



**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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Children's Bell Choir

Colleen Kroah

Adult Bell Choir

Jerry Goodman

Signer

Debi Snow

Librarian

Catherine Lim

Prayer List

Rebecca Swartz

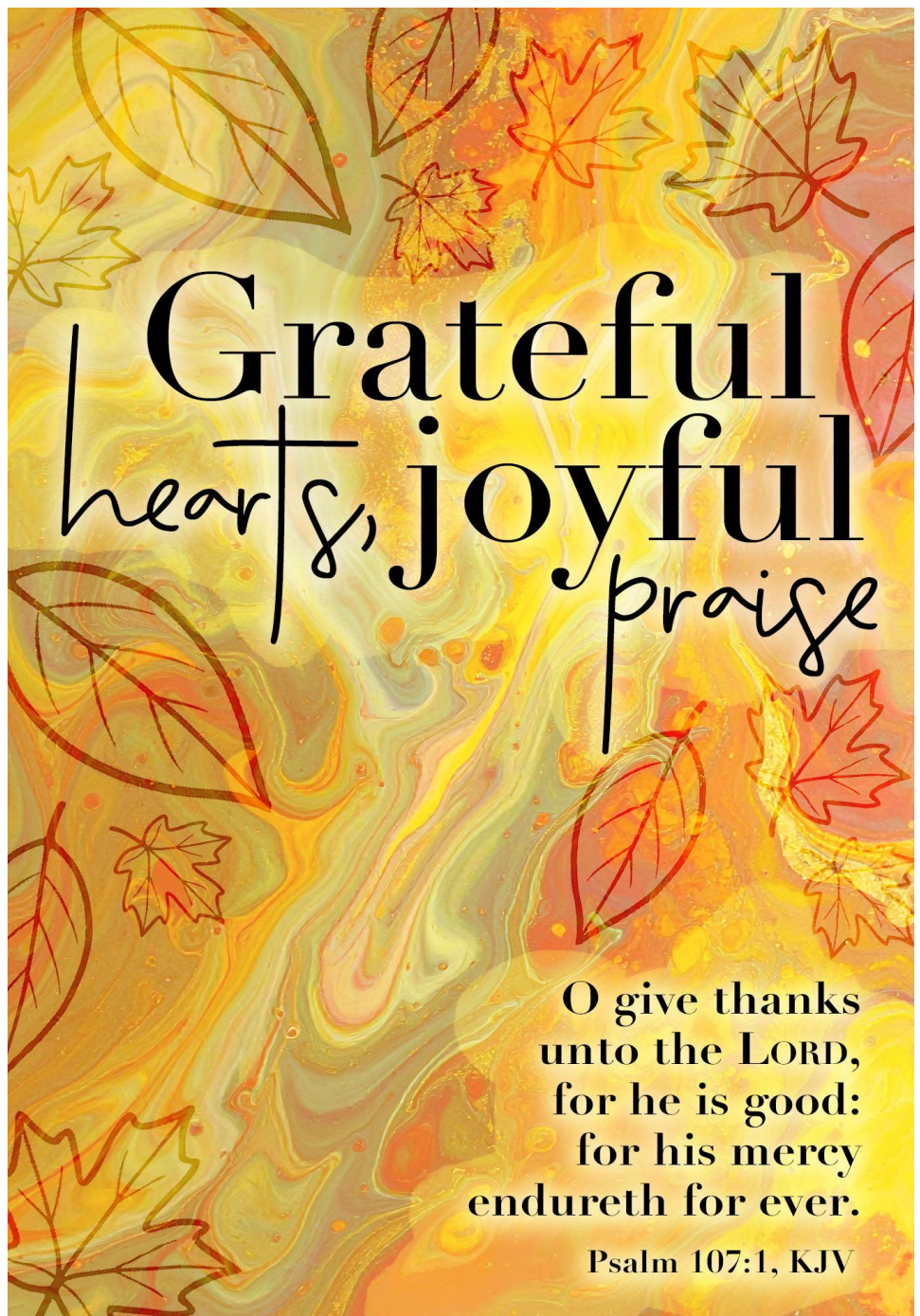
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***Rooted in the Evangelical
and Reformed Traditions***

***We are Sowing Seeds of Hope
in a Time of Chaos***

So We May All Be One



November 23, 2025

Reign of Christ

Chapel Service: 8:00 a.m.

Sanctuary Service: 10:30 a.m.

November 23, 2025

Chapel Service
Sanctuary Service

8:00 am

10:30 am

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Announcements & Greetings

Prelude (8:00 a.m.)

Jane Shoemaker

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come ” arr. by Loree

Prelude (10:30 a.m.)

“Give Thanks” Smith

Todd Baldosser

***Opening Hymn**

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

No. 234

(8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 4)

- 1) **Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne;
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.**
- 2) **Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed over the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save:
his glories now we sing who died, and rose on high,
who died, eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.**
- 4) **Crown Him the Lord of love; behold His hands and side,
those wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified:
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me;
thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.**

***Call to Worship**

Jeff Conner

Leader: From the journey of life, to a hope and a future

All: God calls us to be rooted in faith

Leader: We join together in worship and praise to show love and faith

All: For a true and faithful God

Leader: We rejoice with Thanksgiving for all the Lord has done

All: For all that God has promised

Leader: Let us worship with renewed enthusiasm

All: In Praise and with Gratefulness and true Thanksgiving

***Please stand if you are able**

***Prayer of Invocation**

All: Good and gracious God, We thank you for being the faithful and trustworthy God that You are. We are grateful that You provide for our needs. You are the brightest of days even in the darkest of nights. Though this year has been trying, we still have so much to be thankful for. Each of us this morning echo our gratitude, our steadfast love and our faith in You. As we pray the prayer of thankfulness that You taught;

***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.

***Affirmation of Faith** 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.**

Special Music (8:00 a.m.) “Give Thanks” arr. by Johnson Jane Shoemaker

Scripture Reading Chronicles 16: 31-34

Scripture Reading Psalm 107:1

Sermon “Thanksgivers and Blessing Receivers” Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

Hymn “My Shepherd, You Supply My Need” **No. 80**
(8:00 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 Faithful Giving

Offertory “I Thank You Jesus” Morris Todd Baldosser

***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 Thanksgiving over the Offering**

All: Good and Gracious God, We come before You with hearts overflowing with gratitude for Your constant provision, love and guidance through both the good and challenging times of this past year. We thank you for Jesus' steadfast Presence and for all the blessings You have poured into our lives, our families, friends and community. In the Spirit of Thanksgiving, we now offer these monetary tithes and offerings but also the gift of our time, talent and resources for Your glory and honor. Bless all of these offerings, that they may translate into the warmth of a helping hand, the support of those in need and the sustenance for Your mission in our community and beyond. In Jesus' Name. Amen

***Closing Hymn**

"We Gather Together"

No. 276

(8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 3)

- 1) We gather together to ask for God's blessing,
to turn to a wisdom surpassing our own;
the pow'rs that oppress us now cease to distress us.
O God, be present with us, and make your will known.**
- 2) Beside us to guide us, O God, we perceive you
ordaining, maintaining the power of life.
Yes, yours be the glory; let all tell the story.
Our God, be ever with us, in gladness and strife.**
- 3) May all sing your praises, Redeemer triumphant,
defend us, befriend us, whatever may be.
May your congregation escape tribulation.
Your name be praised forever, O God, make us free!**

***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 (8:00 a.m.)

Jane Shoemaker

“We Plow the Fields and Scatter” arr. by Campbell

Postlude (10:30 a.m.)

Todd Baldosser

“Now Thank We All Our God” Cruger/Mendelssohn

Pastor Steve’s Quote of the Week

“Positive anything is better than negative nothing.” Elbert Hubbard

Dr. Swisher’s message next week:

November 30, 2025

“Don’t Say Turkey Day”

Psalm 100:1-3

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!



Mel Cunningham

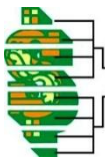
Born: March 18, 1928

Died: November 12, 2025

A member of St. John's since 2014



The Book Study Group will continue to meet on Thursdays in November at the River Road Coffee House in downtown Newark on the square at 11am. We will meet November 6, 13, and 20 but not the 27th. (HAPPY THANKSGIVING) The new book we have chosen is titled "Worth Fighting For, Finding Courage and Compassion When Cruelty Is Trending" by John Pavlovitz, a pastor from Wake Forest, North Carolina. In this book he shares ideas for courage and hope as we as Christians attempt to share love and compassion with those in need, especially in today's troubled times. The book is available online. We look forward to welcoming you to our discussion table.



**BUDGET
PLANNING**

Mark your calendar for our Annual Congregational Budget Meeting on Sunday, December 7, 2025, after the 10:30 a.m. service. Copies of the budget are available in the Fellowship Room.



St. John's can now be found on Instagram.

You can find us @StJohnsUCC.Newark

Read the Bible in a Year

Journey Together: Our Year in the Bible

Reading Guides and bookmarks are available in the Fellowship room
and on line at www.stjohnsnewark.org

Additional Books & Resources in the Church Library

Reading List for November 23—November 29 (Days 78-84)

Sunday—1 Samuel 1-3

Thursday—1 Samuel 13-15

Monday—1 Samuel 4-6

Friday—1 Samuel 16-18

Tuesday—1 Samuel 7-9

Saturday—1 Samuel 19-21

Wednesday—1 Samuel 10-12

AFTERNOON CIRCLE COLLECTS MITTENS, SOCKS, HATS FOR BEN FRANKLIN SCHOOL

During the months of November and early December, the Afternoon Circle will be collecting warm mittens/gloves, socks, hats, scarves for the children at Ben Franklin School. There will be a basket in the Fellowship Room for you to donate these items. The last day for collection is Sunday, December 14.

In the past, we have collected these items and given them to the school toward the end of winter. This year we'd like to beat the cold and offer these items to the children as the cold winds begin to blow. They can be given as new items to kids who need them or as replacements for lost items during the winter months. Thank you in advance for your warm donations.





St. John's Little Free Pantry

Take what you need. Give what you can.

Our little food pantry needs your help.

This is an ongoing mission project to assist our needy Neighbors. Our little food pantry is replenished every day with the items collected every Sunday. There are collection boxes near each entrance to the Church where you can place donated food items for this important ministry.

Thanks for your support!

Volunteers Needed



Soon we will be having our “Hanging of the Greens” for the Advent Season, ordering our poinsettias to decorate the altar and preparing for celebrating Christmas.

During the Sunday services, we will be lighting the Advent wreath candles. We are looking for volunteers to do this and possibly read a short scripture verse or short prayer, which will be provided.

If you or your family are willing to participate in this, please circle the date/time that you are available and drop this in the offering plate or drop off at the office.

Thank you!

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Sunday, November 30, 2025	8:00 a.m. Chapel Service – Charla & Ralph Devine 10.30 a.m. Sanctuary Service _____
Sunday, December 7, 2025	8:00 a.m. Chapel Service - Carl Kochendorfer 10.30 a.m. Sanctuary Service – Johnny Pfeffer
Sunday, December 14, 2025	8:00 a.m. Chapel Service _____ 10.30 a.m. Sanctuary Service _____
Sunday, December 21, 2025	8:00 a.m. Chapel Service _____ 10.30 a.m. Sanctuary Service – Catherine Lim
Wednesday, December 24, 2025	3:00 pm Sanctuary Service _____ 7:30 pm Sanctuary Service _____



Finances for the Month and Year to Date

<u>General Fund Income</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	
Congregation giving (Faith Promise)	10,053.91	70,737.16	
Income from Foundation Fund	10,500.00	105,000.00	
Income from Emerson Miller Fund	3,758.33	37,583.30	
Total Month & YTD Income	26,071.53	229,261.98	
General Fund Expenses	\$23,507.26	\$244,399.78	
Over/Under Month & YTD (Finalized)	\$ 2,564.27	(15,137.80)	() = Negative





This Christmas, we will again beautify our sanctuary with an array of Poinsettias, which will be purchased from a local nursery. If you would like to participate in this celebration of Christmas, please fill out the form below or contact the church office.

6.5" pot \$ **12.00/each**
1 plant - 4 to 7 blooms (Red in color)

The DEADLINE for placing orders is next Sunday, November 30, 2025.
Please pick up plants after the 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday, December 21, or after the Christmas Eve Services on December 24.

_____I desire the office to purchase a poinsettia for me to keep.

_____I desire the office to purchase a poinsettia 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 or from.....)

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 DECEMBER 7** will be listed in the bulletin on **Sunday, December 14, Sunday, December 21 and Christmas Eve.** Abiding Memorial and Foundation Fund Cards and envelopes are also available in the literature rack in the Narthex or in the office, or mark your envelope with the information.

Thank you!

Reminders from Mission and Outreach

This month we are partnering with The Look-Up Center as a host site for a drop-off box for their toy drive. New unwrapped toys only. A list of suggested items is included. Tell your friends and neighbors as news of "host sites" will be published on The Look-Up Center website. November 30 is the last day to donate.

As a Thanksgiving ministry, we are collecting cereal for the St. Vincent Men's Haven throughout the month of November. All types of dry cereal and individual oatmeal packets. The collection continues throughout November 30, 2025.

A festive poster for a Christmas Pop-Up Shop. The top features the Look Up Center logo (COMMUNITY - EDUCATION - SERVICE) and the title "Christmas Pop-Up Shop!" in large red letters, flanked by hanging Christmas ornaments. Below the title, a green banner reads "Helping children and adults believe in the magic of giving at Christmas." The main section lists "Items we need:" including preschool toys, pajamas, Paw Patrol/Cocomelon/Bluey/Little People/Marvel toys, Barbies/Baby Dolls, teen girl makeup, teen boy items, sports memorabilia, Nerf, crafts, gift cards, and monetary donations. A yellow starburst says "DONATE NOW!". Below this, it lists "Items we don't need:" (games, puzzles, books) and states "***Items must be NEW." A QR code is provided for shopping from the Amazon Wish List. The bottom right corner specifies donation drop-off times: MON-THURS 9-3 & FRI 9-12, NOW THROUGH 12/5. The poster is decorated with a candy cane, wrapped gifts, and a Christmas tree.

LOOK UP  CENTER
COMMUNITY - EDUCATION - SERVICE

Christmas Pop-Up Shop!

Helping children and adults believe in the magic of giving at Christmas.

Items we need:

- Preschool Toys
- Pajamas in all sizes-infant through adult (sleep pants & tops for young adults, S-XXXL)
- Paw Patrol, Trolls, Cocomelon, Bluey, Little People, Marvel/Superhero theme toys, etc.
- Barbies/Baby Dolls
- Teen girl makeup, bath accessories, etc.
- Teen boy items
- Sports Memorabilia, NERF
- Crafts
- Gift Cards
- Monetary Donations for extra item needs

**DONATE
NOW!**

Items we **don't** need:

Games, puzzles, books

***Items must be NEW.



You can shop from our Amazon
Wish List via the QR code!

**DONATION DROP-OFFS ARE
MON-THURS 9-3 & FRI 9-12
NOW THROUGH 12/5**

"New Star"

December 14, 2025

at the 10:30AM service

Join us as the kids present the story of Christmas through the eyes of the stars.

Practice 12/7, 12/14 at 9AM and 12/7 at 6PM



December 24, 2024

3:00pm Sanctuary service

7:00pm Special music

7:30pm Sanctuary service

Communion & Candlelight at both services

Youth Live Nativity 6:30PM—7:15PM

WELCOME!

COME, LET US ADORE HIM

St. John's United Church of Christ • 285 W. National Drive Newark

www.stjohnsnewark.org • 740-323-2407



German Language Christmas Service

Celebrate Our Heritage

December 21 at 3:00pm

The service will be in German and English with English translations available. Music by Todd Baldosser and the Newark Maennerchor. Children's moment included.

More fun following service, traditional German goodies will be served in Hermann Hall and visit with Santa.



Frohe Weihnachten

und ein gesundes neues Jahr!

JOIN US SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9:00AM

Youth
Advent STUDY



For the season of Advent, the Youth will be studying the opening chapters of the book of Luke, combined with a study of the Advent Candles.

NEW Classes Starting

January 5, 2026 9:00AM—10:00AM

Adult Class

Abiding In Christ

By Carl Kochendorfer


led by Carl Kochendorfer

Youth Class

Ages 13 and up

***The Book of Luke
and Advent Candles***

Led by Elaine Gard



CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY DINNER

December 20th 2025 @ Noon

Location:

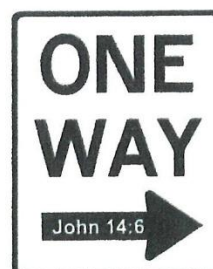
***The American Legion Post 85
85 S. 6th St. Newark, Oh 43055***

**The Crossroads Crusaders will be holding their annual
FREE Christmas Feast on Sat December 20th at Noon**

**Meal: Ham / Potatoes / Stuffing / Sweet Corn /
Roll / Gravy // Cherry Pie
Tea, Water, or Coffee**

Need Prayer? We will be there to Talk and Pray with You

We Will Feed up to 500 people at each meal in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord



Jesus saith unto him,
I am the **WAY**, the **TRUTH**,
and the **LIFE**: no man
cometh unto the **Father**,
but by **ME**. **John 14:6**



General Prayers: Bill Carr, Charlie Bruah, Rev. Dr. Winfield Strout, Rev. Gunnar Cerda, Ed Hummel, & Brian Lensink and the family of Mel Cunningham

Homebound and Nursing Facility Residents:

Bonita Farmer, Patricia Gilbert, Paula Hatfield, Rosalie Johnson, Faith Kelly, Delores and Harold McDonald, Esther Gillham, Helen McGaughy, Mary Lou Hostetler, Molly Sheets, Debi Snow, and Lois Meyers



Additional prayer requests on Bea's Blessings:

- Connie (Pancreatic Cancer Diagnosis) & Ed Howell (Hip Replacement Recovery)
- Christina (Carolyn Igo's daughter) – Cancer diagnosis
- Aiden Barnes – Treatment is working
- Mr. Ron Baker (Chuck Chirdon's father under Hospice Care)
- Mr. Bill Klinesmith (Julie Kroah's father)
- Mrs. Barbara Swisher

We Appreciate Those Serving Today!

Liturgist:

Jeff Conner

Cantor:

10:30 a.m. Julie Davis

Ushers:

Frank Davis, Terry Gano,

Barry Dooley, Gary Kinser

Cradle Roll:

Volunteer/Avery Nagel

BDZ – Children's Church

Frances Hill and Youth if needed

Media Worship Team:

Sound & Video:

10:30 am: Karson Ewing/Tom Lawyer



Sunday: November 23, 2025

Reign of Christ

Thanksgiving Sunday

- 8:00 am Chapel Service
- 9:00 am All BDZ Classes
- 10:30 am Sanctuary Service
- 10:30 am Bible Discovery Zone – Children's Elementary Class
- 11:30 am "Hanging of the Greens"
- 11:30 am Youth Group Meeting

Wednesday:

6:00 pm Crystal City Chorus

Thursday: Happy Thanksgiving

Friday: Office Closed

Sunday: November 30, 2025

First Sunday of Advent

- 8:00 am Chapel Service
- 9:00 am All BDZ Classes
- 10:30 am Sanctuary Service – Choir Sings
- 10:30 am Bible Discovery Zone - Children's Elementary Class

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, November 16, 2025

8:00 am - 15 10:30 am - 41

Sunday, November 16 Live Stream Views – 289

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: 9am -12pm. Please call the office 740-323-2407 and leave a message to make any additional appointments or call/text Anita at 740-973-8218. Thank you!

