



Weekly News

February 21, 2024

Issue #161

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	(02/22):	12-2PM	Food Pantry	Brombaugh Room
		5:30PM	Dinner	Brombaugh Room
		6-7PM	Lenten Book Study	Assembly Room
Sunday	(02/25):	10:30AM	Worship	Sanctuary
Tuesday	(02/27):	12-2PM	Food Pantry	Brombaugh Room

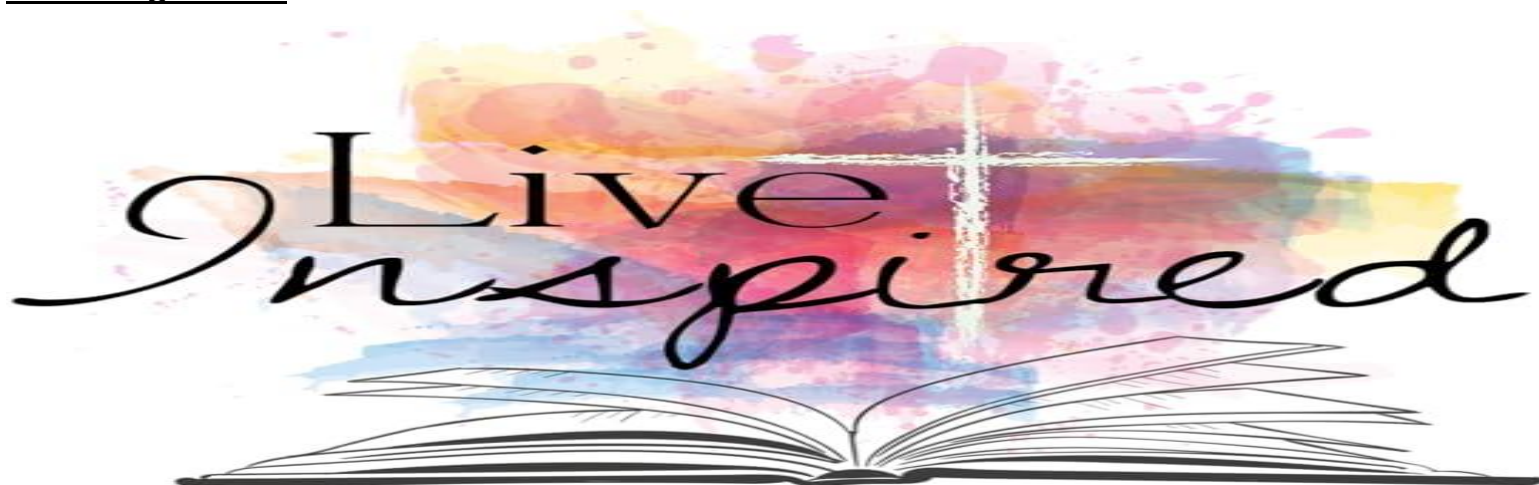
WORSHIP

February 25	<i>Pastor Mark Anthony</i>	March 3	<i>Pastor Mark Anthony</i>
<i>Second Sunday in Lent</i>		<i>Third Sunday in Lent</i>	
Scripture: Joshua 24: 14-15 & Mark 8: 27-38		Scripture: Psalm 103: 1-14 & Mark 2: 1-12	
Sermon: Choose		Sermon: Forgive	
Musical Offering: Bell Choir / I Surrender All Larry Sue		Musical Offering: Youth Choir	
Liturgist: Jackie Finney		Liturgist:	
Godly Play: Jesus and the Children (p.178) w/ Sharon		Godly Play: Jesus and Bartimaeus (p.180) w/ Erin	



LENTEN BOOK STUDY

Join our Book Study with Pastor Mark! The book is '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. The Book Study will meet on Thursdays from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm, from February 15, 2024, through March 21, 2024. On February 15th, we will be discussing Chapter 1 and on February 22nd, we will be discussing Chapters 2 and 3. Join us before the Book Study at 5:30pm for dinner in the Brombaugh Room!



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

February 25: Choose

March 3: Forgive

March 10: Embrace

March 17: Change

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.



DAR COUPON UPDATE

Thank you so much for continuing to save the coupons you don't need so they can be sent to our military families by the Colonel Jonathan Bayard Smith chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. We're getting together in a few weeks to put all of the coupons collected by the chapter together and send them to a US military base somewhere in the world! **We hope we can send them to the base on the island of Guam. They really appreciate them. We appreciate our friends on Guam letting us know they received them and they use them.** They always thank us for sending them. **Right now I have counted 353 coupons worth \$1,093.48 that you have collected for me.** I have lots more cut out and ready to sort and count. I'll report a grand total before I turn them in. **Please continue to drop off any coupons you don't have a use for in the box on the table in the glass lobby at church or give them to me when you see me.** Then I can thank you personally for helping with this project! We can't send coupons that are store specific - ones that are only good at Kroger or Target for example. They can be expired.

Thank you so much for helping with this project!

Nancy McDonnell

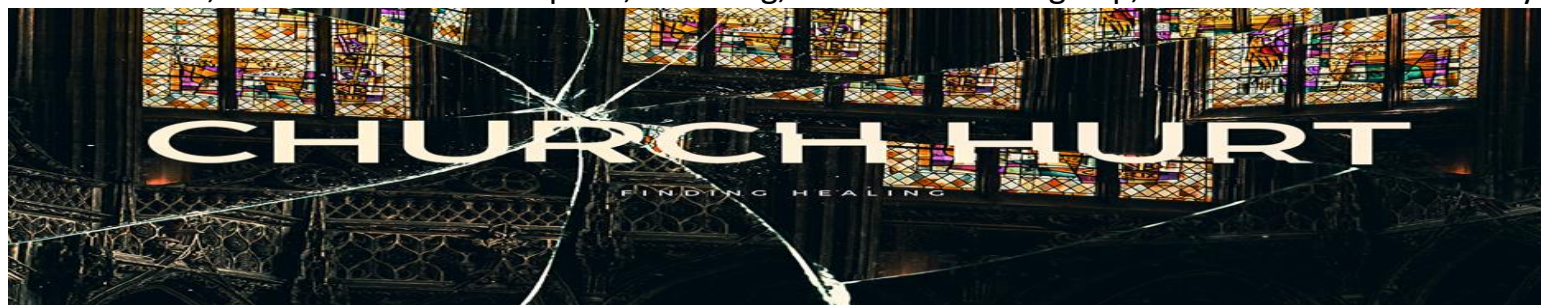
Colonel Jonathan Bayard Smith Chapter, DAR



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.



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



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.

- Linda – Completed first phase of cancer treatment & is scared to start new regimen in March.
- Randy – Serious complications with heart and lungs. In need of transplants of both heart & lungs.



CONTACTS

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FINANCIAL SECRETARY

SecretaryStJohns937@gmail.com

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



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.