



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

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Our Church Staff

Pastor

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Sexton

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Children's Bell Choir

Colleen Kroah

Adult Bell Choir

Jerry Goodman

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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 24, 2024

Communion and Candlelight Service

Early Service: 3:00 p.m.

Special Pre-Service Music: 7:00 p.m.

Sanctuary Service: 7:30 p.m.

Welcome to St. John's United Church of Christ

Christmas Eve Services

We Appreciate Those Serving Today!

Liturgists:

3:00 p.m. – April Kinser 7:30 p.m. – Jeff Conner

Ushers:

Frank Davis, Jeff Conner, Terry Gano,
Mike Dooley, Barry Dooley, Gary Kinser

Cantors:

3:00 p.m. - Colleen Kroah
7:30 p.m. – Julie Davis

Sound System:

3:00 p.m. – Tom Lawyer 7:30 p.m. – Ken and Julie Kroah



We thank the following people for sharing their musical talents prior to our 7:30 p.m. service:

“Lo How a Rose Ere Blooming” Praetorius – Todd Baldosser (Organ)

“Once In Royal David’s City” Traditional/Hayes – Diane Reef (Voice)

“Christmas Story” Walsh – Leap of Faith
(Julie Davis, Brian Lensink, Jane Shoemaker)

Congregational Carol - “Hark the Herald Angels”

**Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”**

**Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**

**Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings,
mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”**

“Huron Carol” arr. Hayes – Todd Baldosser (Voice)

“Angels We Have Heard on High” arr. by McDonald – Jane Shoemaker (Piano)

“Christmas Gloria” Thomas – St. John’s Choir

“Light of the World” by Diagle, Mabury and Duncan– Colleen Kroah (Voice)

“Wexford Carol” Traditional – Todd Baldosser (Piano)



Christmas Eve Communion & Candlelight Services

December 24, 2024

3:00 pm & 7:30 pm

Welcome

Prelude (3:00 p.m.) Jane Shoemaker

“O, How Joyfully! with Joy to the World” arr. by Berry

Prelude (7:30 p.m.) “Angels We Have Heard On High” Todd Baldosser

***Opening Hymn** “O Come, All Ye Faithful” **No. 148**

7:30 p.m. only, Trumpet – Matthew Kroah

1) **O come, all ye faithful, joyful, and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

4) **Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born for our salvation,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

***Call to Worship**

Leader: The people who once lived in darkness have been given a great light

All: Our souls sing out praises to our God

Leader: Tonight in this place the Light of God’s love is given to us!

All: And we shall let that light shine through our lives

Leader: Rejoice, good friends, the Good News is here!

All: Christ our Savior is born! Hallelujah! Amen.

***Prayer of Invocation**

All: God of surprising love and hope, we come this evening to the manger, gazing lovingly on the child born to bring hope to the world. Open our hearts tonight as we hear the story anew. Help us be guided by the light of Jesus Christ, that we may truly feel the power of Your Presence, the joy of Your peace and the gift of Your love as we pray the words You taught the Disciples and all of 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.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath & Christ Candle

3:00 p.m.

Mrs. Barbara Swisher & Emily Swisher

7:30 p.m.

Tom & Phyllis Lawyer

Hymn

“One Candle Is Lit”

(Verse 5) No. 128

**Come, listen, the sounds of God with us ring clear,
and signs of a cross in the distance appear.
The Word once made flesh, yet the Word ever near.
One candle is lit for the Christ-birthday here.**

Special Music (3:00 p.m.)

Jane Shoemaker

“Mary Did You Know” arr. by Bober

Special Music (7:30 p.m.)

“O Holy Night” Adam

Colleen Kroah

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9:6

Scripture Reading

John 1:1-5

Sermon

“Illumination”

Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

Hymn

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

No. 153

7:30 p.m. only, Trumpet – Matthew Kroah

- 1) It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven’s all gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.**
- 2) Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats o’er all the weary world;
above it’s sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o’er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.**
- 4) For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old
when with the ever circling years shall come the time foretold;
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.**

Invitation for Generosity and Faithful Giving

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

All: God of bright and shining stars, we approach your altar tonight surrounded by symbols and reminders of the miraculous birth of our Savior. We offer these gifts now as a response to the ultimate gift You have given each of us. May these investments in Your Church shine like the stars that shone in the dark skies over Bethlehem, illuminating, inspiring, leading all people to the King of Kings, Lord of Lords and the Prince of Peace. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Holy Communion

Prayer of Confession

All: Lord of light and hope, our minutes and hours have evaporated before us as we prepared for this night and the coming day of Christmas. It has been so easy to get caught up in the preparations for gatherings and gifting that we may have missed the wonder of all You have done and are doing. Help us now to relax and listen, to breathe in and breathe out the hush of Your peace. May the songs of the angels, the surprise of the shepherds and the joy of the first family of faith, Mary and Joseph, be ours to cleanse, renew and prepare us for the days ahead. In Jesus' Name. Amen

Words of Assurance

Pastor: We are reminded in this moment of Your never-changing love for us, O God our Hope and Deliverer. Open our ears, our eyes, our hearts and our spirits to receive all You have promised in this most Holy night of the year We proclaim individually and collectively in the Name of Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Hallelujah. Amen.

Sharing the Elements *(Please hold the elements until everyone is served)*

Special Music (7:30 p.m. - During the passing of the elements) Jane Shoemaker
"The Coventry Carol with Away In A Manger" arr. by Berry
"Mary Did You Know" arr. by Bober

Candle lighting

(Please tip your candle to receive your light & keep it straight to pass it on.)

***Closing Hymn**

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

No. 145

- 1) **Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child, holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**
- 2) **Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born, Christ, the Savior, is born!**
- 3) **Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**
- 4) **Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing, alleluia to our King,
Christ, the Savior, is born, Christ, the Savior, is born.**

***Benediction**

Postlude (3:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.)

Jane Shoemaker

“Joy to the World” Handel/arr. by Smith

Thank you for your



In memory of Mom, Irmgard Rhodes by Will Kern
In memory of Rev. Dr. Lowell H. Swisher by Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher
In memory of Harriett A. Applegate by the family
To the Glory of God and In Loving Memory of Bob Shoemaker by Jane Shoemaker
To the Glory of God and In Memory of Family Members by Jane Shoemaker
In memory of Kenneth & Naomi Ford by their family
In memory of LCPL Kenneth Ford Jr. by his family
In memory of Judith Goodman – anonymous memorial
In memory of my husband, Ralph McGaughy and our many years at St. John's
by Helen McGaughy
In memory of Richard and Marie Conner by Jeff Conner
In memory of Dr. Lowell Swisher by Mrs. Barbara Swisher
In memory of Donna Hewitt from Loren Hewitt, Andy Hewitt & family,
& Kevin Hewitt
In memory of George and Marjorie McInturf by Bill and Nancy McInturf
In honor of our 60th Wedding Anniversary from Nancy and Bill McInturf
In memory of James L. and Kathryn J. Shumaker by Bill and Nancy McInturf
and family
In memory of Debbie Jones by Larry Jones
In memory of David F. Hummel, Son, Father, Husband, Grandpa
& Great Grandpa from the family
In memory of Nathaniel James Gard by his family
In loving memory of Dad, grandpa, great grandpa Richard Crowthers by Greg,
Marla, Alan, Akela, Emilee, Clayton, Tim, Christie, Emmaleigh, Remington,
Rebekka, Harley & Kimber
In loving memory of grandparents, Curtis Vannest, Alice Geraldine Francis,
Thelma Vannest, Cleone Selders and Aunt Judy Parks by Marla, Greg & family
In loving memory of parents, grandparents, great grandparents Sue & Ernie
Vannest by Marla, Greg, Alan, Akela, Emilee, Clayton, Tim, Christie,
Emmaleigh, Remington, Rebekkah, Harley & Kimber
In loving memory of grandparents Henry & Mrytle Vogelmeier
by Marla, Greg & family
In loving memory of Uncle Walter, Aunt Mary & Dorothy Ann Zerger
by Marla, Greg & family
In loving memory of Donna Hewitt by Greg & Marla Crowthers & family
In memory of Harriett Applegate by her children.

Thank you for sharing your



In memory of Joann and Ron Claypool by their family

In memory of Dorothy Ann Jones by Debbie and Larry Jones

In memory of our parents, G. Robert & Audrey Powers & Dwayne Hoeft

by Tim & Beth Powers

In memory of Barbara Oxley Queen from daughter, Robin Lyn Green

In memory of Dr. Lowell H. Swisher by Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

In memory of Major Thomas W. Swisher, USAF by Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

In honor of Mrs. Barbara Swisher by Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

In honor of Ms. Emily Swisher by Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

In memory of Bill Lange from Beverly Lange, Brent, Barrie, Beth & families

In memory of Mary Jo Kochendorfer by Carl Kochendorfer

In memory of Christine Kochendorfer by Carl Kochendorfer

In memory of Russell E. Snider from the Pete Williams family

In memory of Carl & Ruth Felumlee from the Pete Williams family

In memory of Elli & Martti Saari, Seppo Saari, Mary Lou Baker, Alice Wills,

Ken Roberts & Pete Chirdon by the Chirdon family

In memory of Barb Cunningham by the Hill and Ford families

In memory of Oshell, Denver, Mike & Mistie by Betty Hill

In memory of Trevor, Shawn & Mackenzie by Betty Hill

In honor of William J. & Clara M. Crawford, William D. Whiting,

& William R. Whiting by the Moeller family

In Loving Memory of parents, grandparents, great grandparents, Sue & Ernie

Vannest by Marla, Greg, Alan, Akela, Leelee, Clayton, Tim, Christie,

Emmaleigh, Remington, Rebekkah, Harley & Kimber

In Loving Memory of Walter, Mary & Dorothy Ann Zerger

by Greg & Marla Crowthers

In Loving Memory of dad, grandpa, great grandpa, Richard Crowthers by Greg,

Marla, Alan, Akela, Leelee, Clayton, Tim, Christie, Emmaleigh, Remington,

Rebekkah, Harley & Kimber

In memory of Richard and Marie Conner by Jeff Conner

In loving memory of our Parents, Wilbert & Evelyn Davis, Gene & Rosemary

Wood, and brother, Bobby Wood by Vicky & Frank Davis

In memory of Connie Klinesmith by Ken & Julie Kroah, Nathaniel, Colleen

& Matthew

In memory of Robert Kroah by Ken & Julie Kroah

In memory of R. William Jackson by the O'Brien Family and the French Family

In memory of Dorothy Jackson by the O'Brien Family and the French Family

Thank you for sharing your



In Honor of Dr. Stephen Swisher and Emily by Mrs. Barbara Swisher
In memory of Rev. Dr. Lowell Swisher and Major Tom Swisher

by Mrs. Barbara Swisher

In honor of Roswell & Mary Maddy from Mike Dooley & Rebecca Swartz

In honor of Wayne & Bonna Dennis from Mike Dooley & Rebecca Swartz

In honor of Dan Van Hoose from Mike Dooley & Rebecca Swartz

In honor of Pastor Stephen Swisher from Catherine Lim

In memory of our parents, Charles & Juanita Beck- Gene & Helen Emerick

by Barb & Brad Beck

In memory of my Uncle Bill Gibson by Barb Beck

In memory of Wanda Moore by Carolyn Igo

Join us for our Sunday Services

8:30 a.m. Chapel Service

11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Service

