



**St. John's  
United Church of Christ  
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Church Website

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**Our Church Staff**

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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*



*June 22, 2025*

*Installation Service*

*Rev. Dr. Stephen Lowell Swisher*

*2:00 p.m.*

**St. John's United Church of Christ**

**Installation Service**

**Rev. Dr. Stephen Lowell Swisher**

**June 22, 2025**

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**Prelude** "Majesty" Hayford Todd Baldosser

**Welcome**

**Opening Hymn** "How Great Thou Art" **No. 33**

1) O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder  
consider all the worlds thy hands have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
thy power throughout the universe displayed.

*Refrain* Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;  
how great thou art, how great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;  
how great thou art, how great thou art!

2) When through the woods and forest glades I wander,  
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;

*Refrain*

4) When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,  
and there proclaim, my God, how great thou art!

*Refrain*

**Greeting/Call to Worship** Rev. Patricia Battle

The Central Southeast Ohio Association of the Heartland Conference  
of the United Church of Christ greets you in the name of Jesus Christ,  
the head of the Church in heaven and on earth.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.

**Congregational Response:**

**Let us look to Jesus the pioneer and perfected of our faith, who for the joy that was waiting endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

**Scripture:** Lamentations 3: 19-23 Rev. Dr. Amelia Walker

**Message:** “Faithfulness” Rev. Dr. Stephen Lowell Swisher

**Hymn** “Open My Eyes, That I May See **No. 586**

1) Open my eyes, that I may see  
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;  
place in my hands the wonderful key  
that shall unclasp and set me free.

*Refrain* Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

2) Open my ears, that I may hear  
voices of truth thou sendest clear;  
and while the wave notes fall on my ear,  
everything false will disappear.

*Refrain* Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my ears illumine me, Spirit divine!

3) Open my mouth, and let me bear  
gladly the warm truth everywhere;  
open my heart and let me prepare  
love with thy children thus to share.

*Refrain* Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

## **Presentation**

Mr. Jeff Conner, Mr. Tim Powers, Mr. Terry Gano

St. John's United Church of Christ, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, has called Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher as its Pastor and teacher and respectfully requests they the Southeast Association install him in this ministry among us, according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ.

Rev. Patricia Battle

The Central Southeast Ohio Association has reviewed the request of St. John's UCC. We have prayerfully examined Dr. Swisher and we are pleased to install him as your Pastor and teacher.

Dr. Swisher, servant of God, we invite you to come forward as a sign of your acceptance of the call to this office.

Rev. Battle

Installation is the action of an association of the United Church of Christ in cooperation with a local Church. Installation confirms and celebrates the covenantal relationship among a local Church, its Pastor and teacher, and the United Church of Christ. Installation is a sign that these covenantal partners are committed to share mutually in the mission of the UCC and the ecumenical Church.

## **Exhortation**

Rev. Battle

Hear these words from the Apostle Paul: We beg you, our brothers and sisters, to pay proper respect to those who work among you in the Christian life. Treat them with the greatest respect and love because of the work they do. Be at peace among yourselves.

Rev. Battle addressing Rev. Swisher

We urge you, our brothers and to warn the idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with all.

Addressing the Congregation

See that no one pays back wrong for wrong, but at all times make it your aim to do good to one another and all people. Be joyful always, pray at all times, be thankful in all circumstances. This is what God wants of you in your life in Christ Jesus. Amen

## **Covenant**

Rev. Battle

Dear friends, St. John's UCC has declared that, having gathered under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, it has called Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher to minister in this place as Pastor and teacher and it now receives him as appointed by God for this ministry. The Central Southeast Ohio Association of the UCC has declared that he has met all of the necessary conditions for installation to this office.

Addressing Pastor Swisher

Seeing that you are called to ordained ministry by the Grace of God and that St. John's UCC has been led to call you as Pastor and teacher, are you willing to enter this covenant with its members who are one in Christ with us in the Central Southeast Ohio Association?

Pastor's Response

I am willing and I promise to serve St. John's UCC faithfully, preaching and teaching the Word of God, administering the Sacraments and fulfilling the Pastoral office, according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ.

Rev. Battle addressing the Congregation

Members of St. John's UCC, will those who are able rise and affirm your covenant with your Pastor and teacher?

**Church Response**

**We, the members of St. John's UCC, receive Rev. Swisher as our Pastor and teacher, promising to labor with him in the ministry of the Gospel and to give him due honor and support. We gather with him and with the United Church of Christ as a sign of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.**

**Addressing Association Members**

Members of the Southeast Ohio Association, will those who are able rise and affirm your covenant with St. John's UCC and Rev. Swisher?

## **Association Members**

We the members of the Central Southeast Ohio Association of the United Church of Christ, gather with you, the people and the Pastor and teacher of St. John's UCC as a sign of our Covenant and in Celebration of our mutual ministry in Christ's Name.

## **Prayer of Installation**

(All Please Stand as you are able)

Rev. Battle

Let us pray: Almighty God, you have called your servants to make promises before You; now enable us to keep our vows that we may remain steadfast in faith and fruitful in every good work. Bless we pray, your servant Stephen Lowell Swisher, to whom the care of Your people in this Church is now committed. Pour out Your Holy Spirit on him and on the people of St. John's UCC, and on all Churches of the Central Southeast Ohio Association that our mutual ministry may be served with all faithfulness, diligence and courage.

Grant us the spirit of power and of love and of a sound mind. Make our ministry a means of awakening the careless, strengthening the faithful, comforting the afflicted, building up your Church and converting sinners to You. Guard us against the snares of temptation that we may be kept pure in heart, fervent in spirit and valiant against evil. And at the last, by Your grace, receive us in Your eternal home, where, with You and the Holy Spirit, Christ reigns in glory, One God, forever and ever.

**All: Amen**

## **Declaration**

Rev. Battle

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the Central Southeast Association of the United Church of Christ, I declare you duly installed as the Pastor and teacher of St. John's UCC.

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Words of Congratulations and Commendation from friends and Community Members**

**Hymn**

**“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”**

**No. 86**

**1)**

**Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.**

***Refrain***

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed Thy hand hath provided-  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!**

**2)**

**Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.**

***Refrain***

**3)**

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!**

***Refrain***

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

**“Because He Lives” Gaither**

**Todd Baldosser**

*Please join us in Hermann Hall (downstairs)  
for fellowship and refreshments.*



Please join us on Sunday mornings!

8 a.m. Outdoor Drive-in Service- "Come as you are- Stay in your car!"

10:30 a.m. Indoor Sanctuary Service -Live-streamed on Facebook  
and uploaded to YouTube for viewing

Can't join us? Listen to St. John's Sunday Services  
on WCLT 98.7FM at 9 a.m. Sunday mornings



Rev. Dr. Stephen Lowell Swisher

Dr. Swisher is being installed today as the Senior Pastor of St. John's United Church of Christ in Newark, Ohio with over 184 years of service to the region. Dr. Swisher is the 28th Pastor to serve the Congregation.

Dr. Swisher has Pastored Churches in Texas, New Mexico, and Ohio serving Congregations under 100 members to more than 6,000. He also hosted his own inspirational Television Program entitled Positive Living which aired on affiliate stations of CBS, ABC, Fox, Telemundo and several Christian channels.

Dr. Swisher holds advanced degrees from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, and has done graduate study at Oxford University in England. He has preached across America and in England, Germany, Belgium, Indonesia, Australia, Mexico and Fiji offering encouragement and hope and practical steps for daily living rooted in Faith in Christ and the Holy Scripture.

He is the recipient of a number of awards including being named one of the Ten Outstanding Young Americans by the U.S. Jaycees, a National Award recognizing 10 individuals yearly, under 40 who embody the motto "Service Above Self is the greatest work of life." He also received the Martin Luther King, Jr. Award from the NAACP in 2005 for his Outstanding Service and Dedication to Racial Justice and Equality. Swisher has also has been awarded the Paul Harris Fellow Award from Rotary International four times.

Dr. Swisher served as a Chaplain for the Ohio State Senate from 2016-2021 where he regularly opened the Senate Sessions in Prayer and offered spiritual support to members and staff. He has also opened the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives in prayer on three occasions.

Dr. Swisher serves as a Coach and Referee for Special Olympics and Upward Basketball.

He is also a mentor to students in several Charter Schools across Central Ohio.

He is bi-lingual and is currently learning his third foreign language.

He is the son of Dr. Lowell and Barbara Swisher and the father of Emily Swisher.