



Pastor's Desk

You are Missed (Luke 15:1-10)

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Sometimes, when we look at different generations, we may think to ourselves, "Boy, I just don't understand this generation." While there may be a lot that separates us from each other, there is something that we all have in common. No matter if we are 18 or 80. No matter if we are 5 or 55. We all have this one thing in common: **we all crave human connection.** From the depths of our souls, we want to know that someone is there and cares.

Some may say, "I just don't understand people today. Looking down and always on their phones." However, I would say that those phones are just tools for finding human connection. Many times, when we are on our phones, we are text messaging our friends and family or looking to see what they are doing on social media. Depending on what is happening, we are reacting somehow or commenting on their posts. It is estimated that there are over 7 billion people that have cell phones today, which is an unbelievable number. Our world today uses those small devices as a way of finding and fostering human connection.

Another way that we find human connection is through greeting cards. There is something exciting and special about trucking it out to the mailbox and finding a card from a friend or family member. That simple act of receiving a card lets you know that someone cares. Whether you are celebrating a birthday, getting over a cold, or mourning the loss of a loved one, that humble piece of paper folded in half with some writing on it means so much, more than what it may appear. In the end, it does not matter if we are using Instagram or old-fashioned telegrams, both are ways in which we find human connection.

Our gospel reading touches on this key desire for human connection. Deep down, one of our greatest fears is feeling alone, unloved, and forgotten. Luke 15:1-10 speaks to that fear and gives us hope. Through these parables, we find out how much God cares for us. We are not just a nameless and faceless vast creation of 8 billion people that God looks down at. Instead, we see that God cares for us as individuals, who have a name, face, and our own unique story.



**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

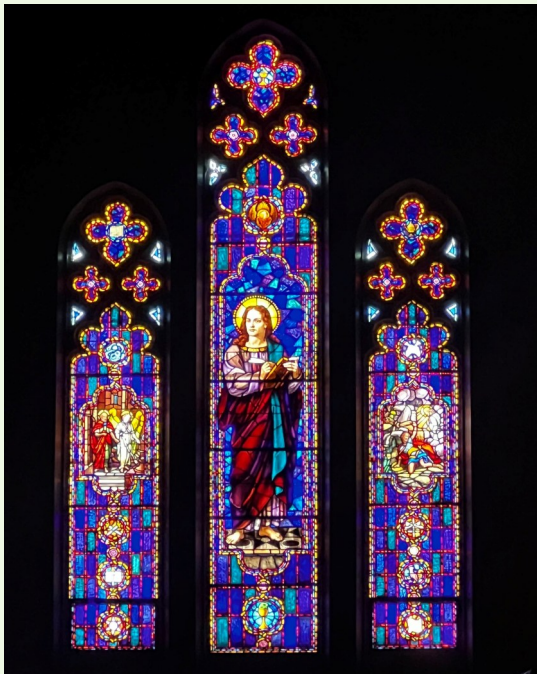
Emaly Smallcombe
Administrative Assistant

Sunday Morning Schedule
10:30 AM Worship

Church Office Hours
Monday through Friday
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM
Telephone answers
24 hours a day
330-364-4458

Fax: 330-364-4459
Website: <http://doverstjohns.org>

E-mail Addresses:
natalie@doverstjohns.org
office@doverstjohns.org



We see the depths of God's love, which defies logic at times. God loves us like a shepherd, who is willing to risk his career and livelihood, for that shepherd left all 99 sheep, just to find that one that wandered away. **God also loves us, like a determined woman on a mission.** For that woman tore her whole house, upside down and inside out just to find one coin. She lit the place all up. She swept until she could not sweep anymore, and she combed through everything, just to find one coin. Even though, she already had 9 other coins. These parables remind us that if we are misplaced, lost, or wander off, we are not forgotten, but we are missed.

Some may be mourning that summer is slipping away, as we start transitioning into fall. Starbucks has already declared it to be fall with the massive amount of Pumpkin Spice that they are selling now. While some may be sad about summer ending, I am excited for the fall. I am excited for everyone returning from their vacations and summer travel because when you are not here at the church, the church is not the same when you are gone. I miss you. At some churches, you may feel like a nameless, faceless person in the crowd, but not here at St. John's. **We are more than a faith community...we are a family that needs each other.**

We need everyone's laughs and big hugs.
We need everyone's heart to volunteer and passion for fixing things around the church.
We need everyone's singing, great reflections, and corny jokes.

All this to say, when one of you is not here, our church service and fellowship is not the same. There is a void, like something is greatly missing. I know, I am not the only one who feels this way. For when your friend or loved one, who normally sits with you is not here, the church service is not the same.

I have a request for you. While I try to reach out when someone is gone, I sometimes miss folks, like a coin that slips through the cracks. I need your help in reaching out to our church family. If you see that someone has not been here for a while, reach out to them. It's not just one person's job, it's the responsibility of us all, as a church family.

Let us cultivate the human connection that we all need. Let them know that you are there and care. You can make this connection via text message, phone call, greeting card, or talking face-to-face.

Because God cares so much for us, let us care for one another.

Pastor Cassandra

THE CARILLON

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



1
Tiffany Bowman

2
Shelly Beitzel
Jill Conner
Davis Conner
Trevor Klar

3
Samantha Burnworth
Fawn Lahm
Daniel Minnis
David Warther III

4
Betty Davidson
Steven Frum
Bo McCaslin

5
Marilyn Brown
Gabrielle-Alexis Hall
Benjamin Kelley
Alec Sayre

6
Shelley Becker
Jaclyn Dummermuth
Richard Jenkins
Marcia Lukens

8
Lindsey Wallick

10
Carson Engle
Joey Warner

12
Grace Haglock

13
Aidan Drobney

14
Tucker McCabe

15
Joyce Dummermuth
Camryn Hurst

16
James Cua

18
David Sickinger

20
Jim Cotton
Madilyn Kelly
Joshua Klar

21
Hunter Abbuhl
Zayn McCulloch

22
Amara Rossiter

25
Mary Jo Jones
Rian Lorenz
Kaelli Whitlach

26
Mason Armstrong
Turner Engle
Debra Haglock

28
Dave McGrath
John Wright

29
Shawn Hart
Kaitlyn Hughes
Olivia Stuart

30
Carol McCutcheon

31
Viviana Capozella
Constance Eckhardt
Judy Menges

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

4
John & Kathy
Deitrick

8
Michael & Lori
Phillips

10
Dale & Lee Ann
Miller

11
David & Paula
Sickinger

15
Jared & Samantha
Burnworth

20
Brian & Marsha
Whitlach

24
Todd & Lindsay
Wallick



FOR THIS REASON
a Man
WILL LEAVE HIS
FATHER AND MOTHER
AND BE UNITED TO
his Wife,
AND THEY WILL
BECOME ONE FLESH.
GENESIS 2:24

DOVERSTJOHNS.ORG/YOUTH

GO, FIGHT, WIN!

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: if either of them falls down, one can help the other up." Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

As autumn settles in, our October theme is all about Team Spirit. Just as athletes depend on their teammates to win the game, we as people of faith depend on one another to grow stronger in our walk with God. The Bible reminds us that we are not meant to go through life alone. Together we can encourage, support and lift each other up when the journey gets hard.

At St. John's, we believe that living in community is one of the greatest gifts of the Christian life. Whether you are young or old, on the field or cheering from the sidelines, each of us has an important role to play on God's team. When we show up with our talents, our love and our willingness to serve, we make the whole body of Christ stronger.

We invite you to join us for our next Family Sunday on October 5th as we celebrate this "Team Spirit" theme. Everyone is encouraged to wear a favorite team jersey, any sport, any level, any team! Just like a team cheer reminds us to "Go, Fight, Win," may we go forward together in faith, fight for what is good and just and rejoice in the victory we already share through Christ.

Looking ahead, mark your calendars for Sunday, November 2nd when we will gather again for a Family Sunday, Grateful Together, a special time to celebrate thankfulness as God's family.

Walking together in faith,
Your Youth & Family Ministry Team



DOVER ST. JOHN'S UCC

Additional Family Events:

OCTOBER

Trunk or Treat: Join us for a fun, family-friendly evening of costumes, decorated trunks, and lots of candy. All are welcome! Stay tuned for a date.

NOVEMBER

Sunday the 30th - Advent Festival: It's the start of Advent! We will have a family luncheon following worship and window painting for all ages!

DECEMBER

Saturday the 20th & Sunday the 21st - Youth Live Nativity: Celebrate the season as our youth bring the Christmas story to life through a live nativity with costumes, scripture, and the joy of Jesus' birth. * 7:00PM * 7:30PM * 8:00PM * 8:30PM *

September Family Sunday



Family Fellowship



Backpack Blessing service



St. John's UCC Church Council Meeting September 9, 2025 at 7:30 pm

St. Johns United Church of Christ Council Meeting Minutes September 9, 2025 – 7:30 p.m.

Opening Prayer: Dave Gingrich opened the meeting and Reverend Cassandra Granados gave the opening prayer. There were 10 members present.

Minutes of Last Meeting: Approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Reported by Holly Gonter

Month of August 2025

General fund income for the month of \$26,142 is \$2,034 better than budget.

Expenses for the month of \$28,976 were under the budget by \$7,314.

Resulting shortfall for the month of \$2,834 is \$9,348 better than the budget.

August 2025 YTD

General fund income year-to-date of \$164,221 is **\$30,943 less than the budget.**

Compared to last year, through the same month (center column) **income is lower by \$33,822.**

Expenses year-to-date of \$254,165 were less than budget by \$18,093.

Note: Budget includes \$9,000 per month for an Associate Minister beginning with July

Resulting shortfall year-to-date of \$89,945 is \$12,851 worse than the budget.

Cash

Beginning cash balance for the year was \$25,146 and ending cash is \$9,957.

We have transferred \$77,646 from investments to cover general fund expenses.

M/S/C by Sue Ferbrache and Bev Smith

Senior Minister's Report

Reverend Cassandra's report stated:

PAST EVENTS:

Cassandra officiated a graveside service for Eva Haines, which included songs, poems, and reflection with family.

On August 20th, Cassandra and Emaly Smallcombe attended Kingdom Coalition's August meeting, which is an ecumenical group of ministers in Tuscarawas County. The monthly meeting is an excellent opportunity for Cassandra to connect with local churches in our area.

On September 7th, we had a Blessing of the Backpacks service. Cassandra created a custom bulletin with homemade liturgy. She received positive feedback, particularly the "Litany of Difficulties" resonated with folks. Special thanks to Natalie Peterman for her help preparing the service.

PASTORAL CARE:

Church members: 3 office visits, 4 phone check-ins

UPCOMING EVENTS:

On September 14, we will be having an infant baptism for Vivian Luecke, who is the grandchild of Mary Jo Baker and the great grandchild of Rita and Ernest Baker. Parents Nicole and Joel Luecke.

Director of CE Report

Nursery has been cleaned and renovated.

Reports of the Boards

Elders

- * Sue Ferbrache reported that one of the communion chalice cups base has separated; we're looking for someone to repair it.
- * Bible Study interest survey is being sent out.
- * We'd like to encourage members to sign in to the friendship registry; the information will be used.
- * A \$200 donation to the Exchange Club spaghetti dinner was approved.

August Financial Report

Actual Income \$26,142

Actual Expenses \$28,976

Average Worship
Attendance
73

Trustees

Dan Dummermuth reported:

- 2 air conditioners for downstairs preschool were installed
- Ben Hughes completed painting at Fourth and Faith.
- Caulking quotes for around windows in Ed building received; trustees are recommending the work be done soon. 1st – Dan Dummermuth 2nd – Rob Gump
- Downspouts in corner of library/sanctuary parts came in.

Deacons

Jen Conkle reported ushers and communion servers are filled for October.

Reports of Committees

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Dave Gingrich discussed next year's budget timetable required to be in time requirements to be presented to the congregation.

Congregational Activities

- Card party at Fourth & Faith – September 10th (2nd Wed monthly) – benefits cancer bags
- Family Sunday – 1st Sunday of each month with season theme: Sunday School lesson; Fellowship; Attend worship together
- Adult contemporary Sunday School – Sundays at 9 am
- Bad girls book club – 2nd Monday monthly
- Chair yoga – Monday and Thursdays at Fourth and Faith
- Craft Show – Sat, Nov 1st at Fourth and Faith – benefits blessing box; baked goods needed
- Vintage car tour dinner Sunday and Thursday; \$600 donation given to church.

Unfinished Business – n/a

New Business – n/a

Comments for the Good of St Johns - none

Closing with the Lord's Prayer

UPCOMING EVENTS

ST. JOHN'S UCC

ATTENTION Bakers



Bake Sale Help Needed!
Our bake sale is Saturday, November 1, 2025.
We'd love your cookies, cakes, pies, or other treats!
Please drop off donations at Fourth & Faith on Friday, October 31, between 10 AM - 4 PM
All proceeds goes towards our Blessing Box

Holiday Craft Show & Bake Sale

Saturday November 1, 2025
10 AM-3 PM

Location: St. John's UCC Fourth & Faith Community Outreach Center

Set up is on **Friday October 31, 2025**
@ **9 AM- 7 PM** for all vendors
Table space **\$20.00** each plus door prize

All profits go towards St. John's Blessing Box for people in need

Celebrate the Magic of Christmas at our Fair!

Contact: Bev Smith
330-343-2231

Trunk or Treat

Join us for a fun, family-friendly evening of costumes, decorated trunks, and lots of candy.
All are welcome!

October 13th
6:30 PM
Conference Room



Questions -
Sue
Ferbrache

The Island of Sea Women

BOOK

CLUB

Author: Lisa See



COMMUNITY EVENTS



EXCHANGE

EXCHANGE CLUB OF DOVER, OH

Dover Exchange Club Children's Foundation, Inc

Spaghetti Dinner

ADULTS
\$10



CHILDREN
(8 & under
FREE)

Take Out Available

Tuscarawas Central Catholic

Elementary School

600 N. Tuscarawas Ave., Dover

Saturday, October 18, 2025

4pm to 7pm

All proceeds benefit Dover Exchange Club

Children's Foundation, Inc—An IRS 501.c3 Organization

Dover Exchange Club Children's Foundation, Inc. is recognized by the
IRS rules under Section 501(c)3 as a charitable, tax deductible organization

Contact:
Karen Baker
330-364-8831



FIRST MORAVIAN CHURCH LUNCHEON



October 3, | 11 AM-1 PM
319 North Walnut Street
Dover, OH 44622

Please place your luncheon order by 11 AM on
Thursday before the luncheon. Info in St. John's office.

LET EVERYTHING THAT HAS BREATH PRAISE THE LORD

COMMUNITY WORSHIP

it's all about Jesus

WORSHIP
PRAYER
ENCOURAGEMENT

EVERY MONTH
AT DIFFERENT AREA CHURCHES

JUNE 3

6PM
LIFEWAY
CHURCH

742 COOKSON AVE SE, NEW PHILA

JULY 1

6PM
NEW PHILA NAZARENE
CHURCH

233 FAIR AVE NE, NEW PHILA

AUG 5

6PM
BROADWAY GM
CHURCH

120 CHURCH AVE SE, NEW PHILA

SEPT 2

6PM
REVIVE
CHURCH

335 UNION AVE NW, NEW PHILA

OCT 7

6PM
DOVER ALLIANCE
CHURCH

228 E 3RD ST, DOVER

NOV 4

6PM
CROSS CONNECTIONS
CHURCH

840 S WOOSTER AVE, STRASBURG

DEC 2

6PM
LIFEBRIDGE
CHURCH

301 N WOOSTER AVE, DOVER

Join us as we lift our voices to heaven

THE CARILLON



- Park Village— Carol Sue Keener
- Inn at Northwood — Norma Haglock
- New Dawn Assisted Living — Clara Struhar
- Park Village Independent Living — Jim Cotton
- Park Village New Phila — Don Page

Lord, we lift up our brothers and sisters who are not able to be at their home. May they feel Your presence, find strength in Your peace, and be surrounded by kindness and care.
Amen.

To better serve the needs of our congregation, we now include the contact information for the Elder of the Month. This provides an additional point of contact, alongside Rev. Cassandra, in the event of a personal or family emergency. This month is—

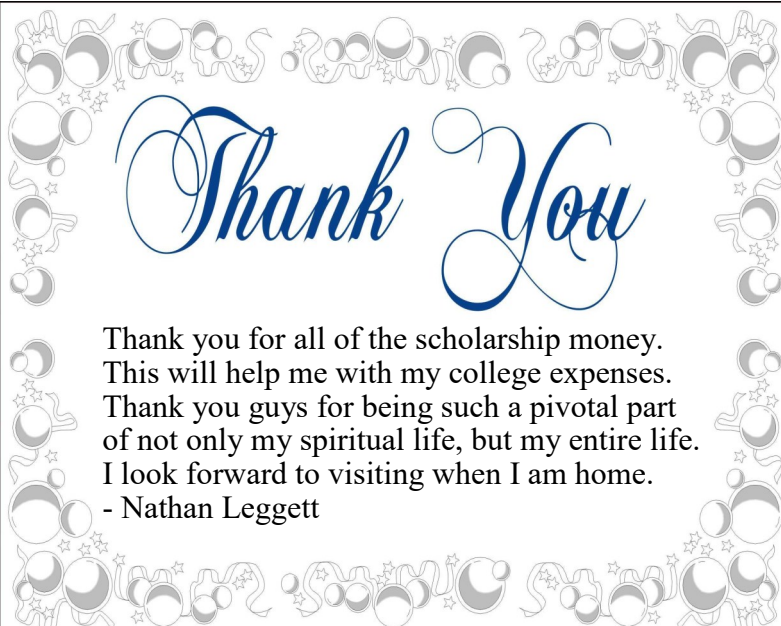
DAN HURST



330-827-8217



700 Evergreen Drive—Dover



Thank you for all of the scholarship money. This will help me with my college expenses. Thank you guys for being such a pivotal part of not only my spiritual life, but my entire life. I look forward to visiting when I am home.
- Nathan Leggett

James 5:16b The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. Curious?

Submit a prayer request via phone or email.

Marge—330-343-1731 or church office—330-364-4458

Church email—office@doverstjohns.org

How to support the cancer care bags?



Come to the card party!
Wednesday, October 8th 1-4
at Fourth & Faith.
Cost is \$10, includes lunch!

For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.
Matthew 18:20 (NIV)

The
POWER of PRAYER

In case you missed it...



Church is more than a sermon; it is a gathering of hearts. Here we learn, but we also love, serve, and encourage one another, drawing strength from God and from the community He has given us.

Church is not simply a building or an hour of preaching—it is the living body of Christ.

Lord, we give You praise and thanks for what You have done—for the love that redeems us, the peace that sustains us, and the joy that reminds us we are Yours.

OCTOBER

<u>Sun</u>	<u>Mon</u>	<u>Tue</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>Thu</u>	<u>Fri</u>	<u>Sat</u>
			<i>1</i> Choir 7 PM	<i>2</i> 10 AM Chair Yoga @ F&F	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>5</i> 9:00 Adult Con- temporary Class 10-10:15 Family Sunday School 10:30 Worship Communion	<i>6</i> 10 AM Chair Yoga @ F&F 2 PM Needles & Hookers 7 PM Boy Scouts 7 PM Barbershop 7 PM Al-Anon & Alateen	<i>7</i> 6:30 PM Cub Scouts/Webelos 6:30 PM Elders / Trustees / Deacons 7:30 Council Mtg	<i>8</i> Card Party 1-4 Choir 7 PM	<i>9</i> 10 AM Chair Yoga @ F&F	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>12</i> 9:00 Adult Con- temporary Class 10:30 Worship	<i>13</i> 10 AM Chair Yoga 2 PM Needles & Hookers 6:30 Bad Girls Book Club 7 PM Boy Scouts 7 PM Barbershop 7 PM Al-Anon & Alateen	<i>14</i> <u>Office closes at 2</u> 6:30 PM Cub Scouts/Webelos	<i>15</i> Choir 7 PM	<i>16</i> 10 AM Chair Yoga @ F&F	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i> 
<i>19</i> 9:00 Adult Con- temporary Class 10:30 Worship	<i>20</i> 10 AM Chair Yoga @ F&F 2 PM Needles & Hookers 7 PM Boy Scouts 7 PM Barbershop 7 PM Al-Anon & Alateen	<i>21</i> Carillon Deadline 6:30 PM Cub Scouts/Webelos	<i>22</i> Choir 7 PM	<i>23</i> 10 AM Chair Yoga @ F&F	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>26</i> 9:00 Adult Con- temporary Class 10:30 Worship	<i>27</i> <u>Office closes at 2</u> 10 AM Chair Yoga @ F&F 2 PM Needles & Hookers 7 PM Boy Scouts 7 PM Barbershop 7 PM Al-Anon & Alateen	<i>28</i> <u>Office closes at 1</u> 6:30 PM Cub Scouts/Webelos	<i>29</i> Choir 7 PM	<i>30</i> 10 AM Chair Yoga @ F&F	<i>31</i> Baking drop off 10-4 @ F&F Craft show set up 9-7 @ F&F	<u>November 1</u> 10-3 Holiday Craft Show & Bake Sale @ F&F