



Weekly News

February 7, 2024
Issue #159

St. John's United Church of Christ is an inclusive congregation where God's love is felt by all, for all and in all we do through worship, mission, and community.

Join us for in-person worship Sundays at 10:30am.
Livestream worship is available on [St. John's YouTube channel](#)

For current events, past newsletters, and our current bulletin, please visit: www.StJohnsUCC.org

CALENDAR

Thursday (02/08):	12-2PM	Food Pantry	Brombaugh Room
	7:00PM	Chancel Choir Practice	Sanctuary
Sunday (02/11):	10:30AM	Worship	Sanctuary
Tuesday (02/13):	12-2PM	Food Pantry	Brombaugh Room
Wednesday (02/14):	7:00PM	Ash Wednesday Svc	Emmanuel's Lutheran/Germantown
Thursday (02/15):	5:30-6PM	Dinner &	Brombaugh Room
	6-7PM	Lenten Book Study	Assembly Room

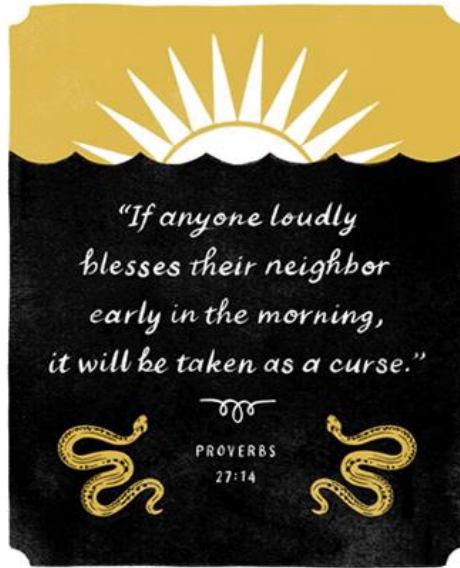
WORSHIP

<u>February 11</u>	<u>Pastor Mark Anthony</u>	<u>February 18</u>	<u>Pastor Mark Anthony</u>
<i>Transfiguration</i>		<i>First Sunday in Lent</i>	
Scripture: Exodus 24: 12-18 & Mark 9: 2-9		Scripture: Psalm 74: 18-23 & Mark 1: 13-15	
Sermon: On The Border		Sermon: Stand	
Musical Offering: Chancel Choir / Transform Us (Red No. 182)		Musical Offering: TBA	
Liturgist: Brenda Williams		Liturgist: Elaine Pottenger	
Godly Play: The Great Pearl (p.162) w/ Erin		Godly Play: Lenten Puzzle (p.176) w/ Brenda	



LENTEN BOOK STUDY

Pastor Mark will be offering a Book Study during Lent this year. Our book will be 'Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again' by Rachel Held Evans. The book is available on Amazon or as an audiobook on Audible. While we have not finalized all the details, at this time, we are looking to hold the Book Study on Thursdays from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm, from February 15, 2024, through March 21, 2024. Please sign up on the sheet in the Assembly Room or let the Church Office know you wish to participate. More details will follow.



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

This year, St. John's will join in a Community Ash Wednesday Service at Emmanuel's Lutheran Church in Germantown on Wednesday, February 14th, at 7:00 P.M. The theme is "From the Ashes Christ Heals" and will feature both the Imposition of Ashes and a Healing Service. We are all invited to join together as one family of God and Valley View community to celebrate the beginning of this year's Lenten season.



YOUTH SPONSORED LUNCHEON

Come join us for lunch after church on **Sunday, February 18!**

***We will be serving ham, baked potatoes, green beans, rolls, salad, and dessert.**

This luncheon will be used to raise funds for the Youth's Lenten community project. The youth decided this year to help our local community. All proceeds will be going to the Dayton Street Ministry, which is an organization that helps the homeless in Dayton. We will be sharing more information about this organization and how they serve the Dayton community in the coming weeks. As usual, we will also be collecting change throughout Lent. We will have a container in the Assembly Room. **Thank you for supporting the youth and their project!**

CHURCH 'N LUNCH



time together around the table

LENT SERVICES

During Lent, our sermons will center on the Good News that ***"We Are A New Creation."*** What does it mean to be a Christian - one who is being made new through the Spirit of Christ - in our lives? How do the Scriptures challenge us, and encourage us, in this lifelong effort to become more visibly the face and voice of Christ in our world? The topics and themes for each Sunday will be:

February 18: Stand (Truth)

February 25: Choose (Trust)

March 3: Forgive (Mercy)

March 10: Embrace (Love)

March 17: Change (Hope)

On March 24, we will celebrate Passion Sunday, hearing the story of Jesus' passion and death as presented in Mark's Gospel.

On March 28, our Maundy Thursday service will be held, with Holy Communion, in commemoration of the Last Supper. Details will follow for this service.



IMPLICIT BIAS WORKSHOP INVITATION

Pastor Mark will be attending. You are invited to join him at Harmony Church for this special event!

Implicit Bias Workshop Coming to Harmony Creek

901 E Stroop Rd, Kettering, OH 45429

Saturday, March 16: 9:00 AM – Noon

Harmony Creek Church

Have you ever wondered whether you have subconscious biases that affect your interactions with others? Why do they matter, and what can we do to mitigate them? Learn the answers to these questions!

Harmony Creek Church's Justice League will sponsor a free workshop on Implicit Bias on Saturday, March 16, from 9 a.m. to noon in Fellowship Hall. All are invited to participate in this exciting learning opportunity, which will be led by Sinclair professors Dr. Kathleen Gish (sociology) and Myra Bozeman (communication).

Implicit bias refers to our evaluations or beliefs, whether positive or negative, that exist without our even realizing it. We often form these implicit evaluations based on inaccurate information or stereotypes of people, objects and ideas. Because they are subconscious, they impact our decisions, perceptions and behaviors in ways that may not align with our values without our even being aware of it! This makes it more difficult for us to live up to our values of equity and fairness. Becoming aware of our implicit biases is like checking our blind spots.

Register at [this link](#), scan the QR code below, or email justice@harmony-creek.org with **Implicit Bias Training** in the subject line to reserve your seat!

All participants will be asked to complete a brief training and quiz from the Kirwan Institute before the workshop which can be found at <https://kirwaninstitute.osu.edu/implicit-bias-module-series>. We hope you will join us on this social justice adventure!

"It is important to learn about implicit bias, particularly those biases that don't align with your intentions or explicit beliefs."

Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity at Ohio State University



CHURCH HURTS SUPPORT GROUP

Harmony Creek Church will be hosting their 'Church Hurts' Support Group on Monday, February 26th, 2024 from 7:00 – 8:00PM. There will now be a Zoom option. You may email Pastor Michelle for a link; her email is pastormichelle@harmony-creek.org. This group is open to all.

Church Hurts is a support group for anyone who has been wounded by the Church. Whether you have been told to repent from a 'lifestyle' which is actually an expression of your being, or felt rejected or judged harshly, or merely been mistreated by members of a church community, this support group will help you heal as you share, garner insights, get to know one another and learn once more that there can be unconditional love and support for all God's children. Church Hurts will meet at Harmony Creek Church, located at 901 E Stroop Rd., Kettering, Ohio 45429. To sign up, email Rev Michelle Wilkey.



ST. JOHN'S NEW WEBSITE

Our new website, www.stjohnsucc.org, is updated weekly with our upcoming events, our bulletins, and our weekly newsletter. If you click on the 'Services' tab, you will find our Sunday livestream videos, with a link to the corresponding bulletin below the video (just click the blue box!). We will upload our bulletin for our next service prior to Sunday Worship. If you livestream our Worship Service, you can view the bulletin online. **Most information will be located under the Services, Events or Publications tabs.** Please call the church office with any questions you may have!



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please send all prayer requests via email (secretarystjohns937@gmail.com) or by calling the church. They will be shared in our Weekly News and during online worship. Please make sure you make note of whether request is for Pastor/Elders only or to be published/shared via internet. Prayer requests shared during online worship do not include last names for privacy purposes. **If you have questions or want updates regarding anyone on our prayer lists, please contact the Church Office (937) 855-2050.**

Ongoing Care Circle: Dick, Danita, Mary Anne, Elaine, Vickie, Mary Louise, Margaret, Barbara, Cheryl, Brian.

Members of the Armed Forces: Chad, Christina, Robert.

Cancer Survivors: Gerald, Jackie, Dorris, Paul, Judy, Sarah, Elaine, Rhonda, Twila.

- **The family and friends of Amy, who passed away on December 30th, 2024.**



CONTACTS

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FINANCIAL SECRETARY

SecretaryStJohns937@gmail.com

(937) 855-2050 (Monday - Friday 9:00am – 2:00pm)

Contact Us:

