



Pastor's Desk

The Paradox of "Giving Up" Something (Luke 4:1-13)

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Imagine with me the most annoying person in your life. You know, that person who gets on your ever last nerve, makes your skin crawl, and your head hurt.

Now, imagine if that person sticks to you like glue and becomes your shadow, wherever you go for the next 40 days, starting right now. This would mean that our most annoying adversary would be with us for 6 weeks and 4 days. That's over **3 million** seconds of suffering!

That's exactly what happened to Jesus, when he went into the wilderness. Jesus had the devil, this adversary, who was with him. To make matters worse, he was in the fasted state. He had no comfort food to help cope with the ridiculousness of the devil, instead he just had to stomach his suffering all on his own for 40 days or over 3 million seconds of suffering. To top it all off, he had no comforts of home, like a soft bed and fluffy pillows. Instead, he had to rough it in the wilderness, which sounds like a miserable situation.

Often, when we study Luke 4:1-13, we often focus on Jesus' situation of "suffering." He was in the wilderness and had nothing to eat. Moreover, Jesus had this devil, this adversary, who tempts him. In the same manner, we may think of the season of Lent is all about giving up things: "giving up chocolate, giving up sweets, giving up fried things, giving up meat." However, there is another way of thinking about Lent.

Our Lenten journey can be like a coin, which has two sides. A coin has two realities that can co-exist at the same time. **The flip side of giving up something is gaining something else.** While a person may give up one thing, they may gain something in return. It's a paradoxical situation.



**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

Sunday Morning Schedule

9:00 AM Sunday School
10:00 AM Fellowship
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

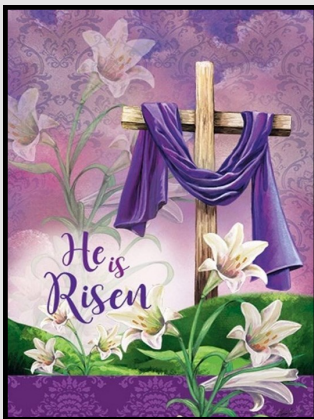
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For Jesus, while he was in the wilderness, he was away from his regular routine and the comfort food, which he grew up eating. However, despite what Jesus gave up, he did gain something. Jesus gained clarity of who he was: God's Son, the beloved, in whom God is pleased. Jesus gained clarity about his life's mission and that God is the ultimate source of his strength, as we can't live on bread alone. Jesus gained strength from meditating on the Scripture and used it to combat the Devil's temptations. Jesus also gained the revelation that the world's authority and splendor are no match to God's plan for us. Paradoxically, as Jesus gave up so much, he gained so much more.

As we go throughout our lives, it is easy to get into autopilot and not be intentional about what we do and why we do it. We get in our regular routines and do not realize the ruts that we find ourselves in. Lent provides us with an opportunity for change, reflection, and trying to live more intentionally.

So, what can we do for Lent? What can we give up? Well, that is completely up to you. What is most important is to be mindful that whatever we give up, we can gain something else in return. Even, if it may seem that we are "suffering" in sacrifice, we may be experiencing a blessing.

If we give up a particular food, we may gain a new awareness of what we consume, and how it benefits or harms our bodies.

If we give up mindless consumption of content on our phones or TV, we may gain a new awareness of the information we consume. What gets our attention, takes up our time, and what we ultimately care about.

If we give up unnecessary spending and purchases, we may gain a new perspective about our money. How much we spend and where does it go, as it is ultimately a reflection of what we value.

In this Lenten season, we can also be more intentional about our faith, and our own spiritual practices, such as daily prayer, devotional reading, serving our neighbor, and giving to causes that we care about.

Like Jesus, we have an opportunity to walk in the wilderness. Yes, we may be tempted by our own adversaries and the journey may be difficult. Nevertheless, we have an opportunity to give up something, and gain something else in return. Amen.

**Take Care,
Pastor Cassandra**

Stations of the Cross



As stated by Dennis Bratche “The *Stations of the Cross* refers to the liturgical practice of using various events in the final hours of Jesus’ life as a structure for prayer and meditation (also called the *Via Crucis* or Way of the Cross). These events encompass

Jesus’ journey carrying his cross from the Hall of Pilate where he was condemned to death to the site of his execution on Golgotha (Calvary).

As part of their acts of devotion, early Christian pilgrims of Jerusalem retraced the route of Jesus as he carried his cross to his death. Early pilgrimages varied considerably with different starting places and different routes. As the practice developed in the medieval period, the starting point for this journey through the streets of Jerusalem began in the ruins of the Fortress of Antonia that originally housed Pilate’s Judgment Hall. It concluded at the ancient Church of the Holy Sepulcher that marks the traditional site of Golgotha and the tomb of Jesus.

By the sixteenth century, the route this pilgrimage took through Jerusalem came to be called the *Via Dolorosa*, the Way of Sorrow. Along the Way, certain points on the journey (stations) were associated with specific events recounted (or implied) in the Gospel accounts.”

As travel to this area became too dangerous and as many couldn’t afford the trip, The Stations of the Cross were added to many towns and eventually the stations were permanently set up in cathedrals throughout Europe and even in the coliseum in Rome.

Today, traveling The Stations of the Cross is a powerful way to contemplate and enter the mystery of Jesus’ gift of himself to us. You will begin a pilgrimage of prayer and meditation centered on the journey Jesus took on His way to be crucified. A station is just a place to stop, to take time to reflect and pray.

We invite you to stop by on **Good Friday from 10:00AM – 1:00PM and 3:00PM – 7:00PM at Fourth and Faith.** Spend some time in prayer and thought and meditation as you travel the Stations of the Cross.

Belinda & Heather

April 13

Palm Passion Sunday

9:00 Sunday School
10:00 am Fellowship
10:30 a.m. Worship



Palm Passion Sunday ~ this service will incorporate Maundy Thursday and Good Friday into a Palm Passion Sunday Service. There will be no Maundy Thursday or Good Friday services.

Good Friday, April 18

Stations of the Cross
10 am - 1pm & 3pm - 7pm
Fourth and Faith

Easter Sunday, April 20

9:00 Sunday School
10:00 am Fellowship
10:30 a.m. Worship/Communion

Altar Flowers & Bulletin Sponsors

Bulletin forms available in the church office to sponsor

Altar Flowers
& Bulletin Covers.

Altar Flowers **\$12.50**
made payable to
St. John’s UCC
Sanctuary Committee

Bulletin Covers
\$25.00 made payable
to St. John’s UCC.



DOVER ST. JOHN'S UCC
Office of Christian Education

He is not here; he has

RISEN,

just as he said.

- MATTHEW 28:6



Adult
Contemporary Class
Sundays, 9:00AM
Conference room

Youth Activities

Send us your
sports/music/activity schedule
or the date of a special event!
We'd love to attend and show
our support!

natalie@doverstjohns.org

DOVERSTJOHNS.ORG/YOUTH

Youth News



March Youth Group

At our last youth group meeting, we put scarves out for those in need. The scarves were made by the St. John's Needles and Hookers group. We also discussed the upcoming season of Lent and went to Memorial Hall to play volleyball!

Follow Me: We made items for the Parish Visitor monthly gift bags and we started our "What is Lent" workbooks. Along with earning more about Lent, our workbooks ask us what we can do to help others during Lent. Our group called into the Rainbow Connection Telethon with a small pledge.



Dover St. John's UCC
**KIDS
SUMMER
JOURNEY**

A graphic featuring a pair of red sunglasses with blue lenses at the top. Below them is a purple banner with the text "Dover St. John's UCC" in white and "KIDS SUMMER JOURNEY" in large, bold, yellow letters.

Stay tuned for more information about our summer program, open to all area youth in grades 1st - 5th.

**St. John's UCC Church Council Meeting
March 11, 2025 at 7:30 pm**

Opening Prayer-President Dave Gingrich lit the Christ candle and Reverend Cassandra opened the meeting with a prayer. There were 17 members and baby Sonya in attendance.

Minutes of the Last Meeting-Approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report- Reported by Holly Gonter

Month of February 2025

General Fund Income for the month of \$13,324 is \$10,434 less than the budget

Expenses for the month of \$39,186 were under the budget by \$5,341

Resulting shortfall for the month of \$25,863 is \$15,776 less than the budget

February 2025 Year to Date

General Fund Income year-to-date of \$30,259 is \$17,257 less than budget

Compared to last year through the same month income is lower by \$25,751

Expenses year-to-date of \$69,777 are more than budget by \$3,252

Resulting shortfall year-to-date of \$39,518 is \$20,509 better than budget

Cash

Beginning cash balance for the year was \$25,146 and ending cash is \$3,270

We have transferred \$17,896 from investments to cover General Fund expenses.

M/S/C by Dan Dummermuth and Rob Gump to approve the Treasurer's Report.

Welcome Incoming Council Members

President Dave Gingrich welcomed incoming members including the youth representative Nolan Peterman.

Senior Minister's Report

Reverend Cassandra reported she had three phone call check-ins and two office visit.

Ash Wednesday, "Ashes To-Go" at Fourth and Faith served twenty individuals (6 of which were from the community). Forty four attended the evening Ash Wednesday service.

Brunch Church planning is well under way.

Upcoming Events are Brunch Church-March 30th, Youth Sunday-April 6th, Palm Passion Sunday-April 13th and Pet Blessing Service-April 27th.

Director of CE Report

Natalie Peterman reviewed the Youth Group activities for the month and upcoming activities.

The Homeless Awareness Event on February 15 & 16th involved 15 youth, raised over \$1,000 and two car loads of food for the Homeless Shelter. Those who delivered the food to the shelter were made aware of the life of the homeless. The youth helped the Needles and Hookers hang scarves on the front lawn clothes line and then enjoyed activities at Memorial Hall. Follow

Me has been discussing what it means to FAST and FEAST, what is LENT and why it is important to us as Christians, as we lead up to our Easter lessons. Upcoming events are: March

23rd Youth Group, April 6th-Youth Sunday, and End of Year Summer Kickoff Cookout is May

25th.

Reports of the Boards

Elders

Jean Paddock reported for the Elders. There are many future activities. (listed below)

Trustees

Dan Dummermuth reported. Time is getting closer to have the air conditioner in the sanctuary building replaced. The roof in the educational building is beyond repair. We have one replacement estimate of \$97,000 and the Elders are getting at least one more. The air conditioner in Fourth and Faith is temporarily acceptable and is on hold for future replacement.

Deacons

Jen Conkle reported the ushers and communion servers are secured for April.

Reports of Committees

Committee Assignments

President Dave passed out the list of March 2025-February 2026 Committee Assignments.

Congregational Activities

March 12th Card Party at Fourth & Faith (2nd Wednesday monthly) benefits Cancer Bags

March 23rd Youth Group

April 6th Youth Sunday/Communion Youth Group

April 13th Palm Passion Sunday

April 18th Good Friday/Stations of the Cross

April 20th Easter

April 27th Pet Blessing Service Youth Group

May 4th Music Sunday

May 11th Mother's and Special Ladies Sunday/Carnations

May 18th Open

May 25th Memorial Sunday

May 25th Summer Kickoff on the front lawn following worship

June 1st Graduate/Scholarship Sunday

June 7th Chocolate Walk (Narthex)

June 8th Pentecost /Communion

June 15th Father's and Special Gentlemen's Day

Unfinished Business -None

New Business

Bev Smith reported an anonymous person has paid a window washer to periodically clean the windows at Fourth & Faith. Thank you so much whoever you are!

Dan Hurst said he was contacted by someone about the possibility of using St. John's church in a movie that is going to be filmed in the near future.

There will be a need for a new Council Secretary as Michele and Steve Specht are moving to the Columbus area to be closer to their children/their spouses and Granddaughter Ellie. They will remain members of St. Johns and hope to attend church periodically. St. John's will remain very special in their hearts.

Comments for the Good of St. John's

Closing with the Lord's Prayer

Meeting Adjourned at 8:21pm.

Wednesday, April 9
1:00pm - 4:00pm



Card Party

Cost of \$10.00 includes lunch

Located at Fourth and Faith

Benifits The Cancer Care Bags

Contact: Bev Smith 330-343-2231

OUTDOOR OPPORTUNITY CAN YOU HELP?



Do you enjoy spending time outdoors? With the arrival of spring weather, we are looking for a few individuals or families who could donate some time to keep our landscaping in good shape. This would involve:

- ✓ Weeding or trimming periodically within your designated area now till fall.
- ✓ If you'd be willing to lend a hand, please see the diagram of our church grounds on the bulletin board outside the office.
- ✓ Sign your name to an area you'd be able to take care of for the next few months.

For any questions, contact Laura Brown or Sue Ferbrache. Like any project, the more participants, the lighter the load. Thanks in advance for your help!

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS...



EVERYONE IS INVITED TO:

Brunch Church

Sunday, March 30th @ 10:30am

St. John's United Church of Christ
in the Social Hall

(409 N Wooster Ave, Dover, OH 44622)



**Church Office Closed
Friday,
April 18, 2025**



Carillon Deadline



The deadline to get information and articles into the next regular issue of the Carillon is **Monday, April 14, 2025**. Please mark your calendar!

This will be for the **May 2025** Carillon. We want to continue to keep each mailing loaded with information, dates, articles, etc. pertaining to the life of St. John's.

You can send your articles, thank you's, etc. by E-mail to: church.secretary@doverstjohns.org

**February
Financial Report**

Actual Income	\$ 13,324
Actual Expenses	\$ 39,518
Average Worship Attendance	95



April Birthdays

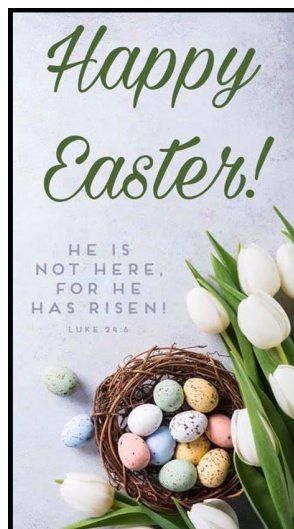
- 2
Jeffrey Beitzel
Debra Hughes
- 3
Jerry Domer
Cheryl D Herman
James Orr
- 4
Cindy Feller
Benjamin Goehring
- 5
Judy Clinton
Ruth Ann Murphy
Kerry Wherley
- 6
Kirk Haglock
- 7
Karen Dummermuth
- 8
Cole Griesen
- 9
Kampbell Hall
- 11
Allison Berens
John Marks
Virginia Ross
- 12
Kelden Hall
Hannah Locke
- 13
Mandy Klar
Ella Marshall
- 14
Billie Garratt
Kathy Koontz
Alec Solvey
Patricia Perkins

- 16
Anne Keffer
Norma Haglock
- 20
Mark Hughes
Gregory Dryden
- 21
Chelsea Derr
- 23
Chad McGlothlin
- 27
Terry Haas
Jeffery Wallick
Laiken Wallick
- 28
Jacob Lauber
- Keith Marburger



April Anniversaries

- 3
Gary & Anita Craig
- 11
Ronald & Shirley Corder



Hi Girls!

I've been thinking about Pastor Cassandra's assignment for this week, gratitude. Since it's also 4th & Faith card party week, that became my focal point.

First, the card party's income goes to help friends, relatives with cancer, who I know are so thankful for the lovely gifts you give them, and I bet their friends & families are grateful also to see some light in their loved ones faces.

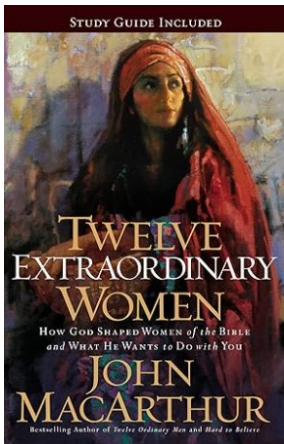
Then there are the participants in the card games who get to see their friends, make new friends and enjoy the sense of belonging to that vibrant group.

I'm always glad to play catch-up as well as cards, and we all are thankful for the delicious lunch and of course the raffle tickets. So much gratitude. You are it—Thank you, all of you.

Berit



EXTRAORDINARY, ME !



Twelve Extraordinary Women by John MacArthur tells how ordinary women of the Bible were made extraordinary by their life-changing encounter with God. The Bad Girls will discover Ruth, Anna, Mary and Martha and others have been brought to life in the hands of the author. We will be able to relate our own personal struggles with those encountered

by these historical women. Join the Bad Girls on April 14 at 6:30 in the Conference Room to see how, through God, anyone can become extraordinary.

Join our Prayer Chain



We are looking for people to join us on the prayer chain. It's as easy as making a phone call and pray for whomever might want you to say a little prayer for them.

Contact Marge Burkhardt at 330-343-1731
She'll guide you through the process.

In the
everyday "stuff" of life
we find our

Daily Blessings

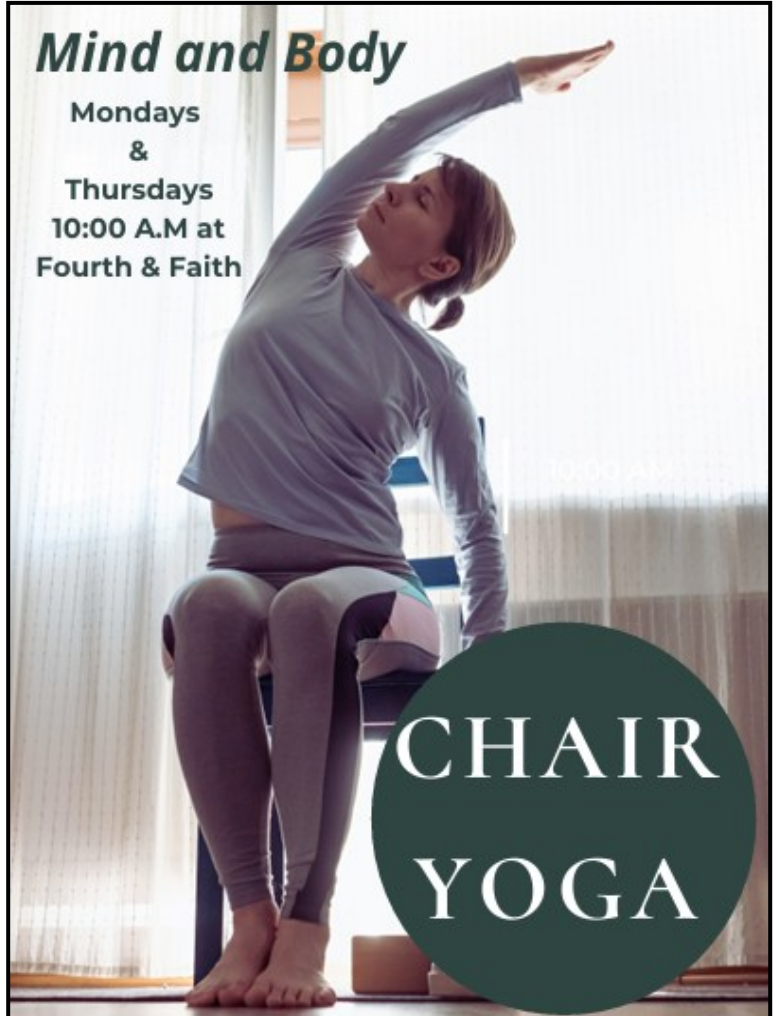
Elder of the Month

In an effort to better meet the needs of the congregation, we print the contact information for the Elder of the month. This is to provide another contact person in addition to Rev. Cassandra should you have a personal or family emergency.

Dan Hurst
700 Evergreen Drive
Dover, Ohio 44622
330-827-8217

Mind and Body



Mondays
&
Thursdays
10:00 A.M at
Fourth & Faith





APRIL



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<p>1</p>  <p>6:30 Cub Scouts/ Webelos</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:00 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:00 Yoga @ F&F</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6</p> <p>Youth Sunday 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship/ Communion 11:30 Bell Choir 5:00 Youth Group</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10:00 Yoga @ F&F 2:00 Needles & Hookers</p> <p>7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Barbershop</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:30 Cub Scouts/ Webelos 6:30 Elders/Trustees 7:30 Council</p>	<p>9</p> <p>1:00 Card Party @ Fourth & Faith</p> <p>7:00 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10:00 Yoga @ F&F</p>	<p>11</p>	 <p>12</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Palm Passion Sunday 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bell Choir 3:30 F&F Reserved</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Carillon Deadline 10:00 Yoga @ F&F 2:00 Needles & Hookers</p> <p>6:30 Bad Girls/Conf. Rm 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Barbershop</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:30 Cub Scouts/ Webelos</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:00 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10:00 Yoga @ F&F</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Good Friday Office Closed</p> <p>10a-1p & 3p-7p Stations of the Cross @ Fourth & Faith</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:00 Fourth & Faith Reserved</p> <p>12:00 Fellow. Ctr. Reserved</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Easter 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship</p> 	<p>21</p> <p>10:00 Yoga @ F&F 2:00 Needles & Hookers</p> <p>7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Barbershop</p>	<p>22</p>  <p>6:30 Cub Scouts/ Webelos</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:00 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10:00 Yoga @ F&F</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p> <p>9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship/Pet Blessing Social Hall 11:30 Bell Choir</p> 	<p>28</p> <p>10:00 Yoga @ F&F 2:00 Needles & Hookers</p> <p>7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Barbershop</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:00 Fellow. Ctr. Reserved 6:30 Cub Scouts/ Webelos</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7:00 Chancel Choir</p>	