

The Chimes

Welcome Home to the Church you remember.....
Welcome Home to St. John's!



Prayer List

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers all of our shut-ins and the following members, David Hummel, Lois Boldt, Rev. Harold Beesley, Jean Livingston, Alison Armstrong, Shirley Rohan, Donna Hewitt, Lynn Edgington, Barb Smith, Noah Armstrong, Glenda Prescott, Brooke (McDonald) Hall, Dorothy Zerger, Barbara Cunningham, Judy Armstrong, Kathy Wilson, Nick Oliver, Mary Lou Hostetler, Sharon Hickman, Jeanette Morris, Faith Kelly, Bea Pursley, Braxton Picklesimer, Doris Sheets, Billie Lynne Sheets, Sandra Donson, Keith Ford, Megan Crase & Paula Hatfield.

Please call the church office if you know of any sick or hospitalized members. Remember if you want someone on the prayer chain, you can fill out a card and drop it in the offering plate or call or e-mail Bea.

Monthly Faith Promise goal	\$ 8,567.84
Income as of December 18	<u>6,413.70</u>
Month to Date Balance	(\$ 2,154.14)

Remember you can go to www.stjohnsnewark.org and check out upcoming events on the calendar!



Also, remember to "Like" us and follow us on Facebook. There is a direct link on our website!

Annual Congregational Meeting!

Please plan to attend the Potluck & Congregational Annual Meeting following the church service on February 19, 2017.

Church Family News

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone for their prayers, to those who sent cards, emails and to Rev. Katrick for his prayers and concerns.
Jim Everett

I want to thank everyone for anything you have done for me in these past few months. Whether it was a phone call, a card, all the prayers and concerns – I really appreciate everything. Hopefully, I will be able to be back in church and choir soon.
Bea Pursley

Lunch Bunch!



Lunch Bunch, the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays @ 12:00 in the Meeting Room

January 10th – Twelve Women of the Bible, Abigail (Dealing with confrontation in relationships).
January 24th – Twelve Women of the Bible, Gomer (Learning to accept unconditional love).

(GROUP) SCHEDULES

Adult Church School, Sundays @ 9:00 in the Meeting Room

January 1st – Radical Discipleship (Matthew and the Sermon on the Mount)
January 8th – The Hidden Messiah (Key Events in Matthew and Mark)
January 15th – God Seeks the Least, the Last and the Lost (Luke and Parables)
January 22nd – Life Giver (Close encounters with Jesus in John)
January 29th – The Explosive Power of the Holy Spirit (The disciples receive the power in Acts)

Pastor's Thoughts – Rev. Mark Katrick

In my second year of seminary, I was required to take group dynamics.

The catalogue at Ashland Theological Seminary describes this course as “designed to help group members discover their interpersonal styles and skills such as self-disclosure, listening and responding. The goal of the course is to promote personal growth through the experience.”

In retrospect, Group Dynamics was important and valuable for pastors-to-be, because it modeled the worship and learning experiences of the early Christian church. These first followers of Christ "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayer. (Acts 2:42)

All the believers were together and had everything in common. (Acts 2:44) Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all people. (Acts 2:46-47)

In other words, together, in small groups, these Christians were able to discover their interpersonal styles and promote personal growth through worship and ministry.

At St. John's, there are a number of opportunities to experience this same kind of discovery and personal growth in small groups. On Sunday mornings at 9:00 there are adult and youth classes between our 8:00 and 10:30 services. During the 10:30 service, similar activities are held for children in the Bible Discovery Zone.

On the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month, there is a Lunch Bunch Bible Study that has been around here for as long as I have been (eight years). In the works is the return of a Wednesday evening Lenten Series in March and early April.

Opportunities for personal Christian growth abound at St. John's. The only thing missing is you! Why not come check it out? Though it is not a "requirement" like in seminary, it is an opportunity, not only for developing skills like listening and responding, but to be and grow with a great group of people, your church family, who are always there to listen, to challenge and to offer the support and encouragement you need, wherever you are and wherever you are on life's journey!

Behind the Stable



It is an exquisitely sweet story. The Word Made Flesh happened inside a barn. Maternity ward rules notwithstanding, Jesus was born in the midst of feed sacks and animals, visited by shepherds who hadn't showered, and curious visitors in town for the census.

What happened inside that stable is awe-inspiring. The scene unfolds with soft lighting, a brighter glow from the manger-cradle, and benevolent beasts looking on fondly. Perplexed and weary parents seem glad to have found this bit of shelter just in time for the birth event.

All the Christmas action is focused inside the barn. Sometimes I think about what was behind the stable.

The birth of Jesus inside the stable opens up a chapter in which God continues to reveal that our lives matter. The Jesus birth narrative is about God offering us grace and love in new ways. It answers the fervent prayer for a Messiah.

Behind the stable is another story. This one is about the world into which God inserted Jesus. The story outside the barn is a sad distortion of what God intended. It is too often unattractive, unpleasant, and messy.

When we sing, “Word of the Father now in flesh appearing” we hint that Nativity brings us to the brink of a moment when history will make a dramatic turn toward the way God wants things to be.

As our Advent candles promise love and hope, joy and peace, it is easy to set aside awareness of why the world needed Jesus then, and still does. My all-time favorite work of art reminds me of the less-often told story that the Holy Family were refugees for awhile.

Olivier Merson, in his painting [“Rest On the Flight Into Egypt.”](#) depicts Joseph asleep under a light blanket, near remnants of a fire which sends a thin column of smoke skyward. The donkey is tethered near by, saddle on the ground. Mary is asleep between the paws of the Great Sphinx. The baby sleeps in her arms. Starlight glinting off water in the distance provides a hint that they have crossed the Nile on their way to a safer place.

That and more is what lies behind the stable. Outside the barn are reminders of why the still-speaking, always loving, ever forgiving God moved to be present among us in this powerful way. The Nativity narrative brings light and love where darkness and distress threaten to obscure the glory of God’s creation. Phillips Brooks sang it this way: “Above thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.”

So, I pray this for the congregations and members of the United Church of Christ in Ohio, Northern Kentucky and West Virginia this season:

Let what happened inside the barn inspire you to transform what lies behind the stable. In every way, every day, live so that the ways of the Christ-child continue to inform and transform the society into which we are called as God’s servants. Make the joys and hopes of this season live long after the carol books and lovely crèches are returned to storage.

May this be a glorious and inspiring time for you, for your congregation, and for each of us as we live out the Christmas message. It begins in a lowly manger. Then bids us to step boldly beyond the stable to be “salt, leaven and light” to the world in which we live.

I pray great prayers of gratitude to God as I marvel at the creative and faithful ministries of the congregations of the Ohio Conference! Thank you for your inspired and inspiring service in Christ’s name! And, Merry Christmas!

Rev. John Gantt
Interim Conference Minister





St. John's has changed our RADIO FREQUENCY! Sunday Services on WCLT 98.7FM

As you know, St. John's 10:30 am Sunday services can be heard at 9am Sunday mornings on WCLT Radio. In the past, we were broadcast on 1490AM, but that is changing. Now tune your radio to 98.7FM at the same time to hear our worship services. The FM channel is a better quality of signal, even in bad weather. So, if you miss church due to travel, illness or any reason, tune to WCLT 98.7FM to hear what you've missed.



The Afternoon Circle ...

The ladies of the Afternoon Circle will meet for lunch on Wednesday, January 4, 2017, at The Lucky Bamboo (1485 Granville Road, across from State Farm), at 12:00 noon.

We will hold election of officers for the 2017 program year. Our Mission Project for January and February is yarn and sewing supplies for Newborns in Need.

(Should we have bad weather conditions that day, the meeting will be canceled.)

NEWS FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

News from Mission and Outreach:

Last month we sent money to the Vermont Haiti Project. Our donation was used to purchase several new water filters to clean the water and also let other areas that were affected by the hurricane use the water filters.

We received a thank you letter from Sheriff Randy Thorp for our donation to the National Child and Safety Council's drug education program.

And we received a thank you from the Licking County Food Pantry for our recent donation.

The charities we donated to for December are:

Hospice - \$100

Community Health Clinic - \$100

Make a Wish - \$100

American Cancer Society - \$100

Seminaries of the United Church of Christ - \$60

Shopping for the 7 children whose tags were left on the Angel Tree - \$475

Respectfully submitted, Susan Jansheski



January 8th The Bible Discovery Zone and Nursery classes will be celebrating Epiphany Sunday with a special lesson and celebrations.



Adult class 9:00 am.

Bible Discovery Zone during the 10:30am service.

Nursery care and Pre-school class available at 10:00 am.

Cradle Roll

- 1: Frances Hill
- 8: Julie Kroah
- 15: Kayla Hill
- 22: Frances Hill & Josh Wallace
- 29: Julie Kroah

Bible Discovery Zone

- 1: Anita Chirdon & Pat Farley
- 8: Pamela Tulloss & Makayla Sheets
- 15: Ken Kroah & Colleen Kroah
- 22: Kara Deal & Olivia Workman
- 29: Brian Lensink & Connor Boyce

DVD FILMING

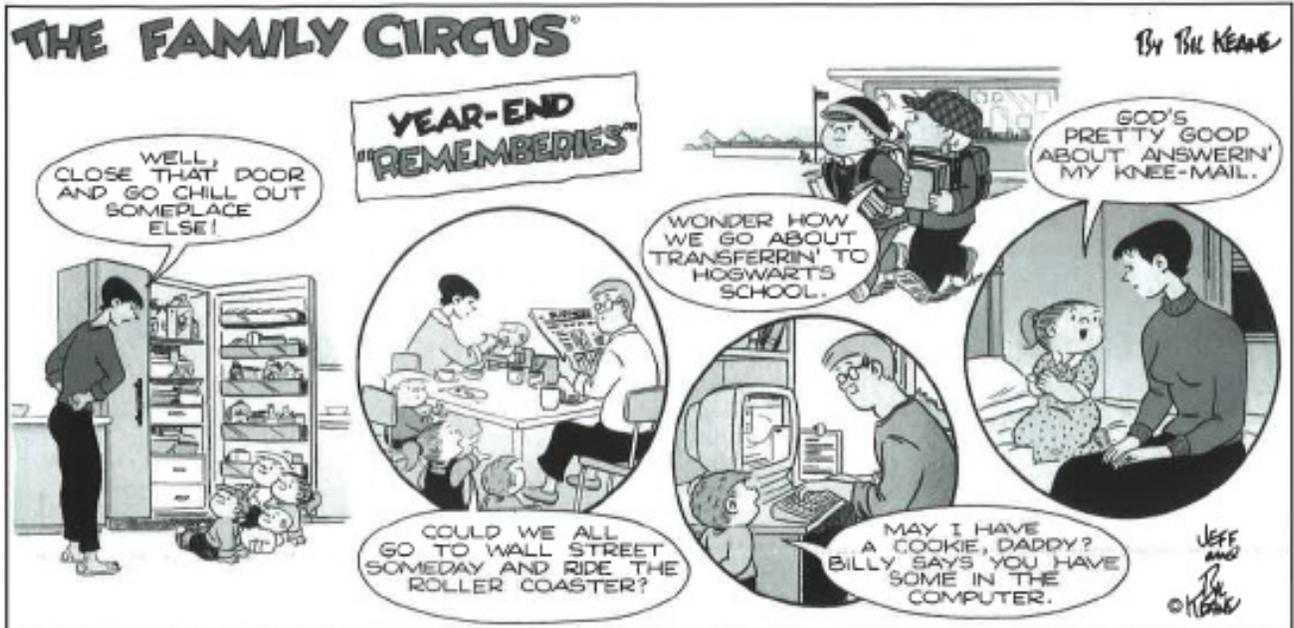
- 1: John West
- 8: Dick Tulloss
- 15: Gary Kinser
- 22: Ken Kroah
- 29: Bill McInturf

Acolytes

- 1: Makayla Sheets
- 8: Connor Boyce
- 15: Olivia Workman
- 22: Elijah Crase
- 29: Makayla Sheets

Sound System

- 1: Julie Kroah
- 8: Ken Kroah
- 15: Dick Tulloss
- 22: Julie Kroah
- 29: Tom Lawyer



JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00 AM Chapel Service 9:00 AM Adult and Youth Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service -Sanctuary with Bible Discovery Zone after Children's Moment	2 OFFICE CLOSED	3 10:00 AM Church & Ministry Meeting	4 10:00 AM N.A.R.F.E. Meeting 1:00 PM Afternoon Circle Meeting 6:00 PM Private Use-Chorus Practice	5 10:00 AM Sewing Circle 7:00 PM Choir Practice	6	7 1:00 PM Private Use
8 8:00 AM Chapel Service 9:00 AM Adult and Youth Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service -Sanctuary with Bible Discovery Zone after Children's Moment	9	10 12:00 PM LUNCH BUNCH BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM Finance & Stewardship Meeting	11 10:00 AM Christian Education Meeting 6:00 PM Congregational Care Meeting 6:00 PM Private Use-Chorus Practice	12 6:30 PM Music Committee Meeting 7:00 PM Choir Practice	13	14
15 8:00 AM Chapel Service 9:00 AM Adult and Youth Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service -Sanctuary with Bible Discovery Zone after Children's Moment	16	17 6:00 PM Church Council Meeting	18 6:00 PM Private Use-Chorus Practice	19 10:00 AM Sewing Circle 7:00 PM Choir Practice	20	21
22 8:00 AM Chapel Service 9:00 AM Adult and Youth Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service -Sanctuary with Bible Discovery Zone after Children's Moment	23	24 12:00 PM LUNCH BUNCH BIBLE STUDY	25 6:00 PM Private Use-Chorus Practice	26 7:00 PM Choir Practice	27	28
29 8:00 AM Chapel Service 9:00 AM Adult and Youth Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service -Sanctuary with Bible Discovery Zone after Children's Moment	30	31	1 10:00 AM N.A.R.F.E. Meeting 1:00 PM Afternoon Circle Meeting 6:00 PM Private Use-Chorus Practice	2 10:00 AM Sewing Circle 7:00 PM Choir Practice	3	4

St. John's United Church of Christ
285 W. National Drive
Newark, Ohio 43055

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Worship & Classes!

8:00 am – Chapel Service
10:30 am – Traditional Sanctuary Service
Volume 17 Number 1

Address Service Requested



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Chucky

I have heard that Pastor Mark is having a sermon series on "Really Good New Year's Resolutions". Let me set the record straight. There is no such thing as a really good New Year's Resolution. Cousin Chester and I don't like to make them or keep them, especially in January!

So let it be known that in the year 2017, during these long, cold winter months, your church mouse is NOT resolved to:

- Get up earlier. I will keep on hibernating like I always do. Leave the forecasting to groundhogs. Anita, hold the coffee until spring. Todd, you can sign me up as a soprano for Easter Sunday. Rev, you can practice your sermons on me anytime. It helps me sleep.
- Participate in Sunday school, no matter what snacks they have. See you at Vacation Bible School, Julie.
- Eat less cheese. You've got to be kidding. I'm a church mouse. I can nibble in my sleep. Besides that, there is still that cheese collection I got for Christmas to finish off. And leave all the Cheetos® you want in my mailbox. I'll wake up long enough to fetch them.
- Help out more at the church. Don't you know by now that the best thing a church mouse can do is to not be seen or heard? Charlie, if you need someone to get up into those small spaces to check things out, let's wait until the boilers are turned off for the summer. James, if you need someone to vacuum crumbs, you can count on me AFTER the outdoors services begin.