



## **"Bits from Bob" for April 30, 2021**

St. John United Church of Christ  
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Bob Koch, Pastor and Bit Scribe

### **This Day in History**

- 311 Emperor Galerius ends persecution of Christians in Roman Empire
- 1789 George Washington inaugurated as first President of the United States of America
- 1798 US Department of the Navy forms
- 1803 Robert Livingston and James Monroe sign Louisiana Purchase Treaty in Paris at a cost of 15 million dollars, doubles the size of the US
- 1808 First practical typewriter finished by Italian Pellegrini Turri
- 1889 First US national holiday – centennial of Washington's inauguration
- 1897 British physicist J.J. Thomson announces discovery of electrons
- 1900 Casey Jones dies heroically in a train wreck at Vaughn, Mississippi
- 1904 Ice cream cone debuts at St. Louis World's Fair, invented by Ernest A. Hamwi
- 1916 Germany becomes first country in world to adopt Daylight Savings Time
- 1927 First federal prison for women opens in West Virginia
- 1931 The George Washington Bridge, linking New York City and New Jersey, opens
- 1939 New York World's Fair opens; U.S. commercial television debuts there
- 1945 Adolf Hitler commits suicide with new wife Eva Braun in the Führerbunker in Berlin
- 1947 Boulder Dam renamed in honor of Herbert Hoover
- 1948 Original Land Rover debuts at auto show
- 1952 Mr. Potato Head is first toy advertised on television
- 1975 North Vietnamese troops capture Saigon, ending the Vietnam War
- 1989 World Wide Web (WWW) is launched in the public domain
- 1993 World Wide Web source code is released by CERN, making the software free to all
- 2009 Chrysler automobile company files for Chapter 11 bankruptcy
- 2012 The unfinished One World Trade Center becomes tallest building in New York
- 2020 South Korea reports no new domestic cases of COVID-19 for first time

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*We'll walk through 2021 with devotions written by Joshua Dubois. Dubois writes a regular column for The Daily Beast and teaches at New York University. He also founded Values Partnerships, which advises leaders in government, business, and the nonprofit sector on faith-based partnerships and religion in the public sphere.*

### **"Peace to This House"**

*[Jesus said,] "Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!'" (Luke 10:5)*

A prayer to whisper when entering new buildings:

*Dear God, bless those in this house.  
Let them feel your love.  
Let them know your wisdom.  
Let them encounter your peace, your grace.  
Foster within them a true and lasting joy, unshakable by the world.  
Bless the residents of this house. Amen.*

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## Bad Dad Jokes

- ✓ I went to the doctor and said, "I can't stop singing 'What's New Pussycat?'"  
"Hmm..." he said, "It sounds like you've got Tom Jones Syndrome."  
"Is it common?" I asked him.  
"It's Not Unusual," he told me.
- ✓ I bought a new shrub trimmer and proudly showed it to my son.  
"Check this out!" I said. "It's cutting hedge technology!"
- ✓ My friend works in IT and I asked him, "How do you make a motherboard?"  
He said, "I usually tell her about my job."
- ✓ I accidentally sprayed deodorant in my mouth. Now when I talk, I have this weird axe scent.

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## Today's Links

- ✓ [The world's most valuable stamp is going on the auction block](#), and is expected to sell for up to \$15 million dollars.
- ✓ [Thousands of birds called corellas](#) have taken over a suburban Australian street.
- ✓ This article, using research on circadian rhythm, [tells the best time to do anything](#).
- ✓ Here's another article from the NYT column, "Good Question." In this case, the question is, ["Where Does a Candle Go When It Burns?"](#)
- ✓ Watch—and listen to — [Bach's Cello Suite No. 1 in G Major played on the ukelele on a Hawaiian beach](#).



**PLEASE NOTE! The 9:15 AM service now live streams on YouTube.** The easiest way to watch is by subscribing to St. John's YouTube channel at [this link](#). We'll start live streaming the 8 AM service soon, too. If you can't attend church in person, be sure to turn in prayer requests or announcements you'd like included on Sunday ahead of time. [Click this link](#) to email them to Pastor Bob.

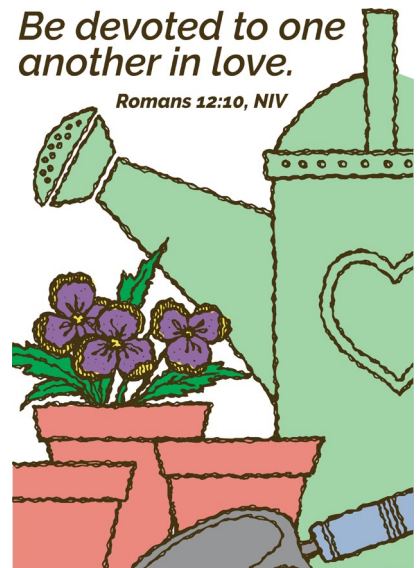
- ✓ **Sunday School is back!** We still need helpers and teachers, especially in the Pre-K class. Contact DCE Susan Juenger at [dcesusan@att.net](mailto:dcesusan@att.net) for more info or to volunteer.
- ✓ **The SAKS for CESNA Shop is open.** Volunteers are needed to help St. John's run the shop this Saturday, May 1. **We still need volunteers.** Contact the church office if you'd like to help (475-2947, [stjucckdesknail@att.net](mailto:stjucckdesknail@att.net)).
- ✓ **Our annual Chicken Dinner is this Sunday May 2, carry out and drive through only.** Serving hours are 11 AM until 2 PM (or until we run out of chicken).
- ✓ **The church kitchen recently received a good cleaning and reorganizing.** There are several unclaimed personal items left behind. Check the shelves above the east counter to pick up anything that might be yours. Anything left will find a new home at the SAKS Shop after the chicken dinner.
- ✓ **New Beginnings has openings for teachers as well as summer help.** Those applying for teaching positions must have 60 college hours, with 6 of those hours in early childhood classes. Call the daycare at 475-2969 for more information.

- ✓ **Our former student pastor, Tarrah Vaupel, will be ordained May 23 at 4 PM.** People are invited to attend virtually on Zoom, but an RSVP is still needed. Email ([stjucckdesknail@att.net](mailto:stjucckdesknail@att.net)) or call (475-2947) the church office to reserve your spot, and we'll give you the Zoom login information. **Deadline for reservations is May 9.**

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### Prayer Concerns

- ✓ **Please pray for all battling COVID as well as for the healthcare professionals fighting the virus on the frontlines.** Please also hold in prayer **all mourning the deaths of loved ones.**
- ✓ Please pray for all those struggling with cancer: **Harvey Van Buren**, battling bone cancer, Mary Shoup's brother-in-law, **Dave Gaab**, diagnosed with Stage 4 kidney cancer, and **Bob Junge**, who has lung cancer. Congrats to **Roger Grefe**, who has completed radiation treatments and is now cancer free!
- ✓ Jennifer (Archer) Yearian asks that we pray for her co-worker, **Kelly Park**, following the death of her 20-year-old daughter **Caroline** after a lengthy battle with Batten Disease. [This link](#) will take you to a story about the Park family and their struggle with Batten Disease.
- ✓ Diane Boschert asks that we pray for **Pemmi Fietsam Gebke**, a former New Athens resident now living in Springfield and receiving chemo treatments for bladder cancer.
- ✓ Prayers, please, for my cousin **David Mehrtens**, recovering from bone cancer and a bone marrow transplant.
- ✓ **Sandy Cummins** is home recovering from liver transplant surgery, and **Tom Kohnen** is back home as well, recovering from his kidney transplant.
- ✓ Janet Voegtler asks our prayers for **Joanna, a family friend**, who is recovering from a stroke.
- ✓ Jessica Kearns asks that we keep praying for **Ron Mason**, a coworker's husband recovering after a blood vessel in his brain burst.
- ✓ Kim Hughes asks our prayers for her niece **Sabrina**, facing surgery for degenerative back disease.
- ✓ Let's keep praying for **Matt Liefer**, waiting for a heart transplant, for **Kim Juenger**, still dealing with several health issues, and for **Sue Kosarek**, who is home but in need of prayers for recovery and strength.
- ✓ Donna Reuss asks that we pray for her cousin, **Angie Van Buren**, who is still hospitalized, as well as for **her nephew Coleman**, recovering from extensive injuries he received following a fall while rock climbing.
- ✓ Please pray for the **residents, staff, and administrators at all nursing homes**, as well as for the safety of **teachers, administrators, and students at area schools**, as well as at our own **New Beginnings Daycare**.
- ✓ **Here are the folks on this week's congregational prayer calendar:** Debbie and Eric Benedick, Abigail, Daniel and William; Betsy and Ron Berger, Sam, Laura and Jacob; Bonnie and Paul Bickel, Alex Bickel, Zachary Bickel; Chelsea and Zachary Bergman, Henry and Hudson; Kristin Bielke; Bob and Chris Bierman, Bobby Bierman, Brandi Bierman; Byron Birkner and family; Diane Boschert and family; Nick and Crystal Bova, Andrew and Isabelle.



**The "Bits" will return Thursday, May 6.**  
**I'll be out of town next Monday through Wednesday.**