

Welcome Home!

to the Church you remember....Welcome home to....

St. John's

The 2022 February Chimes

United Church of Christ



Prayer List

Please keep in your thoughts and prayers all of our shut-ins and the following members, Alison Armstrong, Barbara & Mel Cunningham, Mary Lou Hostetler, Jeanette Morris, Sandra Donson, Machele & John West, Dick Boyd, Kate Hannum Rose, Debi Snow, Kathy Wilson, Judy Armstrong, Braxton Picklesimer, Vicky McGee, Virginia Lavelle, Brenda Simross, Paula Hatfield, Donna & Loren Hewitt, Harriett Applegate, Charles & Lois Meyers, Mike Boyce, Relna Cornell, Esther Gillham, Helen McGaughy, Charles Foucht, Shirley Imler, Bill Carr, Brian Lensink, Rev. Dr. Winfield Strout, Tegan Picklesimer, Irmgard Rhodes, Susan O'Brien, Robin Lyn Green, & Joann Claypool.

Please contact the church office if you know of any sick or hospitalized members. Remember if you want someone on the Bea's Blessings prayer chain, you can email Michelle Reedy jmichele.reedy@gmail.com

Financial Update

Monthly Faith Promise goal	\$ 8,705.25
Income as of January 23, 2022	\$ 8,075.00
Month to Date Balance	(\$ 630.25)

New Members

We welcomed Barbara (Barb) Jean Beck and Charles (Charlie) Mays on Sunday, January 23 and Devin Koser, William Koser and Lauren Koser on January 30 as they joined our St. John's membership. Please welcome them when you see them.

Thank You

Thanks to the congregation for your support of Gifts for Foster Children of the Village Network, One Great Hour of Sharing, the Lenten Offering, Strengthen the Church Offering, Neighbors in Need, Christmas Fund Offering for Veterans of the Cross, the Advent Offering, the Food Pantry and the UCC Disaster Relief for several disasters this year. We appreciate all of your kindness and generous offerings. Mission and Outreach

Every month, we send our donations to the Food Pantry that we have received in our offerings (noted above). It helps provide food for the needy and is greatly appreciated. In addition to the twenty food pantries, baby pantry, weekly free produce markets and daily soup kitchen, the Food Pantry Network of Licking County also provides resources to many other Licking County feeding programs such as shelters, after school programs and free community meals. Our support greatly helps them in their efforts to fulfill their mission of "assuring that no one in Licking County goes hungry." Thank you! We have made a real difference in the lives of the residents they serve.

Dear St. John's U.C.C.

Thank you for your recent gift. Gifts like yours are critical to sustain our mission. It is appreciated and it does great good. Please pray that all we do remains in our Father's active will. Thank you! John Paul Munhall (Executive Director)

As we reflect on 2021, we are celebrating and thanking God for you and all that He continues to do in our midst. You are a tremendous blessing! We are extremely grateful for your partnership with LCJM (Licking County Jail Ministries including Vertical 196)

We look forward, with anticipation, to seeing the great things God has in store for us in 2022! Thanks again for your generosity and prayers to empower our ministry, All Glory to God!

Sincerely, Scott Hayes, Chaplain
Licking County Jail Ministries

Dear members and friends of St. John's

Thirteen years ago, in my second month as pastor at St. John's, one of my dearest friends gave me the most wonderful present – and no, it wasn't chocolate. She too knows that I have no use for that stuff.

It was a big plastic baggie filled with pastel-colored paper hearts. Each one has a verse from the Psalms written on it. With it, are instructions and a personal note on an extra-large post-it. It is her trademark method of communicating matters of the heart.

The heart of the matter was she wanted me to share her gift with you as a “conversation starter with God.” It would be like “giving God a valentine.” When you share and speak the words on each heart, it makes you “more aware of God's presence and how much God loves you.”

You're probably well-aware that when you change places of employment stuff gets put in boxes, is stored away and sometimes disappears – even the most important things. Then, when you're doing occasional cleanings and sorting through your work space, they miraculously reappear.

Last year, when I began to prepare for my retirement later this year, I found my baggie of pastel-colored hearts with the Psalms written on them. And I began to sit, pray, and reflect with them after church, remembering the mission from God that was attached.

Then the Holy Spirit began to nudge me and whisper in my ear, “Better late than never!”

So on Sunday, February 13, those who attend our 9:00 drive-in service or our 11:00 service in the sanctuary will receive a small baggie. Each will have one of my friend's paper hearts, and a handful of candy hearts for the kindness and sweetness you've shown me as your pastor.

DIRECTIONS WILL BE INCLUDED! Make sure you read and pray on them, especially you fellows who don't think you need them, like me.

- Read the verse on your paper heart aloud several times, prayerfully and slowly, taking deep breaths in-between.
- Speak words to God, knowing God likes to converse with you.
- Pray that your heart within will be aware of God's presence.
- Know how much God loves you!

From my dear friend and me, have a Happy Valentine's Day! May your forever heart be filled with praise for the Creator who holds you, watches over you and provides for you, and the Christ within who loves you like no other.

In Christ's love,

Rev. Mark

Lenten Services

Our Ash Wednesday services at St. John's will be during the Thursday evening prayer service on [March 3](#) at 7 PM.

NAMA (The Newark Area Ministerial Association) is planning to distribute ashes downtown on [Wednesday, March 2](#). It will more than likely be outdoors, perhaps in a tent. Rev. Mark will share details as they become available.

Mid-Winter musings from your Church Mice

Why does the pastor not like chocolate when it's safe for him to eat, and we love chocolate, but it's not safe for us to eat? It ain't fair!

If you feel sorry for us, just leave three snack bags of Cheetos® with your Valentine's cards, one for Chucky (that's me) and my friends, Chester and Chauncey.

We like February, that comes in like a Groundhog (a member of the rodent family,) lots better than March, that comes in like a Lion. A cat is a cat.

Since church mice sleep in, don't be asking us if there's going to be six more weeks of winter.

We do love being awakened by the church bells. The groundhogs from the woods always save us a front pew. That way we can still see the Rev when he goes behind the big glass windows. He needs a heavier coat like ours.

And what's all this commotion about him "putting on his fuzzy"? Church mice are fuzzy (and cute). A lapel mike with a wind-breaker is not!

We're hoping he gets another church for us to stay in next fall. In the meantime, can we rent space from you? We'll pay from our stash of cheese.

Afternoon Circle -

The Afternoon Circle will get together for lunch at 12 o'clock noon on Wednesday, February 2, 2022, at The Pizza Cottage on Mt. Vernon Road in Newark. There will be no program, just good fellowship and good food. Join us to warm up our souls as we warm up our bodies over some good food. (If the weather is bad, we will not meet.)



February 13, 2022

Canned Soup Drive

On February 13, 2022 bring canned soups and stews of all kinds to benefit the Licking County Food Pantry.

The Youth will be on hand to collect the cans as you enter the parking lot for the Outdoor Drive-In service at 9AM or as you come into the 11AM service.

Be sure to designate which team you're cheering on to victory!



LIBRARY FOCUS FOR FEBRUARY

***The River of God* by Dutch Sheets.** Describes what a person must do to prepare for revival, balancing biblical teachings in the light of the Holy Spirit's power.

***The Dream Giver* by Bruce Wilkinson.** Uses practical and biblical keys to show how to identify and overcome the obstacles that keep millions from living the life they were created for.

For Children

***The Pilgrim's Promise* by John Bunyan**

*** These featured books and DVD's can be found in the church library on the center shelves***

NEWS FROM CHURCH COUNCIL –

Church Council met on Monday, January 24, 2022 (postponed from 1/17/22).



Treasurer's Report: Frank Davis

As of December 31, 2021, our Faith Promise was \$7,622.90 more for the year than promised. Our expenses were \$6,193.79 over what was budgeted. The year ending balance was \$1,429.11 in the black.

Committee Reports

Church and Ministry: Jeff Conner

Ash Wednesday service will be on the Thursday Prayer Service on March 3rd.

Mission and Outreach: Owen Lee

January donations were to the Licking County Warming Center for homeless of Newark, Coalition of Care, and the Community Health Clinic.

Christian Education: Elaine Gard

There will be no Easter Breakfast again this year, but there will be an Easter Egg Hunt for the Bible Discovery Zone and Cradle Roll classes.

Hopefully there will be a Youth Sunday on April 25.

The committee is currently looking at and choosing Vacation Bible School materials.

New Business

Council Candidates:

Charles Dudley, Mike Dooley, and Tim Powers have agreed to be candidates for 3-year terms on Council. Anyone else from the congregation who would like to be a candidate and have their name on the ballot for the Annual Meeting should speak with President Tom Lawyer or any member of Council.

Use of Facility Requests:

By email last week, Council approved the following requests:

Boy Scout Troop 57 and Ken Kroah for the first Monday of each month.

Julie Kroah for a birthday party on Jan. 22, 2022.

Life Line Screening for June 14, 2022 for screening.

Council approved the request from the Snow ladies for a Baby Shower on March 19, 2022.

Annual Meeting: Sunday, February 20, 2022

The meeting will be held immediately after the 11:00 service on 2/20/22.

Ballots will be provided at both services to vote on Council members.

New Members:

By email last week, the following people were approved for membership:

Devin Koser

William Koser

Lauren Koser

Barbara Jean Beck

Charles E. Mays

The next regularly scheduled meeting of Church Council is on Monday, February 21, 2022, at 6:30 p.m., in the Large Meeting Room. Members of St. John's are always welcome to attend.

5 Common Mistakes to Avoid When Studying the Bible

by Crossway

Many people start out the New Year with a renewed plan to read the Bible every day. Christianity Today agrees that this is a good idea. They site 4 good reasons to read your Bible is to Learn of God's Presence, God's Power, God's Protection and God's Fruit. For more information about starting a reading plan see Sarah Frazer's article on the Christianity Today website [Helpful Bible Reading Plans for the New Year at https://www.christianity.com/author/sarah-frazer](https://www.christianity.com/author/sarah-frazer)

1. We don't let the Bible speak for itself.

It is a common mistake to ask the wrong questions when reading the Bible. Rather than asking "Who am I?" and "What should I do?" Jen Wilkin, author of [Women of the Word: How to Study the Bible with Both Our Hearts and Our Minds](#), suggests asking "Who is God?" and "What has he done?"

The Bible is a book that boldly and clearly reveals who God is on every page. In Genesis, it does this by placing God as the subject of the creation narrative. In Exodus, it places him in comparison to Pharaoh and the gods of Egypt. In the Psalms, David extols the Lord's power and majesty. The prophets proclaim his wrath and justice. The Gospels and Epistles unfold his character in the person and work of Christ. The book of Revelation displays his dominion over all things. From beginning to end, the Bible is a book about God.

The Bible certainly has something to say about who we are and what we should do, but it is important to remember that it is much less a book about us and much more a book about him.

2. We allow our hearts to guide our study.

We often turn to Scripture for help or hope when we are feeling discouraged or seeking peace. Because of this, we can tend to approach the Bible primarily as a way to feel better. Wilkin says:

Interestingly, the same verse that commands us to love God with all of our hearts also commands us to love him with all of our minds. Our minds are the seat of our intellects. Attaching our intellect to our faith does not come naturally to most of us. We live in a time when faith and reason are spoken of as polar opposites. At times, the church has even embraced this kind of language. For some of us, the strength of our faith is gauged by how close we feel to God at any given moment—by how a sermon made us feel, by how a worship chorus made us feel, by how our quiet time made us feel.

Love for God can, in fact, stem from knowing God. When we engage our minds, our hearts can follow suit as we come to a deeper appreciation of God as revealed in Scripture. Wilkin goes on, "We must love God with our minds, allowing our intellect to inform our emotions, rather than the other way around."

3. We skip over large swaths of God's Word.

The gospel is good news, but not every page of the Bible is intended to make us feel good about ourselves. Quite to the contrary, Scripture often points out our depravity and unfaithfulness. However, it also reminds us of our faithful God.

When we pick and choose verses from Scripture aimed merely at lifting our spirits when we're feeling down, we run the risk of reducing the Bible to a self-help manual. Wilkin says, "Yes, there is comfort to be found in the pages of Scripture, but context is what makes that comfort lasting and real."

Reading this way, Wilkin says: guarantees that huge sections of our Bibles will remain unread because they fail to deliver an immediate dose of emotional satisfaction. We are not very likely to read Leviticus or Lamentations if we subscribe to this approach. A well-rounded approach to Bible study challenges us to navigate all areas of the Bible, even those that make us uncomfortable or that are difficult to understand.

4. We confuse reading books about the Bible with studying the actual Bible.

Extra-biblical resources can be of great help when seeking to understand the Bible and the Christian life, but they are never meant to replace God's Word itself. Wilkin says: If I prefer reading what others have written about the Bible to reading the Bible itself, I am probably reading what someone says about what someone says about what the Bible says. As with topical studies, books about the Bible can be helpful, but they are not foundational.

The more time we spend in the primary source (the Bible), the more we'll know and understand it. Other people's thoughts about the Bible are meant to supplement our own, personal engagement with Scripture.

5. We fail to see the big story of Scripture.

Although the Bible was penned by many different authors and falls into many different genres, we believe that it is all inspired and therefore equally God's Word. This means that when we read a specific section of the Bible without paying due attention to the whole, we're likely to miss what Wilkin calls the "continuous and stunning landscape" of Scripture. She says: Without the bigger picture, we can gain only a partial appreciation of what any individual snapshot is trying to tell us. From Genesis to Revelation the Bible is telling us about the reign and rule of God. Its topography speaks of creation, fall, redemption, and restoration in every vista. The topography of the Big Story is populated with different genres of writing—Historical Narrative, Poetry, Wisdom Literature, Law, Prophecy, Parables, Epistles—all conspiring to expand our understanding of the reign and rule of God in different ways.

Understanding what scholars refer to as the metanarrative of Scripture—the grand, overarching story—helps us piece together what may otherwise seem like disparate stories, teachings, and themes.

Knowing the main story of redemption helps us understand all of the individual stories scattered throughout Scripture. Wilkin says: Our disconnect from the metanarrative of the Bible can render us much like a gardener who fails to recognize colored leaves as a sign of autumn rather than a sign of disease. When we are fuzzy about the Big Story, we may have difficulty finding continuity between the God of the Old Testament and the God of the New Testament. We may have trouble relating to the Old Testament at all. We may misinterpret the purpose or emphasis of a smaller story because we have considered it apart from its relationship to the Big Story. We need to hold the metanarrative in our minds as we read each page of the Bible, remembering that just like in our lives, sometimes we may not understand what God is doing in the short-term, but we can trust him in the bigger picture.



February 13, 2022 The Soup-er Bowl of Caring Canned Soup Drive. The Youth will be on hand to collect the cans as you enter the parking lot for the Drive-In service and if you plan to come inside at the 11AM service. Bring cans of soup and stews of all kinds to benefit the Licking County Food Pantry.

The Bible Discovery Zone will begin looking at Jonah and the Adult class will be watching a 7- week video series about Elijah. Join us each Sunday



Sunday School Classes

Adult class – Class is at 9:45AM

Bible Discovery Zone –at 11:00AM

Cradle Role - Child care at 10:45 for the 11AM service

Starting in February



A 7-Session Video Study on the Prophet Elijah from Best-Selling Author Priscilla Shirer

Old Testament heroes are best known for their most celebrated moments: Moses dividing the Red Sea; David slaying Goliath; Gideon routing an insurmountable army; Joshua marching around the defiant walls of Jericho. And Elijah—calling down fire on Mount Carmel.

Blinded by the remarkable narratives of our biblical heroes, we can forget they each had a backstory—months and years of development, even difficulty, which fortified their spiritual muscle and prepared them for the tasks that made their lives unforgettable.

February Worship Service Duties

Ushers: Frank Davis, Jeff Conner, Gary Kinser, Larry Jones

Cradle Role with Rachel Lee

6 Michelle Knowlton
13
20 Kelsie Pursley
27



Bible Discovery Zone

6
13 Brian Lensink &
Matthew Kroah
20 Ken Kroah &
Pat Farley
27 Judy Goodman &
Matthew Kroah

Thursday Media Worship Team

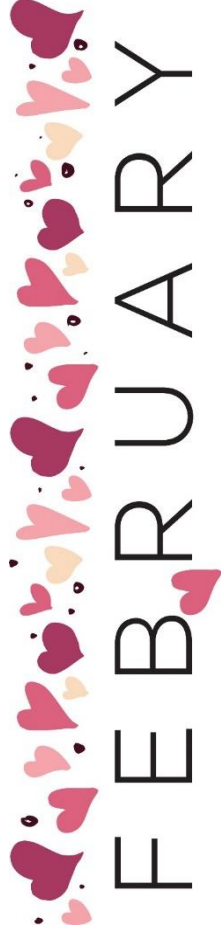
3 Julie Kroah
10 Julie Kroah
17 Tom Lawyer
24 Julie Kroah

Sunday Sound Worship Team

6 Julie Kroah
13 Tom Lawyer
20 Pam Tulloss
27 Ken Kroah

Sunday Video Worship Team

6 Julie Kroah
13 Tom Lawyer
20 Pamela Tulloss
27 Ken Kroah



FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:00 AM Outdoor Drive-In Service 11:00 AM Sanctuary Service- Children dismissed to Bible Discovery Zone during the service.	31	1 1:00 PM Private Use 4:00 PM Church & Ministry Meeting	2 12:00 PM The Afternoon Circle- Meet for lunch- Pizza Cottage in Newark 6:00 PM Private Use- Chorus Practice	3 7:00 PM Live from St. John's UCC Chapel - Join us for our Thursday Prayer Service. Live streamed at 7:00pm.	4 9:00 AM Audit Committee Meeting	5
6 9:00 AM Outdoor Drive-In Service 11:00 AM Sanctuary Service- Children dismissed to Bible Discovery Zone during the service.	7 7:00 PM Scout Meeting	8 7:00 PM Finance & Stewardship Meeting	9 10:00 AM Christian Education Meeting 6:00 PM Private Use- Chorus Practice	10 7:00 PM Live from St. John's UCC Chapel - Join us for our Thursday Prayer Service. Live streamed at 7:00pm.	11	12
13 Soup-er Bowl of Caring- Youth collecting canned soups and stews 9:00 AM Outdoor Drive-In Service 11:00 AM Sanctuary Service- Children dismissed to Bible Discovery Zone during the service.	14 Valentine's Day	15 6:30 PM Private Use	16 6:00 PM Private Use- Chorus Practice	17 7:00 PM Live from St. John's UCC Chapel - Join us for our Thursday Prayer Service. Live streamed at 7:00pm.	18	19
20 9:00 AM Outdoor Drive-In Service 10:00 AM Confirmation Class 11:00 AM Sanctuary Service- Children dismissed to Bible Discovery Zone during the service. 11:30 AM ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING	21 OFFICE CLOSED Presidents' Day 6:30 PM Church Council Meeting	22	23 6:00 PM Private Use- Chorus Practice	24 7:00 PM Live from St. John's UCC Chapel - Join us for our Thursday Prayer Service. Live streamed at 7:00pm.	25	26
27 Transfiguration Sunday 9:00 AM Outdoor Drive-In Service 10:00 AM Confirmation Class 11:00 AM Sanctuary Service- Children dismissed to Bible Discovery Zone during the service.	28	1 4:00 PM Church & Ministry Meeting	2 Ash Wednesday 1:00 PM The Afternoon Circle of the Women's Guild Meeting 6:00 PM Private Use- Chorus Practice	3 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Live Stream Service	4 World Day of Prayer	5



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

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Worship Services!

9:00 a.m. – Outdoor Drive-In Service
7:00 p.m. – Thursday Prayer Service
11:00 a.m. – Sanctuary Service
Volume 22 Number 2

Address Service Requested



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Mark your calendar and plan to attend
St. John's Annual Congregation Meeting

Congregational Meeting



The 180th Annual Congregational Meeting
will take place on Sunday, February 20, 2022 immediately following the 11:00 a.m. service. Ballots will be provided to vote on Council members at both services. Please contact Tom Lawyer if you are interested in serving on Council to have your name added to the ballot. Each person will serve a three-year term.