

*St. John's Evangelical Church
211 E. Carrol Street
Kenton, Ohio 43326
(Non Profit Organization)*

**Do Not Delay
Dated Material**



St. John's Evangelical Church Newsletter

April 2026

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Kenton, OH 43326
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The Living Last Supper Maundy Thursday Drama

On Maundy Thursday, April 2, at 8 pm, there will be a special service of The Living Last Supper Drama. This is a live reenactment of what the last supper with Jesus and His disciples might have looked like. Jesus said that one of the disciples was going to betray Him. Now each disciple is thinking to themselves, "is it I"? Communion will be served as well. We hope that you will come and enjoy the performance.

St. John's Presents The Living Last Supper



MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 2, 2026 at 8:00 pm

*A meal of love, a lesson of humility.
'Do this in remembrance of Me.'
(Luke 22:19)*

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL CHURCH

211 East Carrol Street
Kenton, OH 43326

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APRIL 2026

THE PASTOR'S PAGE



Like many of you, I am anxiously waiting for Spring to be sprung upon us. It seemed like the season had arrived only to be snatched away as low temperatures, high winds, gray skies, and rain threatening to turn to snow returned. Still, with anticipation, I search for signs of spring—the dark green sprouts portending

future buds and flowers, the squirrels and bunnies returning to the yard, the warm winds caressing my skin, and the songs of birds breaking the stillness that was in winter's bleak nights. All these things bring hope that Spring will soon be here.

The birds singing remind me of an excerpt from an old poem. In one of her most beloved poems, Emily Dickinson wrote:

“Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul—
And sings the tune without the words—
And never stops—at all—”

The image she evokes is beautiful and haunting. Dickinson pictures hope as a tiny bird, perching quietly in the soul, singing through every storm. It doesn't need lyrics. It doesn't wait for the sun. It sings even in the dark, cold, and barren landscape.

And here's the incredible thing—she says that little bird never stops. It's resilient. It's not blown away by the winds of grief, or silenced by pain. It just keeps singing.

That's what hope in God's promises is like.

You might be walking through difficulty right now. Maybe life feels heavy, and your heart is quiet. Maybe you are searching for signs of hope as I am searching for signs of Spring. But listen—deep inside your soul, that “thing with feathers” might still be singing.

And it's not singing your words—it's singing His. Words like:

“I will never leave you.” (**Hebrews 13:5**)

“He who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it.” (**Philippians 1:6**)

“Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life.” (**Psalms 23:6**)

That's the voice of hope. The melody of faith is being sung in harmony into your soul by Hope. That is the bird that sings, even when you can't. That is the gift they hear from the Holy Spirit at Easter. When Paul wrote in **Philippians 1:6** that God would bring to completion the good work He began in us, he concludes the verse by telling us when this would take place: “at the day of Jesus Christ.”

That day of Jesus Christ will be when He returns at the Second Coming. There are wrongs that will be set right, death will die, and new life will spring into being for all eternity. Jesus died on the Cross to pay for the penalty of our sins. He rose from the grave to open to us the gates

of everlasting life (see **II Peter 1:11; Psalm 24:7; John 10:9**).

Until that day arrives, we have signs of His new life with us. We bear witness to the empty grave of that first Resurrection Day. As those who have been touched by Jesus' saving grace, we will live renewed lives (see



II Peter 1:3-10).

Our faith was initially witnessed by only a few. A few more heard the story. And even then, only a small few took it to heart as they wrestled with what this story meant (**Luke 24:11**). We still need to wrestle with our faith in these days and the small signs of hope that we see.

We see signs in the life of worship and expressions of

faith. These will be evident especially during Holy Week. On Palm Sunday evening, the Kenton Chorale will return to St. John's once again at 7PM. Also returning will be a presentation of the Living Last Supper on Maundy Thursday at 8PM. On Good Friday, we will gather at the church at 11AM and go on a cross walk around the town square as we read the story of Jesus' Passion. On Easter, we will gather at Boy Scout Lake for Sunrise Worship at 7AM and continue with the generations before us in celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus at our 10AM service with Communion this year.

While our shared life of worship and praise are signs of new life, here at St. John's Evangelical Church, we have seen other signs recently with more on the horizon. In March, we celebrated the baptism of a father and a dedication of his infant son. On April 12th, we are planning to receive five new members. On May 31, Carter will be Confirmed. In April, May, and June, I will officiate a marriage for a couple affiliated with our church—that's one wedding per month.

In addition to that, our various Bible Studies are flourishing, social activities are increasing, and our engagement with missions and evangelism are growing also. We are witnessing people growing in faith who are willing to then put that faith into action. As a pastor, it is a beautiful thing to see the saints equipped for the work of ministry as they are building up the body of Christ [the Church] (**Ephesians 4:12**).

These signs are an embrace of warm Spring air on an otherwise chilly day. It's a harbinger—a forerunner—of a greater spirit that is filling our life here together. The Holy Spirit is bringing new life into our church. The Holy Spirit is transforming lives. The Holy Spirit is causing God's people to remember the words spoken to our hearts and lives by our beloved Savior,



ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL CHURCH: MAKING AND MATURING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST

Jesus. The Holy Spirit perches on our shoulders and sings of hope—that song awakens us to what is stirring all around us.

This Easter, may we bear witness to the victory that was won for us by Jesus the Son. May we behold the amazing love the Father has lavished upon us. May the Holy Spirit fill our hearts they may overflow with songs of praise. May Easter be a day filled with Alleluias loudly sung and proclaimed as we join with nature bursting forth with new life...not just the natural new life that comes in Spring, but the New Life that comes with the Resurrection of Christ.

Therefore, let us be transformed by the Resurrection of Christ. As Paul reminds us in **I Corinthians 15:53-58**:

⁵³For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

⁵⁵"O death, where is your victory?"

O death, where is your sting?"

⁵⁶The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brothers [and sisters], be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord,

knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

In fact, your faith is transforming you, this church, and the community around us.

With Christ-filled blessings,

Pastor Randall

Preaching Series

Here are the scriptures and sermon titles for the church's worship life as we complete our journey of Lent and journey with Jesus to His Cross, celebrate His Resurrection, and rejoice over what that Resurrection means for our ongoing lives in the season of Easter.



Holy Week

29 March Palm Sunday
 Scripture **Matthew 21:1-11**
 Passion Sunday
 Scripture **Matthew 27:11-54**
 Sermon **Behold Your King**

Community Palm Sunday Service
 with Kenton High School Chorale, 7PM

02 April Maundy Thursday, 8PM
Living Last Supper Presentation
 Scripture for Meditation: **John 13:21-30**

03 April Good Friday
 Crosswalk, 11AM
 Scripture for Meditation: **Luke 23:23-25**

05 April Easter Sunday
 Sunrise, 7AM
 Scripture **Romans 6:3-11**
Matthew 28:1-10
 Sermon **The New Self Rises**

Festival, 10AM
 Scripture **Acts 10:34-43**
John 20:1-18
 Sermon **Testify of the Risen Christ**

12 April Second Sunday of Easter
 Scripture **16th Psalm**
John 20:19-31
 Sermon **God Will Not Abandon You**

19 April Third Sunday of Easter
 Scripture **116th Psalm vv 10-17**
Luke 24:13-35
 Sermon **Keep Searching for Hope**

26 April Fourth Sunday of Easter
 Mission Moment: Morgan's Place
 Luncheon afterward sponsored by Missions
 Committee
 Scripture **23rd Psalm**
John 10:1-10
Jeremiah 1:5
 Sermon **Morgan's Place**
 —**More Than a Cemetery**
 Greg Wilt, guest speaker



03 May Fifth Sunday of Easter
 Scripture **I Peter 2:2-10**
John 14:1-14
 Sermon **Remember Who You Are**

10 May Sixth Sunday of Easter
 Scripture **I Peter 3:13-22**
John 14:15-21
 Sermon **The Glorifying**
Limited Atonement

17 May Seventh Sunday of Easter
 Scripture **I Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11**
John 17:1-11
 Sermon **Eager to Emulate Jesus**

24 May Pentecost Sunday
 Scripture **Numbers 11:24-30**
I Corinthians 12:3b-13
John 7:37-39
 Sermon **Praise Flows!**

31 May Trinity Sunday
 Scripture **8th Psalm**
II Corinthians 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20
 Sermon **The Blessed Trinity**



Mentor Teaches a Teenager about the Value of Service

In his book *Leading Across Culture*, James E. Plueddemann reflects on an experience that taught him the eternal value of service and working hard—even at what others might call menial jobs. During his high school days, Plueddemann worked at a Christian camp under the direction of an outstanding leader named Hiram "Hi" Johnson.

Once again, Pastor Randall is seeking your input for the summer worship services. After graduation Sunday (June 7th) until the end of September, he is receiving requests. Suggestions can come in the form of scriptures that challenge you, comfort you, or uplift you. It could be hymns or songs that you want to see be a part of the worship life of the church. It may be a topic that you would like to see shared from the pulpit. You can share questions for which you are searching for answers.

All these open the possibility for future sermons. This also allows the whole church to participate in the formation of the worship life of the church. Feel free to drop ideas into the collection baskets or at the office. Thoughts and ideas may be texted, emailed, or messaged directly to the pastor at his phone, email, or Facebook while the same holds true for those same methods of contacting the church. Please include your contact information in case there is a need for clarification. (Anonymous submissions are acceptable, but please make sure they are legible and clear.)

Pastor Randall has shared that he finds doing this a joy-filled challenge. In doing this, he sees the Holy Spirit working through the priesthood of all believers as each member of the church has an ability to lift up an insight or to spur a greater discussion of what God is doing in and through these times. Your question or topic may be one that others in our church have been thinking about in like manner. Many of the topics that have arisen in recent years have been ones that the pastor was thinking about as well. Your willingness to share may provide confirmation to what is already percolating in the hearts of others.



PASTOR'S PAGE

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One day, [Plueddemann writes], we worked until dark trying to finish a staff house before the camp season started. My shirt was soaked with sweat, and my hands blistered from shoveling sand around the foundation. I was beginning to feel sorry for myself when Hi Johnson strode around the corner of the building. He watched what we were doing for awhile and then quietly reminded us that the staff who were moving into this house would be a big help to the camp.

Then he said something that I will never forget: "Your shoveling will, in the long run, be used of the Lord to bring a lot of campers to Jesus." We started shoveling with a renewed sense of purpose. Now we were not just a bunch of dirty, sweaty high school kids tired of shoveling mud. We were instruments of God Almighty to bring people to himself. What a lesson in leadership! Our view of the task shifted from shoveling sand to building the kingdom.

James E. Plueddemann, *Leading Across Culture* (InterVarsity Press, 2009), p. 33

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men...—**Colossians 3:23**

Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.

—**Ephesians 4:28**

For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for His name in serving the saints, as you still do.

—**Hebrews 6:10**

Upcoming Events



Please join us in this community event as we come together and walk around the square sharing the love of Jesus in the retelling of His journey to the cross. We will meet at St John's Church at 11 am.



Community Sunrise Service

The Community Sunrise Service is April 5 at 7 am at the small pavilion at Boy Scout Lake. Bring a lawn chair.



Easter Festival Service

The Easter Festival Service is April 5 at 10 am. Come celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord!

Join Us for Euchre

If you enjoy playing Euchre and would like to join in, they will be having their first Euchre game day on Thursday, April 9th at 1 pm in the Fellowship hall. All are welcome and you can bring a friend. For more information please see Toni Pfister or Kae Merold.

Happening This Month: Morgan's Place Cemetery.....more than just a cemetery

It is estimated that 20-50% of all pregnancies end in miscarriage. While there is a huge need for cemeteries like Morgan's Place to serve bereaved families and bury their babies in a dignified manner, there are no other known cemeteries in the Midwest dedicated to this single purpose.

Morgan's Place was established to assist families through the grieving process when experiencing the loss of a baby. It is located in a 2.5 acre peaceful rural setting near Sidney, Ohio.

They aid this process by memory-making, birth planning, funeral and burial services, and post-partum support groups for parents. To remember babies who were lost and not able to be buried, they offer a memorial wall on which a plaque to honor those children can be placed.

All these services are at no cost!

They are providing far more than just a forever resting place for babies. They are advocates that walk alongside families throughout their entire grief journey, long after their baby is laid to rest.

Mark Your Calendars

On April 26, there will be a speaker during worship to share information about this valuable mission opportunity. If you or someone you know has experienced a miscarriage, abortion or still birth please invite them to join you in worship. Lunch will be served after worship with opportunity to ask our speakers questions about this ministry.

Elijah—Ohio Star Theater

A day trip to Holmes County is being planned for October 3 to see a show and have dinner. The show is Elijah Prophet of Fire. The Show starts at 1 and then they will have dinner after. Tickets are \$69.44 Which includes the Show, Dinner, Tax and Tip. Tickets need to be ordered very soon. If you are interested, please let Janie know.

Bike Blessing & Bike & Car Show

Please join us for the Annual Blessing of the Bikes & Bike and Car Show on Sunday, May 17, 2026. Registration will be from 9 - 11:30 am. The Bike and Car show begins at 12:00 pm with the Blessing of the Bikes at 12:15 pm.. An open invitation to all to attend worship service beginning at 10 am. Event sponsored by: St. John's Evangelical Church and Christian Motorcycle Association, God's Thunder. Boy Scouts will provide food for purchase. If you have any questions, you can contact the church at 419-673-7278 or stjohnskenton@gmail.com. We plan to hold this event the 3rd Sunday in May each year.

Please join us for our Annual Bike Blessing



And Car and Bike Show




May 17, 2026
 211 E. Carrol St., Kenton, OH
 9:00 - 11:30 Registration
 12:00 - 2:00 Car and Bike Show
 12:15 - Blessing of the Bikes
 1:30 - Presentation of Trophies
 Food available at 11:00 from Kenton Scouts 121

Open to the Public
 Open invitation to all to attend Worship
 Service beginning at 10am

Hosted by:
 St. John's Evangelical Church
 and Christian Motorcycle
 Association, God's Thunder




MomCo Mom's group

The Mom Co Mom's Group will have Morning meet-ups on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 9:00 am and the evening meet-ups will be on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 6 pm. Janie is looking for volunteers to help with the meet-ups and for help with childcare. If you are interested in helping, please let her know. Moms of any age can help, these mom's need experienced moms for advice and support.

UPCOMING Events

Upcoming Events Mark Your Calendar

- Living Last Supper Drama:** April 2 at 8 pm
- Community Cross Walk:** April 3 at 11 am
- Sunrise Service:** April 5 at 7am, Boy Scout Lake
- Dinner Club:** April 17 at Cheers to You in Upper Sandusky—meet at church 5:30 pm dinner at 6 pm
- Book Club:** April 20 at 1pm at Kae Merold's
- Morgan's Place Speaker:** April 26 at 10 am
- Dinner Club:** May 15 at Bears Den (Mt. Victory) - meet at church at 5:30, dinner 6 pm
- Bike Blessing & Bike and Car Show:** May 17
- Confirmation Sunday:** May 31
- Fishing Derby:** May 30 from 9:30-Noon at Boy Scout Lake
- Graduation Sunday:** June 7
- Combined Service/Church Picnic:** June 14
- Dinner Club:** June 27 to G&R Tavern (Waldo) meet at church at 11:15 am
- VBS:** July 19-22
- Rock the Lake:** August 1
- Back to School Bash:** August 8
- Fait Booth:** September 8-12
- Elijah Profit of Fire Show:** October 3 at 1 pm
- Memorial Sunday:** November 1

Carl Lotz Scholarship Applications

Students **must** either attend school or church within Hardin County to be eligible to receive this scholarship. All three requirements are due no later than May 20. Please complete the application online at: <https://forms.gle/tBA1fMWDrkyh9esJ8>

Birthday Blessings (over 80 yrs. Young)

April Birthdays on File:

April 15 Dana Musser
 363 N. Barron St.
 Kenton, OH 43326

We like to recognize members who are 80 years or older. Please contact the church office to add a name to our birthday list. Thank you so much!



St. John's Evangelical Church
Church Council Minutes
Thursday, February 12, 2026
6:00 PM

Call to Order - Anna LaWarre, President

Opening Prayer— Pastor Randall

Leadership Development - Pastor Randall

Officer Reports

Secretary's Report - January 8 minutes approved

REPORTS

1) Financial Report—Kay Rush—Motion to approve and accepted

2) Family Minister—Janie Risner—written report

3) Worship, Arts & Music—No report

4) Women's Ministry—Kay Rush—Lamb Banquet—March 7; Sports Banquet—June 20

5) Personnel Committee—No report

6) Pastoral Relations- No report

7) Trustees (LeVern Weaver, Greg Martin, Richard Katterjohn)

- ATV—Equipment failure Sunday— new equipment up and running
- Van— LeVern—OK
- Farm: —rent due— need to renegotiate this fall

Church Maintenance: mild problem being checked
8) Missions, Evangelism—Anna LaWarre—Movie Night— Feb 27; Serve Day—March 15; Bring A Friend Sunday—March 22; Morgan's Place Speaker—April 26

9) Pastor's Report - Pastor Randall report submitted

Old Business: none

New Business: Install new council Feb 22; Recognize persons going off council: Greg & Jerry; Announce committee chair changes: LeVern to farm and Kay to finance

Correspondence- Membership removal—Tom Wilcox

Next Meeting: March 12, 2026 6:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT—LORD'S PRAYER

Statement from Council:

At the annual meeting it was voted to withdraw membership from NOAOC-UCC. We've now approached the nine-year mark since Scott Johnson's separation from St. John's Evangelical Church. Therefore, council has decided that members are no longer required to remove their membership for requested services by Scott Johnson. Let it also be known that Scott Johnson will not conduct any services on the church premises.

Mission of the Month— SOUP

The “us” that is our fellow Hardin County citizens who have fallen on hard times and need meals to get them by. People will be served up a wonderful meal, overseen and prepared by a great team of volunteers. Please support S.O.U.P. as our special monthly mission for the month of April and help warm the hearts and tummies of the truly needy in the county. The group currently serves meals at the Moose in Kenton.

Celebrate Recovery Meal Sign Up

St. John's supplies a meal for Celebrate Recovery twice a month. The meals is the second and Fourth Tuesday of each month for approximately 25-30 people. If you are able to provide food, please sign-up in the back of the sanctuary. Please have the food at the church at 6 pm in the kitchenette across from the chapel. Any questions, please see Anna LaWarre or Jerry Pfister.

Friday With Friends

Friday With Friends is a wonderful group of widows and widowers who meet twice a month for a special time of food, fellowship, and fun. They meet the first and third Fridays of every month. Please join them if you are a widow or widower. This is not exclusive to St. John's, so pass the word along to someone that you know who could be blessed by this special group. For more information, contact Ethel Koch at 419-674-6344.

Forthcoming outings will be as follows:

If out of town, meet at St. John's, corner of Wayne St. and E. Carrol St. to carpool. They leave sharply at 10:45. Still eating at 11:30 am.

April 3—Golden Grill Buffet (Bellefontaine)

April 17—Bob Evans (Lima)

May 1—La Pizzeria (lake)

May 15—Kyomi Chinese (Bellefontaine)

June 5—Acheson's (Lake)

June 19—Beer Barrel (Lima)

July 17—Tony's (Findlay)

August 7—Casa Lu Al (Lima)

August 21—Tilton Hilton (Lake)

website: stjohnskenton.org

Facebook: St Johns Kenton, Ohio

Youtube: St. John's Evangelical Church



It is really hard to believe we are already at Easter. Holy week is a busy time for us this year. On Maundy Thursday we have The Living Last supper at 8 pm and then on Good Friday we are doing the cross walk around the square in Kenton. So please plan on attending these wonderful events.



Kingdom Kids:

We are starting to wind down this season. We have been busy learning the 10 commandments and the Parables and the kids really enjoyed it. They have learned so much. Our last day will be April 29. We will be having a party for the kids so if you would like to donate some cupcakes and goodies for end of year gift bags we would love it.

We have set the date for VBS this year and it will be July 19-22. If you are interested in helping this year we would love to have you. By planning this early we will be able to send flyers home with the kids with this information, and we will be a head of the game.

Adult Programming:

We have planned the dinner night through August so keep watching the wall downstairs for those dates and times and restaurants. Our dinner groups are usually 12-25 people. There is no commitment to the number of dinners you come to. It is just a fun way to socialize and get to know one another.

We are planning a day trip to Holmes County for a show and dinner. The Show is Elijah and it will be performed live at the Star Theater. We will have dinner after. The cost will be \$70.00 and that includes the show, dinner, tax and tip. We are going on October 3. The show starts at 1pm. If you are interested, please let me know ASAP as we will have to book the tickets.

We will be adding a Outreach schedule very soon. We will be working out in the community visiting where our Wednesday night kids live and doing prayer walks throughout the community. We will also be taking food or goodies to the Fire Department, KPD, Sheriff Department, BKP and any other service organization we have in the community to show our support. Watch for these schedules to start showing up in the bulletins, newsletters, and Calendars.

We are looking to add some more small groups. If you would like to lead one or have ideas for one, please let me know. I am always happy to help you get one going.

We are looking to start our Euchre group. I know Kae, Toni and I have been asking the ones we know that play but if you would like to join please talk to one of us and we will be happy to add you.

Christianbook Giveback Program

If you order from Christianbook, please use the **Organization ID: EXAYYV** the church will receive 4% cash back on eligible purchase. You can text GIVEBACK to 95498 and register with the ID above.



Prayer Request Opportunity

Our website has a new feature, a Prayer Request page. Any one at any time will now be able to send a request for prayer using this link. It will come into an email that Pastor Randall, the office, and Janie will have access to 24 hours a day. We can then reach out and pray with or for the person requesting prayers based on their request. We are working on a QR code that will take you to the page and that will be put it on business cards that we can give out during outreach or to someone who we meet that may need prayer. These cards will be made available to the church to hand out as well. Please take a moment and check it out.

Laundromat Ministry

The mission committee is inviting all members to join them in the Laundromat Ministry. If you are interested in going sometime, let Mary Ralston know when you are available. You may also support the ministry by filling pill bottles with quarters that are included in the packets. They are also available on the welcome desk. They distribute bags that contain church info. along with laundry pods, dryer sheets and coins. A sign-up sheet is available on the welcome desk.