



I watched the congregation come forward on Sunday to dedicate our pledges to God. Bold steps were taken to dedicate gifts and devote life to God's holy work.

The Tuesday prior steps were taken by caring individuals who had prepared over 260 meals, organized groceries, and greeted neighbors with needed food.

Friday evening women stepped into Trinity Hall for Breathe. They sought company, rest, care, and joy.

I think of all the ways I've seen us as a congregation stepping into new beginnings, new connections, new patterns for faith and discipleship.

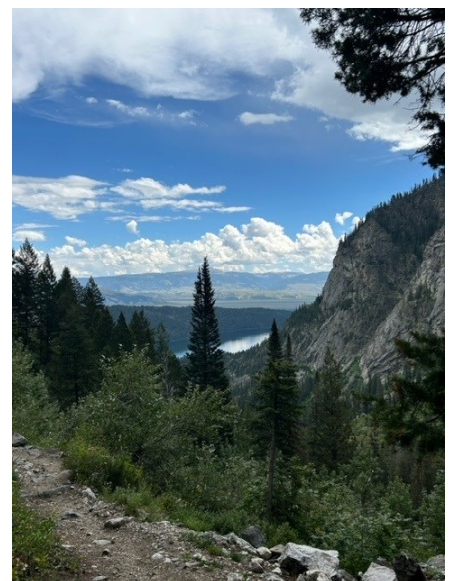
We might not always know where these steps will take us, but we begin by faith in the One who invites us on a journey.

There are times when I'm looking around at the number of projects I need to take care of in our farmhouse built in 1870. As long as the projects are all bundled together in my mind, I will do nothing. But when I take on just one, it feels doable. And maybe that's our way forward.

It is usually too daunting to harass ourselves with the list of all that needs to be done in repairing the world and repairing our lives. So, we think of one thing in our life. And maybe one thing beyond our life. One step we want to take in our personal growth (daily prayer & Bible study, regular giving, a support group, weekly worship). One step we want to take in service (becoming a mentor, helping with community meal, serving as an elder or deacon, getting to know our neighbors).

But before we start stepping, we thank God for courage kindled and ask God to lead the way. We realize that God causes the growth, God heals the world, and God takes our hand, calls us beloved, and leads us forward step by step.

Tom



NOVEMBER CALENDAR

November 5

Sermon Discussion Group
11am—Lounge

November 7

Election Day

November 9

NOICA Cooking Club
6pm—Kitchen & Trinity Hall

November 12

Emotionally Safe Parenting with Jennifer Smith
11am—Fellowship Hall

November 13

Session
7pm—Lounge

November 19

End of Life Session
11am—Lounge

November 20

Deacons Meeting
7pm—Lounge

November 21

Community Meal
5:00—Drive-thru

November 26

Healing Prayer Meeting
11am—Lounge

November 28

Stephen Minister's Meeting
7pm—Lounge

NOVEMBER HYBRID WORSHIP

November 5

Communion Sunday
Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan
Exodus 33:12-17
God Going with Us

November 12

Healing Prayer
Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan
Psalms 19
How Is God Known?

November 19

Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan
Deuteronomy 8:7-18
Remember

November 26

Hanging of the Greens
Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan
Ezekiel 34:11-16
God the Shepherd

November Calendars

STAY HEALTHY!

'Tis the season for respiratory illness. As with each fall and winter, we are seeing an increase in our state of COVID and other illnesses. One way we can care for one another is doing all we can to keep one another healthy and not spread illness. If you are having symptoms or not feeling well, please stay home. Session has asked for staff and the congregation to follow CDC guidelines (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/isolation.html>) Prayers for health and rest, and as always let us know if you need prayer or connection.



OCTOBER RECAPS

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

October 9, 2023 MEETING

- Treasurer, Mindi Schibley, reported that regular offering is at 70% of budget which is slightly under the target budget of 75% for 2023. Operating expenses were ordinary and within budget. We have a month-to-month loss of \$49,000, with an overall year-to-date loss of \$23,000.
- Per the guidelines recommended by the Finance Committee, we will make an additional principal payment on a quarterly basis on gifts over \$10,000 + 20% matching from endowment support. Third quarter gifts totaled \$36,000 thus a principle payment was made in October in the amount of \$43,000.

BRIDGE THE GAP RECAP

On Sunday, October 22, approximately 40 people attended *Bridge the Gap* hosted by Be the Bridge. Those gathered were treated to a light lunch before getting down to the business of bridging the gap.

We learned how important it is to not only know your own story but to be curious, not furious, about others. Our facilitator, Bill Shaul, introduced us to the communication model, iLAPP, that can help us have those difficult conversations. We observed some role-playing utilizing iLAPP and were given an opportunity to practice at our tables. Invite, Listen, Acknowledge, Pivot, Perspective is more challenging than you think but can help us gain greater understanding and move us forward.

Be the Bridge is dedicated to bringing more programs like this to John Knox. If you have a social justice topic you would like to explore or you would like to join the committee, please contact Connie Smith at connie928smith@gmail.com.



PERFORMANCE SERIES RECAP

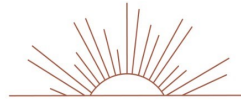
On Sunday, October 15, we welcomed the Brand New Hat bluegrass quartet to our Sanctuary for a lively afternoon concert as part of the 2023-2024 Performance Series. More than 100 people tapped their feet, clapped to the music, and had a great time listening to a variety of bluegrass, traditional, folk, and contemporary styling of both original and familiar compositions. This talented group has been together for more than 20 years and consists of Dan McMillan (lead guitar, vocals), Dave Kennard (banjo, harmonica, vocals), John Hansen (bass, harmonica, vocals) and Roland Kausen (mandolin, vocals). Of special note is that Dave Kennard grew up attending John Knox, and his parents were much loved life long members.



Be sure to watch for information about future Performance Series offerings, especially our annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 10, at 4:00 PM in the Sanctuary.



2024 STEWARDSHIP



Then Moses summoned Joshua. He said to him with all Israel watching, "Be strong. Take courage. You will enter the land with this people ... God is striding ahead of you. God's right there with you. God won't let you down; God won't leave you. Don't be intimidated. Don't worry."

DEUTERONOMY 31:7-8



At the end of October, we all united to dedicate our pledges and support for the work of God at John Knox Church. It was a great celebration of the way God is active in and through our congregation as we are called to live out our vision to extend radical hospitality, build authentic community, and join in God's transforming work in the world. May the next year continue to reflect the focus on God's good work.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

We are grateful for all the ways you participate at John Knox. This includes your pledges, which helps us plan for future ministry and helps us allocate funds to programs, staff and building projects. As of today, we have received \$427,000 in pledges, 47% of our 2024 Congregational Ask Budget. In December, Session will begin discussing the budget, which is guided by pledge giving for next year.

Your pledge commitments are courageous steps that empower our church's mission. If you plan on pledging, we would be grateful if you could do so in the next few weeks. You can visit our webpage, contact our Finance Manager, Mindi Schibley, or scan the QR code on the right. Thank you for your continued support and belief in our mission. Let us continue to take bold steps of faith together.



Second Hour Experiences

Second Hour Experiences are programs and experiences that will happen after church through November 19. Each Sunday there will be a different offering that will allow us to dig deeper, get to know each other, or both.

Nov 5 Sermon Discussion Group Glen Ploegstra and Marty Cook will lead a group in digging deeper into our fall theme of, "Be Bold. God Is With You. Move Forward." This group will be in the Lounge.

Nov 12 Emotionally Safe Parenting with Jennifer Smith This program is for parents and caregivers interested in learning more about how to support our children and youth in the world where they find themselves. This program will be held in Fellowship Hall. Childcare will be provided. A painting activity will be available, and each child will have their own easel, brushes, paints, and choice of pictures to paint!

Nov 19 End of Life Session Join ER nurses, Katherine and Mike Stolz, in the Lounge as they lead an information session about the end-of-life decisions we need to be prepared for including Living Wills, Power of Attorney, and Do Not Resuscitate. Childcare will be provided at this session.



MISSION

GUATEMALA GIRL'S SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Terry Jones and Tim Claiborne shared about the results from the water teams' installation of 250 water systems in 250 homes. Thank you for your support! They also shared the news about the 25 girls in this year's scholarship program that you helped make possible. Now we are asking for your support for 33 girls who have agreed to the standards of the program for 2024. These girls come from rural communities where 75% of their families live below the poverty level. This program makes it possible for these girls to pray and plan for a future in teaching, medicine, engineering, or agriculture. This program helps provide HOPE for the future of Guatemala. Thank you for your prayers and support! Your gifts can be noted to using - Guatemala Scholarships! Please contact Tim or Donna Claiborne, Terry Jones, or Tim MacMillan if you wish further information.



It's almost Angel Tree time! John Knox is once again partnering with the Oxcart Pantry in its annual Adopt-a-Family program, helping families in the area have a better Christmas. The Angel Tree will be in Trinity Hall, beginning Sunday, November 26, filled with angels with gifts to purchase and bring back to the church. Simply pick an angel, sign the sign-up sheet corresponding with your angel, purchase the gift, and bring the wrapped gift back to the church office. More details will follow as we get closer to the holidays! If you have any questions, please contact Kim Tunney at 440-454-3194, or kwtunney@yahoo.com. Thank you for your participation in this wonderful program that helps neighborhood families!

LEVEL UP YOUR LEADERSHIP

Building Hope in the City is hosting its second Level Up Your Leadership Workshop on Saturday, November 18, from 9:00 am -12pm at Bridge City Church.

Effective leadership in your congregation, ministry, business, or family is a constant call to maturity of the heart and mind. At times, we can be our own worst enemy. Join one of last year's panelists, DJ Eidson, co-founder of *Limitless Minds*, for this workshop style brunch and networking session for leaders of faith to strengthen their mindset for activation and influence. Contact Glenn Ploegstra, gspliegstra@att.net, to learn more or if you are interested in registering.

Building Hope in the City invites you to...

LEVEL UP

Your Leadership

Transform Your Thinking from Negativity to Thriving

DATE: Saturday, Nov. 18 from 9am - 12pm

LOCATION: Bridge City Church (3381 Fulton Rd, Cleveland)



HATS, MITTENS, GLOVES AND SOCKS

God's love lives in each of us and encourages us to help one another in times of plenty and in times of want. Many in our community struggle to stay warm as the temperature drops. We are hoping you will help keep the hands and feet of our neighbors toasty this winter.

Congregational Life is, once again, collecting new hats, mittens, gloves and socks for those in need and will coordinate with the Mission Committee to identify recipients. Please help make our donations generous.

Beginning Sunday, November 26, and running through Sunday, December 10, you can place your donations in the shopping bags found in front of the Christmas tree near the north entrance.

Your donations will allow us to serve many. Thank you.

BE THE BRIDGE



“Food is a connector. In a world that is increasingly individualistic, where people feel isolated from their community and from their neighbors and where inequalities grow as a result, cooking becomes an act of love and inclusion that can often be louder than words.”

Be the Bridge is excited to introduce a Cooking Club with our friends from NOICA. They will provide the ingredients and the instruction as we learn how to prepare some of their cultural delicacies. Even better - we will sample the finished product!

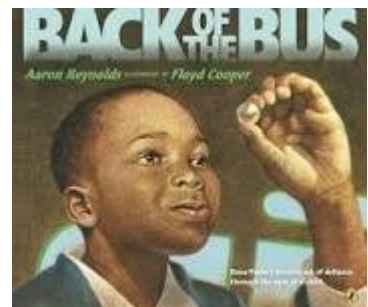
Three classes are planned. All classes will be in Trinity Hall. The first is Thursday, November 9 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Please plan to join us as we continue to learn more about each other.

Reservations are a must! Please contact Connie Smith at connie928smith@gmail.com to save your spot.

Book, Books, Books!

Be the Bridge will offer its selection of library books for checkout on Sunday, November 12 during Coffee Hour. We have an interesting collection of adult, teen and children's books. Plan to stop by our table and check out what is available.

This month we are featuring a new children's book entitled Back of the Bus. This beautifully written and illustrated book chronicles the day Rosa Parks refused to go to the back of the bus. It is told through the eyes of a child who will never forget. Written by Aaron Reynolds and illustrated by Floyd Cooper the book is appropriate for children 6-8 (grade levels 1-3).



Hanging of the Greens



Join us for
Hanging of the Greens
Sunday, November 26
At 10:00 a.m.

Pipers will lead us into worship as we adorn the sanctuary with poinsettias and decorations.

Following the service, the pipers will lead us into Trinity Hall for an Extended Coffee Hour.

Let the weary world rejoice!



Christmas Poinsettia Plant Orders

Poinsettia plant orders are being taken through November 20. Plant colors include red, white, or pink. These will be used to decorate the church during Advent and are available for you to take home after the Christmas services. You may also donate a plant for the John Knox Deacons to deliver to a homebound church member during the first week of Advent. Sponsorships are \$7.00 per plant, payable to John Knox Church, indicating "Christmas Poinsettia" on the memo. Payment can also be made via Realm giving by clicking here: [Realm Giving](#). For more information, contact Tom Haag at (440)250-0854.



Evening of Remembrance



Our beautiful and reflective Evening of Remembrance will be on Tuesday, December 5, at 7:00 PM. This is an evening for members of our John Knox congregation and the community whom have lost loved ones in past years. More and more members and friends of our John Knox Church have discovered this service to be a most meaningful remembrance of their loved ones and an appropriate beginning for the Advent Season. This very special meditative evening in the Sanctuary involves a candle lighting service, music, readings, and a meditation. Please contact the church office to give the name of your loved one being honored at info@johnknoxpc.org or 440-777-3744.

GET CONNECTED!

CLEAN UP DAY JOIN US!



We enjoyed a very successful cleanup day in October! We met some new friends and made the church grounds look great! When it started to rain, it gave us a reason to go inside to enjoy lunch and coffee together and get to know each other better. Come join us this Saturday, 9am-noon, to do outdoor and indoor “chores” since it’s much more fun with friends! On Saturday, November 4, we will have leaves for raking & jumping into (kids are welcome to come and help - a grandson enjoyed helping us with his grandpa in October).

Our next gathering will be Tuesday, November 14, from 7:00 to 8:00 PM in the Lounge.

We will be preparing small Christmas gifts for the women and children at Laura's Home in Cleveland, along with our prayer time, video and fellowship.

If you wish to bring any items from the below list, we will be packaging them up for donation from our women's group. Do not feel obligated to bring any items -- come, whether you have a donation or not. All are welcome!!

Lotion

Lip Balm

Hair Ties, clips, combs, brushes

Nail Polish / small sized polish remover if you can find..)

Stickers

Coloring/activity books and crayons

Gloves/mittens - women and children's' sizes



We are invited to reach out to others in our community and in the world so that we might give them a Christmas gift they might not have had before.

John Knox Church

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY

October was a great month with Halloween Happenings, Meaningful Meals, Pumpkin Carving, and more. We hope you can join us for some of our great events in November! Good people, good food and games for both children and adults always makes for a good time!

At the Meaningful Meals event, families shared their family's prayer before a meal. Singing the prayer of thanks was the most popular way! Our devotional was about making the most of dinner by choosing a devotional topic from a jar to share about. The Minute-to-Win-It games kept everyone smiling as we knocked over water bottles with elephant-like noses, wrapped each other up as mummies, and persuaded Oreos to move from our forehead to our mouths!



In children's Sunday School, the last lesson in our series *Are we there yet?* is this Sunday. We will be reminded of God's promises to lead the Israelites out of the desert to the Promised Land.

Our upcoming learning series theme for November is *On the Right Track*. We will learn about Joshua's challenges as he led his people into the Promised Land. And we will learn to trust God to move forward despite obstacles.

November 12, 11:15 am, there is something for everyone in the family!

Following worship, join Jennifer Smith in Fellowship Hall to learn about Emotionally Safe Parenting.

While parents are in Fellowship Hall, children will be able to do a hands-on painting. Each one will have their own easel, brush, paints, and choice of pictures to paint. Childcare for our youngest will be available in the nursery.

Youth, join us until 12:45 PM for a mission project and fun! We will be having fun and making gifts for our homebound members in the youth room. Every year, our members who are not able to always get to church love getting a special handmade gift from our John Knox Youth. This year we will be mixing up sugar scrub and creating some light up individual gnomes. There is always time for games of course! Hope to see you there!

Intergenerational services this month are November 5 and 26.

We value our worship with all ages! November 5 we will recognize our veterans at our service and handmade gifts from our children's ministry will be presented to those veterans in attendance.

November 26 is a Hanging of the Greens Intergenerational Service with a Paper Bag Pageant put on by Congregational Life you will not want to miss.

November 29 from 6:00 - 8:00 PM is Pancakes and Pajamas!

There will be crafts, Gingerbread house decorating, and of course pancakes (plus sausage and hot chocolate). Don't forget to wear your pajamas!

Children & Youth Calendar

Children (through grade 5):

- November 5 Intergenerational Worship 10:00 AM
- November 12 Emotionally Safe Parenting Seminar with Jennifer Smith 11:00 AM
- November 26 Hanging of the Greens Intergenerational Service, Paper Bag Pageant 10:00 AM
- November 29 Pancakes and Pajamas 6:00-8:00 PM
- December 20 Night in Bethlehem 6:00-8:00 PM
- December 24 6pm Family Christmas Eve Service

Youth (grade 6 & above):

- November 3 Mock Lock
- November 12 Youth Group Mission Project/ Compassion in Action
- December 3 Progressive Dinner 4:30-8:30 PM
- December 20 Night In Bethlehem; Sign up to Volunteer 5:00-8:00 PM (pizza at 5:00 PM, event 6:00-8:00 PM)





JOHN KNOX
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 2023
Volume 130

KNOX NEWS



Welcome
new members

Andrea Dillion
Mariann Jewell
Wayne Jewell
Kelly Peoples
Harriett Reehorst
Dan Reehorst
Ron Sathre

JOHN KNOX
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

25200 Lorain Road
North Olmsted, OH 44070

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Website: johnknoxpc.org



PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

You're not alone.
God cares about you. So do we.