



February 2024

Volume 55, Issue 2

THE CARILLON

"Habits: What Has Always Been Done Before"

Pastor's Desk



Sympathies

Thank You's

N/A



For the past couple months, I have been doing this new thing before I write a sermon. I will go take a walk around my neighborhood. I have discovered that taking a stroll down the street is far more productive than staring at a blank Word document. Many times, when my mind relaxes enough, some kind of sermon nugget will pop into my head that I can take back to my writer's desk. During one of my pre-sermon walks, I had this epiphany, "What we do matters. Our actions matter." And here is why: **Our actions**

become our patterns. Our patterns become our habits. Our habits become our rituals. And, our rituals become our tradition.

Mark 7 reminds us that "we, humans, are creatures of habit." For the Pharisees and Jews, they had their own traditions and routines, regarding hygiene and food preparation. The Pharisees pointed out to Jesus that some of his disciples were not washing their hands before they ate and following the traditions set by the elders. Jesus pushed back on the Pharisee's comment. He raised the notion that it is not the dirt under a person's finger nails that make them unholy, but the evil inside one's heart.

I often like to encourage the church. Let's try something new. Let's try something "that has not been done before." Even though, I often give that challenge. I definitely sympathize to the fact, that we are all creatures of habit. I even like to take the same path when I take my pre-sermon stroll. I realize that our habits can bring us comfort and a sense of stability. For the past couple months, I have tried to incorporate better habits into my life. I have made a point to exercise more often, to eat less processed foods, and more "whole foods." While those healthy habits may seem commendable, I have to be honest with you. In the beginning, trying something new is hard and stressful. Trying something new feels awkward, like I am going completely against the grain of what I would naturally want to do. No matter how beneficial or good something may be, trying something new is hard, in the beginning. But, after I had done something a couple of times, it became a pattern in my week and a new habit that I have. After a while, my new habit has become my new normal.

Jesus questioned the traditions of his day. He determined that the Pharisees' pre-meal purifying ritual had become obsolete, and it was not beneficial. No matter how much they took the dirt off their hands, it did not make them anymore holy because their hearts were full of evil. The people held on to human traditions, so much so, that they lost their perspective

St. John's United Church of Christ 409 North Wooster Avenue Dover, OH 44622

Rev. Dr. Cassandra Granados Senior Minister Call for an appointment

Call for an appointment 469-569-0196

Pastor Dotty Hartzell

Pastor of Visitation Call for an appointment.

Sunday Morning Schedule:

9:00 AM Sunday School 10:00 AM Fellowship 10:30 AM Worship

Church Office

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:

cassandra.granados @doverstjohns.org dotty@doverstjohns.org church.secretary@ doverstjohns.org newsletter@doverstjohns.org about God's commands.

In this new year, it is a great opportunity to reflect on what we do. In our daily routines, what habits have become obsolete? What do we need to do to make ourselves better, healthier, and happier people? In our church, what are we doing that has become obsolete and is no longer helpful? What actions do we need to incorporate for our church to better live out its mission? When we do decide to try new things, let us remember, that while progress may be hard at first, while it may seem different and sometimes unsettling, it helps us to grow stronger, and become a better faith community.

Grace & Peace, Pastor Cassandra

Our office calendar starts out the year with this quote:

"How big are your troubles on a scale of one to God?"
We all have them...troubles... some much worse than others. Of course, we always consider our troubles to be much worse than anybody else's. However, it doesn't really matter where we sit on the "trouble scale." All we need to know is that God sits at the top of the scale and that God has a plan for us. Be reassured that God's plan is not to harm us, but to give us hope and a future.

It doesn't always feel that way though, does it? Afterall, it's our life and we have our own plans for it. Actually, things are moving along very smoothly until some big, gigantic mess drops in our lap and we cry out, "Where is God when I need Him?" Fact is, God is right here with us because God knows the plan much better than we do. For you see, God made the plan. Sometimes, we must take a few detours to get on the right path, but God is always leading us and guiding us.

Almost every week we end our service with these words: Go now in peace – never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day.

Go now in faith – steadfast strong and true. Know He will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love – show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see.

The first two "Go Nows" seem easy enough but the third one is a little more difficult. The secret to achieving it is working together as the church of Jesus Christ. Remember He's the One with the plan.

Working Together in Christ,
Pastor Dotty

Advent Lantern Lighters 2023

Advent is the celebration of the four Sundays before Christmas. For the past fifteen years here at St. John's, we have honored those long-time members or those members who are no longer able to attend worship services. A member of the congregation visits them and assists them in lighting the Advent Lantern which is then brought back to the church and is used to light the advent wreath during the service. This year's Advent Lantern lighters were as follows:

First Sunday in Advent – the Sunday of Hope: Ruth Campbell with Elder Tim McIlvaine

Second Sunday in Advent – the Sunday of Peace: Anita and Gary Craig with Elder Vicki Ruefner

Third Sunday in Advent – the Sunday of Joy George and Lynne Telle with Deacon Jen Conkle

Fourth Sunday in Advent – the Sunday of Love Larry and Berit McMillan with Elder Jon McIlvaine

Christmas Eve Christ Candle
Don and Millie Page with Elder Jean Paddock

Our thanks to all these faithful members who helped with our Advent celebration.

Small acts of kindness, when multiplied by millions of people, can change the world!

St. John's Carillon Goes Digital

Beginning with the **April 2024** edition of the Carillon, the primary source of distribution will be electronic. We will have a limited number of print copies that can be mailed to your home or picked up in the church office. Please contact the church office to be on the distribution of print copies.

To view an electronic copy of the Carillon on your computer, phone or other electronic device: Sign up for email distribution. The Carillon will automatically be sent to your email address each month. Contact the church office if you are not already receiving the Carillon by email.

Visit the church website, <u>www.doverstjohns.org</u>, and look for it under the "Resources" drop-down menu.

You can contact the church office at (330) 364-4458 or church.secretary@doverstjohns.org

This change will help reduce our expenses, which currently include mailing the Carillon to over 200 recipients each month. We appreciate your understanding and support.

THANK YOU

The Christmas holiday season is done. Winter is not sure when it wants to settle in on us. It is cold many mornings as I fill the Blessing Box. But the generosity that we have experienced at this church has warmed me to the very core of my being.

Thank you to all of you who donated canned goods on the Sunday mornings in November.

Thank you to the St. John's pre-school children and their parents for the donations of many kinds of food for our Box.

Thank you to the Goodwill Committee for their support of the Blessing Box and generosity in sharing the earnings from the luncheon foods at the Christmas Bazaar.

Thank you to the workers from the Cherry Ridge branch of Pro-Via as they delivered boxes and boxes of canned goods and multiple food products to the church one day for our Box.

Thanks to those members of our church who very generously continue to make donations to the Blessing Box by adding to the offering on Sundays or leaving envelopes in the church office or by handing me donations when they see me at church on Sundays. Our cup runneth over.

We have lots of food products to fill our Box with every day. The Box is emptied completely most days. With all the donations we have received, we are able to purchase the food supplies needed to fill the Box. Thank you to each and every person for your donations and your prayers and your support.

Many blessings,

Belínda

A sincere and heartfelt Thank you! For providing us a place to hold our rehearsals

and store our music!!

The Schoenbrunn Valley Barbershop Chorus Dear Members:

Thank you for the Cancer Care pkg. It's very appreciated. Thank you for taking care of our community in times of sickness. With my Love & God & prayer – I am looking into the future as a survivor.

Again, thank you all for caring.

Love,

Janice Morrell

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Dear Friends at St. John's UCC,

To the many wonderful members and congregation of St. John's, your staff of St. John's are extremely grateful for the thoughtfulness of your *love gift* at Christmas. We truly love doing our jobs here, but it is so nice to know that you appreciate the time and effort that we put into making our church run smoothly.

In Christ's Love, Your St. John's Staff

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Dear St. John's UCC,

I received a Christian Cancer Care package via Paula Sickinger (my sister works at Hennis). It was a surprise and a blessing. All the items are useful for a cancer patient. If you would put me on your prayer list, I would appreciate it. I have endometrial cancer. The fight is on! Thank you! Our slogan is God's got this!

Philippian's 4:13.

With gratitude, Susan L. Fleming





St. John's United Church of Christ 409 North Wooster Avenue Dover, Ohio 330-364-4458

Elder of the Month

In an effort to better meet the needs of the congregation, we will be printing the contact information for the Elder of the month. The purpose of doing this is to provide another contact person, in addition to Rev. Cassandra and Pastor Dotty, should you have a personal or family emergency.

Tim McCrate 2009 Tremont St. Dover, OH 44622 330-243-3561



December Financial Report

Actual Income \$ 58,019 Actual Expenses \$ 31,095

> Average Worship Attendance 84

Christmas Eve 10:30 am 80

Christmas Eve 4:30 pm 198

Local Mission Projects

We are continuing with the idea of filling our "giving line" with items that the community can use throughout the year. For Christmas in July our theme was "Look to the Son." We collected and hung out all sizes of sun glass and different types of suntan lotion.

In November we joined others in the annual Scarf Project of Tuscarawas County. We gave away 276 scarves, hats, and gloves (most of them handmade).

In December we assisted Sock-O-Clause and gave away 430 pairs of socks. We refilled the line 5 times. And of course, don't forget the FLOCK program during the summer. The ladies pack and give at least 50 lunches a week.

Community Meal

With RSV, COVID, & Flu season hitting we feel it's not a good time to have a community meal. So, our first community meal will be on **Thursday May 16 from 5 pm - 6:30 pm.**

The meal will be sloppy joes, coneys, macaroni salad, chips, cupcakes & water.

Items needed will be:

- 6 lbs. of sloppy joes
- 6 pkgs hot dogs
- ◆ 10 lbs. macaroni salad
- 8 pkg hamburger buns
- 6 pkg hot dog buns
- Cupcakes
- Individual bags of chips

Contact Bev Smith 330-343-2231 for donations or questions.



St. John's UCC Church Council Meeting January 9, 2024 at 7:30 pm

The meeting of St. John's Unit- Hall. ed Church of Christ Church Coun- March 24th will be Palm Passion There are a few leaks in the Pastor Dotty and guest Sue Fer- day services. brache.

Rev. Cassandra lit the Christ can- planning a Pet Blessing Service. dle and offered an opening pray-

The December 2023 minutes PORTwere approved as submitted.

2023 was \$58,019. General Fund income year to date Pastor Dotty held a Christmas shortfall year to date of \$36,881. three funerals during the month. We have transferred \$62,773 from investments in 2023 to cover Gen- BOARD REPORTS eral Expenses. We have dis- ELDERS REPORTbursed \$20,741 from the Capital Jon McIlvaine reported: Improvement Fund for repairs in 1. Reviewed the upcoming Eastthe church building. M/S/C by Rob Gump and Holly Gonter to 2. Announced the Advent contriapprove the Treasurer's Report.

SENIOR MINISTER REPORT -

Rev. Cassandra reported the Advent Sunday services and Christmas Eve Candlelight service were successful. Scout Sunday will be February 11th.

Plans for Ash Wednesday on February 14th will be: Ashes-to-Go" at the corner of Fourth and DEACONS REPORT-Faith from 7am to 10am. It will Jen Conkle reported the ushers involve coffee, donuts and ashes. and communion servers for Feb-All are welcome. Ash Wednesday ruary have been secured. service at 7pm in the sanctuary.

Some new and exciting events will Rob Gump reported. Carpet journed at 8:18pm. be:

cil was called to order on January Sunday. This service will incorpo- church building and pastor Dotty's 9th, 2023 at 7:30 pm by Vice Pres- rate Maundy Thursday and Good office that will be repaired. ident Dave Gingrich. There were Friday into a Palm Passion Sun-15 Council members in attend- day Service. There will be no COMMITTEE/TASK FORCE REance including Rev. Granados, Maundy Thursday or Good Fri- PORTS -

In April, Rev. Cassandra is Vice President Dave presented

PASTOR OF VISITATION RE-

gain of \$26,924 for the month hung for the event. Excellent! statements for 2023. is \$332,115 and Expenses year to Eve service at Hennis on Decem- Annual Reportsdate is \$368,995 resulting in a ber 22nd. She also presided at Dave reminded council members

- er services.
- butions collected of \$651 will go to the Blessing Box project.
- 3. The Elders have moved forward with a job description for UPCOMING EVENTSthe Director of Christian Education position. The Elders have discussed where it will be posted and how they will market the position.

TRUSTEES REPORT -

Squares will replace the carpet in March 3rd will be a Brunch the part of the nursery that had Church in the downstairs Social water damage. One Stop Flooring

will be doing the work.

Nominating Committee-

the updated ballot to Council. There are still a few positions that need to be filled before the Congregational Meeting on January Pastor Dotty reported all of the 28th. M/S/C by Rob Gump and Treasurer Adam Herman re- Advent Services went well. De- Adam Herman to approve the upviewed the financial report. Gen- cember 18th was the start of five dated ballot. A letter will be sent to eral Fund income for December days of the "Hanging of the members with the annual meeting Expenses Socks" on the front lawn. 430 announcement, updated Council were \$31,095, resulting in a net pairs of socks were donated and ballot and personal contribution

who have annual reports due to Regina to please turn them in as soon as possible.

CONGREGATIONAL SOLICITA-TIONS- None

OLD BUSINESS- None

NEW BUSINESS- None

Bev Smith reported the following: January 10th – Card Party at Fourth and Faith.

The monthly Thursday evening meals will be on hold until further notice.

ADJOURNMENT AND LORD'S **PRAYER**

Dave led the Council in the Lord's Prayer and the meeting was ad-



2024 Offering Envelopes are now available for pick up in the Fellowship Center. Please stop by and pick them up at your convenience.

St. John's Chancel Choir



The Christmas holiday season is now behind us and hopefully it was a healthy and happy one spent with family and friends celebrating the birth of Jesus.

As we look forward to the Lenten/Easter season, we encourage any man or woman that enjoys singing (and some laughter) to join us on Wednesday evenings @ 7:00 PM as we prepare for the coming weeks and season.

HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON!

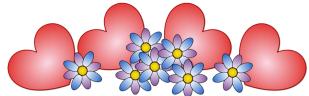
"Let everything that hath breath, praise the lord" Psalm 150:6

Altar Flowers & Bulletin Sponsors

Forms for 2024 are now available in the church office to sponsor altar flowers (\$12.50 made payable to **St. John's UCC Sanctuary Committee**) or bulletin covers (\$25.00 made payable to **St. John's UCC**). Please **stop in soon** to reserve your date or **mail your form along with your check.** Thank you!







Ash Wednesday Services



Wednesday, February 14, 2024

"Ashes–to- Go" at the corner of Fourth and Faith from 7am to 10am.

Join us for coffee, donuts and ashes.

All are welcome.

Ash Wednesday service at 7pm in the sanctuary.

Attention High School Seniors and College Students!

Any member of St. John's who is a high school senior or a college student may apply for a scholarship. Pick up your St. John's Scholarship application in the office or online on the St. John's Website. Completed applications will be due on **Sunday, March 31.**



The Haitian Stations of the Cross

- 1. Haiti has been the victim of the 2010 earthquake, several hurricanes, colonialism, political corruption, and voodoo. Why are some countries such targets for tragedy? Does God control any of this?
- 2. Have you ever fought gluttony and frugality while on vacation? Can you find a way to change a vice into a virtue?
- 3. Where is Nadia's Christian tolerance when it comes to Pat Robertson? "Robertson had crawled out from whatever kind of bottom-dwelling theological backwater hellhole he calls his ideological home to enlighten America about the reason the earthquake happened: Haiti had made a pact with the devil and so, really, they'd brought this upon themselves."
- 4. Do karma and bad luck intersect? "He'll get his in the end!" How much do we influence our own outcomes?
- 5. Nadia admitted, "I am just as baffled and faithless as anyone else when faced with unspeakable tragedy." Theodicy: the vindication of divine goodness and providence in view of the existence of evil. A philosophical attempt to explain the existence of evil in a God-created, good world. Attempts to explain evil. Some Christian thinkers have rejected as impious any attempt to fathom God's purposes or to judge God's actions by human standards. Blames all moral and some natural evil on humanity's misuse of its free will. Where do you fall?
- 6. Why do we take issue with the atheist who blogged that he could not believe in a God who would inflict such suffering on so many people?
- 7. Where can you find Jesus in tragedy?
- 8. What did Nadia preach about the wedding at Cana to explain the earthquake? (God is in the middle of our human tragedy. If we weep at the humanity, God will be beside us. "This is a God who bears suffering, does not cause it." "I need to believe that God does not initiate suffering; God transforms it.") Mary saw a need and pestered her Son until he gave in.
- 9. Have you attended the Stations of the Cross that Belinda, Heather, and others set up at Lent? Can we set up our own stations dealing with the Israel/Palestine war?

1. Jesus Is Condemned: 8. Jesus Meets the Women"

2. Jesus Carries His Cross:

9. Jesus Falls for the Third Time:

3. Jesus Falls for the First Time: 10. Jesus Is Stripped:

4. Jesus Meets His Mother: 11. Jesus Is Nailed to the Cross:

5. Simon Helps Carry the Cross: 12. Jesus Dies:

6. Veronica Wipes Jesus' Face: 13. Jesus Is Taken Down from the Cross:

7. Jesus Falls for the Second Time: 14. Jesus Is Buried:

Submitted by Sue Ferbrache from the Adult Contemporary Class

THE CARILLON



Pam Minnis Candy Shanklin 8 Barb Chumney Anita Craig Kyle Kinsey Ray R. Chumney Matthew Engle Emma Poland Carla Wilsterman 10

Beth Ann Engelhard Tori Griesen 11 John Branch Abby Gonter **Donald Maurer**

Cara Alleshouse

Robert Brown

Jeffrey Secrest Steve Specht Dusty Welch 12 Maggie Geissinger Robin Griesen Kyle Haglock Terry Migliore 13 Amanda Stephen Ron Swegheimer 14 Roberta Ballentine Timothy McCrate Karen Murphy 15

Deanna Baker Keshia Hart Heidi Swinford Alex Tiell 16 Tracy McGrath

Sandra Moss 17 Melanie Patterson

18 Chloe Felgenhauer Karie McCrate Fred Siegenthaler

19

Connie Burrier Bobbie Jo Hrusovsky 20

> Bev Smith 21

Marcus Delekta Jeremy Goehring Erin Peterman

22

Pamela Baer Diana Collins Ginny Diefenbaugh

Kathy Hartzell Tara Lengler

Travis Siegenthaler Mark Stanke

Marla Struhar

23

Carolyn Hucek Kathy Sudwishcher

24 Courtney Boynton Linda Burbage Kristin Herman Cindy Mahaffey Jean Paddock 25 Ken Wallick 26 Sheila Harmon Michael J. Wherley 27 Tillie Breitenstein Angie Gump Eileen Johnson Natalie Peterman Blake Sexton 28 Louis Dalpiaz Jr. 29 Jennifer Rufener



February Anniversaries

Marcia & Joe Lukens

Jackie & Dale Kandel

Tina & Ben Armstrong 12

Jennifer & Tim Conkle 14

Judy & Terry Menges 18

Linda & Howard Ladrach 19

Carole & Spencer Edie 20

Marla & Steve Struhar 22

Heidi & Michael Swinford

Family Members in Nursing Homes

Amberwood Robert Brown

Inn at Northwood Norma Haglock

Park Village Asst. Living N.

Marjorie Auman

Jim Cotton

With love



Hospital News

Members and friends of the St. John's family hospitalized between December 15-present include: Denny Wallick. Robert Brown is a resident at Amberwood in New Phila.

HOSPITAL NOTE: We are no longer being notified by any of the area hospitals when our members are admitted due to policies involving patients' rights to privacy. Therefore, if you or a member of your family is admitted to a hospital and you would like the church to know and the minister to visit, you need to call or E-mail the church office with the information. Thanks for your help with this matter.

Recycle! Recycle!



When you and your neighbor recycle aluminum cans you are helping the problem of global warming. Cans may be placed in the big brown box in the handicap parking lot. The box was built by Sawyer Thomson as part of his Eagle Scout pro-

ject. Rudy Tschantz will take the cans to Speedy Salvage. The money received from the cans will go to the organ maintenance fund.

Carillon Deadline



The deadline to get information and articles into the next regular issue of the Carillon is Monday, February 12, 2024. Please mark your calendar! This will be for the March Carillon. We want to continue to keep each mailing loaded with information, dates, articles, etc. pertaining to the life of St. John's. Remember ... you can now send your articles, thank you's, etc. by Email to: church.secretary@doverstjohns.org

Bad Girls Go Old School

Elmer Gantry is a golden-tongued evangelist who rises to power preaching morality and the saving of souls. However, Elmer is anything but the picture of moral rectitude. Enjoy this study of hypocrisy with Bad Girls as we read Elmer Gantry by Sinclair Lewis. We'll tsk-tsk our way through the book on Monday February 12 at 6:30 in the Conference Room.

Annual Meeting



The Annual Meeting of the St. John's congregation will be held on **Sunday**, **Jan**. **28**, following the worship service. A review of the

year and the election of Church Council members will be the major portion of the agenda.







Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10:00 Yoga @ Fourth & Faith	2	3
9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship/ Communion	5 10:00 Yoga @ Fourth & Faith 2:00 Needles & Hookers	6 2:00 Bible Study	7	8 10:00 Yoga @ Fourth & Faith	9 •happy	10
	7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Barbershop	6:30 Cub Scouts/ Webelos	7:00 Chancel Choir			day •
Scout Sunday 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship 11:30 Scouts Spag. Dinner Soc. Hall	12 Carillon Deadline 10:00 Yoga @ Fourth & Faith 2:00 Needles & Hookers	13 2:00 Bible Study	14 Ash Wednesday 7a -10a Ash Wed. Service/Fourth & Faith 7:00p - Service in	15 10:00 Yoga @ Fourth & Faith	16	17
	6:30 Bad Girls/ Conf. Rm 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Barbershop	6:30 Cub Scouts/ Webelos 6:30 Elders/Trustees 7:30 Council	Sanctuary 7:00 Chancel Choir			NARY
18 First Sunday in Lent 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship	19 10:00 Yoga @ Fourth & Faith 2:00 Needles & Hookers	20 2:00 Bible Study	21	22 10:00 Yoga @ Fourth & Faith	23	24
	7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Barbershop	6:30 Cub Scouts/ Webelos	7:00 Chancel Choir		Peop	le often et that
25 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship	26 10:00 Yoga @ Fourth & Faith 2:00 Needles & Hookers	27 2:00 Bible Study	28	29 10:00 Yoga @ Fourth & Faith	kín ís	le often get that dness free.
	7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Barbershop	6:30 Cub Scouts/ Webelos	7:00 Chancel Choir			