

# Welcome Home!

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



The 2024 November Chimes



## 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](mailto:stjohnsunited@windstream.net)

## Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who participated with Trunk or Treat. Thank you for your donations of candy, your time cooking and wrapping hot dogs, assembling meals, set up and clean up, for all the wonderfully decorated trunks and creative costumes and, of course, your prayers. Our collective efforts allowed us to give away 300 meals and candy to our friends and neighbors. We were blessed with a beautiful afternoon for fun and fellowship. Congratulations to Rebekkah Crowthers and Karson Ewing for winning the Best Decorated Trunk award! Thank you. Christian Education Committee.

**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!



### November Sunday Worship Hours

8:30 a.m. Chapel Service

Traditional Sanctuary Service at 11:00 a.m.

## Afternoon Circle -

- will meet on Wednesday, November 6, at 1:00 p.m. in the Large Meeting Room. This is our annual ingathering of our Thank Offering. Please bring your Thank Offering jars and your offering. God is so good to us; let's return a token of thanks to Him and Kingdom work here on earth. We will also have our Bite Size Bible Study, this month on Joanna. And Pastor Steve Swisher will be with us, so come and let's all get to know each other better. Mrs. Vicky Davis and Mrs. Janet Snider will serve refreshments.

It's been good to have more ladies joining us on these first Wednesday afternoons. We've gone from 6 or 7 at a meeting to now 12 to 14 gals - a huge increase. Something good is happening on the first Wednesday of each month, Ladies. Come, join us and find out.

### **Financial Update**

Monthly Faith Promise goal	\$ 4,840.42
Income as of September 22, 2024	7,384.00
Month to Date Balance	\$ 2,543.58
Boiler Cost	\$ 99,260.00
Boiler loan amount	\$ 26,654.19
Boiler Donations received	\$ 11,108.20
Donations still needed	\$ 15,545.99



Irmgard Rhodes

Born: May 1, 1931

Died: October 2, 2024

A member of St. John's since 2018



## The Secret Ingredient

Welcome to the Holiday Season, friends. We are officially embarking on the weeks of celebration, warmth and home that bring both memories of the past and anticipation for the future. This coming Sunday is All Saints Day and then we have Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's opportunities to look forward to enjoying.

Growing up Thanksgiving was one of my favorite times of the year. Partly because of my Native American ancestry and the integral connection with that history but mostly because of the delicious food cooked by my mother. Things like Turkey, stuffing, sweet potato casserole, marshmallow and fruit jello, cranberry sauce, corn, green bean casserole, pumpkin and pecan pies, etc. etc. would cause delicious aromas to drift through the house into my nose and heart. I can still smell and taste those flavors. Often those selections came with a secret ingredient. Some might say it was herbs and spices or measuring cups of thyme, oregano, brown sugar, vanilla or some other tasty concoction. But I know the ultimate secret ingredient was love. The items were cooked with love and that is what made them delectable.

Around this time of year, I often get questions from people. All types of questions such as; "How can I enjoy life in the midst of difficulties?" And "How can I go on after heartbreak and loss?" Or "How can I find lasting happiness?" All of these are meaningful and heartfelt queries.

In the case of the questions above the secret ingredient that people seek is found in one word...Thankfulness. Whatever challenges we may be facing at any given time can be mitigated and overcome with the simple concept of being thankful. When we are truly thankful for what we have, all of the other issues are put into perspective. When we realize things could be much worse and there are always people dealing with far more than we are without the help, faith, family and provisions we have, the phrase, "There but for the Grace of God go I" seems singularly appropriate.

When we are grateful and thankful and make those principles hallmarks of our everyday lives, our existence takes on more gravitas and our spirits soar with hope and possibilities.

On behalf of my family and myself I thank each of you for the gracious and kind welcome you have given us. The warmth and friendship you have offered and the work and effort you displayed in preparation for our arrival has all been very much appreciated. Thank you so much.

This Scripture comes to mind from Philippians Chapter 1 "I thank God in my every remembrance of you, always in prayer for each of you with joy, because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now. I am sure of this that He who began a good work in you will complete it. It is right for me to feel this way about you because you are all partakers with me of God's Grace."

May this Holiday Season be especially meaningful as each of us detect the Secret Ingredients of love in our food and thankfulness in our hearts.

Pastor Steve



## Church Council Meeting, Monday, October 21, 2024

Attending: Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher, Jeff Connor President, Julie Davis, Frank Davis, Charles Dudley, Frances Hill, Greg Crowthers, April Kinser, Gary Kinser, Mike Dooley, and Anita Chirdon, Office Administrator.

Greg Crowthers offered the devotion, reading from Philemon 4:6-7, Joshua 1:9, and Jeramiah 3:11-12 with thanks to God for guiding this long process as we searched for a new pastor.

Tim Powers was not able to be present but on behalf of the search committee sent a final report which was read by J. Connor thanking members of the search committee, with additional thanks to all who have worked so tirelessly to ready the parsonage. Frank Davis pointed out that our building fund has been depleted for the year but this is not a problem as funds have been reserved for this transition period.

Remarks were made about the Trunk or Treat event held the day previous to council meeting and what a pleasant and joyful event it was. Special thanks to all involved.

The council meeting for December has been moved to Monday, December 9, 2024. Reverend Swisher has had requests from four people who would like to become members. Council voted to approve these requests.

Respectfully submitted,  
April Kinser, Secretary

The next meeting is on Monday, November 18, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. All members of St. John's are always welcome to attend.

## ADULT Sunday School

*"Revisiting Our Roots"*

## Evangelical Catechism

*Lead by Elaine Gard*

**9:30AM**

September 15, 29

October 6, 20

November 3, 17

## Confirmation Class



## CONFIRMATION CLASS

Meetings are Sundays in the small meeting room

**9:30AM—10:40AM**

**October 13 & 27**

**November 10 & 24**

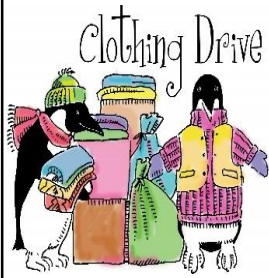
**December 8 & 22**

Sundays at 9:30AM

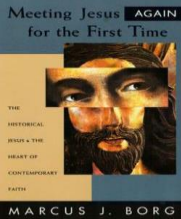


Coffee, refreshments and good conversation in the Fellowship room.  
Or enjoy time in the sanctuary for worship preparation or quiet prayer.





Many thanks to congregation members for donating clothing for the needy in October. Multiple bags were taken to The Main Place (men's and women's) and we are still collecting men's clothing for The Haven. They have indicated a need for razors and shave cream also. The collection basket will remain in place through November 24, 2024 for additional clothing and shaving supplies. Please "no socks" as the Bombas sock company has donated a large supply. Thanks for giving.



The book study group continues their discussion of the book, "Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time, The Historical Jesus and the Heart of Contemporary Faith" by Marcus Borg. We will meet at The River Road Coffee House on the square in Newark at 11am on Thursdays, November 7, 14 and 21. Come join us.

SEASON

# 3

The CHOSEN

**WEDNESDAY'S**  
**6:30PM—8:00PM**  
**November 6, 13, 20**

The  
**CHOSEN**

Invite a friend and join us for fun, lively fellowship.



- November 6 discussion on episodes 1, 2, 3
- November 13 discussion on episodes 4, 5, 6
- November 20 discussion on episodes 7, 8



Books are available to purchase online or at Memory Petals & Christian Gift Shop in Heath. Or if you like, the church will purchase the book for you.

***It is not necessary to have the book for the discussion group***

Please see Julie Kroah if you have any questions about watching the series or the discussion group.



**German Language Christmas Service**  
**“Celebrate the Silent Night”**

**December 8 at 3:00pm**

The service will be in German and English with English translations available.

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

From Your Evangelism & Outreach Committee

## How Many Loaves Do You Have?

By Beth Fellingner Todaydevotional.com August 9, 2024



*“How many loaves do you have?” he asked. “Go and see.” When they found out, they said, “Five—and two fish.” Mark 6:38*

When I am at our grandkids’ home as they pile in after school, I watch them empty their backpacks and then head to the fridge or the cupboard. “I’m hungry,” they cry, and they go looking for a snack. Though there is plenty to satisfy them, they often seem to have trouble finding just the right thing. But after some suggestions from their parents, they figure it out.

The large crowd of people with Jesus had been with him the whole day. Jesus could see that all of these people following him were spiritually hungry and wanted something more. Even his disciples noticed, and they tried to convince Jesus to send them away. But Jesus responded by sending the disciples to see what was “in the cupboard.”

They found that they had a total of five loaves and two fish. Jesus was satisfied with what they brought, and he instructed them to seat the crowd. I wonder what it was like to keep handing out pieces of fish and bread—so much that the leftovers filled 12 baskets!

When we give Jesus what we have, even though it seems small, he multiplies it. Jesus also includes us in his work, setting us on a mission. “Seek and you will find.” And in our shared search, together we find and together we share.

Perhaps today he is asking you what you might find—what are you willing to give so that it might be shared?

*Jesus, thank you for asking the hard questions and inviting us into the solution. Help us to see and believe that you can do anything. Amen.*

## ***Gather 'Round the Christmas Tree***

December 15, 2024  
at the 11:00AM service





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 Sunday, December 1, 2024.**

**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.....)**

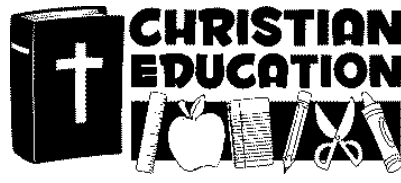
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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!







Youth Group will lend a hand with their Laundromat mission. We will meet at Happy Smiles Laundromat on November 10, at 12:30. The kids will help carry baskets, put coins on the machines and offer snack and activity books to kids. Forged Youth group meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month.



**The Chosen Season 3** discussion group will meet November 6, 13, 20 6:30PM to 8:00PM. Join us for fun, lively fellowship. It is helpful to have watched the TV series for discussion, but it is not necessary to have the book. If you need a ride, please let Julie Kroah know; and we can find ride-share arrangements.

December 8 at 3pm you're invited to "Celebrate the Silent Night" German Service at St. John's. Come and enjoy a program celebrating the Christmas season, German heritage and the song Silent Night (Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht).



December 15 enjoy the Children's Christmas Program "Gather 'Round the Christmas Tree" during the 11AM service.



### Sunday School Classes

**Adult class** – Revisiting Our Roots: Evangelical Catechism at 9:30AM the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays.

**Confirmation Class** – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 9:30AM

**Bible Discovery Zone** – ages 5 to 14 at 11AM.

**Cradle Role** – Available during the 11AM service.

### **November Worship Service Duties**

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

#### Cradle Roll

3 Avery Nagel/Volunteer  
10 Avery Nagel/Volunteer  
17 Avery Nagel/Volunteer  
24 Avery Nagel/Volunteer

#### Cantors

3 Diane Reef  
10 Julie Davis  
17 Todd Baldosser  
24 Diane Reef

#### Bible Discovery Zone

3 Brian Lensink &  
Karson Ewing  
10 Marla Crowthers &  
Emma Crowthers  
17 Elaine Gard &  
Remington Crowthers  
24 Frances Hill & Pat Farley

#### Sunday Sound Worship Team



3 Mike Dooley  
10 Ken Kroah  
27 Mike Dooley  
24 Ken Kroah

#### Sunday Video Worship Team

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



# November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 <b>Faith Promise Sunday</b> Reformation Sunday 8:30am Outdoor Drive-In Service- Come as you are - Stay in your car! The last Outdoor service for the season 9:30am Confirmation Class 11:00am Bible Discovery Zone 11:00am Sanctuary Service 11:40am Youth Group Meeting	28	29 Chimes Assembly	30 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice	31 <b>Reformation Day</b> 11:00am Book Study "Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time," The Historical Jesus and the Heart of Contemporary Faith" River Road Coffee on the Square 7:15pm Choir Practice	1 <b>All Saints Day</b> 	2  Reminder: Time Change, Turn Back Your Clock
3 <b>All Saints Sunday</b> Daylight-Saving Time Ends International Day of Prayer for Persecuted Christians 8:30am Early Indoor Service in the Chapel 9:30am Evangelical Catechism 11:00am Bible Discovery Zone 11:00am Sanctuary Service - Choir Sings	4	5 7:00pm Finance & Stewardship Meeting - Budget	6 1:00pm The Afternoon Circle of the Women's Guild Meeting 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice 6:30pm The Chosen Season 3 In the Fellowship Room	7 7:15pm Choir Practice	8 2:45am Music Committee Meeting	9
10 <b>Veterans Day Sunday</b> 8:30am Early Indoor Service in the Chapel 9:30am Confirmation Class 11:00am Bible Discovery Zone 11:00am Sanctuary Service 11:40am Youth Group Meeting	11 <b>Veterans Day</b>	12	13 10:00am Christian Education Meeting 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice 6:30pm The Chosen Season 3 In the Fellowship Room	14	15	16
17 8:30am Early Indoor Service in the Chapel 9:30am Evangelical Catechism 11:00am Bible Discovery Zone 11:00am Sanctuary Service - Choir Sings	18 6:30pm Church Council Meeting- Annual Budget	19	20 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice 6:30pm The Chosen Season 3 In the Fellowship Room	21	22	23
24 8:30am Early Indoor Service in the Chapel 9:30am Confirmation Class 11:00am Bible Discovery Zone 11:00am Sanctuary Service 11:40am Youth Group Meeting 12:00pm Hanging of the Greens	25	26 Chimes Assembly ?	27 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice	28 <b>Thanksgiving Day</b>	29	30





St. John's United Church of Christ  
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Newark, Ohio 43055

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So We May All Be One*

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### **Worship Services!**

8:30 a.m. Chapel Service  
Come as you are! Stay in your car!  
11:00 a.m. – Sanctuary Service

Volume 24 Number 11

### **Address Service Requested**



#### **Main Office Phone**

740-323-2407  
[www.stjohnsnewark.org](http://www.stjohnsnewark.org)

#### **We welcome Our New Minister**

Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher  
Office 740-323-2854  
[stjohns.pastorstephen@gmail.com](mailto:stjohns.pastorstephen@gmail.com)

#### **Todd Baldosser**

Organist/Choir Director  
[scarlatti35@hotmail.com](mailto:scarlatti35@hotmail.com)

#### **Anita Chiridon/Office Administrator**

Kim Workman/Office Assistant  
[stjohnsunited@windstream.net](mailto:stjohnsunited@windstream.net)

#### **Charles Bruah**

Church Sexton  
740-975-2699

#### **Julie Kroah**

Christian Education Director  
Direct Number 740-323-2408  
[stjohnsucc.ce@windstream.net](mailto:stjohnsucc.ce@windstream.net)



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## **LIBRARY FOCUS FOR NOVEMBER**

***Life Lessons with Max Lucado: Books of Ruth and Esther. By Max Lucado.*** A study of the books of Ruth and Esther.

***How God Takes Our Little and Makes Much by James W. Moore***

**DVD.** 6 session Bible Study

### **For Children**

***Amos and Andy by Richie Lauer and Brenda Weaver.*** Amish themed adventure stories of virtue. Books 1-4.

**\*\*\* These featured books and DVD's can be found in the church library \*\*\***