



**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

stjohns.pastorstephen@gmail.com

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Sexton

Charles Bruah

Chapel Pianist

Jane Shoemaker

Children's Bell Choir

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



may the God of
hope
fill you with all
JOY
and
PEACE
as you trust in him.

ROMANS 15:13, niv

January 12, 2025

Baptism of the Lord

Chapel Service: 8:30 a.m.

Sanctuary Service: 11:00 a.m.

January 12, 2025

Chapel Service
Sanctuary Service

8:30 am

11:00 am

Announcements & Greetings

Prelude (8:30 a.m.) Jane Shoemaker

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” arr. by Carter

Prelude (11:00 a.m.) “Shout to the Lord” Zschech Todd Baldosser

Opening Hymn “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed” **No. 140**
(8:30 a.m. Verses 1 & 4)

- 1) **Hail to the Lord’s anointed, great David’s greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captives free,
to take away transgressions, and rule in equity.**
- 2) **He comes with justice speedy to those who suffer wrong,
to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong,
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in his sight.**
- 4) **To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend,
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove.
His name shall stand forever: that name to us is Love.**

*Call to Worship

Leader: God of Heaven and Earth, author of all that is Good

All: Remind us what it means to belong to one another

Leader: Reveal to us Your power that ushers in new possibilities

All: God who calls us Beloved

Leader: May we find that love for ourselves and others

All: In Jesus’ love we are held

Leader: Into Christ’s body we are baptized

All: By the Spirit’s power we are claimed

*Prayer of Invocation

All: Dear God, make us one as Your people of Word and Spirit, so that we may live as true disciples of Jesus Christ our Lord. Help us to point people to Christ and to strengthen them with your Promises of hope and new life. As we pray the prayer that came from Your heart...

*Please stand if you are able

***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.**

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 holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Joys & Concerns

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

“The Beauty of Holiness” arr. by Banks Elwell

Choir Anthem (11:00 a.m.)

“Peace Like a River” Beck

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 55:12

Scripture Reading

Romans 15:10-13

Sermon

“Unleashing Our Potential”

Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

Hymn “How Firm a Foundation” (8:30 a.m. Verses 1 & 3) **No. 618**

- 1) **How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in God’s excellent word!
What more can be said, than to you God has said
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

- 2) **Fear not, I am with thee, oh, be not dismayed,
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid.
I’ll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.**

- 3) **When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
for I will be near thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.**

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: Loving God, who guides us with Your everlasting Presence, we
offer these gifts from our hearts. As Jesus stands with us through
the circumstances of life, may these offerings stand as a testament
to Your love and grace. Use them to bring hope, healing and
transformation to our community and to people around the world.
In Jesus’ Name. Amen.**

***Closing Hymn**

“Shall We Gather at the River”

No. 701

(8:30 a.m. Verses 1 & 4)

- 1) **Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod;
with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?**

Refrain:

***Yes, we’ll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river,
gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.***

2) **On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,
we will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day.**

Refrain:

4) **Soon we'll reach the shining river, soon our pilgrimage will cease;
soon our happy hearts will quiver with the melody of peace.**

Refrain:

***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.)

Jane Shoemaker

“Proclaim the Glory of the Lord” arr. by Banks Elwell

Postlude (11:00 a.m.)

“Ode to Joy” Beethoven

Todd Baldosser

Pastor Steve's Quote of the Week

“Life is never made unbearable by circumstances
but only by lack of meaning and purpose.” Viktor Frankl

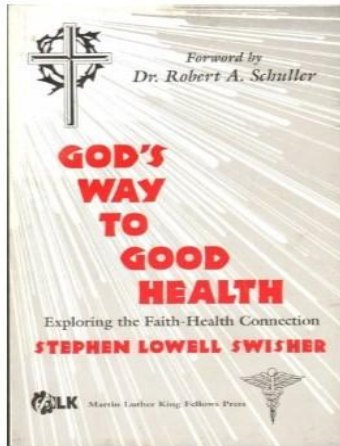
Dr. Swisher's message next week:

“Walking in Purpose and Power”

1 Peter 2:9

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!



ADULT Sunday School

God's Way to Good Health explores the concept of maintaining good health through a Christian perspective; often emphasizing the idea that the body is a "temple of the Holy Spirit" and should be cared for accordingly; essentially suggesting that living a healthy lifestyle aligns with biblical teachings.

Lead by Rev. Stephen Swisher.

A great way to start the new year!

Join us starting January 5, 2025, at 9:30AM

(In the large meeting room)

Afternoon Circle Winter Mission Project

By the middle of January, children's mittens, hats, scarves, socks start to get lost or go missing in the snow. There will be a basket in the Fellowship Room for you to put your gifts of mittens, hats, scarves, and socks for Ben Franklin Elementary School children. We will collect these from January 1 through January 19. Thank you for your warm hearts to keep little extremities protected from the cold through the winter.



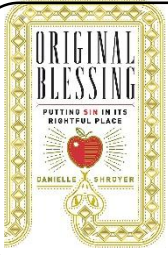
**The Ladies Afternoon Circle is Hosting a
Hat, Glove, Scarf & Sock**

DRIVE

JANUARY 1 - 19

to benefit Ben Franklin Elementary school

Donations can be dropped off in the Fellowship room.



The Book Study Group will meet starting on Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 11am at the River Road Coffee House on the Square in downtown Newark. We are starting a new book titled "Original Blessing, Putting Sin In Its Rightful Place" by Danielle Shroyer. The book is available online and all are welcome.

2025 Assigned Offering Envelopes are in the Fellowship Room

Please let the office know if you would like assigned envelopes for your giving.

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.

Congregational Meeting



Annual Congregation Meeting

Please plan on attending our Annual Congregational meeting on February 16, 2025, to vote on new and returning Council members for another three-year term. More information will be forthcoming.



Sundays at 9:30AM

Coffee, refreshments and good conversation in the Fellowship room.
Or enjoy time in the sanctuary for worship preparation or quiet prayer.



General Prayers: Bill Carr, Charlie

Bruah, & Steve Slyh

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:

- Mark D: Cancer return
- The McCoy family and extended family
- The family of Burnel Smith

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:

Marla Crowthers & Youth if needed

Media Worship Team:

Sound & Video:

11:00 am: Ken Kroah/Julie Kroah

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 5, 2024	<u>887.00</u>
Month to Date Balance	(\$ 7,532.25)
Boiler Cost	\$ 99,260.00
Boiler loan amount	\$ 26,654.19
Boiler Donations received	<u>\$ 17,138.20</u>
Donations still needed	\$ 9,515.99

ATTENDANCE Report for Sunday, January 5

8:30 am - 14 11:00 am - 39

Sunday January 5 Live Stream Views - 151



Sunday: January 12, 2025

Baptism of the Lord

- 8:30 am Chapel Service
- 9:30 am Adult Sunday School
- 9:30 am Confirmation Class
- 11:00 am Sanctuary Service – Choir
- 11:00 am Bible Discovery Zone
- 12:00 pm Youth Group Meeting

Tuesday:

- 7:00 pm Finance & Stewardship Meeting

Wednesday:

- 6:00 pm Crystal City Chorus

Thursday:

- 11:00 am Thursday Book Study
“Original Blessing, Putting Sin In Its Rightful Place”
Shroyer - at River Road
Coffee on the Square

Sunday:

January 19, 2025

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

- 8:30 am Chapel Service
- 9:30 am Adult Sunday School
- 11:00 am Sanctuary Service
- 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.stiohnsnewark.org