



**St. John's
United Church of Christ
285 W. National Drive
Newark OH
43055-5298**

Main: 740-323-2407

Church Website

www.stjohnsnewark.org

Our Church Staff

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

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Sexton

Charles Bruah

Chapel Pianist

Jane Shoemaker

Children's Bell Choir

Colleen Kroah

Adult Bell Choir

Jerry Goodman

Librarian/Signer

Debi Snow

Prayer List

Rebecca Swartz

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*Rooted in the Evangelical
and Reformed Traditions*

*We are Sowing Seeds of Hope
in a Time of Chaos*

So We May All Be One



December 1, 2024

First Sunday of Advent

Communion Sunday

Chapel Service: 8:30 a.m.

Sanctuary Service: 11:00 a.m.

First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

Chapel Service

8:30 am

Sanctuary Service

11:00 am

Announcements & Greetings

Prelude (8:30 a.m.)

Jane Shoemaker

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” arr. by Curry

Prelude (11:00 a.m.)

“Sleepers Awake” J.S. Bach

Todd Baldosser

***Opening Hymn**

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

No. 125

- 1) **Come, O Long-expected Jesus, born to set your people free.
From our fears and sins release us; Christ, in whom our rest shall be.
You, our strength and consolation, come salvation to impart;
dear desire of many a nation, joy of many a longing heart.**
- 2) **Born your people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, born your gracious realm to bring.
By your own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by your all sufficient merit raise us to your glorious throne.**

***Call to Worship**

Leader: We come from a world of darkness

All: Into Christ’s World of Light

Leader: We come from a world of weariness

All: Into God’s strength and hope

Leader: We come from a slumbering world

All: Strengthened by the Holy Spirit, we come to awaken our souls

Leader: And watch for the coming of the Messiah

All: The Season of waiting and watching has begun

***Prayer of Invocation**

**All: God of light, You have made us in Your image. As we gather for
Worship on this First Sunday in Advent, may we experience Your
brightness and settle into Your arms of love. We gather as your
body of believers, restore our courage and empower our faith as
we join our ancestors throughout history in this Season of
watching again for the Advent of Your birth and we pray the
words you taught us...**

***Please stand if you are able**

***The Lord's Prayer* – Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors; And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom,
and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

***Gloria Patri**

No. 35

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Candle - Hope

8:30 a.m.

Carl Kochendorfer

11:00 a.m.

Hailey Corey & Tobias Ware

Hymn

“One Candle Is Lit”

(Verse 1) No. 128

**Come surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night
Our hearts long to greet you, as roses, the light.
Salvation, draw near us, our vision engage.
One candle is lit for the hope of the age.**

Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Response

“Hear Our Prayer, O Lord”

No. 306

**Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord,
incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace. Amen.**

Special Music (8:30 a.m.)

Jane Shoemaker

“Prepare the Way” arr. by Logan

Choir Anthem (11:00 a.m.)

“Who Will Welcome Him?” Albrecht

Scripture Reading

Psalm 94:14

Scripture Reading

Matthew 1:1-5

Sermon

“You’re Not Alone”

Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

Hymn

“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”

No. 134

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called.
Emmanuel, God with us, revealed in us,
his name is called Emmanuel.**

Holy Communion

Prayer of Confession

All: We confess, Gracious God, that we have not always turned to you for guidance. At times, we have allowed the world to dominate our time. Forgive us for our sins of hurriedness and impatience. Forgive us when we have slumbered instead of remaining alert, waiting and watching for You. Forgive us for allowing the world’s fears to become our fears. Shine upon us this Advent Season so that we may be fully be restored unto You. As we call upon Your Name, hear our prayers and give us life. In Jesus’ Name, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance (*Based on 1 Thessalonians 3: 12-13*)

Pastor: May our God help us increase and abound in love for Him and for one another Jesus promises to strengthen our hearts in holiness that we may be blameless before our God. In the Name of Jesus Christ, we are all forgiven. Hallelujah. Amen.

Communion Prayer

Pastor: Jesus, our Lord and Savior, as we await the day when we celebrate the Bethlehem birth, we are blessed this day to celebrate Holy Communion. The bread and the cup, which you give to us, are food for our spiritual journey. Let it nourish our spirits. Remind us of our need for Grace. And bring us closer together as a Body of Christ. Amen

Prayer of Thanksgiving

All: Loving God, we thank You that You have fed us in this Sacrament, united us with Christ and each other and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in Your eternal realm. We receive gratefully the power of Your Spirit to love and work to Your praise and glory. In Jesus’ Name. Amen

Invitation for Generosity and Faithful Giving

***Doxology**

No. 46

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly hosts:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

All: Generous God, in this season of anticipation, we offer our gifts with hopeful hearts. As we prepare for the fullness of Your Kingdom, may these tithes and offerings be a sign of our readiness and our desire to live attentively. Surprise us with Your Presence this week and help us to look up, pay attention, and to embrace the Hope that You bring. In Jesus' Name. Amen

***Closing Hymn**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

No. 119

(8:30 a.m. Verses 1 & 4)

- 1) O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee O Israel!**
- 2) O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's deep shadows put to flight.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee O Israel!**
- 4) O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee O Israel!**

***Benediction**

***Please join us in the singing of the Congregational Benediction**

**Go Now In Peace/Never be afraid/God will go with you/Each hour of ev'ry
Day/Go now in Faith/Steadfast, strong and true/Know He will guide you in
all you do. Go now in Love/And show you believe/Reach out to others/So
all the world can see/God will be there/Watching from above/Go now in
Peace/In Faith and in Love. Amen/Amen/Amen. CCL#2548454**

Postlude (8:30 a.m.) Jane Shoemaker
"Sleepers, Wake! A Voice Astounds Us" arr. by Martin

Postlude (11:00 a.m.) "The Cherry Tree Carol" Traditional Todd Baldosser

Dr. Swisher's message next week:

Prepare the Way
Matthew 1: 1-4

To our members, dear friends and visitors:
You are an important part of the worship and ministry that goes on here and we are thankful for your presence. Please sign the attendance pads on the tables. Thank you!

Afternoon Circle -

will meet for the Annual Christmas Luncheon on Wednesday, December 4th, at 12 o'clock Noon, in the Large Meeting Room. Lunch will be Chicken and Noodles. for \$8.00 per person. We invite all the women of our St. John's Church family to attend. Please R.S.V.P. to Elaine Gard by Sunday, December 1, 2024.

Each lady is asked to bring a \$5.00 gift for our Gift Exchange. Please make sure your name is on the tag. Our Bite-Size Bible Study will be on Anna.

This is a great way to begin the Advent Season. Join the Afternoon Circle for a time of fellowship, study and good food as we prepare to receive the Little Lord Jesus into our hearts once again.

Please note: Our January meeting is cancelled, due to its falling on the same day as New Year's Day (January 1, 2025).



CONFIRMATION CLASS

Meetings are Sundays in the small meeting room
9:30AM—10:40AM

October 13 & 27
November 10 & 24
December 8 & 22



Budget Meeting

Congregational 2025 Budget Meeting

Please plan on attending our Congregational Budget Meeting on next Sunday, December 8, 2024, after the 11:00 a.m. service to vote on the 2025 Proposed Mission Plan. Copies of the proposed budget are available at each entrance to the sanctuary and are also published in the December Chimes.

**Inclement Weather – Stay Informed for Church Cancellations
& Other important Information**

It's that time of year when the weather can cause road conditions to be dangerous. Our church policy is to close the church if the Newark area or Licking County is under a level 2 weather advisory. Please add your name and phone number to our ONE CALL NOW list to get important information and updates from St. John's if you **are not** already on this list. Then put this in the offering plate or notify the office. Thank you!

New Addition: Name _____ Phone number _____



Salvation Army Angel Tree

We have the opportunity to help a local child have a wonderful Christmas this year by assisting the Salvation Army provide toys and gifts to those in need. On the Angel Tree, you will find name tags for 25 children with their wish list. Select a tag, buy gifts, and return them by **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024** to the church. All gifts must be new, unwrapped and labeled with recipient's name.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Advent Study

THE HEART THAT GREW THREE SIZES

FINDING FAITH IN
THE STORY OF **THE GRINCH**



December 1, 15, 29 at 9:30AM in the large meeting room

Gather Around the Christmas Tree

December 15, 2024
at the 11:00AM service



German Language Christmas Service



NEW
DATE!

December 15 at 3:00pm

COOKIES NEEDED!

Do you have a favorite German desert recipe?

We are looking for donations of German goodies for the reception following the German service.

Presented by St. John's Youth



Living NATIVITY

December 24

Before each Christmas Eve service

2:30pm-3:00pm ***and*** 6:30pm-7:15pm

Please leave an unperishable food item at the manger to benefit the Licking County Food Pantry Network.



December 24, 2024

3:00pm Sanctuary service

7:00pm Special music

7:30pm Sanctuary service

Communion & Candlelight at both services

Live Nativity prior to each service.

WELCOME!

COME, LET US ADORE HIM

St. John's United Church of Christ • 285 W. National Drive Newark

www.stjohnsnewark.org • 740-323-2407



Youth and Family Bowling

Sunday, December 29

St. John's UCC Family Night.

Park Lanes at 6pm

3 lanes reserved for 2 hours of bowling.

Volunteers Needed

Soon we will be having our “Hanging of the Greens” for the Advent Season, ordering our poinsettias to decorate the altar and preparing for celebrating Christmas.



During the December Sunday services, we will be lighting the Advent wreath candles. We are looking for volunteers to do this and possibly read a short scripture verse or short prayer, which will be provided.

If you or your family is willing to participate in this, please circle the date/time that you are available and drop this in the offering plate or drop off at the office. Thank you!

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Sunday, December 8, 2024

8:30 a.m. Chapel Service–Need Volunteer

11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Service – Catherine Lim

Sunday, December 15, 2024

8:30 a.m. Chapel Service–Need Volunteer

11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Service – Greg & Marla Crowthers & Family

Sunday, December 22, 2024

8:30 a.m. Chapel Service–Need Volunteer

11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Service

– Jeremy & Kayla Hill & family

Tuesday, December 24, 2024

3:00 p.m. Communion & Candlelight

– Mrs. Barbara Swisher & Emily Swisher

7:00 p.m. Communion & Candlelight

– Tom & Phyllis Lawyer

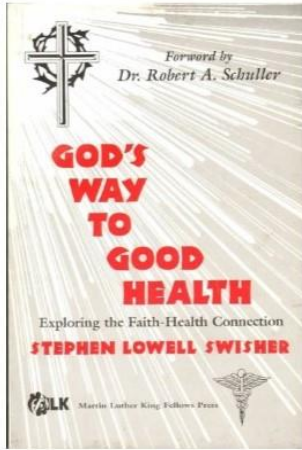


PLANNING MEETING

JANUARY 5, 2024 12:00PM

IN THE LARGE MEETING ROOM

Everyone is welcome. Bring your questions and curiosity. Come if you're just interested in learning more about the mission trip or how you can get involved.



ADULT Sunday School

God's Way to Good Health explores the concept of maintaining good health through a Christian perspective; often emphasizing the idea that the body is a "temple of the Holy Spirit" and should be cared for accordingly; essentially suggesting that living a healthy lifestyle aligns with biblical teachings.

Lead by Rev. Stephen Swisher.

A great way to start the new year!

Join us starting January 5, 2025, at 9:30AM

(In the large meeting room)

This Christmas, we will again beautify our sanctuary with an array of Poinsettias, which will be purchased from a local nursery. If you would like to participate in this celebration of Christmas, please fill out the form below or contact the church office.

6.5" pot \$ **12.00/each**

1 plant - 4 to 7 blooms (Red in color)



The DEADLINE for placing orders is TODAY.

Please pick up plants after the 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday, December 22, or after the Christmas Eve Services on December 24.

_____ I desire the office to purchase a poinsettia for me to keep.

_____ I desire the office to purchase a poinsettia to be donated to a shut-in.

Be sure to complete the following to be printed in the bulletin: (i.e.: In honor of or in memory of.....by or from.....)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

You may also choose to remember a loved one with a gift to the _____ Abiding Memorial Fund or the _____ Foundation Fund. All such gifts noted and received **BY DECEMBER 8** will be listed in the bulletin on **Sunday, December 15, Sunday, December 22 and Christmas Eve**. Abiding Memorial and Foundation Fund Cards and envelopes are also available in the literature rack in the Narthex or in the office, or mark your envelope with the information.

Thank you!



General Prayers: Bill Carr,
Charlie Bruah, & Debbie Snow



Homebound and Nursing Facility Residents:
Mel Cunningham, Bonita Farmer, Patricia
Gilbert, Paula Hatfield, Rosalie Johnson, Faith
Kelly, Delores and Harold McDonald, Esther
Gillham, Helen McGaughy, Mary Lou Hostetler,
Charles & Lois Meyers, Molly Sheets, & Lois
Swonger.



**Additional prayer requests on
Bea's Blessings:**

Mark D: Cancer return

We Appreciate Those Serving Today!

Liturgist:

Jeff Conner

Cantor:

Todd Baldosser

Ushers:

Frank Davis, Jeff Conner,

Larry Jones, Terry Gano,

Mike Dooley, Barry Dooley

Gary Kinser

Cradle Roll:

Volunteer/Avery Nagel

Bible Discovery Zone:

Brian Lensink & Youth if needed

Media Worship Team:

Sound & Video:

11:00 am: Mike Dooley/Tom Lawyer

Live streaming is now available on Facebook. If you missed the Live stream, you can watch a replay anytime on our YouTube or Facebook pages. Links for both of these sites can be found on our church website at www.stjohnsnewark.org

ATTENDANCE Report for Sunday, November 24

8:30 am - 12 11:00 am - 60

November 17 Sunday Live Stream Views - 104

Sunday: December 1, 2024

**First Sunday of Advent
Communion**

8:30 am

Chapel Service

9:30 am

Adult Sunday School

11:00 am

Sanctuary Service – Choir
Sings

11:00 am

Bible Discovery Zone

Wednesday:

12:00 pm

The Afternoon Circle of the
Women's Guild Annual
Christmas Luncheon

6:00 pm

Crystal City Chorus

Sunday: December 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

8:30 am

Chapel Service

9:30 am

Confirmation Class

11:00 am

Sanctuary Service

11:00 am

Bible Discovery Zone

12:00 pm

Congregational Budget
Meeting

Financial Update

Monthly Faith Promise goal	\$ 4,840.42
Income as of November 24, 2024	<u>7,130.00</u>
Month to Date Balance	\$ 2,289.58
Boiler Cost	\$ 99,260.00
Boiler loan amount	\$ 26,654.19
Boiler Donations received	<u>\$ 12,578.20</u>
Donations still needed	\$ 14,205.99

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday & Friday- 9 am - 12 pm. Please call the office 740-323-2407 and leave a message to make any additional appointments or call/text Anita 740-973-8218.

