



**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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Colleen Kroah

Adult Bell Choir

Jerry Goodman

Librarian/Signer

Debi Snow

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



AND ^{now} these
THREE remain:
FAITH, HOPE & LOVE.
But the greatest of
these is LOVE.



1 CORINTHIANS 13:13, NIV

February 9, 2025

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Chapel Service: 8:30 a.m.

Sanctuary Service: 11:00 a.m.

February 9, 2025

Chapel Service
Sanctuary Service

8:30 am

11:00 am

Announcements & Greetings

Prelude (8:30 a.m.) Jane Shoemaker
“Hiding in Thee” (in the setting of Dvorak’s “Going Home”) arr. by Berry

Prelude (11:00 a.m.) “Joyful, Joyful” Beethoven Todd Baldosser

***Opening Hymn “Be Thou My Vision”** (8:30 a.m. Verses 1 & 4) **No. 595**

- 1) **Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art
thou my best thought by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**
- 2) **Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my redeemer, my love thou hast won,
thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.**
- 4) **Great God of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heaven’s Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

***Call to Worship** (*Psalm 138*)

Leader: I give thanks to You with all my heart, Lord. I sing Your praises
before all others

All: **I bow toward Your Holy Temple and thank You for Your loyal
love and faithfulness to me**

Leader: On the day I cried out

All: **You answered me and encouraged me with inner strength**

Leader: Let us all sing of the Lord

All: **Whenever I am in deep trouble**

Leader: You send Your power against my enemies

All: **You save me with Your strong hand**

Leader: Your love lasts forever, Lord!

All: **Your faithfulness to all generations**

***Please stand if you are able**

***Prayer of Invocation**

All: We come into Your Presence with praise on our lips and love in our hearts for You, O God. Please accept our songs of praise as sweet offerings to You for Your steadfast love and faithfulness in our lives. Help us to hear Your call, respond to Your message and follow Your guidance. Our souls belong to You as we pray the meaningful words You taught our ancestors...

***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

“Morning Has Broken” arr. by Pethel

Choir Anthem (11:00 a.m.)

“Renew Us” David Lantz

Scripture Reading

Colossians 3:14

Scripture Reading

I Corinthians 13:13

Sermon

“The Real St. Valentine”

Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

Hymn

“It is Well With My Soul”

(8:30 a.m. Verses 1 & 4) No. 561

1)

**When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
it is well, it is well with my soul.**

Refrain

***It is well (it is well) with my soul, (with my soul),
it is well, it is well with my soul.***

2) **Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and hath shed his own blood for my soul.**

Refrain

4) **May God haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
the trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
even so, it is well with my soul.**

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: Gracious and Generous God, as we present these offerings today,
we thank you for the abundance You have given to each of us. We
offer these gifts now as a reflection of Your gifts to us. May they be
used to further Your Kingdom, bringing hope and support to those
in need, as we strive to be fishers of people, sharing Your message
of radical love and merciful grace to this Community and beyond.
In Jesus' Name. Amen**

Blessing over Souper Bowl Donations

**Pastor: Dear Lord, even as we prepare to enjoy the Super Bowl game, the
donations we have brought remind us of those in our local community
without a bowl of soup to eat. We bless the donations that have come
from all ages and walks of life that the gift of soup, the miracle of
caring for others, might bring hope and the realization that God's
people care. And that we have chosen to help. In Jesus' Name.
Amen**

***Closing Hymn**

“Abide with Me”

No. 636

(8:30 a.m. Verses 1 & 5)

- 1) **Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens, God, with me abide;
when other helpers fail, and comforts flee;
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.**
- 2) **Swift to its close ebbs out life’s little day;
earth’s joys grow dim; its glories pass away;
change and decay in all around I see;
O thou who changest not, abide with me.**
- 5) **Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
heaven’s morning breaks, and earth’s vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O God, abide with me.**

***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.) “Almighty” arr. by Banks Elwell Jane Shoemaker

Postlude (11:00 a.m.) “Amazing Grace” Traditional Todd Baldosser

Pastor Steve’s Quote of the Week

“If you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change.”

Dr. Wayne Dyer

Dr. Swisher’s message next week:

Faith Over Fear: Overcoming Giants Real or Imagined

Numbers 13: 30-33

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!



Youth Canned Soup Drive

February 9, 2025

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

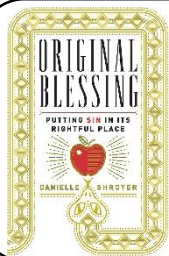
Collection bins will be in the Fellowship Room
"Vote" for your favorite team

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.

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. Thank you!

Annual Meeting and Potluck Luncheon - February 16, 2025

Congregational
Meeting



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 engagements 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

Ash Wednesday Worship Service

March 5, 2025 at 7:00PM

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

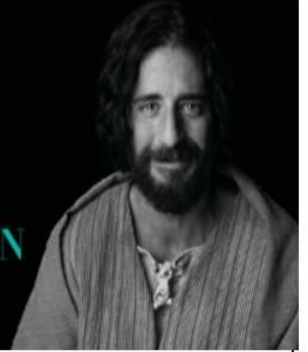
Genesis 3:19

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:

Charles Dudley

Ushers:

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

Cradle Roll:

Volunteer/Avery Nagel

Bible Discovery Zone:

Marla Crowthers & Pat Farley

Media Worship Team:

Sound & Video:

11:00 am: Ken Kroah/Julie Kroah



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
12:00 pm Youth Group

Tuesday:
7:00 pm Finance & Stewardship Committee Meeting

Wednesday:
10:00 am Christian Education Committee Meeting
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

Sunday: February 16, 2025
Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany
8:30 am Chapel Service
9:30 am Confirmation Class – Sermons in Stone and Glass
11:00 am Sanctuary Service
11:00 am Bible Discovery Zone
12:00 pm Annual Congregational Meeting & Potluck

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.



Financial Update

Monthly Faith Promise goal	\$ 8,419.25
Income as of February 2, 2025	<u>2,190.00</u>
Month to Date Balance	(\$ 6,229.25)
Boiler Cost	\$ 99,260.00
Boiler loan amount	\$ 26,654.19
Boiler Donations received	<u>\$ 17,983.20</u>
Donations still needed	\$ 8,670.99

ATTENDANCE Report for Sunday, February 2
8:30 am - 16 11:00 am - 51
Sunday February 2 Live Stream Views - 88

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