



**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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*Rooted in the Evangelical
and Reformed Traditions*

We are Sowing Seeds of Hope

in a Time of Chaos

So We May All Be One



First
Sunday
in Lent

March 9, 2025

Chapel Service: 8:30 a.m.

Sanctuary Service: 11:00 a.m.

March 9, 2025

Chapel Service
Sanctuary Service

8:30 am

11:00 am

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Announcements & Greetings

Prelude (8:30 a.m.) “Hiding in Thee” arr. by Berry Jane Shoemaker

Prelude (11:00 a.m.) “On Eagle’s Wings” Joncas Todd Baldosser

***Opening Hymn** “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” **No. 16**
(8:30 a.m. Verses 1 & 3)

1) **Come, thou fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the Mount! I’m fixed upon it,
mount of thy redeeming love.**

2) **Here I raise to thee an altar;
hither by thy help I’m come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.**

3) **O to grace how great a debtor daily
I’m constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee:
prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here’s my heart, O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.**

***Please stand if you are able**

***Call to Worship**

Leader: We who live in the shelter of the most high God say to the Lord

All: My refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust

Leader: For God will protect us from evil

All: And commands angels to guard us in all our ways

Leader: God rescues those who love Him

All: God is with us when we cry out

Leader: And reveals salvation to us

All: Let us Worship our God, together

***Prayer of Invocation**

All: As Lent unfolds before us, great God, we see how far we have to go to Jerusalem. The road is long and our burdens are heavy. It is difficult to imagine new life, Easter life, because our current lives are surrounded by challenges, difficulties and faded efforts. Meet us in our weakness. Forgive our sins. Ease our burdens and carry us on our way. Then bring us to Jerusalem at last. Reveal to us again a love that is stronger than death, a love no tomb can hold. As we pray together the words of revelation and restoration....

***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.**

***UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST STATEMENT OF FAITH No. 361**

**We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,
and to your deeds we testify:**

**You call the worlds into being,
create persons in your own image
and set before each one the ways of life and death.**

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

**You judge people and nations by your righteous will
declared through prophets and apostles.**

**In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior,
you have come to us
and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death
and reconciling the world to yourself,**

**You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages,
tongues and races.**

**You call us into your church
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be your servants in the service of others,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world,
to resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.**

**You promise to all who trust you
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
your presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.**

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. 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 "Lift Me Up" Beck

Scripture Reading Romans 9:15

Scripture Reading

Exodus 33:14

Sermon

“The Rested Soul”

Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

Hymn

“Blessed Assurance”

No. 543

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

- 1) **Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.**

Refrain

*This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.*

- 2) **Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.**

Refrain

- 3) **Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.**

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 Dedication**

All: Faithful God, as we offer these gifts, we remember Your sustaining Presence. During this time of spiritual renewal, strengthen us to resist temptation and guide us to live in community with love and grace. May these offerings be signs of hope and acts of compassion that reflect the love You have shown us in Christ. Empower us to rise together, supporting one another in this journey of faith and transformation. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

“All Hail the Power of Jesus Name”

No. 91

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

- 1) **All Hail the power of Jesus’ name! Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all;
bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all.**
- 2) **Ye seed of Israel’s chosen race, ye ransomed of the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all;
hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all.**
- 5) **O that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall!
We’ll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all;
we’ll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all.**

***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

“Wonderful Words of Life” arr. by Wyrzten

Postlude (11:00 a.m.) “O Jesus I Have Promised” Traditional Todd Baldosser

Pastor Steve’s Quote of the Week

“All our dreams can come true—if we have the courage to pursue them.”

Walt Disney

Dr. Swisher’s message next week:

March 16

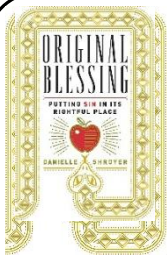
“Showdown in the Desert”

Mark 1: 12-15

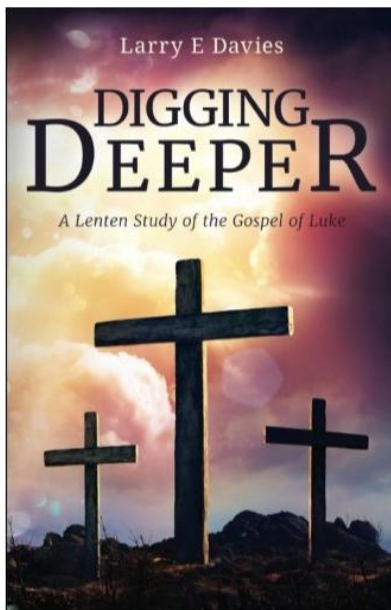
Sermon Notes

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!



The book study group will continue to meet each Thursday in March (6,13,20,27) at 11am at the River Road Coffee House on the square in downtown Newark. We continue with the book "Original Blessing - Putting Sin in its Rightful Place" by Danielle Shroyer. The book is available online. Come and share in the discussion and the laughter as we fellowship together.



Special Lenten Study on the Gospel of Luke

ADULT
Sunday School

March 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6 at 9:30am

Lead by Pastor Steve

This study is designed to help you strengthen your relationship with God through studying the life, miracles and teaching of Jesus Christ

For hundreds of years, God sent prophets and messengers to tell us a Messiah was coming. Now, the time has come.



Purple Strips of Cloth

Be sure to pick up a purple strip of cloth at the front or rear of the sanctuary. Purple is the color of Lent. It symbolizes pain, suffering, mourning and penitence. It signifies the feeling of sorrow for our sins in the light of Christ's passion and death. In Lent, purple is used beginning Ash Wednesday and extending through Maundy Thursday.

Use the strip of cloth in a way so that you see it every day as a reminder of Lent and in preparation of Easter. For example, tie it on your rearview mirror, tie it on your purse, on a kitchen cabinet or lay it across your workspace.

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. We are asking that those that can, bring food items to church on Sundays and place them in the donation bins provided: One at the top of the stairs between the Fellowship Room and the sanctuary or the one inside the side entrance door that leads to the rear of the sanctuary. We hope to collect enough food that we can resupply the little food pantry throughout the week.

Thank You,
Bill and Nancy McInturf

**YOUR HELP
IS NEEDED**

Contact
740.973.9460 for
more details.



We are looking for help to assist with the training with our Construction students on Mondays and Tuesdays anytime between 1-7pm. Hours can vary.



Join us at Licking Springs Country Club (formerly The Trout Club) on March 22, 2025 for MHA's Night of Hope and help us break the stigma surrounding mental health. The evening will feature a cash bar, live auction showcasing a variety of exciting items, and live music with Big Bad Stache.

\$100 VIP Tickets: 6 pm Complimentary food and drink prior to the live auction and music.

\$35 Tickets: 7 pm live auction and 8 pm music.

To purchase:
<https://tinyurl.com/mr223kud>

Questions? Call 740.522.1341



Gold Sponsorship: *Duchess Convenience Stores*
Bronze Sponsorship: *Park National Bank*
Mental Health Bell Ringer Sponsorship: *Energy Cooperative, Licking Memorial Health Systems, Stella Artois and Southgate Corporation*
Friends of MHA Sponsorship: *CENTURY 21 Frank Frye Real Estate / David Wyeth REALTOR & Auctioneer, Clark Schaefer Hackett, First Federal Savings, Hope Timber Garden & Vintage, Kiwanis Club of Newark, and Debbie Matesich*

Easter Lilies

This Easter, we will again beautify our sanctuary and our lobby window with an array of Easter lilies to be displayed at both services, which will be purchased from a local nursery. If you would like to participate in this celebration of Easter, please fill out the form below or contact the church office.

6" pot traditional white - \$13.00



THE DEADLINE for placing orders is **Sunday, March 30, 2025.**

_____ I desire the office to purchase a lily for me to keep.

_____ I desire the office to purchase a lily to be donated to a shut-in.

Be sure to complete the following to be printed in the bulletin: (i.e.: In honor of or in memory of..... by) for lily purchases, Abiding Memorials and/or Foundation Fund Contributions.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

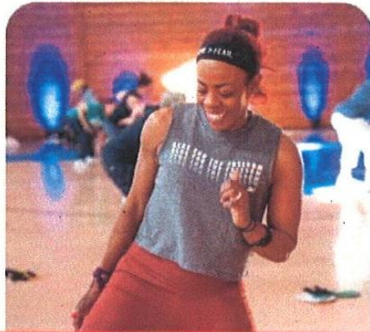
You may also choose to remember a loved one with a gift to the Abiding Memorial Fund or the Foundation Fund. All such gifts noted and received **by April 13, 2025,** will be listed in the bulletin on **April 20, 2025, Easter Sunday.** Abiding Memorial and Foundation Fund Cards and Envelopes are available in the literature rack in the Narthex or in the office or you can use this form and place in the offering plate with your contribution. Thank you!

_____ Foundation Fund _____ Abiding Memorial Fund





FAITH-BASED FITNESS CLASSES



LOVE GOD. GET HEALTHY. BE WHOLE. LOVE OTHERS.

Tuesdays 8:30-9:15am

Kickstart your morning with a variety of cardio movements and light weight toning.

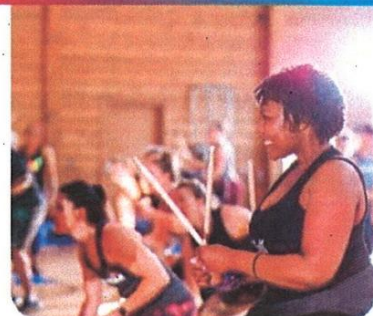
Bring towel, mat, light weights

CLASS IS FREE.... (donations are welcome)

Leave your heavy burdens at his feet and leave filled with Joy!!!!

Jackie VanDorn, Revelation Wellness Certified Fitness Instructor (740)404-6126

COME AS YOU ARE. ALL FITNESS LEVELS WELCOME!



REVELATION WELLNESS

At the Look Up Center
50 O'Bannon Ave. Newark, OH 43055



General Prayers: Bill Carr, Charlie Bruah, Steve Slyh, Cindy Dunn, Brenda Pursley, & Teresa McCoy.

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:

- Mrs. Barbara Swisher
- Reverend Charles White – James' Father
- 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:

Marla Crowthers and Youth if needed

Media Worship Team:

Sound & Video:

11:00 am: Ken Kroah/Julie Kroah

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.



ATTENDANCE Report for Sunday, March 2

8:30 am - 14 11:00 am - 61

Sunday March 2 Live Stream Views - 245



Sunday: March 9, 2025

First Sunday in Lent

- 8:30 am Chapel Service
- 9:30 am Adult Sunday School – Special Lenten Study
- 11:00 am Sanctuary Service
- 11:00 am Bible Discovery Zone
- 12:00 pm Youth Group

Wednesday:

- 10:00 am Christian Education Committee Meeting
- 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

Friday:

- 2:45pm Music Committee Meeting

Sunday: March 16, 2025

Second Sunday in Lent

- 8:30 am Chapel Service
- 9:30 am Adult Sunday School – Special Lenten Study
- 11:00 am Sanctuary Service
- 11:00 am Bible Discovery Zone

Financial Update

Monthly Faith Promise goal	\$ 8,419.25
Income as of March 2, 2025	<u>1,237.00</u>
Month to Date Balance	(\$ 7,182.25)
Boiler Cost	\$ 99,260.00
Boiler loan amount	\$ 26,654.19
Boiler Donations received	<u>\$ 19,118.20</u>
Donations still needed	\$ 7,535.99

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

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!