



**St. John's  
United Church of Christ  
285 W. National Drive  
Newark OH  
43055-5298**

Main: 740-323-2407

Church Website

[www.stjohnsnewark.org](http://www.stjohnsnewark.org)

**Our Church Staff**

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Jerry Goodman

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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*



**THIRD SUNDAY**  
OF  
*Advent*

***December 14, 2025***

**Chapel Service: 8:00 a.m.**

**Sanctuary Service: 10:30 a.m.**

December 14, 2025

Chapel Service  
Sanctuary Service

8:00 am

10:30 am

.....  
**Announcements & Greetings**

**Prelude** (8:00 a.m.) “Away In A Manger” arr. by McDonald Jane Shoemaker

**Prelude** (10:30 a.m.) “Sing of Mary” Christian Lyre Todd Baldosser

**\*Opening Hymn** “What Child is This” **No. 162**  
(8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 3)

- 1) What Child is this who, laid to rest,  
on Mary’s lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?

**Refrain**

*This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the son of Mary.*

- 2) Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.

**Refrain**

- 3) So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
come, rich and poor, to own him,  
the King of kings salvation brings,  
let loving hearts enthrone him.

**Refrain**

**\*Call to Worship** Jeff Conner

Leader: Children of God, are you listening? The prophets call us to prepare our hearts

**All: We come to listen and to receive God’s Word**

Leader: The days are coming when God will build the Kingdom of Heaven on this earth

**All: We come to listen, to pay attention and to follow God’s Call**

Leader: For you who are full of happiness, for you who mourn, for you who feel lost, Jesus Christ the Lord of the world is born

**All: Come, let us worship the Savior**

**\*Please stand if you are able**

## **\*Prayer of Invocation**

**All:** Great Redeemer, Too often we allow the idea of absolute happiness to block the existence of joy in our daily lives. Our hopes are sometimes diminished under the weight of doubt, fear and pressure. We race toward solutions without pausing to meditate on the results. We focus on difficulties instead of noticing the small delights in each new day. Help us to embrace Your love and increase our delight as we pray Your prayer of eternal refreshment and unending joy....

**\*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.

## **\*Affirmation of Faith The Apostles' Creed (Traditional Version)**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth:**

**And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the universal Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **Lighting of the Advent Candle**

8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Carl Kochendorfer

The Kroah Family

## **Hymn**

### **“One Candle Is Lit”**

(Verse 3) **No. 128**

Come, festively sing while awaiting the birth,  
join angels in dancing from heaven to earth.  
Wave banners of good news, lift high thankful praise.  
One candle is lit for the joy of these days.

## **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.**

### **Special Music (8:00 a.m.)**

**Jane Shoemaker**

**“There’s A Song In the Air” arr. by Smith**

### **Choir Anthem “The Little Cradle Rocks Tonight In Glory” Althouse**

### **Children’s Christmas Program “New Star”**

### **Scripture Reading**

**Luke 24: 27**

### **Scripture Reading**

**Hebrews 1: 1-4**

### **Sermon**

**“A Mirror Image”**

**Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher**

### **Hymn “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” (8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 3) No. 104**

- 1) Of the Father’s love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,  
Christ is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he!  
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,  
evermore and evermore!**
- 2) O ye heights of heaven sing praises, angels and archangels sing!  
And on earth let all the faithful now your joyous anthems ring,  
ev’ry tongue Christ’s name confessing, countless voices answering,  
evermore and evermore!**
- 3) Christ, to thee with God Creator, and O Holy Ghost to thee,  
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be:  
Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,  
evermore and evermore! Amen.**

### **Invitation for Faithful Giving**

### **Offertory**

**“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” Lanz**

**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:** Gracious God of deep joy, You call us to see with Kingdom eyes. To look for healing, hope and signs of Your grace breaking through life's circumstances. In this Advent Season of both joy and weariness, we bring these gifts as tangible expressions of joy rooted not in ease but in trust. May our giving bear witness to Your Good News that the blind still see, the lame still walk and the poor still receive care. Use these tithes and offerings as lights in the storm and carriers of joy. In the Name of Jesus our hope and our Redeemer. Amen

**\*Closing Hymn**

**“Lo How a Rose E’er Blooming”**

**No. 160**

1) Lo, how a rose e’er blooming  
from tender stem hath sprung,  
of Jesse’s lineage coming  
by faithful prophets sung;  
it came a flow’ret bright,  
amid the cold of winter  
when half spent was the night.

2) Isaiah ‘twas foretold it,  
the rose I have in mind;  
with Mary we behold it,  
the virgin mother kind.  
To show God’s love aright  
she bore to us a Savior  
when half spent was the night.

**\*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 (8:00 a.m.)**

**“A La Rule” arr. by Parker**

**Jane Shoemaker**

**Postlude (10:30 a.m.)**

**Todd Baldosser**

**“Lift Up Your Heads Ye Mighty Gates” Psalmodia Evangelica**

**Pastor Steve's Quote of the Week**

“A person is great not because they haven't failed,  
but because failure hasn't stopped them.”

Pastor Steve Swisher

**Dr. Swisher's message next week:**

December 21, 2025

“Just 3 More Days Until He Arrives”

Romans 1: 1-7

Sermon Notes

## *Thank you for sharing your*



In Honor of Steve and Emily Swisher from Barbara Swisher

In Honor of Connie, Kaelyn and Danielle Higgs from Barbara Swisher

In Memory of Rev. Dr. Lowell H. Swisher and Major Thomas W. Swisher

from Barbara Swisher

In Honor of Mrs. Barbara A. Swisher from Pastor Steve

In Honor of Emily Swisher from Pastor Steve

In Honor of the Congregation of St. John's UCC from Pastor Steve

In Memory of Dr. Lowell Swisher and Major Thomas W. Swisher

from Pastor Steve

In Memory of Richard & Mary Jo Kochendorfer by Carl Kochendorfer

In Memory of Christine Korchendorfer by Carl Kochendorfer

In Memory of our loved ones from Ralph & Charla Devine

In memory of Richard & Marie Conner by Jeff Conner

In memory of all of our loved ones by the Chirdon family

In memory of Russell E. Snider by the Pete Williams Family

In memory of Carl & Ruth Felumlee by the Pete Williams Family

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

In memory of Trevor, Shawn & Mackennzie by Betty Hill

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 Loving Memory of Walter, Mary & Dorothy Ann Zerger by Marla, Greg

& family

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

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

Remington, Rebekkah, Harley & Kimber

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

Rosemary Wood, and Brother, Bobby Wood, from Frank & Vicky Davis

In memory of R. William Jackson, Jr. by The O'Brien and French Families

In memory of Dorothy Jackson by The O'Brien and French Families

In memory of Bill Lange from Bev and family

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

by Tim & Beth Powers

In honor of Lynn Montgomery from Jeremy & Kayla Hill

In memory of my mother, Barbara Oxley Queen, by Robin Lyn Green

## *Thank you for sharing your*

In honor of my parents, Jungzoo & Sungja Lim, by Catherine Lim  
In memory of grandmother, SoonAe Jo, by Catherine Lim  
In memory of Russell Snider from Janet Snider & Family  
In memory of Beth Lee from the Lee Family  
In memory of David Lee from the Family



## *Thank you for your*



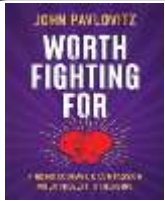
In love and remembrance of Bill's parents, Margorie McInturf Woolard and  
George McInturf, by Bill and Nancy McInturf  
In love and remembrance of Nancy's parents, Kathryn and James Shumaker,  
by Bill and Nancy McInturf  
In Honor of our 61st Wedding Anniversary by Bill and Nancy McInturf  
In memory of Richard & Marie Conner by Jeff Conner  
In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Ford, Sr. by their family  
In memory of LCPL Kenneth Ford, Jr. by his family  
In Loving Memory of parents, grandparents, great- grandparents, Sue & Ernie  
Vannest by Marla, Greg, Tim, Christie, Emmaleigh, Remington, Rebekkah, Harley  
Kimber, Alan, Akela, Leelee & Clayton  
In Loving Memory of Uncle Walter, Aunt Mary and Dorothy Zerger  
by Marla, Greg and Family  
In Loving Memory of Myrtle & Henry Vogelmeier by Marla, Greg and Family  
In Loving Memory of dad, grandpa, great-grandpa Richard Crowthers by Greg,  
Marla, Tim, Christie, Emmaleigh, Remington, Rebekkah, Harley, Kimber, Alan,  
Akela, Leelee & Clayton  
In Loving Memory of grandparents, Curtis C. Vannest, Alice Gerry Francis,  
Thelma Vannest, Cleone Selders and Aunt Judy Parks by Marla, Greg and Family  
In Loving Memory of Donna Hewitt by Marla, Greg and Family  
In memory of Judy Goodman by Jerry Goodman  
In memory of David Hummel by Sandy Hummel  
In memory of my husband, RALPH MCGAUGHY from his loving wife Helen  
McGaughy  
In memory of Nathaniel James Gard by his family  
In Loving Memory of Our Parents by Terry & Marcia Gano



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!



The Book Study Group will meet on Thursdays, December 4, 11, and 18 at 11am at the River Road Coffee House in downtown Newark on the north side of the square. We continue our discussion of the book titled "Worth Fighting For, Finding Courage and Compassion When Cruelty Is Trending " by John Pavlovitz, a pastor from North Carolina. In this book he shares his ideas for courage and hope as we as Christians attempt to share love and compassion with those in need. Come join us.

### German Language Christmas Service



December 21 at 3:00pm

### COOKIES NEEDED!

Do you have a favorite German dessert recipe?

We are looking for donations of German goodies for the reception following the German service.

### 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](http://www.stjohnsnewark.org)

*Additional Books & Resources in the Church Library*

#### Reading List for December 14—December 20 (Days 99-105)

Sunday—1 Kings 10-12

Thursday—2 Kings 1-3

Monday—1 Kings 13-15

Friday—2 Kings 4-6

Tuesday—1 Kings 16-18

Saturday—2 Kings 7-9

Wednesday—1 Kings 19-22



## ***St. John's Little Free Pantry***

**Take what you need. Give what you can.**

### **Our little food pantry needs your help.**

This is an ongoing mission project to assist our needy Neighbors. Our little food pantry is replenished every day with the items collected every Sunday. There are collection boxes near each entrance to the Church where you can place donated food items for this important ministry. Thanks for your support!

### 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 by a phone message 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 # \_\_\_\_\_



### Advent Devotionals

Devotions for the 25 days of Advent based on our beautiful Chrismons are available in the sanctuary. Last year we seemed to have a lot of questions about the Chrismons that decorate our sanctuary Christmas tree in the chancel. So we'd like to answer some of those questions about the history and meanings of these special symbols, and give you some materials to prepare your hearts and minds for the coming of Christ Child.

JOIN US SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9:00AM



For the season of Advent, the Youth will be studying the opening chapters of the book of Luke, combined with a study of the Advent Candles.

## Volunteers Needed



During the Sunday services, we will be lighting the Advent wreath candles. We are looking for volunteers to do this and possibly read a short scripture verse or short prayer, which will be provided.

If you or your family are willing to participate in this, please circle the date/time that you are available and drop this in the offering plate or drop off at the office.

Thank you!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Sunday, December 21, 2025      8:00 a.m. Chapel Service – Ralph & Charla Devine  
10.30 a.m. Sanctuary Service – Catherine Lim

Wednesday, December 24, 2025      3:00 pm Sanctuary Service \_\_\_\_\_  
7:30 pm Sanctuary Service – Teresa McCoy & Annmarie McCoy



**Read the Bible in a Year**

### Quarterly Q&A

**December 21, 2025, at 9:00AM**

Bring your questions. Bring your curiosity.

Enjoy the conversation.

*Be sure to drop your questions in the box  
in the Fellowship Room.*

## German Language Christmas Service

Celebrate Our Heritage

**December 21 at 3:00pm**

The service will be in German and English with English translations available. Music by Todd Baldosser and the Newark Maennerchor. Children's moment included.

More fun following service, traditional German goodies will be served in Hermann Hall and visit with Santa.





## The Christmas Fund

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

Special envelopes will be provided next week for this offering. Thank you for your consideration in supporting this special offering through our Central Southeast Ohio Association of the United Church of Christ on December 21, 2025.



**December 24, 2025**

3:00pm Sanctuary service

7:00pm Special music

7:30pm Sanctuary service

*Communion & Candlelight at both services*

*Youth Live Nativity 6:30PM*

**WELCOME!**

COME, LET US ADORE HIM

St. John's United Church of Christ • 285 W. National Drive Newark

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



### *Finances for the Month and Year to Date*

#### **General Fund Income**

	<b><u>November</u></b>	<b><u>Year to Date</u></b>
Congregation giving (Faith Promise)	10,096.92	80,833.98
Income from Foundation Fund	10,500.00	115,000.00
Income from Emerson Miller Fund	3,758.33	41,341.63
Total Month & YTD Income	25,068.36	254,330.34
General Fund Expenses	\$23,926.70	\$268,326.48
<b>Over/Under Month &amp; YTD</b>	<b>\$ 1,141.66</b>	<b>(13,995.94)</b>



( ) = Negative



St. John's UCC Family Night  
Youth and Family Bowling  
Sunday, December 28  
Park Lanes at 6pm  
4 lanes reserved for 2 hours of bowling.

*It is our joy and honor to welcome*



## Rev. Joel King

Rev. Joel King, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s first cousin will speak at the 10:30am service on January 11, 2026

Rev. King has served in ministry for more than 33 years as both Senior Pastor and Community organizer as a member of the Board for IMPACT Columbus.



Rev. King represents Ohio on the National Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Commission based in Atlanta, Georgia, and serves on the Board of Directors for the Columbus NAACP and Vice-Chair of the Columbus Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance.

He has also served as the Chaplain for the Columbus Police and Fire Departments and currently serves as the Chaplain for the Gahanna Police Department, the community where he currently resides.



*January 11, 2026  
at 10:30AM*

**NEW Classes Starting**  
**January 4, 2026 9:00AM—10:00AM**

**Adult Class**  
***Abiding In Christ***  
By Carl Kochendorfer  
**led by Carl Kochendorfer**





**General Prayers:** Bill Carr, Charlie Bruah, Rev. Dr. Winfield Strout, Rev. Gunnar Cerda, Brian Lensink & the Kroah Family  
**Homebound and Nursing Facility Residents:** Bonita Farmer, Patricia Gilbert, Paula Hatfield, Rosalie Johnson, Faith Kelly, Delores and Harold McDonald, Esther Gillham, Helen McGaughy, Mary Lou Hostetler, Molly Sheets, Debi Snow, and Lois Meyers



**Additional prayer requests on Bea's Blessings:**

- Carly (Teresa McCoy's daughter)
- Calvin Campbell – Home from the hospital, will be a long recovery
- the late Connie Howell – Prayers for her family
- Christina (Carolyn Igo's daughter) – Cancer diagnosis
- Mr. Ron Baker (Chuck Chirdon's father under Hospice Care)
- the late Mr. Bill Klinesmith – Prayers for his family
- Mrs. Barbara Swisher

**We Appreciate Those Serving Today!**

Liturgist:

Jeff Conner

Cantor:

10:30 a.m. Diane Reef

Ushers:

Frank Davis, Terry Gano,

Barry Dooley, Gary Kinser

Cradle Roll:

Volunteer/Avery Nagel

BDZ – Children's Church

Marla Crowthers & Youth if needed

Media Worship Team:

Sound & Video:

10:30 am: Ken Kroah/Julie Kroah



**Sunday: December 14, 2025**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**  
 8:00 am Chapel Service  
 9:00 am All BDZ Classes  
 10:30 am Sanctuary Service – Children's Christmas Program, Choir Sings  
 10:30 am Bible Discovery Zone – Children's Elementary Class  
 11:30 am Youth Group Meeting

**Monday:**  
 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting

**Wednesday:**  
 6:00 pm Crystal City Chorus

**Thursday:**  
 11:00 am Thursday Book Study- "Worth Fighting For, Finding Courage and Compassion When Cruelty Is Trending" by John Pavlovitz at River Road  
 Coffee on the Square  
 12 – 2pm LifeWise Academy

**Sunday: December 21, 2025**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
 8:00 am Chapel Service  
 9:00 am All BDZ Classes  
 9:00 am Quarterly Q & A "Read the Bible in a Year"  
 10:30 am Sanctuary Service  
 10:30 am Bible Discovery Zone - Children's Elementary Class  
 3:00 pm German Service

*Attendance Report for Sunday, December 7, 2025*

8:00 am - 15    10:30 am – 54

Sunday, December 7 Live Stream Views – 244

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](http://www.stjohnsnewark.org)

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. Thank you!

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.



St. John's can now be found on Instagram.  
 You can find us @StJohnsUCC.Newark