



**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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Anita Chirdon

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Julie Kroah

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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



THIRD Sunday in Lent



March 23, 2025

**Chapel Service: 8:30 a.m.
Sanctuary Service: 11:00 a.m.**

March 23, 2025

Chapel Service
Sanctuary Service

8:30 am

11:00 am

Announcements & Greetings

Prelude "As the Deer" Nystrom Todd Baldosser

***Opening Hymn** "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken" **No. 709**
(8:30 a.m. Verses 1 & 3)

- 1) **Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God;
God, whose word cannot be broken, formed thee for a blest abode.
On the Rock of Ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded, thou mayest smile at all thy foes.**
- 2) **See, the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters, and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint, while such a river ever flows their thirst to assuage?
Grace, which like our God, the Giver, never fails from age to age.**
- 3) **Round each habitation hovering, see the cloud and fire appear
for a glory and a covering, showing forth that God is near!
Thus deriving from their banner light by night and shade by day,
safe they feed upon the manna which God gives them when they pray.**

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Children of God, what has God done for you?

All: God saves, provides and holds us in God's steadfast love

Leader: God covers us and lifts us up, protecting and empowering us with
His love

All: God tends the soil and waters the ground

Leader: Nurturing us into life

All: We come to worship and cling to God

Leader: For His steadfast love never fails

All: And His mercy never ends

***Prayer of Invocation**

**All: God we are thankful that Your thoughts and Your ways are always
higher than our own. Thank You for forgiving our sins. Thank you
for new mercies each and every day. Thank you for always
welcoming us back home and for giving us water from which we will
never thirst again as we pray the refreshing words that you taught...**

***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 universal Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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.**

**Mission Moment (11:00 a.m.) – Executive Director, Melissa Anderson
from the Coalition of Care**

Special Music (8:30 a.m.)

Todd Baldosser

“Für Elise” Beethoven

Choir Anthem (11:00 a.m.) “Fairest Lord Jesus” Schalk

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 40: 29-31

Scripture Reading

2 Corinthians 12: 9-10

Sermon

“Study Grace”

Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

Hymn

“Just as I Am, Without One Plea”

No. 339

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

- 1) **Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!**
- 2) **Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt;
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!**
- 4) **Just as I am, thy love unknown,
hast broken every barrier down;
now, to be thine, yea thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

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, our guide and sustainer, as we offer these gifts, may they bear fruit for Your Kingdom. In this solemn Season of Lent, we remember Your call to renewal. Help us tend the soil of our hearts so that we may grow in faith and bear witness to Your grace. Use these offerings to bring hope to those in need and light to those in darkness. May we live as Your faithful servants, trusting in Your abundant mercy and Grace. In Jesus' Name. Amen

***Closing Hymn**

“Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult”

No. 337

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

- 1) **Jesus calls us o'er the tumult of our life's wild restless sea,
day by day his sweet voice soundeth, saying, “Christian, follow me”**
- 2) **Long ago apostles heard it by the Galilean Lake,
turned from home, and toil, and kindred, leaving all for his dear sake.**

**5) Jesus calls us! By thy mercies, Savior, may we hear thy call,
give our hearts to thine obedience, serve and love thee best 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

“Loving and Forgiving” Soper

Todd Baldosser

Pastor Steve's Quote of the Week

As long as we have memories, yesterday remains

As long as we have faith, tomorrow awaits

As long as we have hope, today is meaningful

Dr. Swisher's message next week:

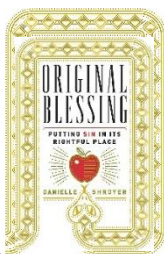
March 30

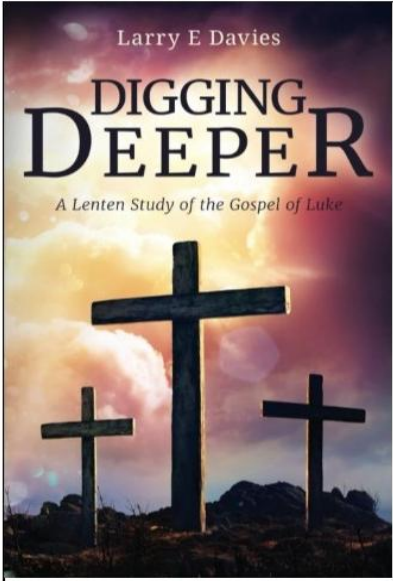
“The Ultimate Challenge”

Mark 8: 27-38

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.



Be sure to pick up your St. John's Lenten Devotional at the entrance of the sanctuary. To request a copy by mail, please email stjohns@windstream.net or call Julie Kroah at 740-323-2408



The One Great Hour of Sharing offering is received on the fourth Sunday of Lent. It supports partners worldwide with ministries that fund health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and both international and domestic disaster response.

Envelopes will be provided on March 30, 2025 for this Special UCC Offering or you can mark your envelope or check with your giving.

Thank you for your support from the Mission & Outreach Committee.

Mission and Outreach for 2025



The clothing drive that we did in 2024 was so appreciated that we have decided to continue it for 2025. A donation tub is under the table in the Fellowship Room. All sizes of men's and women's clothing are needed. Also appreciated are liquid soaps and shampoos. All may be deposited in the same collection container and they will be sorted as needed before the donation. As you clean out closets or discard articles that don't fit or appeal to you as they once did, remember men and women in our local community have a need and would appreciate your donations. We assist The Men's Haven, The Main Place and the Licking County Jail Ministry.

**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.

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

Confirmation Class



CONFIRMATION CLASS

Meetings are Sundays in the small meeting room

9:30AM—10:40AM

March 9 & 23

April 13 & 27

May 11 & 25

Confirmation Sunday

June 1 during the 11AM Service

LOOK UP CENTER
COMMUNITY EDUCATION SERVICE

VENDORS FOOD & MORE!

Caring with Quarters

AUCTION!

Tickets: \$20
includes dinner & one paddle

APRIL 10, 2025
DOORS OPEN AT 5PM!

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: _____

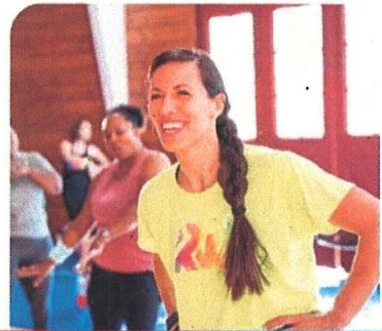
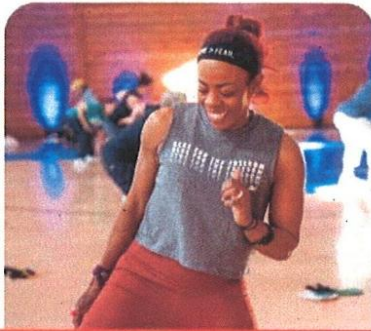
You may also choose to remember a loved one with a gift to the Abiding Memorial Fund or the Foundation Fund. All such gifts noted and received **by April 13, 2025,** will be listed in the bulletin on **April 20, 2025, Easter Sunday.** Abiding Memorial and Foundation Fund Cards and Envelopes are available 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.

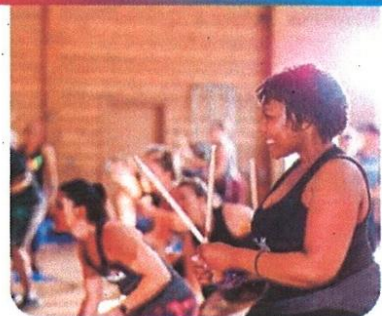
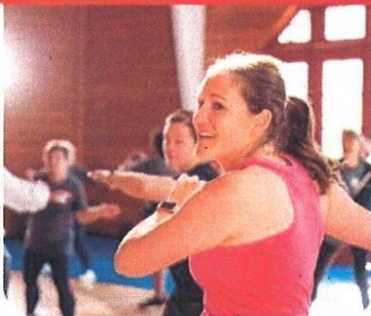
Bring towel, mat, light weights

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!



RW REVELATION WELLNESS

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



General Prayers: Bill Carr, Charlie Bruah, Steve Slyh, Cindy Dunn, Teresa McCoy. Rev. Dr. Winfield Strout

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:

- The family of Dale Phillips
- Mr. Bill Klinesmith (Julie Kroah's father)
- Mrs. Barbara Swisher
- Reverend Charles White – James' Father
- Mark D: Cancer return

We Appreciate Those Serving Today!

Liturgist:

Jeff Conner

Cantor:

April Kinser

Ushers:

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

Cradle Roll:

Volunteer/Avery Nagel

Bible Discovery Zone:

Frances Hill & Youth if needed

Media Worship Team:

Sound & Video:

11:00 am: Ken Kroah/Julie Kroah



**Sunday: March 23, 2025
Third Sunday in Lent**

- 8:30 am Chapel Service
- 9:30 am Adult Sunday School – Special Lenten Study
- 9:30 am Confirmation Class
- 11:00 am Sanctuary Service
- 11:00 am Bible Discovery Zone
- 12:00 pm Youth Group 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: March 30, 2025
Fourth 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 23, 2025	<u>4,244.00</u>
Month to Date Balance	(\$ 4,175.25)
Boiler Cost	\$ 99,260.00
Boiler loan amount	\$ 26,654.19
Boiler Donations received	<u>\$ 19,503.20</u>
Donations still needed	\$ 7,150.99

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

ATTENDANCE Report for Sunday, March 16

8:30 am - 14 11:00 am - 44

Sunday March 16 Live Stream Views – 393

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!

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.

