



**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
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Prayer List

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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



Fourth Sunday in Lent



March 30, 2025

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

March 30, 2025

Chapel Service
Sanctuary Service

8:30 am

11:00 am

Announcements & Greetings

Prelude (8:30 a.m.) Jane Shoemaker
“Oh, the Blood of Jesus with Nothing But the Blood” arr. by Tornquist

Prelude (11:00 a.m.) Todd Baldosser
“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say” Traditional

***Opening Hymn “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” No. 195**
(8:30 a.m. Verses 1 & 4)

- 1) **When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride,**
- 2) **Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most I sacrifice them to his blood.**
- 4) **Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.**

*Call to Worship

Leader: When we struggle to live as You teach us

All: God, Your steadfast love surrounds us

Leader: When the truth gets stuck in our throats and fear engulfs us

All: God, Your steadfast love surrounds us

Leader: When we open our hearts and our sorrows, our sin, our joys and our
doubts flow freely

All: God, Your steadfast love embraces us

Leader: When our stubborn hearts encounter the Grace that guides us into a life
of trust

All: God, Your steadfast love becomes a part of our everyday life

Leader: Thank you, God

All: Amen

*Prayer of Invocation

**All: Loving God, help us to wake up to our authentic selves and to You.
Set us free from the illusion of trying to be perfect so that we may
become more fully human. Release us from illusion and open us up to
all you have in store for us as we pray the ultimate prayer of
enlightenment that You taught us...**

***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.**

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.**

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST STATEMENT OF FAITH

**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.

Special Music (8:30 a.m.)

Jane Shoemaker

"Lamb of God" arr. by Wolaver/Keveren

Scripture Reading

Psalm 77: 1-11

Scripture Reading

Mark 8: 27-31

Sermon

"The Ultimate Challenge"

Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

Hymn

"My Shepherd Will Provide My Need"

No. 80

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

- 1) My Shepherd, you supply my need; most holy is your name;
in pastures fresh you make me feed, beside the living stream.
You bring my wand'ring spirit back, when I forsake your ways;
you lead me, for your mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.**
- 2) When through the shades of death I walk, your presence is my stay;
one word of your supporting breath drives all my fears away.
Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my table spread;
my cup with blessings overflows, your oil anoints my head.**
- 3) Your sure provisions, gracious God, attend me all my days;
O may your house be my abode, and all my work be praise.
Here would I find a settled rest, while others go and come;
no more a stranger, nor a guest, but like a child at home.**

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: Gracious God, our refuge and restorer, we bring these gifts as a sign of our return to You. Clear the clogs in our lives that separate us from You. Help us to see Your promise in the midst of struggle. Bless these tithes and offerings and our lives that we may share Your Good News and steadfast love to the whole world. In Jesus' Name.

***Closing Hymn**

“The Church’s One Foundation”

No. 272

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

- 1) The church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord;
we are his new creation by water and the word:
from heaven He came and sought us to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought us, and for our life he died.**
- 2) Called forth from every nation, yet one o’er all the earth;
our charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name professing and at one table fed,
to one hope always pressing, by Christ’s own Spirit led.**
- 5) We now on earth have union with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
Oh, happy ones, and holy! Lord, give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.**

***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

“There Is No Other Name” arr. by Banks Elwell

Postlude (11:00 a.m.)

Todd Baldosser

“Lord of the Dance” Shaker/Carter

Pastor Steve’s Quote of the Week

“Positive thinking will help you do everything better than negative thinking will.”

Zig Ziegler

Dr. Swisher’s message next week:

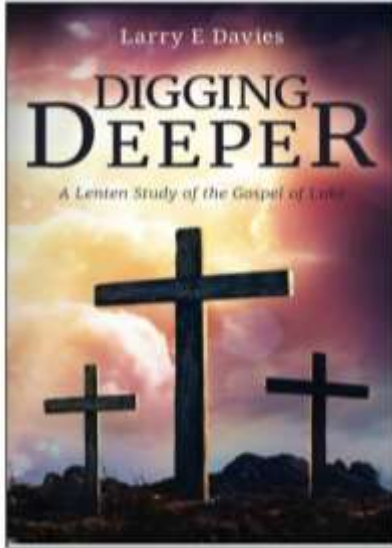
April 6

“Sprit Led Boldness”

Deuteronomy 3:16

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!



**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.

Afternoon Circle -

-will meet on Wednesday, April 2, at 1:00 p.m. in the Large Meeting Room. Our refreshments will be served by Bev Lange and Sandy Johnson. Our Bite Size Bible Study will be on Dinah. Our program will be "Mary, the Mother of Jesus", using pictures by Tomie DePaola as the basis of our study.

Looking ahead: Wednesday, May 7, will be our 153rd Anniversary. We'll have our usual Salad Smorgasbord Potluck. So be looking up your favorite salad recipe to share for lunch at 12:00 noon.

All women of our St. John's Church Family are invited to attend any and all of our meetings.



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 stjohnsucc.ce@windstream.net

or call Julie Kroah at 740-323-2408



PLEASE NOTE

Starting April 27, 2025

8:00AM Outdoor Drive-In Service

9:00AM Adult Sunday School &
Confirmation Class

10:30AM Sanctuary Service



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.



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 are 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.



Please join us as we meet on Thursday's April 3, 10, 17, and 24 at 11am to continue our discussion of the book entitled "Original Blessing, Putting Sin In its Rightful Place" by Danielle Shroyer. We enjoy coffee and conversation as we meet at the River Road Coffee House on the square in downtown Newark. The book is available online.



Mission and Outreach Committee - Focus for April
Our clothing drive continues with a focus this month on men's clothing. Pants, jackets, underwear, shoes and shaving supplies continue to be needed. Many thanks to the women who have donated clothing so generously this past month. As we give, my prayer is that we will feel God's spirit dressing us, as it says in Colossians 3:12 with "compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience." We will continue to highlight a different mission outreach one Sunday each month during worship. In April, we hope to hear a representative from The Lookup Center.

St. John's Youth Car Wash



Saturday, April 19, 2025

11am—2pm

At O'Reilly Auto Parts on Deo Drive, Newark

A free will offering will be accepted

All proceeds support the Mission Trip fund



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

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

Contact
740.873.9460 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

A vibrant auction poster with a yellow and green background. At the top left is the Look Up Center logo. The text 'VENDORS FOOD & MORE!' is written in large, purple, bold letters. Below that, 'Caring with Quarters' is written in a large, yellow, cursive font. Underneath, 'AUCTION!' is written in large, white, bold letters on a green banner. To the right, 'Tickets: \$20' is written in purple, with 'includes dinner & one paddle' in white below it. At the bottom right, 'APRIL 10, 2025' and 'DOORS OPEN AT 5PM!' are written in large, black, bold letters. Several quarters are scattered around the text.

Holy Week Schedule



Palm Sunday - April 13, at 8:30AM & 11:00AM.

Dr. Swisher's message "A Short Ride to a Long Week"

Good Friday Service - April 18 at 7:00PM

Dr. Swisher's message "What's Good about Good Friday?"

Easter Sunday - April 20

Outdoor Drive-In Sunrise Service at 7:00AM

Dr. Swisher's Sunrise service message

"A Finished Story or a New Beginning?"

Sanctuary Services at 8:30AM and 11:00AM

Dr. Swisher's Easter message

"The Relevancy of the Resurrection"

Easter Breakfast Served 7:30AM to 10:45AM

Free-Will Offering accepted.





Easter

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING OUR RISEN SAVIOR

Join us for Dr. Swisher's uplifting message "A Finished Story or a New Beginning?" at the 7:00am *Outdoor Drive-In Sunrise* service. Then continue the celebration with his special Easter message "The Relevancy of the Resurrection" at the 8:30am or the 11:00am Sanctuary services.

Communion will be served at all services.

Easter Breakfast served 7:30am to 10:45am (free-will offering accepted)

Sunday, April 20th

Dr. Stephen Swisher will lead services at

7:00am, 8:30am and 11:00am

St. John's United Church of Christ
285 W. National Drive Newark • (740) 323-2407
www.stjohnsnewark.org

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



The Youth of St. John's presents



Easter Breakfast

Sunday April 20

Serving 7:30am – 10:45am

Come let the Youth cook your breakfast. Enjoy pancakes, sausage, egg casseroles, fruit and more.



*Join us for Youth Sunday as we present
the why and the who we "Praise"*



Praise!

April 27, 2025

8:00am and 10:30am



WEEKLY PRODUCE DISTRIBUTION

Every Tuesday, April 1 - November 11
 Pataskala United Methodist Church
 458 S. Main St.
 11:30am-12:30pm

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	INCOME		
	YEAR	MONTH	WEEK
1	\$30,120	\$2,510	\$680
2	\$40,880	\$3,407	\$787
3	\$51,640	\$4,304	\$994
4	\$62,400	\$5,200	\$1,200
FOR EACH ADDITIONAL HOUSEHOLD MEMBER ADD	\$10,760	\$897	\$207

www.foodpantrynetwork.net



This drive thru weekly produce distribution is 11:30am-12:30pm at Pataskala United Methodist Church (458 S. Main St.). Please follow signs and directions when you arrive. Produce will be brought to your vehicle. Please help us spread the word!

Volunteers are also needed to help bag produce and take to cars. Organizations volunteering or one-time volunteers welcome. Sign up here if you can help:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040A4DA8A822ABFC1-49705888-produce#/>

What do I need to bring on my first visit?

Each qualifying household must provide a photo ID and proof of residency in Licking County.

Do I qualify for services?

The Food Pantry Network of Licking County serves qualifying Licking County residents at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines. Income guidelines are released in July of each year.



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:

- Mr. Bill Klinessmith (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:

Diane Reef

Ushers:

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

Cradle Roll:

Volunteer/Avery Nagel

Bible Discovery Zone:

Kayla Hill & Youth if needed

Media Worship Team:

Sound & Video:

11:00 am: Mike Dooley/Tom Lawyer

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.



Sunday:

8:30 am
9:30 am

11:00 am
11:00 am

Wednesday:

1:00 pm
6:00 pm

Thursday:

11:00 am

March 30, 2025

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Chapel Service
Adult Sunday School –
Special Lenten Study
Sanctuary Service
Bible Discovery Zone

Afternoon Circle Meeting
Crystal City Chorus

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

Sunday:

8:30 am
9:30 am

11:00 am
11:00 am

April 6, 2025

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Chapel Service
Adult Sunday School –
Special Lenten Study
Sanctuary Service
Bible Discovery Zone

Financial Update

Monthly Faith Promise goal	\$ 8,419.25
Income as of March 23, 2025	<u>5,163.50</u>
Month to Date Balance	(\$ 3,255.75)
Boiler Cost	\$ 99,260.00
Boiler loan amount	\$ 26,654.19
Boiler Donations received	<u>\$ 19,543.20</u>
Donations still needed	\$ 7,111.99

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 23

8:30 am - 14 11:00 am - 58

Sunday March 23 Live Stream Views – 304

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!