



**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**

Pastor

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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***



# COMMUNION *Service*

*February 2, 2025*

*Communion Sunday*

*Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany*

**Chapel Service: 8:30 a.m.**

**Sanctuary Service: 11:00 a.m.**

February 2, 2025

Chapel Service  
Sanctuary Service

8:30 am

11:00 am

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**Announcements & Greetings**

**Prelude (8:30 a.m.)**

Jane Shoemaker

“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me” arr. by Fettke

**Prelude (11:00 a.m.)**

Todd Baldosser

Impromptu in A flat (excerpt) Schubert

**\*Opening Hymn**

**“Come Christians Join to Sing”**

**No. 90**

(8:30 a.m. Verses 1 & 3)

- 1) **Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen!**  
**Loud praises fill the sky: Alleluia! Amen!**  
**Let all with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;**  
**praise we with grateful choice: Alleluia! Amen!**
- 2) **Come lift your hearts on high: Alleluia! Amen!**  
**Let praises fill the sky: Alleluia! Amen!**  
**Christ is our Guide and Friend on whom we can depend;**  
**his love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!**
- 3) **Praise yet our Christ again: Alleluia! Amen!**  
**Life shall not end the strain: Alleluia! Amen!**  
**On heaven’s blissful shore his goodness we’ll adore,**  
**singing forevermore: Alleluia! Amen!**

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: In You, O Lord, we take refuge

**All: So we might always have hope**

Leader: In Your righteousness, O Lord, we find deliverance

**All: So we might experience Your saving power**

Leader: In Your Presence, O Lord, we discover the meaning of trust

**All: So we might find confidence in You**

Leader: You are our rock, our refuge, our fortress and shield

**All: We turn to you again this day and always**

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

**\*Prayer of Invocation**

**All:** Holy and loving God, we look to You this day to return us to the force of your overwhelming love. In our worship and witness, our works and our ways, may we be marked by the contours of Your divine love. Pour out Your Holy Spirit on us now, empowering us with the radical force of Your love and Grace. As we pray Your ultimate words of belief...

**\*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.

**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 (8:30 a.m.)**

Jane Shoemaker

“Be Thou My Vision” arr. by Bober

**Scripture Reading**

1 John 3:20-21

**Scripture Reading**

2 Corinthians 13:5

**Sermon**

“Taking Inventory”

Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

**Hymn**

**“There Is a Balm in Gilead”**

**No. 501**

(8:30 a.m. Verses 1 & 3)

**Refrain** *There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole,  
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.*

**1)** Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work's in vain,  
but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

**Refrain**

- 2) **If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,  
you can tell the love of Jesus, and say, “He died for all!”**

*Refrain*

- 3) **Don’t ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend;  
and if you lack for knowledge He’ll ne’er refuse to lend.**

*Refrain*

## **Invitation for Generosity and Faithful Giving**

**\*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**

**All: Compassionate God, who sees beyond our limitations and offers us  
power for daily living, we bring these tithes and offerings with  
grateful hearts. Use them to proclaim Good News, heal the  
broken and extend Your love to all. Transform our gifts into a  
beacon of hope for every corner of this community and beyond.  
Hallelujah. Amen**

## **Invitation to Holy Communion**

**Pastor: The Lord Be with you**

**All: And also with you**

**Pastor: Lift up your hearts**

**All: We lift them up to the Lord**

**Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God**

**All: It is right to give our Thanks and Praise**

## **Communion Prayer**

**Pastor: Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior, who is the fulfillment of God’s  
Promises of grace and forgiveness. Lord, we receive this forgiveness  
now and the restoration of a full, rich and vibrant relationship with  
You. May we continue to grow in Your likeness today and each day  
ahead. Amen.**

## **Service of Holy Communion**

- 1) For the healing of the nations, God, we pray with one accord;  
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords;  
to a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word,  
(pledge our word) help us rise and pledge our word.**
- 2) Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release,  
That, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.  
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase,  
(hope increase) fear will die and hope increase**
- 4) You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind;  
for our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind,  
that by our response and service earth its destiny may find,  
(may find) earth its destiny may find.**

**\*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 (8:30 a.m.) “Postlude in C” arr. by Birchwood Jane Shoemaker**

**Postlude (11:00 a.m.) “How Great Thou Art” Traditional Todd Baldosser**

**Pastor Steve’s Quote of the Week**

**“The only place where your dream becomes impossible is in your own thinking.”**

**Rev. Dr. Norman Vincent Peale**

**Dr. Swisher’s message next week:**

**The Real St. Valentine**

**I Corinthians 13:13**

## Sermon Notes

To our members, dear friends and visitors:

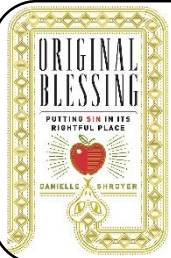
You are an important part of the worship and ministry that goes on here and we are thankful for your presence. Please sign the attendance pads on the tables. Thank you!

### ***Confirmation Class***

During January and February, the Confirmation Class will be studying general church history, UCC history, and the history of St. John's. Classes will meet on Sundays, January 12 and 19, and February 9 and 16, at 9:30 a.m. in the Small Meeting Room.

We will also be scheduling an extra Sunday to visit the Sanctuary and study the meanings behind our stained glass windows. Please watch bulletins and The Chimes for information on that.

All youth 6th grade and above are invited to attend this class in preparation for Church Membership. We also have several adults sitting in renewing their knowledge of what makes for a good church member. All are welcome.



The book study group will meet each Thursday morning in February (6, 13, 20, 27) at 11am at the River Road Coffee House on the square in downtown Newark. We are discussing the book "Original Blessing, Putting Sin In Its Rightful Place" by Danielle Shroyer. Come join the discussion as we seek to gain understanding together.

### ***Afternoon Circle***

*Weather permitting, we will meet for lunch at the Longhorn Steak House by Walmart on Wednesday, February 5, at noon. No reservations are needed. However, if it's snowing or very cold or icy, please stay home and be safe.*



### **Youth Canned Soup Drive**

**February 9, 2025**

Canned soups of all kinds or monetary donations  
**Benefits the Licking County Food Pantry**

Collection bins will be in the Fellowship Room  
*"Vote" for your favorite team*

## Annual Meeting and Potluck Luncheon - February 16, 2025



Please join us directly after the 11:00 a.m. Service on Sunday, February 16, 2025, for our annual meeting and potluck luncheon! The Special Events committee will be supplying hot sandwiches, and we ask each family to bring your favorite side dish or dessert. This will be a great time of fellowship and a time to hear all of the activities and community engagement that our church has worked on and will be working on in the coming months. As with Annual Meetings of the past, we will be voting on new and returning Council members for the coming year. We hope to see everyone at this important meeting in our Church year.

Blessings,

Tim Powers, Vice-President - Council and Chair - Special Events Committee

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



*Scripture, Story, Prayer*

*Submissions deadline is February 16, 2025*

It's hard to believe that in just a few short weeks, together we will begin the season of Lent. As part of your Lenten journey this year, we are asking that you share your favorite scripture, an inspirational story, along with a prayer. The story can be your own or one that inspires you. Then we will use these to create our own Lenten devotional to share with each other.

***Please submit by post, the offering plate or email to [stjohnsucc.ce@windstream.net](mailto:stjohnsucc.ce@windstream.net)***

### Ash Wednesday Worship Service

March 5, 2025 at 7:00PM

Remember that you are dust  
and to dust you shall return."

Genesis 3:19

# SEASON 4

## The CHOSEN

The  
CHOSEN



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

February 5 discussion of episodes 1, 2

February 12 discussion of episodes 3, 4

February 19 discussion of episodes 5, 6

February 26 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.*

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

## Sermons in Stone and Glass

with Elaine Gard

**February 16, 2025 at 9:30am**

While this study is part of the Confirmation Class curriculum, it is open to all who want to learn more about the symbolism in our sanctuary. The stained glass windows, the carvings in the stone, the woodwork, all were designed to enhance our worship experience. But you need to know the secrets they are shouting to us.

We will meet in the back of the sanctuary and start promptly at 9:30. We have so much to learn as we walk to the altar, study the symbols in the chancel, look at each window, lean back to see the ceiling, count stairs, and much more.

This study is led by our long-time member, Elaine Kopke Gard. Anyone and everyone is invited to attend and join this interesting study. We pray it will add to your worship experience here at St. John's.



## General Prayers: Bill Carr, Charlie

Bruah, Steve Slyh, Cindy Dunn & Brenda Pursley

## 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, Charles & Lois Meyers, Molly Sheets, & Lois Swonger



## Additional prayer requests on

### Bea's Blessings:

- Teresa McCoy- Continuing health concerns
- Mark D: Cancer return

## We Appreciate Those Serving Today!

Liturgist:

Jeff Conner

Cantor:

Julie Davis

Ushers:

Frank Davis, Jeff Conner,  
Larry Jones, Terry Gano,  
Mike Dooley, Barry Dooley  
Gary Kinser

Cradle Roll:

Volunteer/Avery Nagel

Bible Discovery Zone:

Brian Lensink & Youth if needed

Media Worship Team:

Sound & Video:

11:00 am: Mike Dooley/Tom Lawyer

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

### Financial Update

Monthly Faith Promise goal	\$ 8,419.25
Income as of January 26, 2025	<u>5,152.00</u>
Month to Date Balance	(\$ 3,267.25)
Boiler Cost	\$ 99,260.00
Boiler loan amount	\$ 26,654.19
Boiler Donations received	<u>\$ 17,878.20</u>
Donations still needed	\$ 8,775.99

### **ATTENDANCE** Report for Sunday, January 26

8:30 am - 14 11:00 am - 62

Sunday January 26 Live Stream Views - 189



**Sunday: February 2, 2025**

## Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

8:30 am Chapel Service

9:30 am Adult Sunday School

11:00 am Sanctuary Service

**Wednesday:**

12:00 pm Afternoon Circle – Lunch at Longhorn Steak House

6:00 pm Crystal City Chorus

6:30 pm The Chosen – Season Four

**Thursday:**

11:00 am Thursday Book Study

“Original Blessing, Putting Sin In Its Rightful Place”

Shroyer - at River Road

Coffee on the Square

7:15 pm Choir Practice

**Sunday: February 9, 2025**

## Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

8:30 am Chapel Service

9:30 am Adult Sunday School

9:30 am Confirmation Class

11:00 am Sanctuary Service- Choir Sings

11:00 am Bible Discovery Zone

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.



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)