

## Remember

**Food Drive** – With the holidays approaching and our local food pantries in need of non-perishable items, we will begin taking donations on September 23rd. There will be a box near the Welcome Table for your donations through the month of December.

**September 9<sup>th</sup>**: 9:20 - Worship Team Meeting

**September 16<sup>th</sup>**: 10:00 AM - 175th Anniversary of First St. John UCC celebration at Colligan Lodge. Reservation due September 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**September 30** after worship a brief Congregational Meeting.

### Upcoming dates to remember:

**October 28<sup>th</sup>** – Fall Potluck after church with a Pumpkin Pie Baking Contest (watch your weekly bulletin for more details)

Articles for November-December will be due

October 21rd. Put articles in the Echo box at church or email to me Eileen Fletcher.

Don't find fault with the man who limps,  
Or stumbles along life's road,  
Unless you have worn the shoes he wears,  
Or struggled beneath his load.

There may be tacks in his shoes that hurt,  
Though hidden away from our view;  
The burden he bears, if placed on your back,  
Might cause you to stumble too.

Don't be too hard on the man who errs.  
Or pelt him wood or stone,  
Unless you are sure —— Yea, doubly sure,  
That you have no fault of your own.

Often when we lose hope and think this is the end,  
God smiles from above and says, "Relax, sweetheart,  
it's just a bend, not the end!"

On Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate First St John's 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The theme of the celebration is "**Celebrating the 175 years of History of First St John Members**". The celebration will be held at Veteran's Lodge on New London Road. Valet parking will be provided. A special anniversary celebration service will start at 10:00 am, during which communion will be served.

Immediately after the service, a member recognition event will be held. Prizes will be given for oldest member, the member with the most family members present, and other achievements. Also, the winners of the baby picture contest will be announced. The two winners will be the member who correctly identifies the most babies and the "baby" who the least number of people guess his/ her identity. Prizes will be gift certificates to area restaurants and grocery stores.

At 11:30, a catered dinner will be served with anniversary cake as dessert. Pictures and items from our history will be on display. Everyone attending will receive a souvenir of the event, along with a 175th Anniversary Booklet for each family.

If you have not returned your reservation, please complete the reservation and return as soon as possible. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact one of the members of the anniversary committee. Thank you.

# Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering

The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive on October 7<sup>th</sup>, supports the UCC ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through [UCCTakeAction.org](http://UCCTakeAction.org), our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.



Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hocak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

# The Open Door Pantry Special Offering

The Open Door Pantry has been providing needy families in the Butler County area food in addition to clothing and other personal and household items since February 2, 1981. An average of 1,800 people per month receive help.



Services are provided without regard to race, creed, or national origin. Criteria must be met for eligibility for emergency assistance. Eligibility is based on income. The Open Door Pantry is located at 800 South Front Street in Hamilton's Second Ward. The Open Door Pantry is a non-profit agency which is operated by a local Board of Directors. They are funded entirely by donations and are not a United Way supported agency. In honor of First St John's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary the offering for September 16<sup>th</sup> will be donated to Open Door Pantry. To make additional contributions on September

A few folks from FSJ helped for a second year at Operation Serve on Aug. 19. The block party/outreach is sponsored by Princeton Pike Church of God and Power Source. This year it was held on Bailey Square on a beautiful summer evening.

Hotdogs, snow cones, games, music, face painting and family pictures preceded the door prizes. More pictures can be found on the Photo Gallery page of our website [www.fsjchurch.org](http://www.fsjchurch.org)

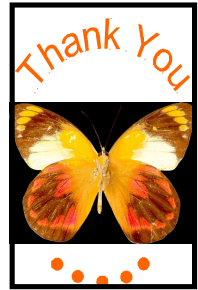


Thank You for the Echo

I am always so pleased to receive it and read what is happening at Church.

It amazes me so many doing so much to help First St John UCC keep going on. I thank each and every one for helping

Love and Prayers, Lucile Reed



First St. John (or My Church Family)

Thank you so much for my graduation gift! It means a lot to me. The money will help me pay for dorm expenses.

Again, Thanks, Taylor Sullivan

Dear Resource and Assets Committee and Members of First St John

Thank you so much for the grant for the fall semester 2012. This will help pay for a class in my masters program that will help me further my career. Thank you for your support and love as I continue my journey toward receiving my master's degree in Teacher Education/ curriculum. Jennifer Rowe

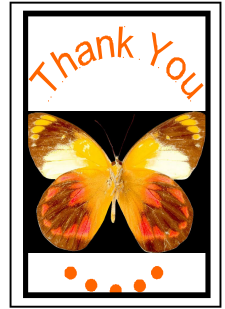
Dear Resource and Assets Committee and Members of First St John

Thank you so much for the grant for the fall semester 2012. This will help me purchase books, and other necessary items to complete this term. Next year I will be student teaching which means I have almost completed my program! Thank you for being a constant support in my college career.

Sincerely, Erin Rowe

First St John United Church of Christ

Thank you so much for your church's very generous donation of \$1,000 to the work of Supports to Encourage Low-Income Families (SELF).



SELF is dedicated to assisting low-income families and individuals in overcoming barriers to self-sufficiency through employment and education. We appreciate your generous contribution, as we know that every donation helps us to have a positive impact on a low-income Butler County family.

On behalf of the entire staff and Board of Directors of SELF, I thank you again for your support.

Happy Stitchers of First St. John UCC

Thank you for the wonderful handmade quilts and pillowcases you made for the children in our hospital. They are beautiful and the children and their families will love them!

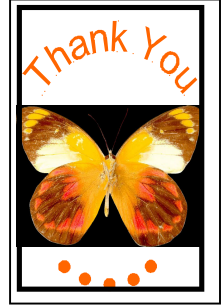
Thank you for all your hard work and your ongoing support of Cincinnati Children's Hospital.

Sincerely,

Rose Lytle

To Our Friends at First St. John UCC!

Thank you for being the blessing you are  
to all who know you.



The Nexus United church of Christ    Covenant  
Council.

Dear Friends of First St John

The strength of Partners in Prime is reflected in  
people like you who care. Not because you have  
to, but because you want to.

We all have lots of choices for our philanthropic dol-  
lars. The fact you've included Partners in Prine as  
one of your philanthropic choices tells me a lot.  
Your gift of \$1,000 in support of our Partners in  
Prime transportation campaign helps sustain our



## September

3 SallyOtolf  
4 Johnnie Sullivan  
18 Ruth Brown  
22 Elva Koehler  
23 Susan Hoppe



## October

8 Annette Sullivan  
Eloise Andrews  
14 Judy McCalley  
15 Jeff Sullivan  
23 Lucas Robertson

### ***Sept.-Oct. Prayer Circle***

Karen Alfrey  
Eloise Andrews  
Vernon Arnold  
Jim Arnold  
Ada Mae Begley  
Debbie\_Briscoe  
Mel Brown  
Levi & Kay Bowling  
Payton Cauchran  
Linda Chalk

Vicki Howard  
Roger Hornsby  
Judy Huff  
Marilyn Jeffers  
Alex Kip  
Tamara Kirkwood  
& Twins  
Keith Lipphardt  
Jackie McKinney  
Donald Mull



U.S Armed  
Forces &  
Their

**The Family of**  
Raymond Van  
Doren

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

# September 2012

| Sun  | Mon                                | Tue                         | Wed                              | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
|  |                                    |                             |                                  |     |     | 1   |
| 2<br>10:00<br>Worship  | 3                                  | 4                           | 5<br>9:00<br>Happy<br>Stitchers  | 6   | 7   | 8   |
| 9<br>9:00 Adult<br>Class<br>9:20 Wor-<br>ship Team<br>10:00<br>Worship | 10<br>6:00 Serve<br>City<br>Ortolf | 11<br>5:30<br>R & A<br>Team | 12<br>9:00<br>Happy<br>Stitchers | 13  | 14  | 15  |
| 16<br>10:00<br>Worship<br><b>175th<br/>Celebra-<br/>tion</b>           | 17                                 | 18<br>6:30<br>Council       | 19<br>9:00<br>Happy<br>Stitchers | 20  | 21  | 22  |
| 23<br>9:00 Adult<br>Class<br>10:00<br>Worship                          | 24<br>6:00<br>Community<br>Meal    | 25                          | 26<br>9:00<br>Happy<br>Stitchers | 27  | 28  | 29  |
| 30<br>9:00 Adult Class<br>10:00 Worship<br>Brief Congregational        |                                    |                             |                                  |     |     |     |

# October 2012

| Sun  | Mon   | Tue                      | Wed                              | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| <b>Begin<br/>Food<br/>Pantry<br/>Collection</b>                      | 1   | 2                        | 3<br>9:00<br>Happy<br>Stitchers  | 4   | 5   | 6   |
| 7<br>9:00 Adult<br>Class<br>10:00<br>Worship<br>Neighbors<br>in Need | 8<br>6:00<br>Serve<br>City<br>Wilson &<br>Burnett | 9<br>5:30 pm<br>R & A    | 10<br>9:00<br>Happy<br>Stitchers | 11  | 12  | 13  |
| 14<br>9:00 Adult<br>Class<br>10:00<br>Worship                        | 15  | 16<br>6:30 pm<br>Council | 17<br>9:00<br>Happy<br>Stitchers | 18  | 19  | 20  |
| 21<br>9:00 Adult<br>Class<br>10:00<br>Worship                        | 22  | 23                       | 24<br>9:00<br>Happy<br>Stitchers | 25  | 26  | 27  |
| 28<br>9:00 Adult<br>Class<br>10:00<br>Worship                        | 29<br>6:00<br>Commu-<br>nity Meal                 | 30                       | 31<br>9:00<br>Happy<br>Stitchers |     |     |     |

## Community Meal Menu

September, 2012 Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Bread,  
Applesauce

October, 2012 Chili, Cheese & Crackers, Grilled Cheese Sandwiches,  
Salad, Halloween Cookies

November, 2012 Ham, Mac & Cheese, Bread, Green Beans, Pumpkin  
Cake

December, 2012 the crew is off.

January, 2013 Vegetable Soup, Corn Bread, Grilled Cheese Sandwiches,  
Jello Cake

February, 2013 Waffles, Eggs, Sausage, Fruit Cocktail

March, 2013 Chicken-Potato Casserole, Salad, Bread, Brownies

April, 2013 Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Bread, Applesauce

May, 2013 Little Hot Dogs, Baked Beans, Potato Chips, Coleslaw, Brownies

### 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: 11:00-11:30

Web Page: [fsjchurch.org](http://fsjchurch.org)

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

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