



**St. John's  
United Church of Christ  
285 W. National Drive  
Newark OH  
43055-5298**

Main: 740-323-2407  
Church Website

[www.stjohnsnewark.org](http://www.stjohnsnewark.org)

**Our Church Staff**

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

[stjohns.pastorstephen@gmail.com](mailto:stjohns.pastorstephen@gmail.com)

Cell: 214-549-7835

Office: 740-323-2854

Office Administrator

Anita Chirdon

Office Assistant

Kim Workman

[stjohnsunited@windstream.net](mailto:stjohnsunited@windstream.net)

Organist & Choir Dir.

Todd Baldosser

[scarlatti35@hotmail.com](mailto:scarlatti35@hotmail.com)

Christian Education Director

Julie Kroah

[stjohnsucc.ce@windstream.net](mailto:stjohnsucc.ce@windstream.net)

Sexton

Charles Bruah

Chapel Pianist

Jane Shoemaker

Children's Bell Choir

Colleen Kroah

Adult Bell Choir

Jerry Goodman

Librarian/Signer

Debi Snow

Prayer List

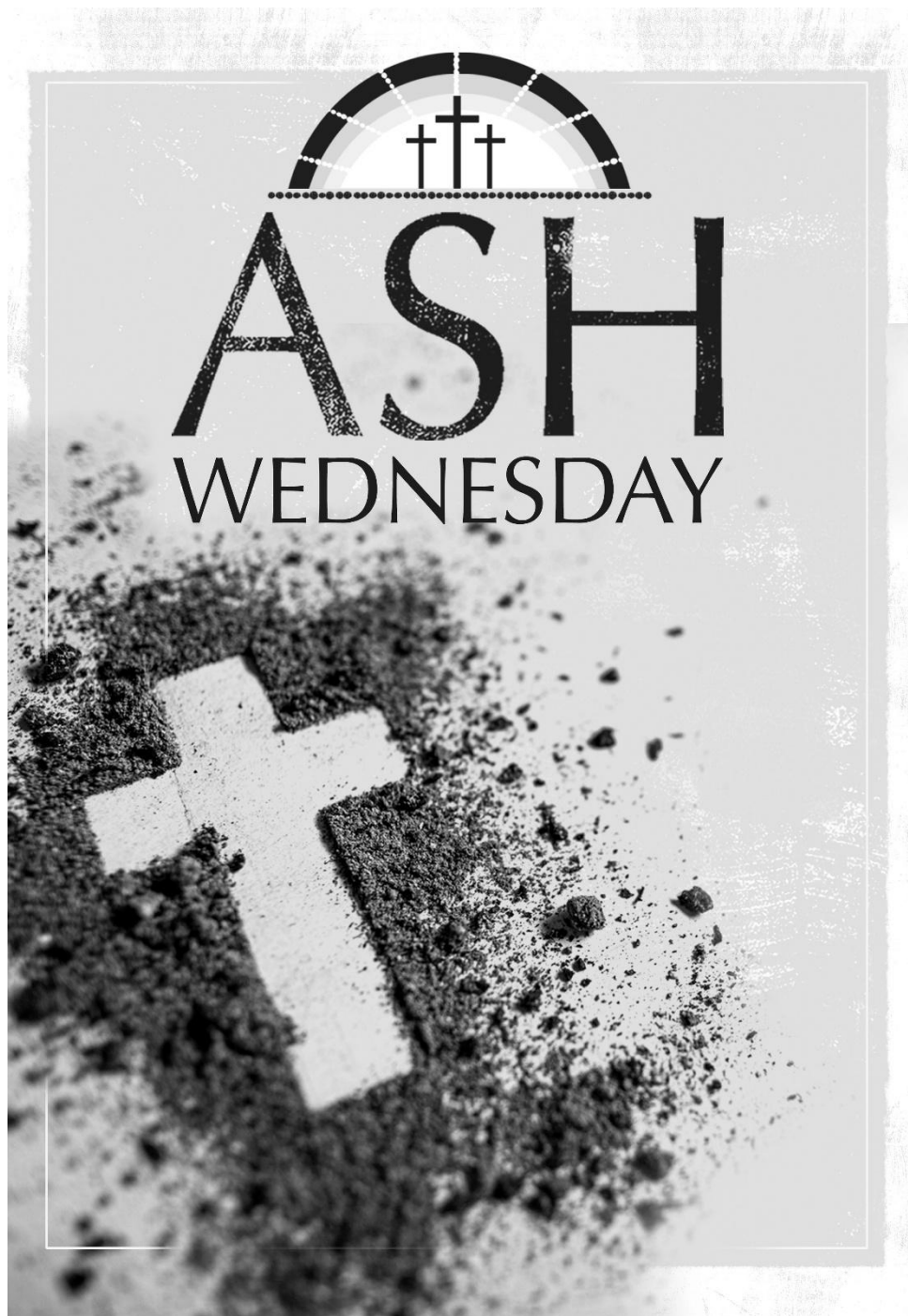
Rebecca Swartz

[rebecasmal@aol.com](mailto:rebecasmal@aol.com) &

[stjohnsunited@windstream.net](mailto:stjohnsunited@windstream.net)

*Rooted in the Evangelical  
and Reformed Traditions*

*We are Sowing Seeds of Hope  
in a Time of Chaos  
So We May All Be One*



*March 5, 2025*  
**Sanctuary Service**  
**7:00 p.m.**

Announcements & Greetings

Prelude

“Ashes” Conry

Todd Baldosser

Opening Hymn

“Be Thou My Vision”

No. 595

- 1) Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art  
thou my best thought by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
  
- 2) Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
thou my redeemer, my love thou hast won,  
thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.
  
- 4) Great God of heaven, my victory won,  
may I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heaven’s Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

**\*Call to Worship**

Leader: Behold, now is the acceptable time

**All: This is the day of God’s salvation**

Leader: We are in awe of God’s nearness and power

**All: This is the time to return to God with all of our hearts**

Leader: God is gracious and merciful

**All: Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love**

Leader: We reconcile to God now

**All: And we receive a new and right spirit within**

**\*Prayer of Invocation**

**All: Jesus, come and forgive us. Our hearts are heavy. Our burdens are great. Cleanse us with your Presence, heal us with Your righteousness. Restore our sight, teach us truth and speak to us the words that bring wholeness so that we might live Godly lives.**

\*Please stand if you are able

## **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.**

**Choir Anthem**                      “A Lenten Walk” Hal Hopson

**Scripture**                              Ecclesiastes 3:20

**Scripture**                              2 Corinthians .5: 18-21

**Sermon**                                 “Return to Me”

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**All: Holy God, as we officially begin this Lenten Journey give us the will for repentance, the mind of sacrificial love and the heart of gratitude. We offer these tithes and offerings now along with our whole selves. Take them and use them for Your Kingdom. As we give we ask that You strengthen us for the journey ahead, our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen**

### **Imposition of Ashes**

**Hymn**                      “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”                      **No. 180**

- 1) Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray, teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.**
- 2) As you with Satan did contend, and did the victory win, O give us strength in you to fight, in you to conquer sin.**
- 4) Abide with us, that through this life of doubts and hope and pain, and Easter of unending joy we may at last attain!**

**Postlude**

“Jesus Lover of My Soul” Traditional

Todd Baldosser

Join us on Sundays at 8:30 a.m. in the Chapel and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Dr. Swisher’s message on Sunday:

“The Rested Soul”

Exodus 33:14