & Michelle Marchetto 3/27  
 Bret & Stephanie Kuhlman 3/07

## **APRIL ANNIVERSARIES**

Eugene & Carolyn Underwood 4/16  
 Lloyd & Linda Long 4/01  
 Russel & Peggy Krumnow 4/22  
 John & Jenny Ottney 4/11  
 David & Mary Aspacher 4/27  
 David & Heather Cook 4/25  
 Michael & Theresa Clinker 4/30

## **MARCH BIRTHDAYS:**

Cole Almroth 3/3  
 Rylie Cutchall 3/4  
 Sydney Marchetto 3/4  
 Beth Shank 3/4  
 Austin Berkel 3/6  
 Paul Holewinski 3/8  
 Isla Shirer 3/8  
 James Garner 3/10  
 Chandler Shirer 3/12  
 Jennifer Little 3/14  
 Suzanne Applegate 3/15  
 Sydney Erwin 3/17  
 Brittany Blausey 3/18  
 Becky Busdeker 3/19  
 Cynthia Little 3/19  
 Bella Lewis 3/22  
 Cameron Overmyer 3/23  
 Gage Moses 3/24  
 Eugene Underwood 3/24  
 Natalie Applegate 3/25  
 Craig Smith 3/25  
 Nathan Garner 3/26  
 Connor Herrig 3/26  
 Renee Thomas 3/26  
 Ross Ahlhorn 3/31



## **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:**

Derek Berkel 2/1  
 Isabelle Helmke 2/1  
 Amanda Schwartz 2/1  
 William Schwartz 2/2  
 Carol Bock 2/7  
 Kathy Damschroder 2/7  
 Tim Sampson 2/9  
 Kayden Widman 2/9  
 Samantha Amstutz 2/13  
 Melanie Moore 2/14  
 Meribeth Zolner 2/14  
 Klara Kuhlman 2/15  
 Susanne Bucalo 2/16  
 Natalie Feasal 2/15  
 Liam Miano 2/17  
 Rosemary Acha 2/20  
 Dolores Beck 2/20  
 Zoe Moore 2/24  
 Jim Sankiewicz II 2/24  
 Mindy Wetzel 2/24  
 Gordon Hille 2/24  
 Pat McLaughlin 2/25  
 Allison Schroeder 2/27

## **APRIL BIRTHDAYS:**

Julie Amstutz 4/2  
 Joyce Bruntz 4/4  
 Piper Shank 4/5  
 Terry Barnhouse 4/10  
 Linda Long 4/12  
 John Virtue 4/13  
 Xander Barr 4/16  
 TJ Cunningham 4/21  
 Judy Baechle 4/22  
 Shelly Malecha 4/25  
 Karen Baxter 4/26  
 Austin Underwood 4/26  
 Kimberly Applegate 4/27  
 Eric Almroth 4/28  
 Marlene Beck 4/28



## Church Council Meeting

Council met on 2/15/26 @ 7pm

Attendees were: Jim Wilburn

Bill Verbryke

Pastor Margaret

President Brian Holub

-- Pastor Margaret started the meeting with a prayer.

-- Ron provided the Treasurer's report. Jim made a motion to accept, Bill seconded. Motion passed, the Treasurer's report was accepted.

-- Bill and Jim reported that Dick Kuhlman had met with a contractor regarding remodeling the restroom off the crying room. He also met with a contractor regarding the installation of a chair lift. He will get the quotes finalized when he returns from Florida at the end of March.

-- Jim reported that one of the downspouts just north of the carport had separated. He has the proper PVC cement, so he will take care of the repair.

-- The coat rack for the Rice St. entrance needs to be put back up. Jim said he can get the proper wall anchors, Bill said he could assist.

-- Several fluorescent lights are getting bad. Jim or Bill will talk to Matt Harvey about replacements.

-- Bill mentioned that we borrowed a projector from the library for the Honor Workers' presentation. He also mentioned that he had talked with Evan Shurtz about purchasing one for the church. Jim made a motion to look into using Memorial Funds to cover the expenses of a new projector and screen. Bill seconded, the motion passed.

-- Brian mentioned that Evan is still working on upgrades to the new A/V system. This includes attempts to livestream services.

-- Deacon's Report: Average attendance for January was 33. The Sunday of the snowstorm, attendance was 9, so this brought the average down.

42 people took communion in January.

Average virtual viewership was 36

-- Jim asked if we could look into decreasing the number of weekly devotionals. He said that after the mailers for the shut-ins, he was putting about ten in the recycle box.

-- Pastor Margaret mentioned that the new members would be joining the church on 2/22/26. Bill and/or Jim will represent council in Brian's absence (Council President normally does this, but Brian will be out of town and we don't have a VP to stand in).

-- Prayer list in the bulletin seems to be getting longer. Some people have been on the list for quite a while. We are going to make some changes. After one month, names will be removed from the list unless notification has been made to keep the names on.

-- The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

Notes submitted by President Brian Holub





3/8/26 @ 11am

Church council met Sunday, March 8, 2026, after the service. Present were Brian Holub, Bill Verbryke, Lisa Fork, Jim Wilburn, Erica Baker, Becky Busdeker and Pastor Margaret

Brian Holub, President, called the meeting to order. Pastor Margaret opened with a prayer.

Ron Busdeker provided updated financials through February, 2026. Jim Wilburn moved and Bill Verbryke seconded to accept the report. Motion carried.

**No February attendance information was available.**

Erica Baker updated us on the live **website**. Everything is up and running. Check out the new website at UCCElmore.org. The website is still under construction but provides basic information, Beacons and weekly bulletins. Erica presented a proposal from Perry Protech to provide our copy services. The proposal will significantly reduce our monthly costs. They will buy out our current contract and take care of returning our current machine at the end of that contract. Bill Verbryke moved and Jim Wilburn seconded a motion to contract a Konica machine. Discussion **was held**. Motion carried.

Pastor Margaret reported we received correspondence and a check from Pastor Bob Noble, former pastor of Calgary Lutheran Church. We purchased upgraded audio/visual equipment from them when they closed their doors. They were able to find a buyer for their building and decided to split the proceeds between the churches that reached out to help transition their congregation.

Jim Wilburn reported that Harvey Mechanical Services has looked at replacing 106 lights in the most prominent areas of the church. He has received an

estimate of \$1531.34 to complete the replacements. **Jim** Wilburn moved and Bill Verbryke seconded a motion to proceed with the work. Motion carried.

Correspondence **was** received from the Woodmore After Prom Committee asking for donations to support their activities. The After Prom Committee provides a safe, fun gathering for students following the prom at Woodmore. Lisa Fork moved and Jim Wilburn seconded a motion to donate **\$100** to the After Prom. Motion carried.

Pastor Margaret reported that Keith Kruse from the town is willing to come and dig up a plot for the pollinator garden **that** was previously discussed with council. Pastor Margaret will contact Jen (who approached us about a garden) with input from Jim Wilburn as to the size and placement of the garden. Jim Wilburn moved and Bill Verbryke seconded a motion to proceed with providing an area. Motion carried.

Bill Verbryke moved and Becky Busdeker seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Becky Busdeker, Secretary



# Office Notes

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**HOME COMMUNION:** If you wish Pastor Margaret to bring communion to your home, please call 440-487-2549.

**AA MEETING** is every Thursday evening from 7:00 - 8:00. We are so glad to have them meet in our Fellowship Hall.

**MARCH & LENTEN LOOSE OFFERING:** Elmore Food Pantry

**MARCH PANTRY ITEM:** Saltines

**APRIL LOOSE OFFERING:** One Great Hour of Sharing

**APRIL PANTRY ITEM:** Soup

**LENTEN OFFERING:** Utilities for Needy



**UPCOMING IDEAS:** We are a church that comes up with some creative mission ideas and I have two that we'll discuss with Council: collect plastic bags, weigh them, put in recycle containers in the groceries, send weight to a website and they will send

us a bench when we reach 1000 lbs. Yes – I'm serious. It was shared with us at the Great Lakes Association of United Church Educators with true stories of benches being delivered. An environmental mission and a fun way to get a bench to put by our.... Pollinator garden. An update on the pollinator garden will be shared in the spring.

### **FOOD PANTRY:**

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church provides physical facilities for the Elmore Food Pantry. This public service program was originally organized by the Elmore Ministerial Association and staffed by members of local churches. The area

churches contribute food items and funds. As of 2024, the Elmore Food Pantry became an outreach of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church. The food pantry is open once a month throughout the year. In 2025, the Elmore Food Pantry provided meals for a total of 880 people and served an average of 27



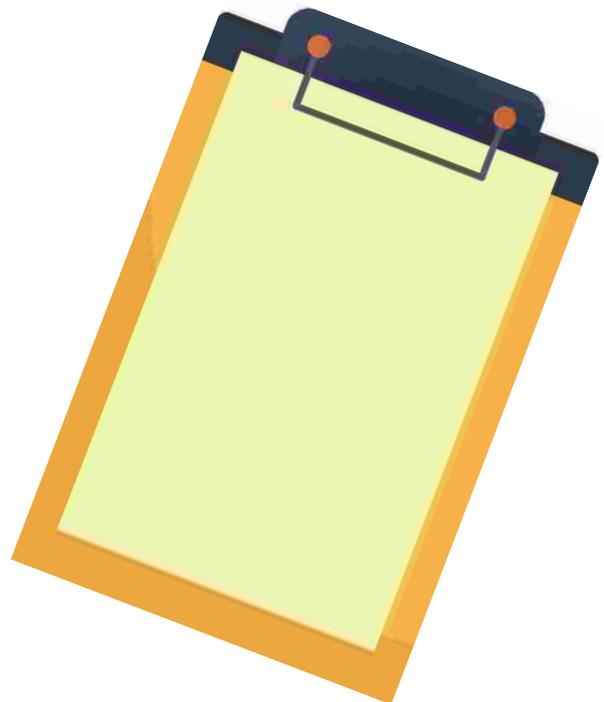
households per month. That is an increase of 288 people and around 9 households per month from 2024.

In 2026, the Food Pantry will be open once per month on the second Friday of the month from 9:00am-12:00pm on the following dates:

January 9, February 13, March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, August 14, September 11, October 9, November 13, and December 11.

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** Please look over the names on our prayer lists and let us know if someone should be taken off or if there are folks who should be added. Council is deliberating a plan that other churches use that after a certain amount of time, names are taken off the list. We are afraid we would mistakenly take someone off who still needs to be listed. It is, therefore, really important that you alert us to those to be added or taken off. Thanks!

**CHURCH DIRECTORY:** Copies of the semi-updated directory are on the back counter of the church. Please take one and make changes and return them to the office. You can email them to [st.johnsuccelmore@gmail.com](mailto:st.johnsuccelmore@gmail.com).



## LENT and EASTER 2026

### **Sunday, February 15th MARDI GRAS/TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY**

A celebratory worship to bring energy to worship before the solemn season of Lent. A time to transition from celebration to reflection. Following worship, we'll share in the King Cake where the tradition of the hidden baby is a symbol of finding joy and community. We'll celebrate with the jazz/dixieland music of The Dixie Flyers, Loren Lohr's Dixieland Band. Marge Whiting's dad. And we'll begin the tradition of burying the alleluias to be resurrected on Easter Sunday. Last year's palms will be burned following the service in preparation for Ash Wednesday.

### **Tuesday, February 17 -- PANCAKES AT THE PARSONAGE**

A tradition often known as Fat Tuesday or Shrove Tuesday, using up rich ingredients like eggs, milk, and sugar before the fasting of Lent. Come at 5:30, stay til the pancakes are gone.

### **Wednesday, February 18 -- ASH WEDNESDAY**

7:00 p.m. A service marking the start of Lent with a solemn, reflective atmosphere, featuring the imposition of ashes as a symbol of mortality and repentance. Psalm 51: 1-17, Matthew 6: 1 - 6, 16 - 21. Renewal to Hope

### **Sunday, February 22 -- Receiving New Members**

Matthew 4: 1 - 11 Abundant Grace

### **Wednesday, February 25 -- Lenten Meal and Meditation (Provided by Honor Workers)**

Meal at 6:00 p.m.

Meditation from 7:00 to 7:30

### **Wednesdays, March 4 (Provided by Faith Formation), 11, 18, 25 -- Lenten Meal and Meditation**

Meal at 6:00 p.m.

Meditation from 7:00 to 7:30

### **Thursday, April 2 -- Maundy Thursday**

7:00 p.m. The word is derived from the Latin "mandatum," meaning "command", and refers to the words of Jesus to his disciples to "love each other as I have loved you." Maundy Thursday demonstrates the importance of humility and service by remembering Jesus washing the feet of his disciples. We will observe communion to remember the Last Supper with Jesus and his disciples.

### **Friday, April 3 -- Good Friday**

Good Friday commemorates the crucifixion and death of Jesus. While a day of mourning, it's seen as "good" because his death paved the way for resurrection, signifying the triumph of good over evil, sin, and death, leading to eternal life for believers. From noon to 3:00 the church will be open with music playing and resources for reflection as well as just a time to sit and be still on this holy Friday – not good in the sense of happy but good pointing to the ultimate "good" outcome of salvation. Perhaps a time to reflect on the events leading up to this day.

### **Easter Sunday, April 5**

Sunrise Service: 7:00 a.m.

Easter Worship 10:00 a.m.

# A Generous Gift!

**Calvary Lutheran Church**  
**1930 Bradner Road**  
**Northwood Ohio 43619**

March 1, 2026

Dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings in the name of Jesus the Savior of the world! I write to you today with gratitude in my heart for the compassionate care your congregations have provided to former members of Calvary Lutheran Church. A saving grace for the members of the Calvary Closing Task Force, has been the knowledge that most of the membership at Calvary received pastoral care through this time of transition in their lives.

The books are now closed at Calvary, and the desire of the Task Force was to spread the final proceeds to the area congregations that have become home to our members.

Please accept the enclosed gift with our sincere thanks. We pray that your ministry will benefit from this gift and will continue to grow and prosper in the years to come.

In the Name of Jesus,



Pastor Bob Noble

Former Pastor, Calvary Lutheran Church

Please note that this was not included in last month's council meeting notes because we were waiting for the check to come through.

# What's Going On at St. John's UCC?

## BACK BAY MISSION BILOXI, MS

The time is drawing closer when we will embark on our 5th pilgrimage to the United Church of Christ's mission on the Gulf Coast (the Back Bay) in Biloxi, MS. Back Bay Mission has seen a great deal of change over the 100 years of providing help and hope to the unhoused and hungry as well as in the rebuilding of homes damaged by hurricanes or for lack of funds to repair their homes. Shirley Hensel and I will be going to represent St. John's, Belinda Lentz travels with us from St. John's in Dover, several folks will be joining us again from St. Paul's in Oak Harbor as well as a few from the Congregational Church of South Dartmouth, Mass. You are invited to join in this week of mission that you will never forget – we feed the hungry, work on houses, staff the food pantry, and so much more. We drive down in two days stopping in Nashville to visit with Andra Moran. The dates are April 24th through May 2nd. The cost is \$250 plus sharing the cost of the rental vehicle and the overnight stay in motels as well as the food we prepare at the mission. For more information about Back Bay, go to [thebackbaymission.org](http://thebackbaymission.org) or talk with Shirley or Pastor Margaret.



## PLASTIC BAG PROJECT

Several weeks ago we began a project to collect, weigh, and recycle plastic bags and send the weights to the Nex Trex Company. After we reach 1,000 pounds, they will send us a free bench. "The Nex Trex Recycling Challenge is a program sponsored by Trex where schools, churches and communities collect plastic film, such as grocery bags and bubble wrap, to earn high-performance composite benches. The program aims to divert plastic waste from landfills and repurpose it into sustainable outdoor products like decking and benches. Participants collect clean, dry plastic film over a set period, weigh it, and deliver it to participating retailers. If a specific weight goal is met, the organization receives a free bench." The thought of 1000 pounds of little plastic bags seems impossible but when they are piled into our box in our entrance off the parking lot – they are heavy. So stay tuned for more pictures and an update in the next Beacon. In the meantime – keep bringing your plastic bags. Thanks!



# UPCOMING EVENTS



**FAMILY ADVOCACY CENTER: CENTRAL STATION**  
268 W. WATER ST. OAK HARBOR, OH 43449



## FRIDAY CARD CLUB

1<sup>ST</sup> & 3<sup>RD</sup> FRI:  
**PINOCHLE**

2<sup>ND</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup> FRI:  
**EUCHRE**

2-4PM

NO REGISTRATION NEEDED

## MARCH 18

WEDNESDAY / 6-7PM

### MENDED TO PERFECTION

Tired of quick fixes for loose hems and missing buttons? Join **All Guerra** to learn how to hem pants, dresses, and shorts and sew on buttons the right way—with practice time included. All ages welcome!

## MARCH 20

FRIDAY / 1-2:30PM

### FROM SEEDS TO SMILES

Ready to start or refresh your garden? Join **Julie Aldridge** from Cardinals Gale Homestead to learn the basics of soil, planting, and creating a successful, stress-free garden.

## MARCH 23

MONDAY / 6-7PM

### FIESTA IN EVERY BITE

Learn how to make authentic Mexican tortillas and carne quesada with experienced cook **Ali Guerra**. The demonstration ends with a delicious, traditional Mexican meal!

## MARCH 25

WEDNESDAY / 10-11:30AM

### FRESH OUT OF THE OVEN

Tired of store-bought bread? Join **Jill Hickey** to learn how to bake fresh loaves from scratch and take one home to enjoy—just in time to treat your family this spring!

## MARCH 26

THURSDAY / 6-7PM

### LEARN TO MAKE CHICKEN PAPRIKASH

Discover authentic chicken paprikash with Hungarian cook **Susanne Tomaschek**, who will guide you step by step through this classic comfort dish—plus enjoy a tasty sample!

## APRIL 9

THURSDAY / 6:30PM

### WHERE THE FUN MEETS THE CANVAS

Looking for a fun, stress-free evening? Join our painting party—no skills needed! Local artist **Rebecca Booth** will guide you step by step to create a spring masterpiece. Snacks and supplies included!

## APRIL 14

TUESDAY / 6-7PM

### BLOOM WITH BOOKS

Sign up your elementary child for a fun, interactive story time with **Jane Taylor**. With read-alouds, movement, and crafts, kids will grow their love for reading and enjoy a magical hour of literacy fun!

## APRIL 21

TUESDAY / 6-7:30PM

### PAPER TRAILS

Create handmade cards that really pop with **Mary Ann Widmer** and **Marty Willis**! Make four unique cards while learning basic techniques and how to use cardmaking tools. All materials provided!



**SCAN THE QR CODE FOR LINKS TO SIGN-UP!**

**MAKE SURE TO RSVP AT LEAST ONE WEEK BEFORE EACH CLASS!**

CLICK THE EVENT ON THE CALENDAR, THEN CLICK THE LINK TO REGISTER!



Ashley Walterbusch  
 Program Director  
 Family Advocacy Center  
 419-301-0225  
[ocfamilyadvocacy.org](http://ocfamilyadvocacy.org) | [linktr.ee/ocfamilyadvocacy](http://linktr.ee/ocfamilyadvocacy)

570 S McKinley Dr, Port Clinton, OH  
 43452

## REVERSE LENT CALENDAR

*Instead of giving something up during Lent, please consider giving something away each day. Add an item each day. on Easter Sunday, bring your completed box to Church. All items will be donated to The Family Advocacy Center.*

|           |                      |
|-----------|----------------------|
| 2/18/2026 | Alfredo Sauce        |
| 2/19/2026 | Box of Cereal        |
| 2/20/2026 | Peanut Butter        |
| 2/21/2026 | Stuffing             |
| 2/23/2026 | Bottle of Shampoo    |
| 2/24/2026 | Mac and Cheese       |
| 2/25/2026 | Canned Fruit         |
| 2/26/2026 | Canned Beans         |
| 2/27/2026 | Canned Tomatoes      |
| 2/28/2026 | Canned Tuna          |
| 3/2/2026  | Body Wash            |
| 3/3/2026  | Pudding Mix          |
| 3/4/2026  | Canned Corn          |
| 3/5/2026  | Oatmeal              |
| 3/6/2026  | Pancake mix          |
| 3/7/2026  | Syrup                |
| 3/9/2026  | Canned Mixed Veggies |
| 3/10/2026 | Tomato Soup          |
| 3/11/2026 | Box of Crackers      |
| 3/12/2026 | Package of Pasta     |

|           |                        |
|-----------|------------------------|
| 3/13/2026 | Can of red pasta sauce |
| 3/14/2026 | Chicken Noodle Soup    |
| 3/16/2026 | Deodorant              |
| 3/17/2026 | Package of Rice        |
| 3/18/2026 | Jar of Applesauce      |
| 3/19/2026 | Cake Mix               |
| 3/20/2026 | Tooth Brush            |
| 3/21/2026 | Tooth Paste            |
| 3/23/2026 | Mouthwash              |
| 3/24/2026 | Canned Sweet Potatoes  |
| 3/25/2026 | Ramen                  |
| 3/26/2026 | Brownie Mix            |
| 3/27/2026 | Canned Green Beans     |
| 3/28/2026 | Jar of Jelly           |
| 3/30/2026 | Canned Potatoes        |
| 3/31/2026 | Paper Towel            |
| 4/1/2026  | Graham Cracker         |
| 4/2/2026  | Mashed Potatoes        |
| 4/3/2026  | Toilet Paper           |
| 4/4/2026  | Broth                  |



**Family  
 Advocacy  
 Center**

Help from the heart.

Even though it's past many of the dates, we can still collect these items and bring them to the Easter Service!

## Our Church's Wider Mission

As we begin another year, there are offerings of the wider church that we are given the opportunity to contribute to make a difference throughout the year. Are we 5 for 5? Nearly 1,590 churches are! These congregations fully support Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) and all four special mission offerings. Here are the offerings:

**OCWM BASIC SUPPORT:** Provides funding from congregations for Conferences (we are in the Heartland Conference) and the national ministries of the United Church of Christ (Wider Church Ministries, Local Church Ministries, Justice and Witness Ministries, General Ministries, and Pension Boards).

**UCC SPECIAL MISSION OFFERINGS:** Part of OCWM, these four offerings sponsor vital ministries that bring hope to people in the U.S. and around the world.

**NEIGHBORS IN NEED:** First Sunday in October: Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts and direct service projects through grants. As we come closer to the date of the offering, you will receive information on the locations of these funds.

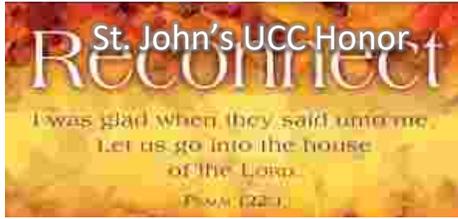
**THE CHRISTMAS FUND:** Fourth Sunday of Advent: The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the emergency Fund is a Special Mission Offering that congregations have been supporting for over 100 years. The offering is administered through the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance, the charitable arm of the Pension Boards. Funds provide direct financial support for those who have served the church and who serve the church and are facing financial difficulties.

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING:** Fourth Sunday of Lent: The UCC responds to humanitarian and development needs in the world. Gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. Through our work with local churches, conferences, international partners and organizations, OGHS provides sources of clean water, food, education, health care, small business micro-credit loans, advocacy, resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, emergency relief and rehabilitation as well as disaster preparedness and response.

**STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH:** Pentecost: The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the stated commitment of people across the UCC to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. Through this offering, we are building up the Body of Christ.

Thank you for being a generous congregation!

# Honor Workers



## Honor Workers Minutes \_ February 10, 2026

The Honor Workers met on February 10th in the church Fellowship Hall. Nine members and one guest attended.

The program for the evening was presented by Julie Mayle. She is the curator of manuscripts for Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library & Museums. She led us through the very early stages of the Spiegel Grove property in Fremont and the development of the home and museum.

A short meeting decided the group would provide the Lenten meal of lasagna, salad, bread, and dessert on Wednesday, February 25th at 6:00pm.

Joyce Bruntz was the hostess for the evening providing a sweet treat. The March meeting is planned for March 10th at 7:00pm. The program will be presented by Marcia Jess "Barn Quilt Trail." Everyone in the congregation is invited.

The Honor Workers would like to thank Evan Schurtz for setting up a projector and screen for the presentation. "Your expertise is appreciated."

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joyce Bruntz

**HONOR WORKERS** will be having a Memorial Service by Claudene Kuhlman on April 14 at 7:00pm. Hostess is Ruth Weis.



# Treasurer's Report

## Treasurer's Report—JANUARY 2026

### General Fund

|                                |             |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Balance as of January 1, 2026  | \$5,473.85  |
| Income                         | \$15,675.00 |
| Expenses                       | \$23,858.17 |
| Balance as of January 31, 2026 | \$9,840.29  |

## JANUARY Weekly Offering

|             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| January 4:  | \$3,427.00  |
| January 11: | \$12,247.00 |
| January 18: | \$1,529.00  |

January Weekly Attendance Average: 30.75

*January Loose Offerings went to utilities for the needy.*

## Treasurer's Report

### Treasurer's Report—FEBRUARY 2026

#### General Fund

|                                 |             |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Balance as of February 1, 2026  | \$10,218.92 |
| Income                          | \$12,825.00 |
| Expenses                        | \$15,322.61 |
| Balance as of February 31, 2026 | \$9,283.29  |

### FEBRUARY Weekly Offering

|              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| February 1:  | \$5,202.00 |
| February 8:  | \$5,331.00 |
| February 15: | \$2,715.00 |
| February 18: | \$62.00    |
| February 22: | \$1,595.00 |
| February 25: | \$170.00   |

February Weekly Attendance Average: 30.66  
February Virtual Attendance Average: 64.75

*February Loose Offerings and Lenten Offering went to utilities for the needy.*

# March 2026

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wed  | Thursday   | Friday   | Saturday |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|----------|
| 1<br>10:00 Worship<br>Communion<br><br>+  | 2<br>7pm Bible<br>Study<br><br>    | 3  | 4<br>Lenten<br>Meal: 6pm<br>Meditation<br>7:00-7:30pm  | 5<br>9am: Christy's<br>7pm: AA<br><br>    | 6  | 7        |
| 8 Super Bowl Sunday<br>10:00 Worship<br>Faith Formation<br>11:15 Fellowship<br>Daylight Savings!<br><br>+ | 9<br>7pm Bible<br>Study<br><br>    | 10<br>7pm Honor<br>Workers<br>Hayes Muse-<br>um Manu-<br>scripts | 11<br>Lenten<br>Meal: 6pm<br>Meditation<br>7:00-7:30pm | 12<br>9am: Christy's<br>7pm: AA<br><br>   | 13<br>Elmore Food<br>Pantry<br><br> | 14       |
| 15<br>10:00 Worship<br><br><br>+  | 16<br>7pm Bible<br>Study<br><br>  | 17<br>St. Patrick's<br>Day                                       | 18<br>Lenten<br>Meal: 6pm<br>Meditation<br>7:00-7:30pm | 19<br>9am: Christy's<br>7pm: AA<br><br>  | 20   | 21       |
| 22<br>10:00 Worship<br>Faith Formation<br>11:15 Fellowship<br><br>+                                       | 23<br>7pm Bible<br>Study<br><br> | 24   | 25<br>Lenten<br>Meal: 6pm<br>Meditation<br>7:00-7:30pm | 26<br>9am: Christy's<br>7pm: AA<br><br> | 27   | 28       |
| 29  | 30  | 31   |  |  |  |          |

**THIS MONTH WE GATHER TOGETHER TO WORSHIP**

*in the sanctuary at 10:00 am*

*Fellowship Hour are held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays*

*Thank You to all who are continuing their contributions to St. John's.  
Church services can be found on [YouTube](#) and [St. John's Facebook page](#).*

*Hard copies of the March/April Beacon are available by the side door of the Clinton Street entrance.*

# April 2026

| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday                                     | Wed | Thursday   | Friday  | Saturday |
|--|--|---|-----|--|---|----------|
|  |  |   | 1   | 2<br>9am: Christy's<br>7pm: AA<br>7pm Maundy Thursday<br> | 3<br>12:00-3:00<br>Good Friday<br>Meditation  | 4        |
| 5<br>7:00 Sunrise Service<br>10:00 Easter Sunday<br><br>                          | 6<br>7pm Bible Study   | 7   | 8   | 9<br>7pm: AA   | 10<br>Elmore Food Pantry<br> | 11       |
| Pastor Margaret Vacation!  |  |   |     |  |   |          |
| 12<br>10:00 Worship<br>Faith Formation<br>11:15 Fellowship<br><br>               | 13<br>7pm Bible Study<br><br>  | 14<br>Honor Workers Memorial Service @ 7pm. | 15  | 16<br>9am: Christy's<br>7pm: AA<br><br>                  | 17  | 18       |
| 19<br>10:00 Worship<br><br>   | 20<br>7pm Bible Study<br><br> | 21  | 22  | 23<br>9am: Christy's<br>7pm: AA<br><br>                 | 24  | 25       |
| Back Bay Mission Trip  |  |   |     |  |   |          |
| 26<br>10:00 Worship<br>Communion<br>Faith Formation<br>11:15 Fellowship<br><br> | 27<br>7pm Bible Study<br><br> | 28  | 29  | 30   | May 1   | May 2    |
| Back Bay Mission Trip  |  |   |     |  |   |          |

**THIS MONTH WE GATHER TOGETHER TO WORSHIP**

*in the sanctuary at 10:00 am*

*Fellowship Hour are held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays*

*Thank You to all who are continuing their contributions to St. John's.  
Church services can be found on [YouTube](#) and [St. John's Facebook page](#).*

*Hard copies of the March/April Beacon are available by the side door of the Clinton Street entrance.*



NON-PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE PAID  
ELMORE, OH  
PERMIT No. 15

## St. John's UCC

PO Box 288 | 448 Rice Street  
Elmore, OH 43416

email: [st.johnsuccelmore@gmail.com](mailto:st.johnsuccelmore@gmail.com)

phone: (419) 862-3511

<https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsUCCElmore/>

Pastor: *Margaret R. Mills*

phone: (440) 487-2549

email: [millsm92445@gmail.com](mailto:millsm92445@gmail.com)

Pastor Emeritus: *John W. Bock*

Administrative Assistant:

*Erica Baker*

Music Director:

*Lynn Grear*



# THE BEACON

*-Shining God's Light Where All Are Welcome-*