



**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

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Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

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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



Matthew 3:16, NRSV

***October 5, 2025
World Communion Sunday
Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost
First Stewardship Sunday***

**Outdoor Drive-in Service: 8:00 a.m.
Sanctuary Service: 10:30 a.m.**

8:00 am

10:30 am

***Opening Hymn “Come, Christians, Join to Sing” No. 90**

(8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 3)

- *Please stand if you are able**

***Prayer of Invocation**

All: For the gift of faith, that sees beyond the present moment and looks to eternity, we thank You. For the gift of faith, even as small as a mustard seed, has power to transform and renew. For the gift of faith, given to all who will accept it, we are thankful. As we pray the rich words of grace and faith You taught; ...

***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.

Service of Holy Baptism

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.

Choir Anthem

“All Creatures of Our God and King” Perry

Scripture Reading

John 1: 31-34

Scripture Reading

Matthew 3: 13-17

Sermon

“Through Baptism We are Initiated”

Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

Hymn

“He Touched Me”

No. 564

1)

Shackled by a heavy burden,
‘neath a load of guilt and shame,
then the hand of Jesus touched me,
and now I am no longer the same.

Refrain

*He touched me, O he touched me,
and O the joy that floods my soul!
Something happened, and now I know,
he touched me and made me whole.*

2) **Since I met this blessed Savior,
since he cleansed and made me whole,
I will never cease to praise him;
I'll shout it while eternity rolls.**

Refrain

Invitation to Holy Communion

Pastor: Christ, the Lord invites to His table all who love Him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another.

Confession and Pardon

All: Merciful and loving God, we confess that we have not always made the best choices, we have missed opportunities to be Your people and have left undone good work we knew should be done. Where we have missed it, we ask forgiveness; where we have sinned, we ask for your cleansing and refreshment.; where we have gone astray, we desire now to come home to You.

Hear the Good News

Pastor: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners, that proves His unconditional love for us. In the Name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People: In the Name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven

All: Glory to God. Amen.

Service of Holy Communion

Invitation for Faithful Giving

Offertory “Lead Kindly Light” Newman Todd Baldosser

***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 over the Offering**

All: Faithful God, our Source and Sustainer, You call us to believe beyond what we see. Take these gifts as seeds of trust, planted in hope and watered with gratitude. Even when our faith seems small, You multiply our offering into acts of healing, welcome, and grace. Increase not only our faith, Lord, but also our willingness to serve with joy and confidence that You are at work through every generous act. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

***Closing Hymn** **“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”** **No. 517**
(8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 4)

- 1) Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown;
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.
- 2) Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit, into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit, let us find thy promised rest;
take away our love of sinning; alpha and omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.
- 4) Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

***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 **“Standing On the Promises”** Carter Todd Baldosser

Pastor Steve's Quote of the Week

**“When one door of happiness closes, another opens; but often we look so long at
the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us.”**
Helen Keller, author and political activist.

Dr. Swisher's message next week:

October 12, 2025

“Your Future is Imperishable”

1 Peter 1: 3-9

Sermon Notes

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!



Beckham Charles Sheets

Born: March 26, 2025

Baptized: October 5, 2025

Parents: Makayla Sheets & Dominiick Vanick

Sister: Adelynn Sheets

Grandparents: Angela Sheets, Patrick Sheets & Sandra Vanick

Godmother: Emaleigh Salina



Michael Alan Dunn

Born: December 29, 1953

Died: September 29, 2025

A member of St. John's since 1993

Friends and family may call at the funeral home on October 24 from 12 - 2 p.m. followed by a Memorial Service at 2:00 p.m. at the Reed-Egan Funeral Home in Newark. Our Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher will be officiating.



Elizabeth "Beth" S. Lee

Born: February 16, 1952

Died: September 29, 2025

A member of St. John's since 2009

Arrangements are pending at this time. Brucker & Kishler will be assisting the family. Our Rev. Dr. Swisher will be officiating this service.



In memory of Glenn and Harriett Applegate from the Applegate Family

Today - Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a Special Mission Offering of the United Church of Christ. The Neighbors in Need offering supports ministries of justice and compassion, with one-third of the offering given to the Council for American Indian Ministries and the remaining two-thirds supporting UCC justice ministries. Please use the envelope provided or mark your giving envelope/check if you would like to support this special mission. Thank you!

St. John's Little Free Pantry

Take what you need. Give what you can.



Our little food pantry needs your help.

To replenish our food pantry every day we need your help every week. There are collection boxes near each entrance to the Church. Those attending the drive-in service can give your donations to one of the ushers as you enter the parking lot. People have asked what types of food is needed so here is a list of some suggestions. Keep in mind that many of the people using this pantry have limited cooking facilities.

Ollie's, Dollar Tree, and Aldi's are good places to find these foods at good prices.

Cans with pull tabs when possible and no glass containers!

Soups

Ramen Noodles

Boxed Pasta

Pasta Sauce

Canned Meats (chicken, beef, tuna, ham)

Instant mashed potatoes

Spam

Beanie Weenies

Beef Stew

Canned Pasta (Chef Boyardee, Lasagna, or ravioli)

Spaghetti O's

Canned lunch spreads (Tuna, ham, chicken)

Individual box or bowl of cereal

Juice boxes

Peanut Butter

Jelly

Bread

Manwich

Buns

Crackers (small individual sleeves)

Individual packs of cheese and crackers or peanut butter and crackers

Trail Mix

Fruit Cups

Jello Cups

Pudding cups

Canned Vegetables

Water

Granola Bars

Individual bags of potato chips

Cookies, individually wrapped

Thanks for your support!

<https://www.littlefreepantry.org/>

Read the Bible in a Year

Journey Together: Our Year in the Bible

Reading Guides and bookmarks are available in the Fellowship room
and on line at www.stjohnsnewark.org

Additional Books & Resources in the Church Library

Reading List for October 5—October 11 (Days 29-35)

Sunday—Exodus 37-40

Thursday—Leviticus 10-12

Monday—Leviticus 1-3

Friday—Leviticus 13-15

Tuesday—Leviticus 4-6

Saturday—Leviticus 16-18

Wednesday—Leviticus 7-9

SEASON

5



The
CHOSEN

Invite a friend and join us for fun, lively discussion on season 5 of the series.



October 8 discussion of episodes 7, 8

6:30PM in the Fellowship Room



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. The season 5 DVD is available in the church library.*

Rides are available. Please see Julie Kroah, Frances Hill or Elaine Gard if you need a ride.

CSEOA Annual Meeting 2025

When we enter into the deep, abiding presence of the Holy Spirit, we are fully nourished. Our body, mind, spirit, and soul are infused with an overflowing love that knows no bounds. We emerge inspired, able to care for ourselves, listen deeply to others, and engage in communal action.

Join us at the Central Southeast Association Fall Meeting for a time of community and connection. Come and be nourished and inspired so that the fruit of Christ's love within you may overflow, rippling out into all you do and all you serve.

Registration closes on October 10.



Bible Discovery Zone

9:00AM—10:00AM

Adult Class

in the Large Meeting Room

Join Pastor Steve for a new Fall Bible Study! We invite you to join us as we study "Searching the Scriptures" by Charles Swindoll. Let's get ready to look at the Scriptures and uncover its profound truths for our lives. We'll look at the principles of Bible study that will help you understand God's Word, apply it, and communicate it clearly to those around you.

Youth Class

in the Small Meeting Room

"Pilgrims Progress" by Bunyan led by Elaine Gard
Pilgrims Progress is commonly regarded as one of the most significant works of Protestant devotional literature and of wider early modern English literature.

Children's Class (ages infant to 12)

held in the Bible Discovery Zone room

Truth For Kids devotions, plus crafts and outreach.

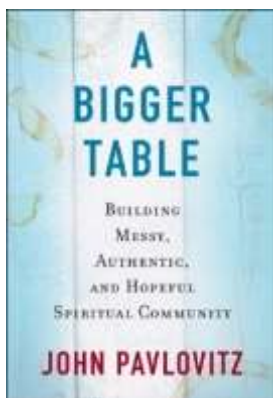


Bible Discovery Zone—Extended Elementary Class • During the 10:30AM Service

Bible Based Spiritual Growth with Real Life Application

Ages 5-12 • meets in the BDZ room

Nursery Care is also available during the 10:30AM Service



The book study group will meet each Thursday in October (2, 9, 16, 23, 30) at 11am at the River Road Coffee House in downtown Newark on the north side of the square. Join us as we continue our discussion of the book “A BIGGER TABLE-Building Messy, Authentic and Hopeful Spiritual Community” by John Pavlovitz. The book is available online and there is space at the table for you to join us for discussion and fellowship.



St. John's United Church of Christ

October 19, 2025

4pm—5:30pm

Family Fun! Come in costume, enjoy candy, hotdogs and more.

Trunk or Treat starts at 4. For more information about this community event, call the Christian Education office at 740-323-2408.

St. John's members and friends - If you are going to pass out candy, please plan on supplying 250 pieces. Come in costume and/or decorate your car! Come, join in the fun and welcome our friends and neighbors to St. John's.

DONATIONS OF CANDY ARE WELCOME AND APPRECIATED

Finances for the Month and Year to Date

<u>General Fund Income</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Congregation giving (Faith Promise)	6,502.50	60,659.81
Income from Foundation Fund	10,500.00	94,500.00
Income from Emerson Miller Fund	3,758.33	33,824.97
General Fund Expenses	\$23,805.92	\$220,872.53
Total General Fund Balance	(\$17,594.41)	(\$17,594.41)



() = Negative



General Prayers: Bill Carr, Charlie Bruah, Rev. Dr. Winfield Strout, Molly Sheets, Marla Crowthers, Rev. Gunnar Cerda, the family of Mike Dunn and Elizabeth “Beth” Lee
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, Molly Sheets, Lois Swonger, Debi Snow, and Lois Meyers



Additional prayer requests on Bea's Blessings:

- Connie (Pancreatic Cancer Diagnosis) & Ed Howell (Hip Replacement Recovery)
- Christina (Carolyn Igo's daughter) – Cancer diagnosis
- Aiden Barnes – Health concerns
- Mr. Ron Baker (Chuck Chirdon's father under Hospice Care)
- Mr. Bill Klinesmith (Julie Kroah's father)
- Mrs. Barbara Swisher

We Appreciate Those Serving Today!

Liturgist:

Jeff Conner

Cantor:

10:30 a.m. Diane Reef

Ushers:

Frank Davis, Larry Jones, Terry Gano,
Barry Dooley, Gary Kinser

Cradle Roll:

Volunteer/Avery Nagel

BDZ – Children's Church

Brian Lensink/Pat Farley

Media Worship Team:

Sound & Video:

8:00 am: Mike Dooley

10:30 am: Ken Kroah/Julie Kroah

Thank you for your continued support! In addition to your giving in person, by drop off, by mail, or by clicking on the donate button on the website, you can also scan this QR Code. We continue to find new ways to connect with our members and our community that are convenient, secure, helpful, and relevant to the ways in which some people prefer to donate. We thank God for our ability to offer these methods for those who may choose to use them.



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



Sunday: October 5, 2025
World Communion
Sunday

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Stewardship Sunday

- 8:00 am Outdoor Drive-In Service
- 9:00 am All BDZ Classes
- 10:30 am Sanctuary Service – Choir Sings
- 10:30 am Bible Discovery Zone – Children's Elementary Class

Wednesday:

- 10:00 am Christian Education Committee Meeting
- 6:00 pm Crystal City Chorus
- 6:30 pm The Chosen Season 5 in the Fellowship Room

Thursday:

- 11:00 am Thursday Book Study “A BIGGER TABLE- Building Messy, Authentic, and Hopeful Spiritual Community” by John Pavlovitz - at River Road Coffee on the Square

Sunday: October 12, 2025
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Second Stewardship Sunday

- 8:00 am Outdoor Drive-In Service
- 9:00 am All BDZ Classes
- 10:30 am Sanctuary Service
- 10:30 am Bible Discovery Zone – Children's Elementary Class
- 11:30 am Youth Group Meeting

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, September 28, 2025

8:00 am - 32 10:30 am – 37

Sunday, September 28 Live Stream Views – 154