



**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

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

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Jane Shoemaker

Children's Bell Choir

Colleen Kroah

Adult Bell Choir

Jerry Goodman

Signer

Debi Snow

Librarian

Catherine Lim

Prayer List

Rebecca Swartz

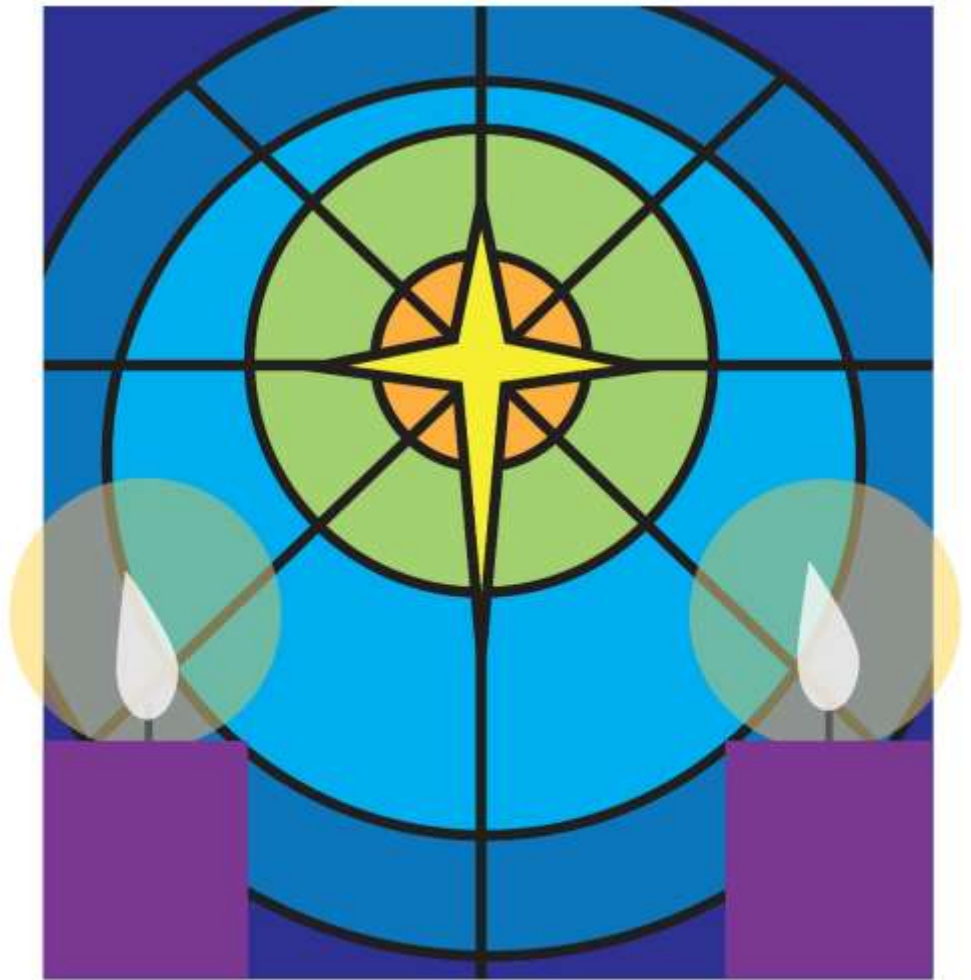
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*Rooted in the Evangelical
and Reformed Traditions*

*We are Sowing Seeds of Hope
in a Time of Chaos*

So We May All Be One



SECOND SUNDAY
OF
Advent

December 7, 2025

Chapel Service: 8:00 a.m.

Sanctuary Service: 10:30 a.m.

December 7, 2025

Chapel Service
Sanctuary Service

8:00 am

10:30 am

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Announcements & Greetings

Prelude (8:00 a.m.)

Jane Shoemaker

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” arr. by Mier

Prelude (10:30 a.m.)

Todd Baldosser

“Comfort, Comfort You My People” Bourgeois

***Opening Hymn**

“Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming”

No. 136

(8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 4)

- 1) Christians all, your Lord is coming,
drawing near in holy birth.
Ring the bells and sound the trumpets,
let your music fill the earth.
Dance and move to show God’s glory;
kneel and pause to hear God’s word.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Rise and let your songs be heard.
- 2) Christians all, your Lord is coming,
calling you to serve in deed.
See the ones who hurt and suffer,
hear their cry and act with speed.
Set all selfish ways behind you.
Purge your heart of sinful greed.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ in you will meet their need.
- 4) Christians all, your Lord is coming,
hope for peace is now at hand.
Let there be no hesitation,
walk in faith where life demands.
Bear the word that God has given;
share the birth that stirs your soul.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ will come and make you whole.

***Please stand if you are able**

***Call to Worship**

Jeff Conner

Leader: From Jesse's root a child has come with the Spirit of the Lord

All: May the King rule with righteousness and defend His people

Leader: We trust God's promises in Scripture

All: We rejoice in God's Presence in Jesus

Leader: John calls through the voice of history declaring Prepare the way of the Lord

All: Christ's Advent is at hand

***Prayer of Invocation**

All: Dear God, we wait expectantly for the coming of Jesus and for You to do great things in this world and in each of us. Help us turn to You anew so that our lives, our talents, all that we have and all that we are might serve the purposes of Your Kingdom. As we pray the words of great expectancy 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.**

Lighting of the Advent Candle

8:00 a.m.

Carl Kochendorfer

10:30 a.m.

Johnny Pfeffer

Hymn

"One Candle Is Lit"

(Verse 2) No. 128

**Come quickly, shalom, teach us how to prepare
for a gift that compels us with justice to care.
Our spirits are restless till sin and war cease.
One candle is lit for the reign of God's peace.**

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

“The Advent of Our God” arr. by Tornquist

Adult Bell Choir (10:30 a.m.) **“O Come, All Ye Faithful”** arr. by Wade

Scripture Reading Isaiah 9:6

Scripture Reading Matthew 1: 18-23

Sermon **“You are to name Him Jesus”** Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

Hymn **“The First Noel”** **No. 151**

(8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 5)

**1) The first Noel, the angel did say,
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.**

Refrain *Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.*

**2) They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.**

Refrain

**5) Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there, in his presence,
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.**

Refrain

Service of Holy Communion

Call to Reconciliation

Pastor: All too often, Lord, we see others need to be cleansed and forgiven
but not our own. Help us to recognize our own need for You. Give
us the strength to live as if the Kingdom is coming near as we offer
prayers to the One who calls us to Advent living, as we pray
together;

Prayer for Forgiveness

All: Goodness Incarnate, we confess that we have not always lived as Your children. We wait, plan, discern as You hope we would take action by filling the lives of others with Your grace and hope. Forgive us, God of this Holy Season, and help us be as willing to draw near to others, so we might heal their brokenness, touch their loneliness, comfort their grief and love them as You do.

Assurance of Grace

Pastor: Hear the Good News:
Jesus offers us unconditional love and unending forgiveness. He equips and calls us to speak with whispers of hope until it silences despair; sing the carols of compassion until all join the chorus; shower others with wonder and delight until everyone joins God's family of Grace.

Congregational Response

All: Thanks be to God. We are forgiven!

Offering the Bread of Life and Cup of Salvation

Invitation for Faithful Giving

Offertory "Mary's Little Boy Child" McLean 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: May Your Spirit of generosity rest upon us, Caring God, so that our giving does not end here, but only begins to flow forth in a rushing wave of hope, grace, mercy and joy. We embrace the peace of Your Presence and desire to share that gift with the world around us. Consecrate these gifts of love to Your service. In Jesus' Name. Amen

- 1) **People, look east, the time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Guest, is on the way.**

- 2) **Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Rose, is on the way.**

- 4) **Angels announce with shouts of mirth
him who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.**

***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.)

Jane Shoemaker

“Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us arr. by Martin

Postlude (10:30 a.m.)

Todd Baldosser

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” French

Pastor Steve's Quote of the Week

“One of the greatest blessings of being a Christian is that God gives us second chances. Even when we have failed miserably in one area or another, He always gives us the opportunity to turn things around dramatically and start fresh and new.”

Pastor Steve Swisher

Dr. Swisher's message next week:

December 14, 2025

“A Mirror Image”

Hebrews 1: 1-4

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!



Edward C. Hummel

Born: January 30, 1942

Died: December 2, 2025

A member of St. John's since 1955

In Honor of Beth Lee by James Kursawa

In Memory of Larry Jones by Terry and Marcia Gano

In Memory of Beth Lee by Terry and Marcia Gano

In Memory of Mike Dunn by Terry and Marcia Gano

In Memory of Beth Lee from Julie and John Uible

In Memory of our Departed Member, Beth Lee, by the Afternoon Circle

In Memory of Beth Lee from John and Terry Snow

In Memory of Beth Lee, wife of our brother in Christ, Owen Lee by Rich Harvey

In Memory of Lawrence Jones by Kevin Cox

In Memory of Beth Lee by Richard Hiegel

To the Glory of God And in Loving Memory of Beth Lee by Frank & Vicky Davis

To the Glory of God And in Loving Memory of Mike Dunn by Frank & Vicky Davis

To the Glory of God And in Loving Memory of Mike Dunn

by Bill & Nancy McInturf

In memory of Beth Lee by Florette Chu

In memory of Beth Lee by Owen Lee & Family

In memory of Beth Lee by Erich and Linda Kim

To the Glory of God And in Loving Memory of Beth Lee by Bill & Nancy McInturf

In memory of Mike Dunn by Molly Sheets

In memory of Mike Dunn by Betty Porter

In memory of Mike Dunn by Debbie Stevens

In memory of Lawrence Joseph Jones with appreciation for his generosity and his
gifts of patience and encouragement by Jill Ehrenfried

Honoring Larry Jones by Pasty Gehring

In memory of Mike Dunn by Jane Shoemaker

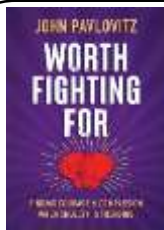
In memory of Beth Lee by Janes Shoemaker

In memory of Larry Jones by Jane Shoemaker





Please attend our Annual Congregational Budget Meeting TODAY, after the 10:30 a.m. service. Copies of the budget are available in the Fellowship Room.



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.



Mission and Outreach Focus for December

We are partnering with the Salvation Army again this year to provide toys and gifts to needy children within the Newark area. A special tree is in the Fellowship Room decorated with tags that contain the first name of a child and what they hope to get this Christmas. Please pick a child's name, take the card and make your purchases for that child. All purchases must be new, unused items. **Please return all gifts to the church by Friday, December 12, 2025, by 12:00 pm.** Include the tag with the child's name but do not wrap the gifts. St John's will transport the items to the Salvation Army by the December 12, 2025 deadline. If you would like to include wrapping paper, that is fine but do not wrap the gifts so the parents may be able to do the wrapping.

On the fourth Sunday of Advent, December 21 this year, we will participate in a special offering called The Christmas Fund. This is a special Mission offering that provides direct financial support to those who have served the church and are facing financial difficulties. More information will be available in future bulletins.

German Language Christmas Service



December 21 at 3:00pm

COOKIES NEEDED!

Do you have a favorite German desert 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

Additional Books & Resources in the Church Library

Reading List for December 7—December 13 (Days 92-98)

Sunday—2 Samuel 13-15	Thursday—1 Kings 1-3
Monday—1 Samuel 16-18	Friday—1 Kings 4-6
Tuesday—1 Samuel 19-21	Saturday—1 Kings 7-9
Wednesday—2 Samuel 22-24	



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.

AFTERNOON CIRCLE COLLECTS MITTENS, SOCKS, HATS FOR BEN FRANKLIN SCHOOL

During the months of November and early December, the Afternoon Circle will be collecting warm mittens/gloves, socks, hats, scarves for the children at Ben Franklin School. There will be a basket in the Fellowship Room for you to donate these items. The last day for collection is **today**.

In the past, we have collected these items and given them to the school toward the end of winter. This year we'd like to beat the cold and offer these items to the children as the cold winds begin to blow. They can be given as new items to kids who need them or as replacements for lost items during the winter months. Thank you in advance for your warm donations.



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 14, 2025	8:00 a.m. Chapel Service – Carl Kochendorfer 10.30 a.m. Sanctuary Service – The Kroah Family
Sunday, December 21, 2025	8:00 a.m. Chapel Service _____ 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



You may choose to remember a loved one with a gift to the Abiding Memorial Fund _____ or the Foundation Fund _____. All such gifts noted and received **today**, will be listed in the bulletin on **Sunday, December 14, Sunday, December 21 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.....)



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.*



Frohe Weihnachten
und ein gesundes neues Jahr!

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.

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 • 740-323-2407





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.

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

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



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*



St. John's can now be found on Instagram.

You can find us @StJohnsUCC.Newark



General Prayers: Bill Carr, Charlie Bruah, Rev. Dr. Winfield Strout, Rev. Gunnar Cerda, Brian Lensink and the family of Ed Hummel

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:

- Calvin Campbell – Blood clots in his lungs, passed out and damaged face & shoulder- cannot have shoulder surgery for a month due to blood thinners
- Connie Howell -Stage 4 Pancreatic Cancer Diagnosis
- Christina (Carolyn Igo's daughter) – Cancer diagnosis
- 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. April Kinser

Ushers:

Frank Davis, Terry Gano,

Barry Dooley, Gary Kinser

Cradle Roll:

Volunteer/Avery Nagel

BDZ – Children's Church

Julie Kroah & Pat Farley

Media Worship Team:

Sound & Video:

10:30 am: Karson Ewing/Tom Lawyer

Attendance Report for Sunday, December 7, 2025

8:00 am - 16 10:30 am - 42

Sunday, December 7 Live Stream Views – 208

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!

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



Sunday: December 7, 2025
Second Sunday of Advent

- 8:00 am Chapel 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 Congregational Budget Meeting

Tuesday:
7:00 pm Finance & Stewardship Committee Meeting

Wednesday:
10:00 am Christian Education Committee Meeting
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
7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal

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

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.

