

Welcome Home!

to the Church you remember....Welcome home to....



The 2025 July Chimes

United Church of Christ

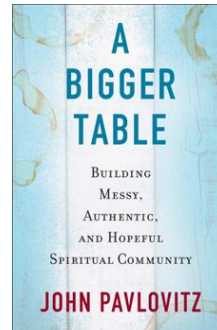


Prayer List

Prayers: Bill Carr, Charlie Bruah, Debbie Snow, Larry Crane, Rev. Dr. Winfield Strout, Lois "Lyn Cayton" Montgomery, Molly Sheets, Mike Dunn & Annmarie McCoy

Homebound and Nursing Facility Residents: Mel Cunningham, Jeanette Morris, 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

Please contact Rev. Swisher if you know of any sick or hospitalized members. Remember, if you want someone on the Bea's Blessings prayer chain, you can email the office at stjohnsunited@windstream.net



The Book Study Group will meet at 11am on Thursdays, July 10, 17, 24, and 31. There will be no meeting on July 3rd. Our current book is titled "A BIGGER TABLE- Building Messy, Authentic, and Hopeful, Spiritual Community" by John Pavlovitz and is available online. Come join in the discussion as we enjoy coffee and fellowship at the River Road Coffee House on the square in downtown Newark.

Financial Update

Monthly Faith Promise goal	\$	8,419.25
Income as of June 22, 2025		5295.00
Month to Date Balance	(\$	3124.25)
Boiler Cost	\$	99,260.00
Boiler loan amount	\$	26,654.19
Boiler Donations received	\$	26,548.20
Donations still needed	\$	105.99



JULY Sunday Worship Hours

8:00 a.m. Outdoor Drive-in Service
10:30 a.m. Traditional Sanctuary

Office Hours -Monday, Tuesday, & Friday: 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. For additional times, please call the office at (740) 323-2407 and leave a message to make an appointment or call/text Anita at 740-973-8218. Thank you!

**SPECIAL
SUMMER
ADULT**

BIBLE STUDY

Join the Adult class for a **special session**

"Patriotism and God"

Led by Carl Kochendorfer

July 6 @ 9:00AM

in the large meeting room

From the Pastor

Hello dear friends,

Let me begin by saying a BIG thank you to our office staff, Leadership team, Church Council and each and everyone of you for the tremendous support and encouragement you showed through the Installation service recently. It was a monumental event for our Church, Community and for me personally. My family and I are incredibly grateful, and I promise to continue to do my utmost to serve you and all of those within our region who may one day become a part of our mission and ministry. This is an exciting time for all of us to be a part of St. John's UCC.

We are approaching one of my family's very favorite holidays. After Christmas and Easter, the 4th of July has always stood out as an extra special time for us. I'm sure you feel the same way.

Whether we are eating hot dogs and hamburgers from the grill or participating in parades or watching fireworks, we always remember those in history who have done so much for the cause of Freedom here at home and around the world. Pride and History and Significance surge through our veins as we hear the words of our National Anthem or hear Kate Smith sing God Bless America or Lee Greenwood perform God Bless the U.S.A.

Even though the 4th isn't necessarily seen as a religious holiday it has clear connections that could be drawn to that fact. The freedom we celebrate the first week of July is an earned right, received from those who fought for it. Similarly, Christian Freedom is a gift from Jesus offering redemption from sin and a call to live after His example and in the power of His Spirit.

When you think about it, the Declaration of Independence United diverse colonies and peoples and the truth of the Holy Bible is lived out as a United body of Believers.

The Founders of our Nation, including the majority of the signers of the Declaration, gave everything they had; their property, possessions, families and lives. Just as Jesus and the Disciples did centuries before.

My favorite quote about this holiday comes from America's first Vice-President and 2nd President and the father of our 6th President...John Adams; "The 4th of July should be commemorated as the Day of Deliverance by solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty. It should be mixed with pomp and parades, with games, bells, bonfires and illuminations from one end of this Continent to the other from this time forward and forever more."

May God Bless each of us with Freedom, Hope, Faith and Fulfillment and may God continue to Bless the United States of America.

See you in Church and around the Community,

Pastor Steve

Announcing the changing of the Church Sexton at St John's

Charlie Bruah is retiring as our church Sexton on June 30, 2025. Charlie has been our Sexton for nine years. We appreciate his pleasant, resourceful, dedicated faithful service to St. John's. Charlie said he will still be advising when needed. We thank him and are grateful for his service.

Mike Dooley has graciously agreed to become our new Sexton. Mike has the same qualities, as you all are aware of working with him in all the activities in the church.

Mike officially begins as our Sexton July 1, 2025

The next time you see them please congratulate Charlie and Mike on their dedication and service to St John's.

St. John's Little Free Pantry

Take what you need. Give what you can.



Our little food pantry needs your help.

Many of our members along with people from the community have been adding items on a regular basis. However, the need is so great that their efforts need to be supplemented. This is an ongoing Mission project and we replenish the pantry every day. It takes quite a bit of food to accomplish this task. If everyone that can, would bring items to church on Sundays and place them in the provided bins throughout the church it would help this mission project. Those attending the drive-in service can leave their donations with one of the ushers when you enter the parking lot. Your donations will be greatly appreciated by those that need to utilize the little food pantry throughout the week.

<https://www.littlefreepantry.org/>

Thank You, Bill and Nancy McInturf



Church Council Meeting -June 19, 2025 at 6:30pm

Attending: Jeff Conner, Brian Lensink, Tim Powers, Frank Davis, Frances Hill, Gary Kinser, Greg Crowthers, April Kinser, Ken Kroah, Mike Dooley, Terry Gano and Anita Chirdon, Office Administrator and Kim Workman, Office Assistant.

Brian Lensink led the opening devotional with a message about Coach Wooden, a basketball coach at UCLA, with an idea for a pyramid of success for players and in life. We build this pyramid throughout life and faith should always be at the top. Things will turn out as they should and God is in control, but we have a part to play, too.

Terry Gano (Personnel Committee) discussed some changes to the staffing at St. Johns. Charles Bruah will be retiring as Sexton on June 30, 2025. Mike Dooley will become Sexton on July 1, 2025. Mike will also be resigning from council as employees do not serve in council positions. Council warmly recognized Charles Bruah's longstanding service to our congregation as well as Mike Dooley's new role in our church.

Tim Powers (Search Committee) continues to work with Rev. Swisher throughout this first year to facilitate adjustment. Looking forward to installation of Reverend Dr. Stephen Swisher on June 22, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

Our next meeting will be July 14, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. All members of St. John's are welcome to attend. This is a change from our regular meeting due to vacation schedules.

Respectfully submitted, April Kinser, Secretary; Jeff Conner, President



From the St. John's E&O Committee

Fellowship

Joe Huizenga

May 21, 2025 todaydevotional.com

“Every day they continued to meet together. . . They broke bread . . . and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Acts 2:46

For the first seven years of my life, we lived in a small town on the Mississippi River, and most Sundays included a family gathering. After church, we'd gather at my grandma's house. My dad, one of six siblings, was part of an extended family with more cousins than I could count. The kitchen soon filled with casseroles, chicken, pies, and Jell-O while the sound of football played in the background. Laughter echoed as we played at a nearby park, and the sense of belonging was palpable.

As years passed and family members moved away, our gatherings became less common. When my grandma died, it felt like the end of an era, but the bonds we made have remained strong—much like the unbreakable ties that God gives his people. Though I have moved to Chicago to embrace new surroundings, I still miss those gatherings at times.

When I go back to that small town today, it's often for funerals, and yet as our family members gather again, it feels as if no time has passed. We pick up familiar conversations, share stories, and laugh, just as God's family does when gathered in his presence.

“Family” should be a verb. It's about gathering, sharing meals, talking, praying together, and supporting one another. God's people are called to “family,” actively living in community and love.

Lord, thank you for the joys of gathering together. May we cherish these connections as reflections of your abundant grace. Amen.

Afternoon Circle of the Women's Guild

- *will meet on July 2, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. at Rotary Park on Sharon Valley Rd. in Newark. This is a potluck so please bring your favorite dish to share. Beverages and tableware will be provided.*



VBS is off to a great start! We're learning how to "Put on the full Armor of God." Ephesians 6:10-20. Our mission this year is to supply smoke detectors to local families to give them protection. It's going to be a great week!

Join the Adult Sunday school class July 6 at 9:00am for a special session, "Patriotism and God." Led by Carl Kochendorfer, this class will meet in the large meeting room.



The Youth are planning 2 events for the summer. To play Put-Putt and to go Go-Cart Riding as well as a bonfire and wiener roast. Dates and times to be determined.

Mark your calendar for Rally Day September 7, 2025!! It's the start of new Sunday school classes and a day of fun, food and friends. Don't miss it.



Sunday School Classes

Adult class – will return in the fall

Bible Discovery Zone – will return in the fall

Cradle Roll – Available during the 10:30AM service.

July Worship Service Duties

Ushers: Frank Davis, Jeff Conner, Larry Jones, Terry Gano, Mike Dooley, Barry Dooley

Cradle Roll

6 Avery Nagel/Volunteer
13 Avery Nagel/Volunteer
20 Avery Nagel/Volunteer
27 Avery Nagel/Volunteer

Cantors

6 April Kinser
13 Diane Reef
20 Todd Baldosser
27 Julie Davis

Sunday Sound Worship Team

6 Mike Dooley
13 Karson Ewing
20 Mike Dooley
27 Karson Ewing

Sunday Video Worship Team

6 Tom Lawyer
13 Ken Kroah
20 Tom Lawyer
27 Ken Kroah

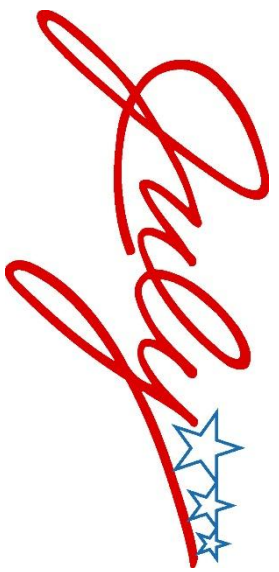


July 2	<i>Eliana Pollay</i>	July 19	<i>William Bradley</i>
July 2	<i>Patrick Sheets</i>	July 19	<i>Vicky Percoco</i>
July 2	<i>John Shrader</i>	July 19	<i>Trish Ruess</i>
July 4	<i>Christopher Robison</i>	July 20	<i>Donald Boldt</i>
July 5	<i>Charles Gayheart</i>	July 21	<i>Joyce Auffarth</i>
July 6	<i>Mark Tulloss</i>	July 21	<i>Jay Bussey</i>
July 8	<i>Bryan Bruns</i>	July 23	<i>Jody Arthur</i>
July 8	<i>Michaela Hardwick</i>	July 23	<i>Ashley Nugent</i>
July 9	<i>Laurie Martin</i>	July 24	<i>Kate Frankenberg</i>
July 12	<i>Jesse Chirdon</i>	July 25	<i>Chad Deal</i>
July 13	<i>Pat Nugent</i>	July 25	<i>Carol Foit</i>
July 14	<i>Jill Jones</i>	July 28	<i>Kelsie Best</i>
July 15	<i>Nancy McInturf</i>	July 28	<i>Journy Link</i>
July 15	<i>Avery Powers</i>	July 28	<i>Susan Underwood</i>
July 17	<i>David Carpenter</i>	July 28	<i>Kathy Wilson</i>
July 17	<i>Pamella French</i>	July 30	<i>Mari Dailey</i>
July 17	<i>Jan Hostasa</i>	July 31	<i>Elaine Everett</i>
July 18	<i>Barrie Lange-Schneithorst</i>	July 31	<i>Karen Hupp</i>



July 9, 2011	<i>Jeremy & Kayla Hill</i>	July 19, 1986	<i>Donald & Karen Wheeler</i>
July 10, 1994	<i>Mark & Kristine Husband</i>	July 22, 2006	<i>Jonathan & Lindsey Carle</i>
July 11, 1981	<i>Michael & Cynthia Dunn</i>	July 24, 2006	<i>Marty & Linda (Miller) Ciriachi</i>
July 16, 2005	<i>Tim & Nancy Wood</i>	July 30, 1966	<i>Harold & Delores McDonald</i>
July 19, 1975	<i>Frank & Vicky Davis</i>		

Please note: This list may be incomplete and you may need to submit birthday and/or anniversary dates to the office if missing.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 8:45am Mission Trip Begins - Prayer & Send Off after the 8:00 a.m. Service 10:30am Sanctuary Service	30 Big Creek Mission Trip	1 Big Creek Mission Trip	2 Big Creek Mission Trip 12:00pm The Afternoon Circle of the Women's Guild Meeting - Rotary Park Potluck 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice	3 Big Creek Mission Trip	4 Big Creek Mission Trip Independence Day Office Closed	5 Mission Trip Ends
6 Communion Sunday 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 10:30am Sanctuary Service	7	8	9 10:00am Christian Education Meeting 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice	10 11:00am Thursday Book Study Group - "A Bigger Table- Building Messy, Authentic, and Hopeful Spiritual Community" by John Pavlovitz- at River Road Coffee on the Square	11	12
13 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 10:30am Sanctuary Service	14 8:30pm Church Council Meeting	15	16 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice	17 11:00am Thursday Book Study Group - "A Bigger Table- Building Messy, Authentic, and Hopeful Spiritual Community" by John Pavlovitz- at River Road Coffee on the Square	18	19
20 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 10:30am Sanctuary Service	21	22	23 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice	24 11:00am Thursday Book Study Group - "A Bigger Table- Building Messy, Authentic, and Hopeful Spiritual Community" by John Pavlovitz- at River Road Coffee on the Square 7:15pm Choir Practice	25	26
27 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 10:30am Sanctuary Service	28	29	30 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice	31 11:00am Thursday Book Study Group - "A Bigger Table- Building Messy, Authentic, and Hopeful Spiritual Community" by John Pavlovitz- at River Road Coffee on the Square	1	2



St. John's United Church of Christ
285 W. National Drive
Newark, Ohio 43055

*Rooted in the Evangelical and Reformed Traditions
We are Sowing Seeds of Hope in a Time of Chaos
So We May All Be One*

Worship Services!

8:00 a.m. Outdoor Drive-in Service
10:30 a.m. – Sanctuary Service
Volume 25 Number 7

Address Service Requested



U.S. Postage
PAID
Non-Profit Org.
Newark, Ohio
Permit No. 103

Main Office Phone

740-323-2407

www.stjohnsnewark.org

Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

Our Minister

Office 740-323-2854

stjohns.pastorstephen@gmail.com

Todd Baldosser

Organist/Choir Director

scarlatti35@hotmail.com

Anita Chirdon/Office Administrator

Kim Workman/Office Assistant

stjohnsunited@windstream.net

Charles Bruah

Church Sexton

740-975-2699

Julie Kroah

Christian Education Director

Direct Number 740-323-2408

stjohnsucc.ce@windstream.net



shutterstock.com • 81567430

LIBRARY FOCUS FOR JULY

The Cost of Discipleship by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. *The relationship between ourselves and the teachings of Jesus Christ.*

The War Room. DVD. Prayer is a powerful weapon.

For Children

The Picture Bible scripted by Iva Hoth, illustrated by Andre LeBlanc. *Bible stories for children told in a graphic novel style.*

***** These featured books and DVD's can always be found in the church library on the short shelves in the center on the room*****