



Though we may prefer smooth sailing and calm seas, sometimes life gets turbulent.

Doors get shut, paths get blocked, life gets hard.

Sometimes grief brings unbearable silence, a diagnosis brings concern for the future, limitations impede on our freedom, our once secure peace is shattered.

These are the circumstances you have shared with me in hospital rooms, living rooms, parks, and coffee hour.

Words cannot ease the pain or settle the seas but sometimes in the sharing we find comfort. Sometimes in the telling, a sense of solidarity surfaces and you realize you're not alone in these battles.

I can say God is present, God is faithful, God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble...

But often, it is the people of God that bring calm to raging seas, hope in troubled times, and light to dark valleys.

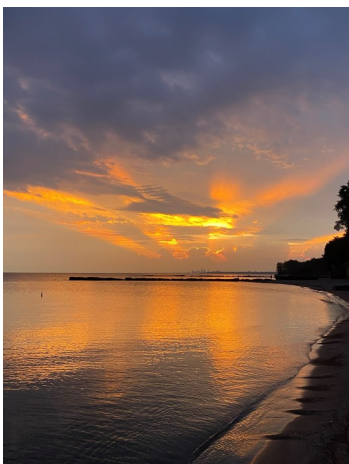
We need each other and so I celebrate every Sunday morning when people arrive in person or on-line because I know many of you are facing great battles.

I celebrate every gift given that allows us to build on and carry forward our vital ministries and mission.

I celebrate every smile, kind gesture, and caring word knowing that this is how God is present to heal and help in turbulent times.

I guess what I'm trying to say is thank you. Thank you for being the church, the Body of Christ when the seas are settled and raging. Thank you for showing up for each other and knowing how to care. In these polarizing times, thank you for doing justice, welcoming the stranger, being inclusive and caring for the needy. Thank you for being a generous and a pretty cool family of faith to hang out and grow with.

Tom



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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER CALENDAR

October 4

Women's Group Begins
7pm—108/109

October 5

Bridge Resumes
10am—Gallery

October 14

Halloween Happenings
6:30pm—Trinity Hall

October 17

Session
7pm—Trinity Hall

Deacons

7pm—Fellowship Hall

October 25

Community Meal
5:30pm—Drive-thru

Stephen Ministers

7pm—Lounge

OCTOBER HYBRID WORSHIP

October 2

World Communion Sunday

Jan Ridgeway
Love Your Neighbor; a call to obedience

October 9

Healing Prayer

Who's coming to dinner?
Rev. Susanne Bendoraitis
Luke 14:1, 7-14

October 16

Entertaining Angels
Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan
Hebrews 13:1-2

October 23

Show Honor
Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan
Romans 12:9-13

October 30

A graciousness unaffected by self-interest
Rev. Dr. Tom MacMillan
II Corinthians 8:1-7

TEATIME FOR PEACE EVENT

On Thursday, September 15, the Be the Bridge Committee of John Knox hosted a Teatime for Peace event where people of different belief systems, ethnicities, racial backgrounds and cultures were able to engage in honest dialogue. John Knox partnered with West Cleveland Muslim Association, Teatime for Peace, and the Council on American Islamic Relations to make this event a reality. We welcomed approximately 80 people who are seeking ways to build bridges across different religions and cultures, heal divisions, and overcome stereotypes and reduce fear of the "other." Each person present was given an opportunity to listen and to be heard during table discussions that included learning about each person's family history in America and where we've come from. There were amazing sweets and savories provided by our Muslim neighbors, an opportunity to observe evening prayers, and we learned about our commonality and shared humanity. This was the first step in getting to know our Muslim neighbor and we are looking forward to building on the experience.



WOMEN'S SMALL GROUP

Brand new to John Knox, facilitated by Sally Schwarz, this is a come as you are and come when you can women's group that will be held each Tuesday evening at 7:00 PM in room 108/109 beginning October 4. Hope to see you there.



WHAT'S UP AT JKPC?

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

September 12th, 2022 MEETING

- Heard report from Treasurer, Mindi Schibley, that regular offering received in the month of August was 6% below the targeted level of 66.7% at this point in the year. This is not unusual for summer. Historically fulfillment of pledges increases in the month of December. The 3rd quarter statements will be going out soon. Finance is working on the mortgage debt reduction campaign which they will be presenting to Session sometime this fall. An e-mail was sent to the committees to prepare their 2023 ask budget.
- Approved motion from the Personnel Committee to hire Julius Mirecki for the part time custodian position pending background and reference checks (approved through email vote).
- Approved motion from Membership and Communication Committee to accept the transfer of Lynn and Kay Bonderant to Avon Lake Presbyterian Church.
- Approved motion from Finance Committee to accept the credit card policy as supplied by the Finance Committee for Session review. It is related to our acceptance process and firewall safety in accepting credit card donations.
- Heard report from the Mission Committee that they are working on partnering with Maple Elementary School in North Olmsted to provide mentor volunteers from JKPC through the organization Kid's Hope USA. Hoping to establish this link by the end of the calendar year.

STEWARDSHIP 2023



Stewardship 2023

Play Your Part
in Gods Story

You have an important part to play at John Knox as we continue to live into the life God has already brought into our exciting vision. Dedication Sunday is November 6th. Will you play your part?

VOTE!

Vote! It's Your Right.

Increasing the number of people that vote in each election means better representation, more funding to our communities and a better quality of life. Politicians listen to two things, money and votes. If we work together as a community and increase voter turnout, then our state and national legislators will listen to our needs. Education, healthcare, immigration, infrastructure, the economy, our veterans, etc. are all affected by our vote.



Be sure you vote! Encourage your friends, family and neighbors to vote! Offer to give someone a ride to the polls with you!

Reason #2 to Vote: Vote to Allocate Federal Money to this Region. This money can be used for education, youth programs, healthcare, veterans, creating jobs, the environment, etc.

To register or update your voter registration address go to: <https://olvr.ohiosos.gov/>

Deadline for registration or updates is October 11, 2022 for the November 8, 2022 general election. Early voting begins October 12.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

We hope you will join us for Halloween Happenings!

This year Congregational Life is teaming with our neighbors to the east, Pathway Caring for Children. Pathway is a non-profit organization designed to help children and families realize the possibilities of their lives through foster care, adoption, and mental health. We are excited about building a relationship with Pathway and the families they serve.

Put on your favorite Halloween costume; select just the right pumpkin from our Pumpkin Patch; visit the balloon twister and enjoy a s'more or two.

The evening will begin with a magic show so you don't want to be late. We also have a few additional surprises for you but you have to come to find out what they are.

Costumes are not required but they do add to the festivities.

We look forward to seeing you on the 14th!



SERVICE & OUTREACH

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

A warm thank you to the John Knox community for your continued support of our food pantry. We have provided food to so many people in need in North Olmsted as well as many other areas of Northeast Ohio. Your gifts of nonperishable foods and your financial donations have really helped! If you are interested in volunteering in this ministry, please email the office, info@johnknoxpc.org.

During the month of October, the food pantry request will be for protein, jelly, and reusable plastic bags! These items are much needed and often are overlooked when making purchases to donate to food pantries.

Thank you for continuing to support this very important ministry.

Canned Chicken

It's simple to toss this non-perishable item into soups and casseroles or add it to a sandwich or cracker. Its versatility and high protein content make it a popular item.

Canned Fish (Tuna and Salmon)

Canned fish has vitamins, omega-3 fatty acids and protein, and it makes for a quick and easy meal.

Canned Meat (SPAM and Ham)

Grab some SPAM or canned ham and drop it into a food donation bin. It's shelf-stable, doesn't require much prep or equipment to eat, and delivers a quick hit of protein to keep individuals feeling full for longer.

Peanut Butter

Kids and adults like it, and it's high in protein, making peanut butter one of the most popular items requested.

Thank you again for your prayerful support of this wonderful ministry!



Oxcart Pantry Thanksgiving Collection

It is time to prep for our neighbors needing some assistance.

Please help us by donating food items fit for a Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings.

Where: Oxcart Pantry 26272 Butternut Ridge Road

When: Drop off Tuesdays & Thursdays in October

Time: 8:30-4:00pm

Items we need most:

Boxed/bag stuffing mix, Cranberry sauce, Gravy (Jar/can/packets), Dessert Items (boxed cake mixes, cookie mixes, brownie mixes, etc.), canned sweet potatoes

Financial donations are welcome. www.north-olmsted.com/Oxcart Pantry
440.716.4165 .

MISSION

MISSION PARTNER—LOVE INC

Love INC (Love in the name of Christ of Cuyahoga County) has been a strong Christian ministry partner to John Knox Church for many years. Love INC links partner churches, volunteers, and community partners to bring about transformation to our church community in their time of need. When our church is notified of a need by a member of our community; to pay a utility bill, a car repair expense, assistance with groceries, pay a month of rent, etc., Love INC steps in to provide the assistance needed. Their organization is primarily funded by donations and contributions from area churches, businesses, and individuals. The goal is to see people thrive, find hope and to ultimately be transformed by the love of Christ.



 **love**
in the name
of Christ

**Cuyahoga
County**

COAT DRIVE

09-06 to 10-13-2022

HOW TO DONATE:
Drop Off at the Church by 10-13-2022
There will be a drop box outside Trinity Hall.

IN NEED OF:
All coats are appreciated but we specifically are asking for

- Children's coats
- Men's and Women's Size 1X - 4X coats

Questions?
Call: Sarah D. 216.337.1460
Email: sarahd@billddesign.com

 **SHARE THE WARMTH,
DONATE A COAT**

WELCOME ARIEL MENDOZA FROM NICARAGUA!

Wonderful news - our long time missionary and organizer of so many of our trips to Nicaragua will visit us October 20 - 24! He will be in service with us Sunday, October 23, and there will be a celebration and sharing time after the service in Trinity Hall. More details soon.

Ariel was a Youth Leader at Shalom Church when we first met him and is now the Director of a Seminary in Esteli that recently graduated 180 new Pastors. He has many God stories to share and many of our congregation - and others- have been blessed by his providing support for our teams. Pass the word to all who have been with him and invite them for Sunday the 23rd. Pray for his safe travel and the Nicaragua government not putting up barriers to his joining us. If you have any questions, contact Tim MacMillan at dutim@aol.com.

GUATEMALA MEDICAL AND WATER TEAMS

Medical and water teams are in Guatemala as you receive this John Knox News! Your support and prayers have enabled them to go and to serve in 5 different mountain communities. Up to 100 families will experience the joy of having water that is pure, and their children will not be ill due to dirty water. The teams look forward to sharing stories and pictures when they return on October 10.

MISSION

SPIRIT LAKE MINISTRY



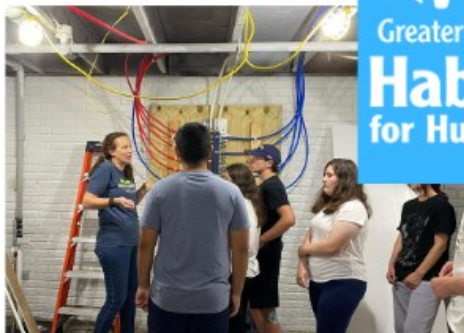
Once again this year John Knox Church will be supporting the Spirit Lake Ministry through the Christmas Shoebox Program. We are asking for filled shoebox donations for the children of Spirit Lake. The boxes will be due back to Kim Tunney (they can be dropped off at the JKPC office) by **November 11th**. This is a fun activity for a Life Group to do at a meeting, or just for families to participate in. If you have any questions, please contact Kim Tunney at 440-454-3194, or kwtunney@yahoo.com. See below for ideas on what items to put in the box:

WHAT'S IN A SHOEBOX?

Love. Shoebox Christmas gifts are built from love for children that might not otherwise get a Christmas gift. On the reservation, up to 70 percent of the children would not get a Christmas gift if not for the Shoebox Christmas Gift program and the generosity of the people that donate to this wonderful program. To start, wrap the bottom and top of the box separately (this will allow us to insert the story of the birth of Jesus. If you have children, grand children, nieces or nephews, ask them what they would like for Christmas. Add that, a few more small gifts, some candy, a winter hat, mittens or gloves, place a rubber band around the box and the top, then put the age group and gender of the child on top of the box. You have just built a box of love. We are looking for the following age groups. Infant, Toddler, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12, 13 and up. Please only add new toys and please don't put any clothing except the hats/gloves or mittens in the boxes.



JENAVIONE AND CEMYRAH'S HOME DEDICATION
ALL ARE WELCOME
WEDNESDAY 10.26.22 | 10:00 AM
9815 ELWELL AVENUE, CLEVELAND 44104



Faith Build 2022 Sharing God's Love
Thank you to all the churches that made this possible.
RSVP TO MICHELLE AT 216-318-0274
MKILLIN-KEITH@CLEVELANDHABITAT.ORG

John Knox Church

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY

We have had a great past month with Kindness Calendars, Youth Group Kick off, Rally day, Sunday School beginnings, and so much more.

Sunday, October 2, we will be celebrating World Communion Sunday together. There will be no Sunday School. Children are invited to participate in worship with their caregivers. The worship service will be intergenerational with a children's sermon.

This past Sunday we had our Communion orientation and family event. Reverend Susanne led our communion orientation in the Sanctuary after worship which was followed by pizza and lunch together.

Youth Group has kicked off with a Boba Bar, games, and exploring faith. This fall we are looking at 3 Big Questions we are all asking: Who am I? Where do I belong? Where do I fit?

Sunday School continues each week 10:00 AM, we hope you will join us. On the way to worship, parents can drop off children grade 5 and younger in the welcome area. We will be learning more about kindness, loving God, and loving our neighbor through our Grow curriculum.

Youth Sunday School Sunday School each Sunday includes Poptart's, drinks, and fun. Our Re:Form curriculum empowers youth to explore faith and ask questions about the Bible, Jesus, and hot topics. Through funny and thought-provoking videos and a companion journal, students will engage with faith topics and everyday life. Questions? Contact Susanne.

See below for more events that are coming up. We are looking forward to a great year!

We look forward to seeing you!

Susanne and Justine

COMING UP FOR CHILDREN:

October 2 - World Communion Sunday,
First Communion, and Bible Presentations

November 30 - Pancakes and Pajamas
Breakfast for dinner, games, and decorate
gingerbread houses

December 19 - Night in Bethlehem

IMPORTANT YOUTH GROUP DATES:

Oct 9 - Maple Side Trip After Church 11:30am-

Oct 23 - 4-6 pm Pumpkin Carving and Spooky Fun

Nov 13 - Leaf Raking w/pizza after Church

Nov 27 - Hanging of the Greens Service

Dec 4 - Christmas Party & White Elephant Gift Exchange

Dec 19 - Volunteer at Night in Bethlehem 5-9pm
w/ pizza and games

JOHN KNOX PRESCHOOL

PRESCHOOL FUNDRAISER

Once again the preschool will be teaming with Stoller Fundraising to offer Butter Braid Frozen Pastry and Cake Rolls! The Butter Braid Pastries are frozen, hand-braided filled with a variety of fillings. You just need to thaw, let rise and bake. The cake rolls can be set out, sliced and served!

The event will run until October 12. Products will be delivered to the preschool for pickup on November 2.

Products can be ordered on-line with payment from credit/debit cards, Apple Pay or Google Pay. Select this link to order on-line bit.ly/johnknoxpre or scan the QR code on the order form. Paper orders are also accepted with cash or check. Paper order forms and brochures are on the Welcome Desk. Last year the preschool received \$900 from this sale!

Items are priced at \$16 with the preschool receiving 35%-40%. Please contact Nancie at johnknoxpreschool@att.net or at 440-777-5878 with any questions or to turn in an order. Thank you for your support of the preschool over the years!



JOHN KNOX PRESCHOOL UPDATE

We have started our Dean's Greenhouse fundraiser. Dean's will be donating 20% of your sales to the preschool for purchases made from now through the end of October. Show them the paper flyer below or take a photo and show it on your phone. Flyers are also available at the Welcome Desk and outside the preschool rooms (rooms 133 & 134 at the end of Handprint Hallway).

We have some openings available in our preschool classes. If you or anyone you know is looking for a preschool please have them contact Nancie. If anyone has any questions about the preschool-enrollment, events etc. please contact us at johnknoxpreschool@att.net, www.jkpreschool.org, or at 440-777-5878.

Dean's Greenhouse Fundraiser

Mum's the word but don't let that stop you from telling others about the

JOHN KNOX PRESCHOOL fall fundraiser!

From September 7, 2022 through the end of October

Dean's Greenhouse will donate 20% of your total purchases to the preschool.

Looking for those beautiful fall mums, crunchy cornstalks, sweet smell bales of straw

or perfect pumpkins then look no further than

Dean's Greenhouse located at 3984 Porter Road in Westlake.

Present this flyer at checkout either on paper or on your phone

and the preschool will get credit from your purchase.

Print as many as you wish to give to friends and family

and shop as many times as you want, just present a flyer each time.

Thank you for supporting John Knox Preschool!



JOHN KNOX
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

October 2022
Volume 117

KNOX NEWS

October



JOHN KNOX
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE