



ECHO

March-April
2013



Don't forget daylight saving time starts

March 10th.

Spring your clock forward one hour.

From Our Pastor

I feel so blessed. Really, I do! We began the New Year together in a whole new relationship, with some cautious anticipation, and we began the process of moving ahead. The blessing comes from the fact that, surrounding and undergirding all the budding ideas, talk of re-vitalization, and speculation as to where God may be taking us, is the heart and soul of First St. John UCC: Our devotion to God and our love for one another.

It is true. We are in a unique place on our common journey of faith. We are asking important questions about our ministry, our mission, our future. We are generating ideas that may take us into uncharted waters. We asking ourselves what we are willing to risk to become a vital, thriving church. This is what we should be doing. But no matter where our conversation and activities take us, we must be faithful to our core values.

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Articles for May will be due April 27th.

Put articles in the Echo folder at church or email to me Eileen Fletcher.

Email address: efletchermcnamara@fuse.net

This date is so the Echo will be out by the 1st of the month.

1. We love God. That sounds obvious. But our willingness to follow God's prompting is a reflection on the depth of our love and trust for the God who gives us life.
2. We follow Jesus. Again, this would seem to be obvious. But we need to be intentional about understanding and claiming the values and message that Jesus gave to all of his followers: Absolute grace, acceptance, extravagant welcome, unending love, and life-changing compassion
3. We are bound together. The Church gathers together as an act of a shared faith. When the Bible instructs us to "be of one mind" it isn't suggesting that we will always agree on everything. Or anything. But we are connected to each other spiritually, and we have the responsibility to speak honestly, openly and lovingly to one another. Everything we do and say should have the aim of building up the Body of Christ.
4. We are the Church of Jesus Christ. "Our Church" doesn't belong to us. We belong to the Church. We belong to the family of God. And we must remember that the church does not exist just to exist. We have a mission, a ministry. Our mission is Jesus' mission; our ministry, Jesus'.
5. The bottom line is Love.

So, we look to the days ahead for the Resurrection power of the Risen Christ, the New Life that God gives us, and Hope of a meaningful future resting and working in the Love that continues to call to us.

Take the time given during this season of lent to reflect on God's call. Join us as we celebrate the promise of Easter. Walk with us boldly into every new day!

May God Bless,

Pastor Mark

Remembrance Candle and Altar Flowers

Beginning in 2013, we will change the sign up procedure for the Remembrance Candle and Altar Flowers. Please notify the office directly if you would like to sponsor the candle or flowers. Call (863-0793) or email (firststjohn@fuse.net) with the name to be honored or remembered, your name and the date for the remembrance. There is no established dollar amount for either item.

As always, fresh flowers are welcome on the altar and no prior notification is necessary. Just bring in a fresh bouquet from your garden or the flower shop at any time.

Dates to Remember

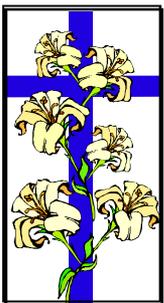
March 9th – Ooh LaLa's and the Greaser Concert at Ross High School @ 7:00 PM . Tickets cost \$10.00. See Virginia or LaVada by February 24th. You must pay at time of reservations. Anyone interested may meet at the Ross Wendy's @5:30 for dinner.

March 3rd to 17th – We are taking orders for Easter flowers. Order forms will be in the weekly bulletin or by calling the church office (863-0793) or Judy McCalley (863-3145). Flowers must be paid for at time of ordering. Please make checks payable to First St. John (Easter flowers on memo line)

March 24th – Palm Sunday

March 28th – Maundy Thursday Soup & Worship Service 6:00 PM.

We will be meeting in the PIP Dining Room on the first floor. A free will offering Soup Supper will precede worship and communion. Please make reservation by March 17th by calling the church office (863-0793) or Sally Ortolf (867-8374).





Dear St. John Church Family

What a wonderful gift!

I had wanted to attend the 175th Celebration, but it wasn't to be. Getting the program, memory book made me feel as if I was there. The memories in the book were so beautiful. I did a lot of reading again and again. Thank you so much.

Karen also delivered the Christmas cookies. They didn't last long so good

Happy New Year to all.
Marian Reed

Dear St. John Church Family

I appreciate receiving the Anniversary Book and memory glass at Christmas

The cookies are always nice to receive.

Memories of all the friends and pastors I think about.

Did you know? In 1948 there were 13 boys in confirmation class. The only time it was all boys. You make me smile.

Love and Prayers Lucile Reed

Dear Friends

Thank you very much for your generous gift of \$750 to Washington UCC. We are so grateful for your continuing support.

Our newest ministry, the Camp Community Café, is proving very popular with our needy neighborhood.

Homework Club, our after school tutoring program, is going well. And of course we continue to open Camp Cupboard and Closet.

Thank you, from Washington UCC and Rev. Pam DeFusco, for making this possible.

Sincerely, Laurel Humes, Church Council, Washington UCC

March Prayer Circle

Tim Alcorn

Eloise Andrews

Vernon Arnold

Jim Arnold

Ada Mae Begley

Mel Brown

Payton Cauchran

Linda Chalk

Roger Fox

Clay Frank

Myron Gilley

Fanny Murphy

Tamara Kirkwood
& Twins

Keith Lipphardt

Jackie McKinney

Gilda Moore

Donald Mull

Marion Reed

Dina Robertson

Joseph Selkirk

Ruth Kerby Sibert

Fred Smith

Dave Upchurch



U.S Armed

Forces &

Their

The Families of

Rachel Gonde

Leo Starr

Please leave a message for the prayer circle with Shirley. Include the following information: name of person, illness. Thanks, Shirley M. Lovely, 726-6223. Please check names carefully. If there are any names that need to be removed call Shirley .



SAMARITAN'S PURSE

A thank you note from the Samaritan's Purse International Relief organization reads in part:

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your recent gift to the ministry of Samaritan's Purse.

We are working in countries across the globe to relieve suffering, but we know that physical aid is only a temporary benefit. That is why sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ is central to everything we do. When we give a gift-filled shoe box to a child or clean out a storm-damaged home, our goal is to tell people about the living God who can save them from all of their sins and fulfill the deepest longings of their hearts.

Thank you for your gift of \$467 received on 12/21/2012.

| | |
|-------|-------------------------------|
| \$12 | Blankets and Bedding |
| \$105 | Emergency Food |
| \$100 | Clothing Needs |
| \$45 | Clean Water Projects |
| \$15 | Educational/Literacy Projects |
| \$18 | Child Feeding Projects |
| \$88 | Milk and Nutrition Projects |

First St. John is now active on Facebook for updates, conversation, feedback, pictures and general communication. Be sure to “Like” us and encourage your other FB Friends to do so. It’s just another way to stay in touch during the week.

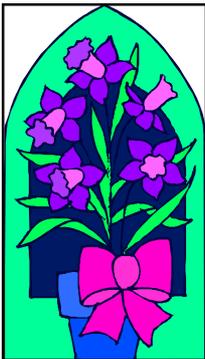


Souper Bowl Sunday Was A Winning Day



Over 250 cans of soup and related items were donated and taken to New Life Mission. The proceeds from the Chili Dog lunch (\$142.00) was an added bonus for the mission located on Henry St.

Easter Flowers



We are taking orders for Easter flowers again this year. The order and payment for the flowers must be made by March 17th.

The prices for daffodil, hyacinths, or tulips is \$9 each. The flowers must be paid for at the time they are ordered.

Please call the Church Office (863-0793) if you have questions. Order forms will be in the bulletins or on the Hospitality Table as you enter the ballroom. Also see dates to remember in this publication for some additional information.

Just Friends is sponsoring The Haven House Emergency Shelter for a Mission Project.

They will be collecting items to donate to them . Below is a summary of what the Haven House does for the men, women and children and a list

The Haven House Emergency Shelter first opened it's doors in 1982, providing homeless Men, Women & Children with a clean and comfortable place to stay. The shelter is open 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. We supply two hot meals a day with a snack for lunch and milk/formula for infants and children; we also provide necessary clothing and shoes as well as toiletry items. The Haven House not only provides the basic needs but also prides itself on helping those who are homeless establish a more secure future before leaving the shelter. Our paid trained staff work with individuals on a daily basis helping to find permanent and temporary housing as well as medical need such as: Medical Aide, Prescriptions and Eye Care. We work closely with several different agencies: The Red Cross, Salvation Army, Welfare Dept., United Way, the local Police and Sheriffs Dept., local hospitals, local churches, etc. Most of those who are willing to help themselves leave our shelter with having found employment, housing, and a future.

Paper Products:

Forks, Knives and Spoons
(plastic)
Paper Napkins
Paper Towels
Reynolds Wrap (large)
Styrofoam Plates
(sectional 8" or over)
Styrofoam Bowls
Styrofoam Cups (8oz. hot &
cold)
Toilet Paper
Ziploc Baggies

Personal Items

Baby Diapers (disposable)
Baby Wipes
Sanitary Napkins
Tampons
Bath Towels
Wash Cloths
Twin Size Sheet Sets
Pillowcases

Food:

Coffee

Kool Aid & Drink Mix

Tang

Eggs

Butter

Bacon

Hamburger

Instant Potatoes

Spaghetti Sauce

BBQ Sauce

Cream of Mushroom Soup

Cream of Chicken Soup

Tuna

Spam

Canned Meats

Canned Salmon

Milk

Cleaning Products:

Clorox Bleach

Dow Bath & Tile Cleaner

Toilet Bowl Cleaner

Oven Cleaner

Windex

Furniture Polish

Fabric Softener

Tide Detergent

Spic n Span

Comet

Haven House
Emergency Shelter
is located at 550
High St., Hamilton,
OH



March 2013

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|-----|-----|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| Sundays 9:00 Adult Class 9:15 Fellowship time 10:00 Worship | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 Ooh LaLa- Greasers 7pm |
| 10 Worship mtg. 9:20 Just Friends | 11 6:00 pm Serve City Wyatt-Turner | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 Council After Worship | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 Palm Sunday | 25 6:00 Community Meal | 26 | 27 | 28 6:00 Maundy Thurs. Supper & Service | 29 Noon Stations of the Cross | 30 |
| 31 Easter | | | | | | |

April 2013

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 Sundays 9:00 Adult Class 9:15 Fellowship time 10:00 Worship | | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 Worship team: 9:20 Just Friends: After worship | 15 6:00 Serve City | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 Council After Worship | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 Salad Lunch | 29 6:00 Community Meal | 30 | | | | |

Community Dinner Menu

| | |
|------------------|--|
| March | Chicken Potato Casserole, Salad, Bread and Brownies |
| April | Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Bread, Applesauce |
| May | Little Hot Dogs, Baked Beans, Potato Chips, Coleslaw, Brownies |
| June | Hamburgers on Buns, Potato Chips, Potato Salad, Cake |
| July | Chicken Casserole, Corn, Salad, Strawberry Shortcake |
| August | Baked Spaghetti, Salad, Garlic Bread, Applesauce |
| September | Ham, Green Beans, Potatoes, Cornbread, Sugar Cookies |
| October | Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Bread, Cake |
| November | Breakfast Casserole, Biscuits, Fruit Salad |

Our Mission:

To use our individual and congregational gifts, talents and resources to communicate the Good News of Jesus Christ, and to bring to all His word, His healing, His compassion and His forgiveness by being a warm accepting and loving faith community.

The Echo is a publication of First St. John United Church of Christ

140 Ross Ave., Hamilton, OH 45013

Worship Service: 10:00 a.m. Ballroom Second Floor

Fellowship Time: 9:15 a.m. - 9:50 a.m.

Web Page: fsjchurch.org

Office Manager: Connie Wyatt

E-Mail firststjohn@fuse.net

Thursday: 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Phone: 513-863-0793 Fax: 513-863-0871