

Welcome Home!

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

St. John's

The 2024 December Chimes

United Church of Christ



Prayer List

General Prayers: Bill Carr, Charlie Bruah, Debbie Snow, Pat Farley & the family of Irmgard Rhodes.

Homebound and Nursing Facility Residents: Mel Cunningham, Jeanette Morris, 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.

Please contact Rev. Swisher if you know of any sick or hospitalized members. Remember, if you want someone on the Bea's Blessings prayer chain, you can email the office at stjohnsunited@windstream.net

Office Hours -Monday, Tuesday, & Friday: 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. For additional times, please call the office (740) 323-2407 and leave a message to make an appointment or call/text Anita at 740-973-8218. Thank you!

Financial Update

Monthly Faith Promise goal	\$ 4,840.42
Income as of November 17, 2024	5,869.00
Month to Date Balance	\$ 1,028.58
Boiler Cost	\$ 99,260.00
Boiler loan amount	\$ 26,654.19
Boiler Donations received	\$ 12,448.20
Donations still needed	\$ 14,205.99

Thank you!

Thank you for being a part of the Ben Franklin Back to School Expo. Our families really enjoy this event. We appreciate your kindness and generosity that helped make this event a success once again.
Sincerely, The Ben Franklin Staff.

Dear Friends at St. John's U.C.C.
We, the board of Sharing America's Resources Abroad would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous support of the work we are doing in Ukraine. We have heard from our Executive Director in Hungary that he is making several trips a week taking supplies and food to the refugees at the border and beyond. We have much work to do now and in the future. We could not do this mission without faithful supporters like you. Thank you very much. In the words of our founder, the Rev. Stephen T. Szilagyi, "To God Be the Glory."

To many kind members of St. John's UCC –
Thank you to all the wonderful people on the committee that provided the luncheon after the funeral for our dear mother, Harriett Applegate. Also thanks to the many people who visited the funeral home or attended her funeral. We all appreciate the thoughts and prayers and acts of kindness!
Very Sincerely,
Cyndi Applegate Lawrence and Family



December Sunday Worship Hours

8:30 a.m. Chapel Service
Traditional Sanctuary Service at 11:00 a.m.



Hello friends,

Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, who served as the Senior Minister of the Marble Collegiate Church in New York from 1922-1984 said, "I truly believe that if we keep telling the Christmas story, singing the Christmas songs, and living the Christmas spirit, we can bring joy, peace and happiness to the world."

That is December in a nutshell. We have the opportunity to sing the great hymns of faith, retell the life changing Christmas story and live out that story in our daily lives.

The early Christians had a phrase that they would often say to each other particularly after being separated for long stints of time. They would exclaim, "The Jesus in me, sees the Jesus in you."

That is the result of living the Christmas story. We become like that which we think about, talk about and live out. So that others see Jesus in you and me on an ongoing basis. Have you ever thought about Christmas that way before? When you do, this Season of the year takes on a whole new dimension.

When I think about people closely linked to Christmas, Andy Williams immediately comes to mind. His Christmas specials and music of the Season still resonate with people of all ages today and his songs are still heard in malls, department stores and on radio all over the world. The quintessential song "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year" was written specially for him in 1963 which became the theme song of the Andy Williams Christmas specials throughout the ensuing years. It remains so popular that it charted #5 in the Billboard Hot 100 in 2020, almost 60 years after it was initially recorded. Listen for it and you will hear the song broadcast several times a day.

Andy was so linked to Christmas that he was often referred to as Mr. Christmas. During the last 20 years of his life, he lived in Branson, Missouri, where he built the Andy Williams Moon River Theater and the Andy Williams restaurant. His show room was the second largest in town seating 2,057 at one time. His show dates literally set the season of Christmas for the Ozark region. When other performers were asked when does Christmas begin in Branson, the common response was, "Whenever Mr. Williams says it does!"

You and I can have a similar effect on the culture around us. As we live, act, think and speak like Jesus we literally embody the message of Christmas.

Let's end where we began with a quote from Dr. Peale, "Christmas waves a magic wand over the earth and behold everything is softer and more beautiful."

May the Magic and Blessings of Christmas surround you and those you love this year and in the year to come.

Pastor Steve



Sundays at 9:30AM

Coffee, refreshments and good conversation in the Fellowship room.
Or enjoy time in the sanctuary for worship preparation or quiet prayer.

ADVENT Offering

Dear friends, this year we are continuing our tradition of the Advent offering which supports the Mission and Outreach of St. John's Church. These gifts enable us to support those in need throughout Newark and our wider community as we minister in Jesus' Name and Presence. Thank you for your support that makes this possible.

May this prayer guide us:

Gracious God with these gifts to our Church we declare our hope lies in you. We trust that you provide all that we need and so we are secure in offering this offering in your Name. Let everything we do this Season, every gift we send, every party we attend, every meal we share---remind us to prepare a space in our hearts for you. In Jesus' Name. Amen.



Church Council Meeting, Monday, November 18, 2024

Attending: Rev. Swisher, Jeff Conner, Frank Davis, Charles Dudley, Brian Lensink, Frances Hill, Greg Crowthers, Julie Davis, Mike Dooley, Tim Powers, April Kinser, Gary Kinser, and office staff, Anita Chirdon and Kim Workman.

Meeting was called to order at 6:33pm. Devotions were provided by Gary Kinser who read a description of the value of the book of Deuteronomy as providing guidelines for living.

Discussion centered on the proposed mission plan for 2025. This plan was approved to submit for congregational approval at the upcoming budget meeting. The budget meeting will be **December 8, 2024** after the worship service.

A use of facility request for Herman Hall on November 24, 2024, for an Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony was approved.

Prior to the meeting an email vote approved a new member request.

Reminder that the German service has been moved to December 15, 2024.

A Foundation Fund memorial has been opened in the name of Irmgard Rhodes.

Respectfully submitted

April Kinser, Secretary

The next meeting is on Monday, December 9, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. All members of St. John's are always welcome to attend.

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



CONFIRMATION CLASS

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

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



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

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 _____



You may choose to remember a loved one with a gift to the _____ Abiding Memorial Fund or the _____ Foundation Fund (if established). 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!

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: _____



Budget Meeting

Congregation Budget Meeting

Please plan on attending our Congregational Budget meeting to vote on our 2025 Proposed Mission Plan (Budget) on Sunday, December 8 after the 11:00 a.m. service. A copy of the budget is on the following pages.

Contact one of the Finance & Stewardship Committee Members if you have any questions.

Jeff Conner	(740) 323-3005	Brian Lensink	(614) 493-1961
Alan Crowthers	(740) 814-6806	Bill McInturf	(740) 323-3931
Greg Crowthers	(740) 522-5702	Frank Davis – Chairman	(740) 323-2160
Ken Kroah	(740) 345-1645		

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2025 Proposed Mission Plan

		<u>2025</u>
I	<u>PERSONNEL COMMITTEE</u>	
	<u>Senior Pastor/ Interim Pastor</u>	
	a. Salary	50,000
	b. Housing Allowance 15,000 used in calculation of SS, annuity and life and dis. Plan.	
	c. Social Security Allowance 7.65%	4,972
	d. Travel Allowance (mileage paid at IRS Guidelines)	3,975
	e. Ministerial Annuity 14%	9,100
	f. Life Ins. & Dis. Inc. Ben. Plan 1.5% of Salary	975
	Bonus provided in lieu of providing any insurance.	15,000
	Continuing Education	_____
	Total Compensation Package	84,022
	 Pulpit Supply	 1,100
	<u>Office Administrator</u>	30,283
	<u>Office Assistant (17.89 per hour)</u>	7,084
	<u>Church Sexton</u>	8,608
	<u>Organist / Adult Choir Director</u>	18,000
	Organist Supply	492
	<u>Pianist - Chapel Service \$57.20 per performance</u>	1,201
	<u>Media Coordinator</u>	4,056
	<u>Nursery Worker \$13 per hour</u>	1,352
	<u>Director of Christian Education</u>	7,914
	Social Security/Church Paid 7.65%	6,050
	Workers' Compensation	500
	Payroll Company Fees	2,500

	Total Personnel Committee	173,162
II	<u>CHURCH & MINISTRY</u>	<u>2025</u>
	a. Registration & Meeting Expense	200
	b. Books & Worship Material	600
	Total Church & Ministry	800
III	<u>PROPERTY MANAGEMENT</u>	<u>2025</u>
	a. Utilities	24,500
	b. Insurance	11,700
	c. Church Maintenance	6,500
	d. Lawn and Landscape Care	6,500
	e. Cleaning Service	12,444
	f. Snow Removal	1,500
	g. Parsonage utilities, taxes and repairs	10,300
	Total Property Maintenance	63,144

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2025 Proposed Mission Plan

	<u>2025</u>
IV <u>MUSIC COMMITTEE</u>	
a. Choir/Organ/Handbell Supplies	800
b. Instrument Maintenance	400
Total Music	1,200
V <u>FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP</u>	<u>2025</u>
a. Office Supplies	4,500
b. Miscellaneous	1,100
c. Copier Lease and Supplies	5,300
Total Finance & Stewardship	10,900
VI <u>CHRISTIAN EDUCATION</u>	<u>2025</u>
a. Christian Education Expenses	3,500
Total Christian Education	3,500
VII <u>SPECIAL EVENTS</u>	<u>2025</u>
a. Kitchen Supplies	300
b. Church Lunches	1,700
c. Receptions	400
Total Special Events	2,400
VIII <u>MISSION</u>	<u>2025</u>
a. Mission Projects	6,000
b. OCWM (basic support)	1,000
c. Minister Discretionary Fund	2,000
Total Mission	9,000
IX <u>CONGREGATIONAL CARE</u>	<u>2025</u>
	100
X <u>EVANGELISM & OUTREACH</u>	<u>2025</u>
	6,000
TOTAL MISSION PLAN	\$270,206

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2025 Proposed Mission Plan

<u>Proposed Income</u>	<u>2025</u>
“Faith Promise” From Cards	65,004
Additional "Faith Promise" needed	36,027
Initial Offering	500
Plate Offering (Cash)	5,000
Use of Facility (Fees)	1,000
Interest Income	126,000
Grocery Coupons	75
Advent Offering (100% to Mission Budget)	800
Lenten Offering (100% to Mission Budget)	800
Other Income	200
Miller Estate	34,800
	<hr/>
	270,206

***Gather Around the
Christmas Tree***

December 15, 2024
at the 11:00AM service



German Language Christmas Service



December 15 at 3:00pm

The service will be in German and English with
English translations available. Music by Todd Baldosser and the
Newark Maennerchor.

Following the service traditional German goodies
will be served in Hermann Hall.



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



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.



Wise Men and Women Still Seek Him

Abiding in the Vine

By Melissa Kruger

Ligioner.org/devotionals



I recently cleared out the remnants of last summer's tomato vines from my garden. It should have been done months ago, but my delay left me with easy work. The once strong and sturdy green vines withered over the winter. The brown remains were dry and limp and turned to dust as I pulled them out.

That's the thing about vines. Once they dry and wither, they have no purpose. A dead tree can be used for a myriad of items: paper, furniture, flooring. Entire houses can be built with their remains. However, a vine has no strength when it's detached from its source. It's only good for the rubbish pile.

Jesus used this imagery to explain what we become when we fail to abide in Him. He told his disciples on the eve of His death:

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me, he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. ([John 15:5–8](#))

Jesus warns us that apart from Him, we can do nothing. On our own, we are completely devoid of strength. We need an eternal source so that we can have abundant and continual fruit.

He also directs us to the method of our abiding. We build a life centered on our relationship with Jesus. We make time for Him each and every day. We meet with Him in His Word, meditating on it day and night. Jesus speaks to us the truth our souls need to hear. We take Him in like water for our thirsty souls. While the world seeks to conform us to its pattern, Jesus seeks to transform us by the renewal of our minds.

Jesus speaks to us in His Word, and He invites us to speak back to Him through prayer. Abiding not only renews our minds—it transforms our desires. We begin to seek more out of life, not less. We want His name to be glorified, His will to be done, His kingdom to come. We hope to bear much fruit, not for our own glory, but to glorify God in all that we do.

Abiding in Jesus also connects us to every other branch. We are not meant to live apart from others any more than we live apart from Jesus. We need one another. We consider the Word together. We celebrate communion together. We meet together, regularly encouraging one another. We love one another. To abide in Christ is to participate in the life of His body, the church.

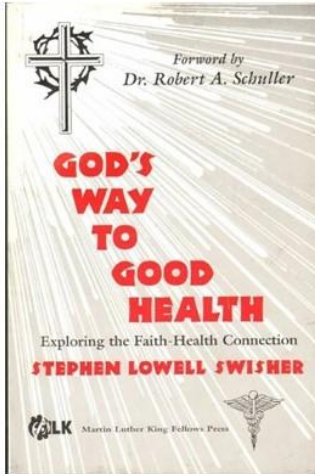
In Christ, and Christ alone, we find our strength. Whatever it is that needs doing today, make time for Jesus. Do not delay. He's the only fount that can fill, and the only source that can satisfy. Apart from Him we can do nothing. With Him we can do all things ([Phil. 4:13](#)).



ADVENT

Bible Reading Plan

1 Luke 1:1-4	2 John 1:1-5, 18	3 John 1:1-5, 18	4 Isaiah 9:6-7 & 11:1-5	5 Micah 5:2-4
6 Matthew 1:1-17	7 Luke 1:5-25	8 Luke 1:26-38	9 Luke 1:39-45	10 Luke 1:46-56
11 Luke 1:57-66	12 Luke 1:67-80	13 Luke 2:1-7	14 Matthew 1:18-25	15 Luke 2:8-21
16 Matthew 2:1-12	17 Luke 2:22-40	18 Matthew 2:13-15	19 Matthew 2:16-18	20 Matthew 2:19-23
21 John 1:6-8, 15	22 John 1:9-14	23 John 1:16-17	24 Isaiah 52:13- 53:12	25 Revelation 21:1-8



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)



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.



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.



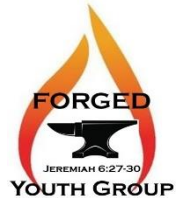
Advent Study 9:30AM December 1, 15, 29 “The Heart that Grew 3 Sizes” Finding Faith in the Story of the Grinch. Join us in the large meeting room.

December 15 at 3pm, St. John’s is hosting a German Language Christmas Service. Come and enjoy a program celebrating the Christmas season, German heritage of St. John’s as well as Newark, with music by organist Todd Baldosser and the Newark Maennerchor.



On December 15 enjoy the Children’s Christmas Program “Gather Around the Christmas Tree” during the 11AM service.

Live Nativity!! The Youth and children’s groups will present a Live Nativity December 24 before *both* Christmas Eve services. Please bring canned goods to place at the manger to benefit the Licking County Food Pantry Network.



January 5, 2025, at 12:00pm. Mission trip planning meeting. Bring your curiosity, questions and helping spirit.

Sunday School Classes



Adult class – Advent study: The Heart that Grew 3 Sizes at 9:30AM the 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays

Confirmation Class – 2nd & 4th Sundays at 9:30AM

Bible Discovery Zone – ages 5 to 14 at 11AM

Cradle Roll – Available during the 11AM service

December Worship Service Duties

Ushers: Frank Davis, Jeff Conner, Larry Jones, Terry Gano, Mike Dooley, Barry Dooley

Cradle Roll

- 1 Avery Nagel/Volunteer
- 8 Avery Nagel/Volunteer
- 15 Avery Nagel/Volunteer
- 22 Avery Nagel/Volunteer
- 29 Avery Nagel/Volunteer

Cantors

- 1 Todd Baldosser
- 8 Julie Davis
- 15 Diane Reef
- 22 Todd Baldosser
- 24 Julie Davis – 7:30 pm
- 29 Diane Reef

Bible Discovery Zone

- 1 Brian Lensink & Youth if needed
- 8 Marla Crowthers & Pat Farley
- 15 Elaine Gard & Youth if needed
- 22 Frances Hill & Youth if needed
- 29 Julie Kroah

Sunday Sound Worship Team



- 1 Mike Dooley
- 8 Ken Kroah
- 15 Mike Dooley
- 22 Ken Kroah
- 29 Mike Dooley

Sunday Video Worship Team

- 1 Tom Lawyer
- 8 Julie Kroah
- 15 Tom Lawyer
- 22 Julie Kroah
- 29 Tom Lawyer



DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Advent 8:30am Early Indoor Service in the Chapel 9:30am Adult Advent Study 11:00am Bible Discovery Zone 11:00am Sanctuary Service - Choir Sings	2	3	4 12:00pm The Afternoon Circle of the Women's Guild Annual Christmas Luncheon 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice	5	6	7
8 8:30am Early Indoor Service in the Chapel 9:30am Confirmation Class 11:00am Bible Discovery Zone 11:00am Sanctuary Service - Choir Sings 12:00pm Congregational Budget Meeting - Please Plan On Attending 12:00pm Youth Group Meeting	9 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	10 7:00pm Finance & Stewardship Meeting	11 10:00am Christian Education Meeting 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice	12 7:15pm Choir Practice	13	14
15 8:30am Early Indoor Service in the Chapel 9:30am Adult Advent Study 11:00am Bible Discovery Zone 11:00am Sanctuary Service - Choir Sings, Children's Christmas Program 3:00pm Christmas German Service	16	17	18 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice	19 7:15pm Choir Practice	20	21 First Day of Winter
22 Christmas Fund Offering 8:30am Early Indoor Service in the Chapel 9:30am Confirmation Class 11:00am Bible Discovery Zone 11:00am Sanctuary Service - Choir Sings 12:00pm Youth Group Meeting	23	24  2:30pm The Living Nativity 3:00pm Christmas Eve Communion & Candlelight Early Service 6:30pm The Living Nativity 7:00pm Pre-service Special Music 7:30pm Christmas Eve Communion & Candlelight Service	25  Christmas Day	26	27	28
29 8:30am Early Indoor Service in the Chapel 9:30am Adult Advent Study 11:00am Bible Discovery Zone 11:00am Sanctuary Service	30	31	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4



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

*Rooted in the Evangelical and Reformed Traditions
 We are Sowing Seeds of Hope in a Time of Chaos
 So We May All Be One*

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 Permit No. 103

Worship Services!

8:30 a.m. Chapel Service
 11:00 a.m. – Sanctuary Service
 December 24
 3:00 p.m. Candlelight & Communion Service
 7:00 p.m. Special Music
 7:30 p.m. Candlelight & Communion Service


Volume 24 Number 12

Address Service Requested



<p>Main Office Phone 740-323-2407 www.stjohnsnewark.org</p>	<p>Our New Minister Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher Office 740-323-2854 stjohns.pastorstephen@gmail.com</p>	<p>Todd Baldosser Organist/Choir Director scarlatti35@hotmail.com</p>
<p>Anita Chiridon/Office Administrator Kim Workman/Office Assistant stjohnsunited@windstream.net</p>	<p>Charles Bruah Church Sexton 740-975-2699</p>	<p>Julie Kroah Christian Education Director Direct Number 740-323-2408 stjohnsucc.ce@windstream.net</p>

LIBRARY FOCUS FOR DECEMBER



The Purpose of Christmas by Rick Warren. A call to “remember the reason for the season,” taking us on a journey back in time to the most wonderful story of all—the birth of the baby Jesus..

The Nativity Story (2005) DVD *The story of Mary and Joseph and their journey leading to the birth of Jesus Christ.*

For Children

Christmas by Barbara Cooney. A retelling of the timeless Christmas story with a beautiful explanation of the origins of many cherished and beloved customs from around the world.

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