



St. John's
Welcome
Home

Merry Christmas



Volume 55, Issue 12

December 2024

THE CARILLON

Pastor's Desk

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Pastor's Poetry Corner:

"Empathy is the greatest gift"

{original poem from Pastor Cassandra,
in honor of Transgender Day of Remembrance, November 20, 2024}

Empathy is the greatest gift.
Empathy can change the world today.
It really is the greatest superpower.
It will influence what people do and say.

Empathy can stop hate from growing.
It can stop fists of violence from coming our way.
Empathy can prevent wars from happening,
and their destructive, devastating dismay.

Empathy is very simple.
It is not that difficult to do.
We just take the perspective of another,
and walk a mile in their shoes.

While I do not know what it is like,
to be a Trans woman or man.
Empathy helps me to hear their story,
and to be the best ally, that I can.

I open up my heart.
I listen with all my might.
I feel the story of another,
and my empathy takes flight.

But, empathy is more than just
"feelings,"
I just have to say.

True empathy empowers us to action,
And changes, and molds us, like clay.

I am empowered to tell the story
of my Trans colleagues and friends.
Empathy will continue to change hearts,
and make the world better, in the end.



**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
Hours Tues-Wed-Thurs
11:30am-2:00pm
or by appointment.

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
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Website: <http://doverstjohns.org>

E-mail Addresses:

natalie@doverstjohns.org
church.secretary@doverstjohns.org
newsletter@doverstjohns.org

Christmas Eve Services



**Tuesday
December 24
3:00 p.m.**

Join our candlelight
service in our
beautiful sanctuary at
7:00 p.m.



Join Our Prayer Chain

A **prayer chain** is a group of people, often associated with a church, who share prayer requests and commit to praying for specific needs as they arise. The members are "linked" by prayer, passing requests from one person to another in a continuous chain.

We are looking for people to join us on the prayer chain. It is easy as you make a phone call and pray for whoever might want you to say a little prayer for them. Contact Marge Burkhart at 330-343-1731 to express your interest. She'll guide you through the process.

Hospital News

Members and friends of the St. John's family hospitalized between November 18 - present include: there have been **no reports of any members in the hospital.**

The Christmas Fund



The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross is an annual UCC offering that expresses thanks to retired and active UCC pastors and lay church workers and their families, providing direct assistance to supplement pensions, medical insurance costs, and funds to meet emergency needs. Most congregations receive the Christmas Fund on Christmas Eve.

This year's Christmas Fund theme is:
"The Glory of God shone around them" from
Luke 2:9

"And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them..."

Join with others in the United Church of Christ to return "The Glory of God" to those who have given so much to each of us and to our churches.

Gifts to the Christmas Fund make an immediate impact on those who have so faithfully served us over the years. Thanks to the generosity of UCC members and congregations, no request goes unfulfilled.



Erin & I want to thank all of you for inviting us to your craft show & luncheon—You all are very much appreciated in the community. Just wanted to let you know! **Cindi & Erin Swatzwelder**

Dear St Johns UCC, We at Tuscarawas County Council for Church and Community would like to take this time to thank you for your generous donation of lap blankets and elderly items needed to our non-profit organization. Your contribution allows us to serve the elderly in our community. We appreciate you and your assistance in our effects. Thank You, **Leslie Booth** Executive Director

Luke 6:31 Do to others as you would have them do unto you.



Christmas Greens

'Tis the season ~ almost...Time to think about decorating for the holidays! See Belinda in the Fellowship Center **November 10, 17, & 24** to order your annual Christmas Greens. **Pick up** will be **December 1**. Funds raised will be used to support the Blessing Box. Thank you in advance for your support!!

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

Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed **Wednesday, December 25**, in celebration of our Savior's birth. And also, on **Wednesday, January 1, 2025**, for New Year's Day.



Dover St. John's Live Nativity



This beautiful musically narrated story of the birth of Jesus has become a beloved tradition and gift to the community from Dover St. John's.

Please stop by and share in the Christmas story
as portrayed by the youth of St. John's.

Saturday, December 14th

Sunday, December 15th

7:00pm 7:30pm 8:00pm 8:30pm

UPCOMING CE EVENTS

December 1st - ADVENT FESTIVAL/WINDOW PAINTING/LUNCHEON

December 8th - Youth Christmas Pageant

December 12th - Middle School Missions @ Fourth & Faith 5:30-8PM

6-8th Grade- We will walk to First Moravian to help with COOKIES FOR OUR COMMUNITY

December 14th & 15th - Live Nativity

2025

January 12th- Youth Group @ Fourth & Faith 5:00-7:00PM

February 15th to 16th - Homeless Awareness

DOVERSTJOHNS.ORG/YOUTH

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

When we look at our lives as Christians, it's incredible to see all the ways the Lord blesses us, especially right here at Dover St. John's. We have an energetic and dedicated group of youth who continue to support and share their light and love with others. Missions of St. John's like the Blessing Box and Parish Visitors have become their central focus at Youth Group and Follow Me. While the calendar year comes to an end, their work is still in motion. We are thankful for the support of our church members and families as we continue to grow and thrive.

Brightest Blessings,
Natalie Peterman



Follow Me fun making items for the Parish Visitor gift bags



Our quest was Belinda, we learned more about the Blessing Box and how we can help!



St. John's UCC Church Council Meeting November 12, 2024 at 7:30 pm

President Dave Gingrich called the meeting to order at 7:37pm with 16 members and baby Sonya present. President Dave Gingrich welcomed Reverend Cassandra back from maternity leave. She offered an opening prayer and lit the Christ candle.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as written.

Angie Gump delivered the Treasurer's Report. The General Fund for the month of \$28,626 is \$5,418 more than budget. Expenses for the month of \$30,941 were over the budget by \$312. The resulting shortfall for the month of \$2,315 is \$5,106 better than the budget. General Fund Income year to date of \$243,513 is \$4,733 better than budget. Expenses for the year-to-date of \$316,235 are lower than the budget by \$19,350 resulting in a year-to-date shortfall of \$72,722 which is \$24,083 better than the budget. Beginning cash balance for the year was \$75,644 and the ending cash is \$19,833. We've transferred \$19,416 from investments to cover General Fund expenses and disbursed \$16,703 from the Capital Improvement Fund for plaster repairs, lighting upgrades and replacement of the freezer in the Social Hall kitchen. M/S/C by Dan Dummermuth and Rob Gump.

Senior Minister's Report

Reverend Cassandra thanked everyone for showering their family with love and gifts on the birth of baby Sonya. She appreciated the church being flexible and accommodating during her maternity leave. She reviewed past events and updated Council on upcoming events.

Director of Christian Education Report

The Director of Christian Education, Natalie Peterman reported on the Youth Group. In November there will be a Friendsgiving and December the Advent Festival, Christmas Pageant and the Live Nativity. Trunk or Treat with three churches involved was fun and successful. Parish Visitor gifts bags for November are ready to go. She also reviewed future plans for Winter/Spring 2025.

Elders

Jon McIlivane and the Elders are continuing to formulate an Associate Pastor Job description. The Elders and President Dave are working on a Staff Evaluation Form. The Elders announced there be two Christmas Eve services this year. They will be held at 3pm and 7pm. There will be no communion offered at these services. The December Advent offering will be divided equally between the Homeless Shelter and the Clinic for the Working Uninsured. A December love gift offering will be collected in December for staff appreciation gifts.

Trustees

Dan Dummermuth updated Council that the church offices have new mini splits for cooling and heating. Reverend Cassandra reported her office is toasty on cold days. Council had approved \$20,000 and the cost came in at \$13,000. The funds came from the Capital Improvement Endowment Fund. Estimates are coming in for updating the air conditioning in the Sanctuary Building. M/S/C by Dan Dummermuth and Rob Gump to not exceed \$145,000 for air conditioning in the Sanctuary Building. The funds will be taken from the Capital Improvement Endowment Fund. This expenditure will be voted on by the congregation on Sunday, November 17th at the Congregation Meeting after church. The boiler has gone through inspection and the trees have been trimmed. Future projects will be air conditioning in the Education Building.

Deacons

The Deacons, as reported by Bev Smith, have secured ushers and communion servers for December. Past Scholarship recipients will be asked to usher at the Christmas Eve services.

Continued from page 6

Scholarship Committee

Sue Ferbrache said the Jo Ann Mercer Scholarship will now be known as the Jim and Jo Ann Mercer Scholarship.

Investment Committee

Several Investments were reviewed by President Dave.

Congregational Activities

Card Party at Fourth and Faith-11-13-24 (benefit Cancer Care Bags)

Youth Group Meetings- 11/17

Christmas Greens Sale- 11/17.24 & 12/1 (benefits the Blessing Box)

Advent Festival- 12/1

Scarf Project on Front Lawn-11/08 (rain date 11/15)

Youth Christmas Pageant during worship-12/8

Live Nativity-12/14-15

Ring Bells for Salvation Army at Buehler's- TBA

Unfinished Business

Congregational Meeting, November 17th, after church will include:

1. Approve 2025 Budget
2. Approve Capital Expenditure for air conditioning in the Sanctuary Building

New Business

Nominations will be sought for Council Elders, Trustees and Deacons.

Bev Smith shared the Community Antique Car Group will be using Fourth & Faith September 7th and 11th.

Card Party- This is a very popular event and more room is needed. Additional room at Fourth & Faith will be used.

For the Good of St. John's

Craft Show and Bake Sale- Bev Smith stated \$674.50 was raised to benefit the Blessing Box. Again, kudos to our office secretary Brenda Durisen who is doing an outstanding job!

Closing with the Lord's Prayer

President Gingrich led the Council in the Lord's Prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.



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 should you have a personal or family emergency

Jon McIlvaine
100 Calico Drive
Dover, Ohio 44622
330-365-7150

October Financial Report

Actual Income \$ 28,626

Actual Expenses \$ 30,941

Average Worship
Attendance
91

Family Members in Nursing Homes

Park Village Jim Cotton
Linda Schilling

New Dawn Clara (CJ) Struhar

The Inn at Northwood George Telle
Norma Haglock

Park Village Independent Living
Sue Hagloch

Carillon Deadline

The deadline to get information and articles into the next regular issue of the Carillon is **Monday, December 16, 2024**. Please mark your calendar! This will be for the **January** Carillon.

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

CHAIR YOGA



Ideal for everyone! Improve strength, flexibility, balance and body/mind awareness without getting on the floor! Feel free to join us **on Mondays & Thursdays at 10 am at Fourth & Faith.**

It is a low-stress, relaxing half hour to concentrate on yourself.

Looking Ahead...

ANNUAL REPORT



Reminder to all Committee Chairs, Class Leaders and Department Chairs that it is time to begin preparations for your year-end reports for the **2024 Annual Report**.

Items used in Blessing Box

Kraft Mac & Cheese
Packaged Mashed Potatoes...
different flavors
Packaged Rice...different flavors
Applesauce Cups
Fruit Cups
Canned Fruit
Canned Vegetables
Spaghetti Sauce
Spaghetti
Bagged Noodles
Peanut Butter (creamy)
Jelly or Jam
Ramen Noodles
Dinty Moore Beef Stew
Canned Chicken
Small cans of Tuna
Canned Baked Beans
Canned Soup
Cereal
Flavored Oatmeal Packets
Fruit Bars
Toaster Pop Tarts
Granola Bars
Kool-Aid
Juice boxes or Pouches
Laundry Detergent
Dryer Sheets
Toilet Paper
Toothbrushes
Toothpaste
Deodorant
Hand Soap
Dish Soap

Items Not Used

Canned Cream of...Soups
Bagged beans of any kind
Canned beans (except Baked Beans)

Pre-K Registration

preschool registration



Registration for the 2025-2026 school year **for St. John's members** will begin on **Monday, December 2, 2024** in the church office.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

Pre-K 5's - child must be 5 years old by January 1, 2025

Pre-K - child must be 4 years old by September 1, 2025

Wee Three - child must be 3 years old by Sept. 1, 2025 and potty trained

REGISTRATION FEE: **All Classes - \$50.00 (non-refundable)**

*MONTHLY TUITION and CLASS SCHEDULE:

Pre-K 5's \$ 185
Monday - Friday
9:00 - 11:45 am only

Pre-K 4's \$ 120
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
8:45 - 11:30 am
1:00 - 3:45 pm

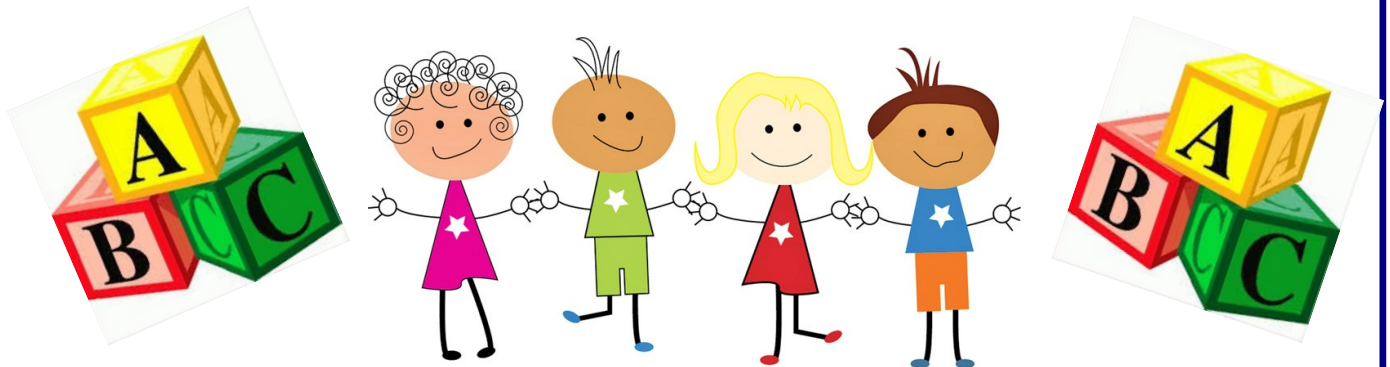


Wee Three \$ 85
Monday, Tuesday,
1:00 - 3:30 pm

Wee Three \$ 85
Thursday & Friday
9:00 - 11:30 am

Registration is open to the public on **Monday, January 20, 2025** from 8 a.m. to Noon and 4pm to 6pm in the Pre-K rooms. Director & Teacher Amanda Jeffery; Teachers, Julie Van Fossen and Nichelle Edwards; Aides, Sharon Finnie, Kim Love, and Lillian Bucevac.

**All fees are subject to change.*





December Birthdays

1
Lori Phillips
Charles Stuart
2
Joann Lorenz
Mark Perry
Elizabeth Sexton
Kim Thomson
4
Suzanne Nemetz
6
Mackenzie Immel
Nicole West
8
Ruth Campbell
Holly Diefenbaugh
Scott Kinsey
Parker McMillan
Kathryn West
9
Bennett Wallick
10
Stephanie Krantz
Heather Smith
11
Kayla Murphy
12
Brenda Froman
13
Kathy Deitrick
14
Lincoln McIlvaine
15
Trevor Welch
16
Ian Sexton

17
Spencer Altier
Daniel Sickinger
Keegan Whitlach
Olivia Whitlach
Sara Whitlach

18
Christie Locke
19
Amy Forkum
Dylan Sare
20
Trisha Altier
Christina Sickinger
Conner Thomson
23
John Engelhard
24
Jane Gingrich
Holly Gonter
25
Brenda Lahm
26
Christopher Becker
Cara Marburger-Silas
27
Linda Kilgore
28
Madelyn McIlvaine
Livia Mines
Kirsten Siegenthaler
29
Alice Coutts
Jonathan Mason
Jon McIlvaine
30
Jillian Elton
31
Earl Feller



December Anniversaries

1
Mark & Debra Hughes
5
Dan & Connie Burrier
15
Bryan & Robyn Hughes
16
Jason & Kelly Wallick
17
Edward & Vicki Rufener
21
James & Linda Kilgore
22
Timothy & Karie McCrate
26
Edward & Ginny Diefenbaugh
27
Frank & Patricia Ellwood
28
Rod & Beth Showers





WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE ORPHANS?

The Bad Girls read The Orphan Train a few years ago but never heard another word about the children who were sent west to be adopted. The Chapter one by Laura Moriarty tells us about one fictional character who was adopted by a Kansas couple, grew up with traditional values and married a successful lawyer. Her life changed when she took on a summer job chaperoning a beautiful fifteen-year-old dancer who was taking classes in New York City. This novel takes place in the turbulent 20's and 30's, deals with Prohibition, the Great Depression, and the women's rights movement. Join the Bad Girls on **December 9 at 6:30** in the Conference Room to discuss the fascinating life of one lucky orphan.



St. John's Music Ministry

St. John's Chancel Choir has been invited and will, once again, be participating in this year's Lessons and Carols service at St. Joseph Catholic Church. This is a community Advent service in which local churches and choirs come together to anticipate and celebrate the birth of Jesus. The service will be held on **Sunday, December 8th**, beginning at **6:00 pm**, (Prelude beginning at **5:30 pm**)

We invite you to celebrate the season with the music of this season.



Altar Flower/Bulletin Order Form for 2025

Once again it is time to order altar flowers / bulletins. Order forms can be picked up in the church office and returned with payment of **\$12.50** for Altar Flowers and **\$25.00** for Bulletins. Your orders will be for the year **2025**.

For those of you who prefer fresh flowers, it will be the same policy as in the past. You may purchase them, have them delivered to the church, and then dispose of them after worship. You will also have your dedication to your loved one in the worship bulletin on the date of your choice.

Please call the church office at least one week in advance. We will provide a pedestal to display them on the chancel steps.

If you have any questions about the sanctuary flowers, please call the church office.

Merry Christmas

Hand Bell Choir



Hand bells practice has resumed on **Sunday mornings at 11:30 am**. Recalling all past ringers and inviting any new ringers to join us.

Adults and children grade 6 and up are welcome. Some music knowledge is helpful, but not mandatory as the music will be numbered and color-coded. Practices are on Sunday mornings.

Come try it out!!! Any questions---call Nancy Smith at 330-364-2195.

Card Party

At Fourth & Faith
Wednesday, December 11

1pm-4pm

Cost of \$10.00 includes food

Please contact Bev Smith
at 330-343-2231

Benefit the Cancer Care Bag





December



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship/ Communion 11:00 Fourth @ Faith Reserved 11:30 Advent Festival /Luncheon, Fellow- ship Ctr. Pick up Christmas Greens	2 10:00 Yoga @ Fourth & Faith 2:00 Needles & Hookers 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Barbershop	3 6:30 Cub Scouts/ Webelos	4 7:00 Choir Practice	5 10:00 Yoga @ Fourth & Faith 5:00 Youth @ Fourth & Faith 6-8 Sanctuary reserved for dress rehearsal	6 	7 12:00 Fellowship Ctr. Reserved
8 Youth Pageant Sunday 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bells Practice 3:30 Fourth & Faith Reserved	9 10:00 Yoga @ Fourth & Faith 2:00 Needles & Hookers 6:30 Bad Girls Conf. Room 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Barbershop	10 6:30 Cub Scouts/ Webelos 6:30 Elders/Trustees/ Deacons 7:30 Council Mtg	11 1:00 Card Party @ Fourth & Faith  7:00 Choir Practice	12 10:00 Yoga @ Fourth & Faith 5:30-8pm Middle School Missions @ Fourth & Faith (6-8th Grade)	13	14 12:00 Fourth & Faith Reserved Live Nativity 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 & 8:30
15 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bells Prac- tice 2:00 Fourth & Faith Reserved Live Nativity 7:00, 7:30, 8:00 & 8:30	16 Carillon Deadline 10:00 Yoga @ Fourth & Faith 2:00 Needles & Hookers 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Barbershop	17 6:30 Cub Scouts/ Webelos	18 5:30 Conference Rm Reserved 7:00 Choir Practice	19 10:00 Yoga @ Fourth & Faith 6:00 Pre-K Families Christmas /Social Hall Reserves	20	21 
22 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bells Practice	23 2:00 Needles & Hookers 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Barbershop	24 Christmas Eve Services 3:00 Service in the Sanctuary 7:00 Candlelight service in the Sanctuary	25 Merry Christmas  Building & Office Closed	26	27 	28
29 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bells Practice 1:00 Fourth & Faith Reserved	30 2:00 Needles & Hookers 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Barbershop	31 5:00 pm Social Hall Reserved 6:30 Cub Scouts/ Webelos 5:00 Social Hall Reserved				