



Welcome Home

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

• 2026 •

Dear Confirmands,



Congratulations on your graduation from our 4-month, brief—not boring—confirmation class!

We learned about the United Church of Christ's history, doctrine, and polity. We learned that four churches became two churches and then became one united church. We learned that the UCC Statement of Faith is not a test of faith, but a testimony of our faith. We learned about the history and origins of St. John's. We were originally a German-Evangelical, immigrant faith community. St. John's is a 188-year-old church and counting! We learned about the sacraments of communion and baptism, which are a means of connecting with God, a means of identity, and they are spiritual practices that are passed down through the generations. We learned about Sikh faith community, and we learned to find similarities and differences to our own church, for we are more alike than we are different.

To top it off, we sprinkled in some graduate school lessons. First, we learned about social location, the unique factors that make up who we are, as individuals. Depending on a person's social location, it will impact their perspectives about God and impact how one navigates in the world. Second, we learned about *ubuntu*, the South African philosophy that we are all inter-connected, and my humanity is tied up with yours: "I am because we are." So, our faith requires action. Even in a small town, we can make a mighty difference in our community.

Thank you for being diligent, thoughtful students. Your competitive spirit during our Quiz for Prizes was exciting and inspiring to see!

Now, you have finished the course and have been confirmed into the church. You are full members of St. John's! (Not junior members.) You can get involved and be a part of different committees. You can join the leadership team! St. John's desperately needs your voice and input. It is no secret that my generation, Millennials, and your generation, Gen Z, don't come to church on Sunday mornings. We need your help to reach your generation. Tell us what is working, and what is not. Tell us how the church can: change, adapt, and be relevant. How can we best support the youth of our community? **We do not only want to be the church of today, but the church of tomorrow: not just as a historical landmark, but a place that ministers to people of all generations.**



"I am because we are."

— Ubuntu



— 2026 CONFIRMATION CLASS —



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**St. John's
United Church of Christ**

409 North Wooster Avenue
Dover, OH 44622

Rev. Dr. Cassandra Granados
Senior Minister

Natalie Peterman
Director of Christian Education

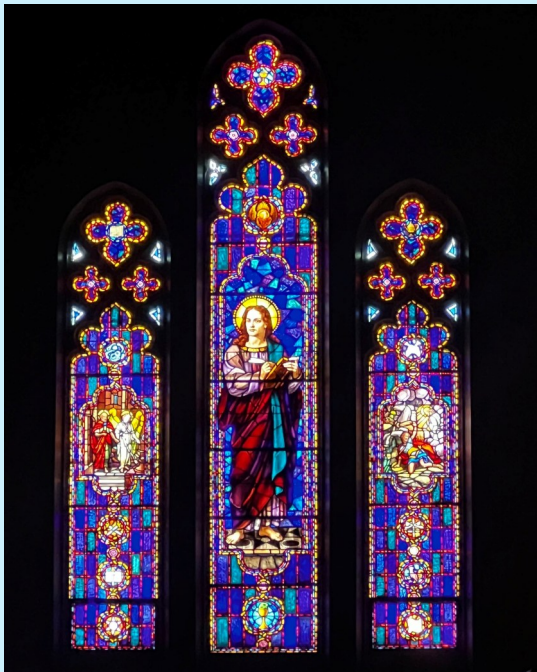
Emaly Smallcombe
Administrative Assistant

Sunday Morning Schedule
10:30 AM Worship

Church Office Hours
Monday, Wednesday and Friday
10AM - 2 PM

330-364-4458
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Website: <http://doverstjohns.org>

E-mail Addresses:
natalie@doverstjohns.org
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THE CARILLON

When I think of confirmation, I think of the Day of Pentecost. It is a day that we remember that the church is not dead, but it is alive. Even more, the early church in the Book of Acts was not just alive, but they were thriving.



On the Day of Pentecost, in Acts 2:1–18, Peter preaches to the people and explains what is happening, when God's spirit is poured out on the disciples. He cites Joel's prophecy, "*In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.*" The promise of Pentecost is that God's Spirit is poured out on everyone, regardless of age, gender, or class. No one holds a corner market on the Holy Spirit. No one is the powerbroker for the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is poured out on everyone!

It was an honor to read through your final Faith Statement projects. Whether it was a sermon, slide, poster, or decorated baseball, you worked hard on them. Your voice may be young, but it is important and needed. Your words reflect wisdom beyond your years. Your words reflect hope, pain, resilience, and aspiration for the future. Your faith is beautiful, and today, we celebrate and confirm that faith.

Confirmation is not the end of your faith journey, but it is just the beginning. As full members of St. John's, you are a part of our faith community, and sometimes, we must get creative.



When I was pastoring in New York, the church had a chicken barbeque, every year. I realized that everyone always had a job to do. The guys were grilling; the church ladies were serving the sides. However, I did not know where I fit into the mix. Sometimes, in church, you may feel that way. You may ask yourself, "**Where is my place? What is my purpose? How can I help the cause?**"

Well, guess what I did! I decided to attract customers to our church's chicken barbeque. I needed to think of something original, creative, and eye-catching. So, I made the executive decision as the pastor...to put on a cow costume, put a pastor's stole on, and hold a sign that said "Holy Cow! That's some great barbeque." You better believe, it was eye-catching from the side of the road.



Here is some wisdom for you:
When you can't find your place, create it!
Find your niche. Create a place. Get creative.

Lastly, I want to give you some advice. In this church, in your career, and in your life, there will be times when you are exhausted. There will be times, you will be scared to speak up. There will be times, you will be timid to take that next step. In those moments, do this! **Pray and ask God to help you!** For the first disciples, in the book of Acts, God came to their aid. God filled them up with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. That last phrase is very important: "as the Spirit gave them ability." The Holy Spirit empowered them, and the Holy Spirit empowers and helps us do things that we cannot do on our own.

God's Holy Spirit will go with you, beyond these church walls.

God's Holy Spirit will be with you, wherever your life will take you.

God's Holy Spirit will empower you to do great and mighty things.

Confirmants, I am so proud of you! Thank you for all the stuff you have done, and will do in this church, in your schools, and in your careers.

With love,
Pastor Cassandra



THE CARILLON

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Ronald & Marlene Tschudy	2	3	4 	5	6
7 	8 	9 Andrew & Megan Floor	10	11	12	13
14 Douglas & Cindy Peterman	15 Michael & Robin Griesen	16 Richard & Jeanne Baker Kirk & Debra Haglock	17 Corey & Laurie Hall	18	19 Dave & Jane Gingrich Michael & Jill Lengler	20 John & Linda Marks Daniel & Pam Minnis
21 Jerry & Karen Garretil Dan & Nancy Hurst William & Maggie Lebold Mark & Cynthia Perry	22	23	24 Dan & Kay Mattevi	25 Eddie & Debbie Cook Jason & Kelly Hall Van & Sheila Harmon	26	27 Robert & Kathleen Baker Clint & Stacey Maurer
28	29	30				



THE CARILLON

June

BIRTHDAYS



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				4 Donald Dummermuth Zoey McCulloch Amelia Page Shari Schumacher	5 John Bitikofer	6 Robert Baker
7	8 Madison Cooper Zachary Cooper	9	10 Linda Schilling	11 Alicia Gump Ayden Hall	12 Patricia Feutz	13
14 James Leggett Beth Showers	15 Kathy Marburger Paula Worth	16 Julie Leggett	17	18 Maggie Lebold Sean Mercer	19 Belinda Lentz	20 John Feutz
21 Kirk Patterson	22 Greg Bair Dan Burrier	23 Sue Ferbach Evan Klar Reese Klar	24 Michael Lengler June Wright	25 	26	27 Rose Burrier-Baxter
28 	29	30 Jerry Gartrell	<i>Celebrating You!</i> WE HOPE YOUR DAY IS AS SPECIAL AS YOU ARE!			

St. John's UCC Church Council Meeting May 12, 2026 at 7:30 pm

President Dave Gingrich called the meeting to order and lit the Christ Candle at 7:30pm with 14 members present.

Reverend Cassandra Granados gave the opening prayer.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as submitted.

Adam Herman gave the Treasurer's Report:

General Fund income for the month was \$14,228
Expenses for the month were \$32,757
The resulting shortfall for the month was \$18,529

April Financial Report

Actual Income \$27,138

Actual Expenses \$36,374

Average Worship
Attendance 97

M/S/C by Dan Dummermuth and Dan Hurst to approve the finance report

Pastor Cassandra reported the following:

The Pet Blessing Service was held on Sunday, April 26 and was a meaningful event for all involved.

There were two families from St. John's PreK who attended in addition to our regular members.

On April 21, Pastor Cassandra presented a lesson to the PreK classes on saying "thank you" from Luke 17:11-19, the story of Jesus healing the men with leprosy.

A special liturgy and bulletin cover was prepared for Confirmation Sunday. The design included a sampling of the confirmands' faith statements.

Natalie Peterman reported on the Christian Education & Family Ministry programs:

Follow Me theme for May is "Seeds of Growth" based on the Gospel of Matthew.

Youth Group activities are wrapping up during May with one more get-together. It has been a great year of connection, service and relationship building for our youth.

Bible Study continues to go very well with a group of eight regular participants meeting bi-weekly at Fourth & Faith. The group is open to all who wish to attend to learn together through discussion, reflection and conversation. For the summer months the group will be meeting once per month.

Summer Program for young children is being planned with a theme of WonderLab – a faith-based camp with a science theme featuring experiments, activities and hands-on learning. It will be a three-day event with dates to be announced shortly.

Parish Visitors ministry continues to grow on the volunteer side with 3 new participants. Parish Visitor bags are available for pickup in the church office.

The **Confirmation Program** was a great experience both personally & professionally. We saw growth in faith, confidence and friendships among the 15 youth. Fourteen members of the class were confirmed on Sunday, May 3 and one additional member of the class will be confirmed at a future date due to a scheduling conflict. The confirmands' faith statements are on display in the lounge by the sanctuary for the month of May.

New Ministry Ideas are being considered with the Milestone Ministry program being considered as a potential area for growth for our church. This would help us intentionally recognize and celebrate important faith and life moments for all members of our church family.

Professional Development includes participating in an online workshop through the Healthy Church Summit called "Leading for the Long Haul".

Dan Hurst reported for the Elders:

We will be recognizing high school & college graduates on Sunday, May 31
Scholarship awards will be presented on Sunday, May 31 to high school graduates and returning college students.

Please inform the office of any graduating students.

The Elders are planning the summer worship schedule to continue at 10:30am

Subsequent note: we will be conducting an all-church survey for preferred time of summer worship.

Tony Bailey suggested that we give building tours to any new members.

Dan Dummermuth reported for the Trustees:

The new AC system has been serviced and church staff trained on start-up procedures to maintain cooling in the sanctuary building.

Paul Giannobile has arranged for the front steps of the sanctuary to be repaired with new caulking.

The plans for rearranging the sanctuary pews will start over the summer months and will be handled in multiple phases. The first change will be to remove the first pew on each side and move the front rail back to provide improved access in the front area of the sanctuary. Matching carpet will be installed in the area opened up to provide a continuous look and eliminate any uneven surfaces that could be a trip hazard. Further changes include providing new spaces for wheelchairs or strollers in the sanctuary. The Trustees are asking for input from the congregation about this issue.

Jen Conkle reported for the Deacons:

Ushers and communion servers for the month of May have been secured.

Reports of Committees:

Search Committee – the committee has completed the church profile, and it is ready to be presented to the Living Water Association for their review. In the meantime, an internal candidate approached the committee for consideration. Our own Natalie Peterman has expressed a desire to expand her role at St. John's. The combined Search Committee and Elders groups will be meeting with Natalie to discuss this opportunity.

Upcoming activities include:

Card Party at Fourth & Faith – May 13 (2nd Wed monthly) – benefit Cancer Bags

Graduation / Scholarship Sunday – May 31

Bad Girls Book Club – May 18 (2nd Monday monthly)

Bible Study – Tuesday, June 2 at Mission Café (meeting monthly for the summer)

Chair Yoga – Mon & Thur at Fourth & Faith

FLOCK Summer Lunch Program – Mondays through the summer on the front lawn.

Chocolate Walk; St. John's Station – Saturday, June 13 in the Narthex

Praise in the Park Summer Worship – in discussion for July

Unfinished Business

Emaly is back in the church office after her maternity leave. Her schedule for the summer will be 10am – 2pm Monday, Wednesday & Friday.

We are seeking candidates to cover the office on Tuesday & Thursday

Thank you to Karen McIlvaine for leading the office during Emaly's leave

New Business

None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 with the Lord's Prayer.



Connecting Our Congregation Elder of the Month

To better serve our congregation, we now provide the contact information for the Elder of the Month.

This gives you an extra person to reach out to, alongside Rev. Cassandra, if you ever have a personal or family emergency.

Tim McCrate – 330-243-3561
2009 Tremont Street
Dover, OH 44622



Family Members in Nursing Homes

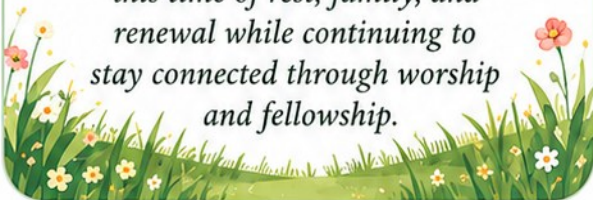
Park Village - Linda Schilling
Park Village Independent Living - Jim Cotton
Park Village New Phila - Don Page
Park Village New Phila - Carol Sue Keener
Inn at Northwood - Norma Haglock
New Dawn Assisted Living - Clara Struhar
Canton Christian Home - Dotty Hartzell
Hennis - Bob Baker



Summer Blessings

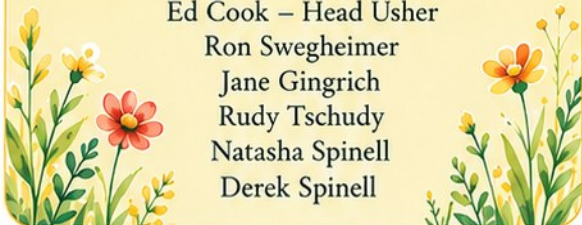
As summer begins, many of our regular church groups and activities will be taking a short break for the season.

We encourage everyone to enjoy this time of rest, family, and renewal while continuing to stay connected through worship and fellowship.



Ushers for June

Ed Cook – Head Usher
Ron Swegheimer
Jane Gingrich
Rudy Tschudy
Natasha Spinell
Derek Spinell



Card Party!



JOIN US!

JUNE 10TH

1-4 PM

at
Fourth & Faith

\$10 Includes Food!

“ Their quiet acts of service make a big difference— offering hospitality, guidance, and care to everyone who walks through our doors. ”



Word Search

PRAYER
 LOVE
 HOPE

GRACE
 PEACE
 JOY

FAITH
 BIBLE
 TRUST

JESUS
 CHURCH
 PRAISE

Find these
words
hidden in
the puzzle!

P	R	A	Y	E	R	T	H	O	P	E
L	O	V	E	F	A	I	T	H	J	O
B	I	B	L	E	P	E	A	C	E	Y
C	H	U	R	C	H	G	R	A	C	E
T	R	U	S	T	P	R	A	I	S	E
J	E	S	U	S	L	O	V	E	H	P
A	F	A	I	T	H	B	I	B	L	E
O	P	E	A	C	E	T	R	U	S	T
Y	G	R	A	C	E	H	O	P	E	R
P	R	A	I	S	E	J	O	Y	L	A



*Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.*

Psalm 119:105

Office of Christian Education

Growing faith, building community and welcoming all!

Mustard Seeds & Milestones

As we move into June, we find ourselves standing in a season filled with endings and beginnings. Caps and gowns, award ceremonies, final exams, summer plans and celebrations remind us that growth is happening all around us. Whether it's a child finishing another year of school, a student graduating, a family reaching a new chapter or even our church continuing to grow, this time of year invites us to pause and reflect.

Growth rarely happens all at once. Most of the time, it happens slowly, through normal days, challenges, lessons learned, mistakes made and moments where we keep going even when things are tough. Just like a seed planted in the ground, growth takes patience, care and faith. There are seasons of blooming and seasons of waiting, but God continues to work in all of them.

This spring, our children and youth focused on the theme "Seeds of Faith," along with Bible verses: Matthew 13:31-32, reminding us that even the smallest acts of kindness, courage, love and faith can grow into something much BIGGER than we could imagine. Sometimes we do not immediately see the impact of the seeds we plant, in ourselves, our families, our church or our community, but God continues to nurture growth in ways we cannot always see.

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree."

Matthew 13:31-32

Even the smallest seeds can grow into something far greater than we imagined. As we move into this new season, may we continue growing in faith, compassion and courage, trusting that God is at work in our lives.

Blessings,

Natalie

Celebrating Our Seniors



This month, we celebrate and congratulate our graduating high school seniors. What makes this group especially meaningful is that every one of them has been part of the life of our church since their early elementary years. We have watched them grow from little kids in Sunday School and children's programs into thoughtful, talented and caring young adults.



Over the years, they have filled our rooms, hallways and sanctuary with laughter, questions, music, service, friendships and faith. They have participated in youth group, church events, worship services, mission projects and so many moments that helped shape the life of our congregation.



While graduation marks the end of one chapter, it is also the beginning of another. As they step into new opportunities, colleges, careers and adventures, we pray they carry with them the love and support of this church family and the reminder that God walks beside them wherever they go.



Congratulations, Class of 2026

We are so proud of you and grateful to be a part of your journey.



Interested in becoming a Parish Visitor?

There are flexible ways to help care for our church community, including writing cards, making phone calls or participating in occasional home visits. Whether you have a little time or a lot, there's a place for you to help!

Contact Natalie or the church office for more information.



JUNE



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 11:30 AM Bible Study	3	4	5	6
7 9:00 Adult Contemporary Class 10:30 Worship Communion	8 10-1 FLOCK 7 PM Boy Scouts 7 PM Al-Anon & Alateen	9 6:30 PM Elders / Trustees Deacons 7:30 PM Council Mtg	10 Card Party 1-4 F&F	11	12	13 Chocolate Walk 5—7:30 
14 9:00 Adult Contemporary Class 10:30 Worship 	15 10-1 FLOCK 7 PM Boy Scouts 7 PM Al-Anon & Alateen	16	17	18	19 	20
21 9:00 Adult Contemporary Class 10:30 Worship Happy First Day of Summer!	22 10-1 FLOCK 7 PM Boy Scouts 7 PM Al-Anon & Alateen	23	24	25	26	27
28 9:00 Adult Contemporary Class 10:30 Worship 	29 10-1 FLOCK 7 PM Boy Scouts 7 PM Al-Anon & Alateen	30				