



New Year's Grace

Pastor's Desk



It's New Year's resolution time! 'Tis the season to lose weight, to quit smoking, to spend less and save more. 'Tis the season for improving our lives. BUT we have been lied to, for the slogan "a new year, a new you" is a gimmick. On New Year's Eve, when the clock chimes at midnight, it may have become a new calendar year, but we are the same people from 2023. No "2.0

version". No fairy dust fell from heaven and magically appeared on us. We are the old "us," who subconsciously keep those bad habits and who would naturally choose candy over kale. Making a New Year's resolution is easy, but changing is hard. In fact, it is estimated that only 8 percent of people who make resolutions will achieve them.



When we really think about it, it is not a surprise that New Year's resolutions fail. With our best intentions, we start on the right track. We may even enjoy our new change, but sooner or later, we get off track. Life, stress, work, and family get in the way. Then, we feel like we have failed. So, we forget about those goals until next year.

John 1:10-18 speaks hope for our new year! If you read through the passage, you probably missed the word "grace". It is normally not the part of the text we like to focus on. On Christmas, we focus on "the Word became flesh and dwelled among us." However, we could also say that "Grace became flesh and dwelled among us." Jesus was the embodiment of God's grace. The text says that "he was full of grace and truth," and because of Jesus, "we have all received, grace upon grace." God's grace is so vast. It is more than the snowflakes that fall from the Ohio sky. God's grace is so overwhelming, that it is more than the drops of water that make up Lake Erie.

Reading through the Gospel of John, we can see that Jesus showed a multitude of grace. Jesus showed everyone what grace **tastes** like, through changing water into wine. Jesus showed 5000 people what grace

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

Rev. Dr. Cassandra Granados
Senior Minister
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>

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feels like, when they had enough food to eat and plenty to share. Jesus showed the religious leaders what grace **looks** like, by healing a man born blind, despite it being the Sabbath. It is easy to forget all the grace that God bestows on us every day. Sometimes, we don't even realize it, such as: protection from injury, healing from illness, and extensions on deadlines, despite our procrastination (like this Carillon article!). We receive grace day after day.

Inevitably, at some point this year, life is going to get in the way of our life improvement goals. We will fall off that horse of success. Let us remember the grace that God gives us every day, and **let us give ourselves that same grace.** The same grace that reminds us: no matter how many times we have gotten off track, we can always come back and start again. We do not need an excuse of a New Year to make a change, but we can act any day.

With love,
Pastor Cassandra

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New Year's Resolution for Christians

The practice of making New Year's resolutions goes back over 3000 years to the ancient Babylonians. There is just something about the start of a new year that gives us the feeling of a fresh start and a new beginning. In reality there is no difference between December 31 and January 1. Nothing mystical occurs at midnight. The Bible does not speak for or against the concept of New Year's resolutions. However, if Christians should decide to make a resolution, what kind should it be?

The most common resolutions are commitments such as to quit smoking, to stop drinking, to manage money more wisely, and spend more time with family. By far, the most common one is to lose weight by either exercising more or eating less. The vast majority of New Years resolutions, even among Christians, are in relation to physical things. Perhaps we should rethink this concept.

Many Christians make resolutions to pray more, read the Bible every day, and attend church mor regularly. These are fantastic goals! However, these resolutions fail just as often as the non-spiritual ones because there is no power in a New Years's Resolution. Resolving to start or stop doing certain activities has no value unless you have the proper motivation. For example, why do you want to read the Bible ever day? Is it to honor God and grow spiritually or is it because you have heard that it is a good thing to do? Why do you

want to lose weight? Is it to honor God with the temple God gave you or is it for vanity to honor yourself?

Philippians 4:13 tells us, "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength." If God is the center of your New Year's resolutions, they have a chance for success depending on your commitment to them. So, what can a Christian do to make your resolutions a success?

First, pray to the Lord for guidance and wisdom to make sure your plans are in line with God's plans for you.

Rely on God's strength to help you fulfill the goals you have set.

Find an accountability partner who will help encourage you. Don't become proud but give God the glory.

Don't become discouraged by occasional failures. Allow them to motivate you further.

Psalm 37:5 gives this advice: "Commit your path to the Lord; let Him direct you. Put your confidence in Him and He will follow through with you."

Sounds like God and you will make a wonderful team this year. Keep up the good work!

Happy New Year!

Pastor Dotty

Wise Men Still Seek Him



Wise Men and Women Still Seek Him

Epiphany always falls on January 6 and because it does not always fall on Sunday, it is often overlooked. But it is one of the earliest fixed dates of Christian worship. It is the celebration of the Star; the celebration of The Wise Men arriving in Bethlehem to worship the baby King.

Although the beckoning star heeded by wise travelers long ago no longer leads the way, the manger-born Christ is still to be found and followed. We are not brought to our knees in surprise as were those journeyers of old, yet our desire to worship is as deep as theirs. And though we do not bear gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, we offer ourselves and what we have. The story continues. The good news abounds. There is a living Christ to discover and worship and serve. Let us rejoice and be glad!



Our First Graphic Novel



The Bad Girls will be delving into the graphic novel genre in January when we read Maus by Art Spiegelman. The cover notes say it all: "Maus is the story of Vladek Spiegelman, a Jewish survivor of Hitler's Europe, and his son, a cartoonist who tries to come to terms with his father, his father's terrifying story, and History itself. Its form, the cartoon (the Nazis are cats, the Jews mice), succeeds perfectly in shocking us out of any lingering sense of familiarity with the events described, approaching, as it does the unspeakable through the diminutive." Join the Bad Girls on **Monday, January 8 at 6:30** in the Conference Room for this reminder of one of history's tragedies.

Pre-K Registration

preschool registration



Registration for the 2024-2025 school year **for St. John's members** will begin on **Monday, December 4, 2023** in the church office.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

Pre-K 5's - child must be 5 years old by January 1, 2024

Pre-K - child must be 4 years old by September 1, 2024

Wee Three - child must be 3 years old by Sept. 1, 2024 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

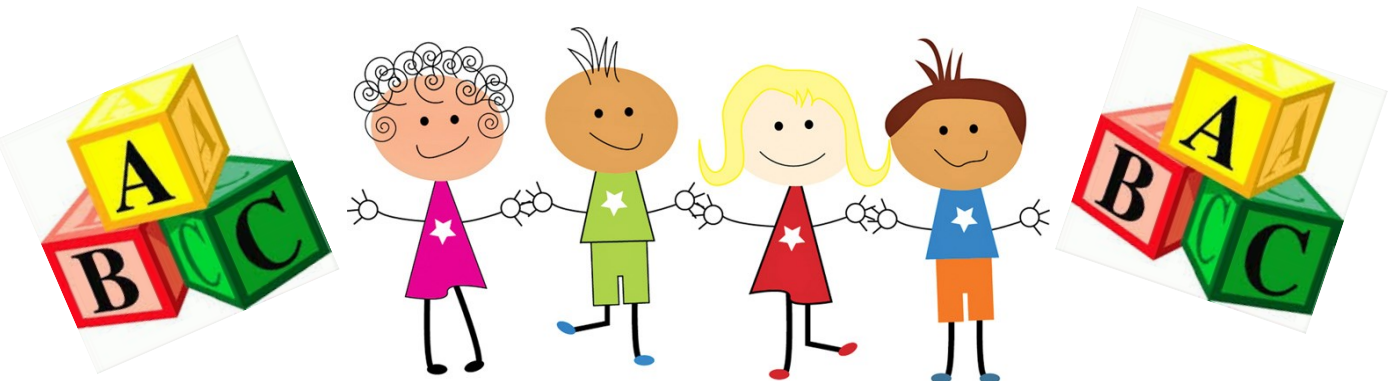


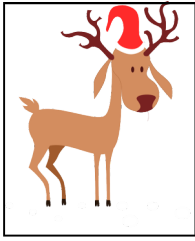
Wee Three \$ 85
Monday, Tuesday
1:00 - 3:30 pm

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

Registration is open to the public on Monday, January 15, 2024 from 9 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the **Pre-K rooms. Director & Teacher Amanda Jeffery; Teachers, Julie Van Fossen and Nichelle Edwards. Aides, Sharon Finnie, Kim Love, Melissa Deibel and Lillian Bucevac.**

**All fees are subject to change.*





Kindness Calendar January 2024

People often forget that kindness is free.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Wish someone a Happy New Year	2 Start a gratitude diary - write one thing every day	3 Give someone a long heartfelt hug	4 Feed the birds	5 Tell someone you're proud of them and why	6 Donate pre-read books to charity
7 Switch off your phone for the whole day	8 Give a homeless person a warm scarf or gloves	9 Be generous with compliments	10 Play a game instead of watching TV	11 Pay for a stranger's coffee	12 Post happy photos on social media	13 Turn off lights when not in use
14 Offer to help someone who needs it	15 Have a long soak in a bath with candles and relaxing music	16 Tell a silly joke to make someone laugh	17 Call a friend to ask about their day	18 Read a story to a loved one	19 Say hello to someone new	20 Let someone in front of you in line
21 Give others your full attention	22 Write a letter to someone	23 Take treats into work or school	24 Hold the door open for someone	25 Tell someone why you love them	26 Tip your server a little extra	27 Stay in your pajamas and read a good book
28 Smile at everyone you see	29 Pick up litter around your neighborhood	30 Tape some coins to a vending machine	31 Be gentle with yourself, you're doing the best you can			

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

Troop 86
**BOY SCOUT
SPAGHETTI
DINNER**
(open to the public)

CARRY-OUT AVAILABLE

Sunday, February 11, 2024

11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Tickets \$9.00

Children age 5 and
under **FREE**

*Tickets available
from any member
of Troop 86, or in
the church office.*



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

**St. John's UCC Church Council Meeting
December 12, 2023 at 7:30 pm**

The meeting of St. John's United Church of Christ Church Council was called to order on December 12th, 2023 at 7:30 pm by President Dan Dummermuth. There were 11 Council members in attendance including Rev. Granados.

Rev. Cassandra lit the Christ candle and offered an opening prayer.

The November 2023 minutes were approved as submitted.

Assistant Treasurer Holly Gontor reviewed the financial report. General Fund income for November 2023 was \$33,914. Expenses were \$23,428, resulting in a net gain of \$10,365 for the month. General Fund income year to date is \$274,096 and Expenses year to date is \$333,076 resulting in a shortfall year to date of \$58,980. We have transferred \$58,405 from investments in 2023 to cover General Expenses. M/S/C by Rob Gump and Vicki Rufener to approve the Treasurer's Report.

SENIOR MINISTER REPORT - Rev. Cassandra was happy to be back after being gone for three weeks including vacation, attending an Educational Conference for the Academy of Homiletics annual meeting and a Living Water Association Seminar. December 24th 10:30am will be the Advent Service and 4:30pm will be the Christmas Eve Service.

PASTOR OF VISITATION REPORT - No report.

BOARD REPORTS

ELDERS REPORT- Jean Paddock and Vicki Rufener reported the following:

- 1) Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service is ready to go
- 2) The Elders are moving forward with developing a job description for the Director of Christian Education position. They will work with the Christian Education Committee for their approval and will then advertise the position.

DEACONS REPORT - Bev Smith reported the ushers and communion servers for January have been secured.

TRUSTEES REPORT - Rob Gump reported. 1.) Bob Feutz has been working on getting the rusted panels replaced on the Christian Education Building. 2.) There was a leak in the Nursery that ran downstairs in the kitchen that needed taken care of. 3.) Thanks to the gentlemen who took care of sealing the cracks in the front of the church concrete sidewalk. It is now much safer. 4.) Some people using Fourth & Faith have had food in the sanctuary part of the facility. There are now spots on the carpet. Council agreed that no food or drink should be permitted in that room. It will be added to the Room Rental Contract and a sign will be posted.

COMMITTEE/TASK FORCE REPORTS

Nominating Committee - President Dan presented the ballot to Council. There are still a few positions that need to be filled before the Congregational Meeting

in January. M/S/C by Rob Gump and Holly Gontor to approve the ballot.

Annual Reports - Dan asked for the reports to be turned in to the office by January 5th.

History Committee - Dave Gingrich reported for the committee that 300 people toured the church last Sunday for the Annual Christmas Tour of Homes. Thanks to everyone who volunteered in any way to help make it a success.

CONGREGATIONAL SOLICITATIONS - None

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS - None

UPCOMING EVENTS-

Bev Smith reported the following activities:

December 13th- Card Party, Fourth & Faith, 1pm. One hundred people are signed up..

The committee is looking into alternative food offerings for Taco Thursday for the upcoming year.

Live Nativity-December 16 & 17th, 7pm, 7:30pm, 8pm and 8:30pm

ADJOURNMENT AND LORD'S PRAYER

Dan led the Council in the Lord's Prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 8:13pm.



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.

Vicki Rufener
1100 N Walnut St.
Dover, OH 44622
330-365-1762



Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the St. John's congregation will be held on **Sunday, January 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.



November Financial Report

Actual Income \$ 33,914
Actual Expenses \$ 23,428

Average Worship Attendance
93

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!

Chair Yoga



The holidays are over...no more excuses...time to stop eating cookies and start doing YOGA!

As of Thursday morning January 4th 2024, we will resume our free bi-weekly chair yoga classes. They will be every Monday and Thursday morning starting at 10:00 am at Fourth and Faith. You don't have to bring a thing. It's 45 minutes twice a week devoted just to you. If you can't make every session, that's ok. Come as often as possible.

If you can't do all the poses, that's ok too. Just do what you feel comfortable doing. It's not just for ladies. Several men enjoy coming thanks to our leader, Rod Showers. Come and give us a try!

Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed on **Monday, January 1, 2024**, for New Year's Day.



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)

New Year, New Menus

We appreciate everyone's generous donations to Taco Thursday and in the new year, we're going to make some changes to our monthly menu, and we will need your help. Each third Thursday of the month from 5pm - 6:30pm we will serve a community meal. Monthly menus will rotate and include soup & salad, soup & sandwich, pasta bar and tacos. Please share your ideas. We will need donations and workers. This is an excellent opportunity for our church to give to our community. Please share your thoughts & ideas with Bev Smith, who is coordinating this community outreach.



Thank You

Dear St. John's UCC:

I want to thank you again for the complimentary use of Fourth & Faith for our inaugural R.E.A.L. Veterans Reception. We received around 70 attendees and proudly Mr. Bob Baker. What a gem he is. Everyone seemed to enjoy the event and hope to plan for next year to be better.

Thank you & Best Regards
Shonda Davis

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Thank you for all your help with the Christmas open house of St. John's!

A big thank you to all our members who helped welcome 350+ people to the Heritage Home Christmas Tour of St. John's on December 10th. Our members enthusiastically greeted community members entering the sanctuary and shared a bit of our history.

The History Committee



January Birthdays

1
Kenneth Huprich
Samantha Sayre
Valerie Wallick
Zack Wallick

2
Joshua Baumberger

3
Patricia Ellwood
Carolina Kapper
Mitchell Ladrach
Terri Schroeder

4
Heather Lebold
Carrie Preston

5
Jason Jones
Robert L. Jones
Nadine Russell
Robert Schwenk
Kennedy Wallick

6
Beth Ann Norris
Sally Pariso

7
Adam Gunnish
Larry McMillan
Dianna Schroeder

8
Holly Klar
David Worth

9
Heather Rufener
Mary Ellen Walls

10
Ellen Keener
Doug Peterman Jr.
Nathan Stokey

11
Jennifer Elton
Gavin Herman
Jonathan Kelsey

12
Renee Ladrach
Will McCrate
Brett Swinderman

13
Abby Dryden
James Cox

15
Stephanie Sayre
Gale Varnes

16
John Deitrick
Joshua Devore
Jennifer Lauber
Nancy Smith

17
Jayne Armstrong

18
John Dummermuth

19
Abby Dummermuth
Lynn Pariso
Sarah Schumacher

20
Judy Wherley

21
Kathleen Baker
Jim Murphy
Steven Wherley
Joan Whitemyer

22
Jim Mercer
Koen Schwenk
Melisa Siegenthaler

23
Sue Dummermuth
Michael Edwards

24
Gemma Dotts

25
Dan Dearth
Suzanne Mason
Taylor Mathews

27
Jennifer Fox
Wayne Parrish

28
Wendy Contini
Rita Wallick

29
Roland Davidson

Adam Herman
Jaelle Lindon
Cooper Russell
30
Frank Ellwood
Zach Meechan
Mike Smith
31
Bill Harrington
Scott Hart
David Schaar
Carol Warner



January Anniversaries

2
Kristen & Jeremy Harmon

6
Judy & Robert Clinton

9
Brenda & William Von Kaenel

21
Rita & Dennis Wallick

31
Debbie & Jeffery Wallick



Family Members in Nursing Homes

Inn at Northwood
Norma Haglock

Park Village Asst.
Living N.
Marjorie Auman
Jim Cotton

Hospital News

Members and friends of the St. John's family hospitalized between November 15-present include: Heather Immel and Kathy Marburger.

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.



We wish to express our sympathy to the following families:

- To the family of Mark Bowman. Mark passed away November 28.
- To the family of Jacob Lengler. Jacob passed away December 7.
- To the family of Heather Immel. Heather passed away December 9.

Card Party



At Fourth & Faith
Wednesday,
January 10, 2024

Card Party
1 pm - 4 pm \$10.00
includes food.

Please contact Bev
Smith at 330-343-2231
Benefits the
Cancer Care Bags.



Carillon Deadline

The deadline to get information and articles into the next regular issue of the Carillon is **Monday, January 8, 2024**. Please mark your calendar! This will be for the February 2024 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 E-mail to: church.secretary@doverstjohns.org**

2023 Annual Report



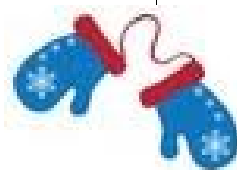

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

Reminder to all Committee Chairs, Class Leaders, and Department Chairs that it is time to begin preparations for your year-end reports for the - **2023 Annual Report**. Reports are due in the office **via email** by **Friday January 5, 2024**.



JANUARY



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 CHURCH OFFICE & BUILDING CLOSED	2 6:30 Cub Scouts/ Webelos	3 7:00 Chancel Choir	4 10:00 Yoga @ Fourth & Faith	5 Annual Reports Due in the Office today	6 Epiphany
7 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship/ Communion	8 Carillon Deadline 10:00 Yoga @ Fourth & Faith 2:00 Needles & Hookers 6:00 Bad Girls/ Conf. Rm 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Barbershop	9 2:00 Bible Study 6:30 Cub Scouts/ Webelos 6:30 Elders/Trustees 7:30 Council Mtg.	10 1:00 Card Party @ Fourth & Faith 7:00 Chancel Choir	11 10:00 Yoga @ Fourth & Faith	12 	13
14 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship	15 Preschool Registration 10:00 Yoga @ Fourth & Faith 2:00 Needles & Hookers 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Barbershop	16 2:00 Bible Study 6:30 Cub Scouts/ Webelos	17 7:00 Chancel Choir	18 10:00 Yoga @ Fourth & Faith	19 	20 1:00 Fourth & Faith Reserved
21 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship	22 10:00 Yoga @ Fourth & Faith 2:00 Needles & Hookers 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Barbershop	23 2:00 Bible Study 6:30 Cub Scouts/ Webelos	24 7:00 Chancel Choir	25 10:00 Yoga @ Fourth & Faith	26 	27
28 Annual Meeting 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship 11:30 Cong. Mtg.	29 10:00 Yoga @ Fourth & Faith 2:00 Needles & Hookers 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Barbershop	30 2:00 Bible Study 6:30 Cub Scouts/ Webelos	31 7:00 Chancel Choir	10:00 Yoga @ Fourth & Faith	