



**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

Cell: 214-549-7835

Office: 740-323-2854

Office Administrator

Anita Chirdon

Office Assistant

Kim Workman

stjohnsunity@windstream.net

Organist & Choir Dir.

Todd Baldosser

scarlatti35@hotmail.com

Christian Education Director

Julie Kroah

stjohnsucc.ce@windstream.net

Sexton

Mike Dooley

Mikedooley537@gmail.com

Chapel Pianist

Jane Shoemaker

Children's Bell Choir

Colleen Kroah

Adult Bell Choir

Jerry Goodman

Signer

Debi Snow

Librarian

Catherine Lim

Prayer List

Rebecca Swartz

rebecasmil@aol.com &

stjohnsunity@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



FIRST SUNDAY OF *Advent*

November 30, 2025

Chapel Service: 8:00 a.m.

Sanctuary Service: 10:30 a.m.

November 30, 2025

Chapel Service
Sanctuary Service

8:00 am

10:30 am

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Announcements & Greetings

Prelude (8:00 a.m.) “Hark, the Glad Sound!” arr. by Ritter Jane Shoemaker

Prelude (10:30 a.m.) “Sleepers Awake” J.S. Bach Todd Baldosser

***Opening Hymn** “Come, O Long-expected Jesus” **No. 125**

- 1) **Come, O long-expected Jesus, born to set your people free.
From our fears and sins release us; Christ, in who our rest shall be.
You, our strength and consolation, come salvation to impart;
dear desire of many a nation, joy of many a longing heart.**
- 2) **Born your people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, born your gracious realm to bring.
By your own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By your all sufficient merit raise us to your glorious throne.**

***Call to Worship**

Jeff Conner

Leader: In the midst of darkness

All: **We have seen a great Light**

Leader: When the darkness of fear and doubt surround us

All: **God brings hope, life and light**

Leader: When we are challenged

All: **God brings deliverance**

Leader: We plant our trust in God’s abundant love

All: **Let us freely open our hearts to God’s joy and healing words of hope.**

Leader: The Advent of Christmas is dawning

All: **Let us embark on this journey, this adventure of faith together**

***Please stand if you are able**

***Prayer of Invocation**

All: God of yesterday, today and tomorrow, We again approach this Advent Season with great hope. Our memories of former days, though, are sometimes filtered through so many experiences of both joy and pain. Our today is often blurred with anxieties and fears so that we cannot always see what You are doing in our midst. Forgive our shortsightedness. Forgive our focus on a misremembered history. Your prophet Isaiah asks us to take courage and know that You are with us. The Gospel of Joy encourages us to remember that You have brought us a Great Light. We embrace that Light now as a gift of Your love. In Jesus' Name. Amen

***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.

Lighting of the Advent Candle - Hope

8:00 a.m.

Charla & Ralph Devine

10:30 a.m.

Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher & Emily Swisher

Hymn **“One Candle Is Lit”** (Verse 1) **No. 128**
Come surely, Lord Jesus, as dawn follows night,
our hearts long to greet you, as roses, the light.
Salvation, draw near us, our vision engage.
One candle is lit for the hope of the age.

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 - Tricia Hufford of the Center for New Beginnings

Special Music (8:00 a.m.) **“Advent Prayer”** by Giamanco Jane Shoemaker

Choir Anthem (11:00 a.m.) **“When God Was a Child”** Wren

Scripture Reading Psalm 95: 1-2

Scripture Reading Psalm 100: 1-3

Sermon **“Don’t Say Turkey Day”** Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

Hymn **“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”** **No. 134**
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

Invitation for Faithful Giving

Offertory **“Of The Father’s Love Begotten”** Hayes 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: **Holy One, this Advent Season we wait in hope. And we give in**
Hope. Hope for Your coming reign; Hope because of Your
Presence with us now. Receive these generous offerings we bring.
Please use them for Your work of healing and hope here at home
and around the world. In Jesus’ Name. Amen

***Closing Hymn**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

No. 119

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

- 1) O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

- 2) O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's deep shadows put to flight.

Refrain

- 4) O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

Refrain

***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

“How Far Is It to Bethlehem?” arr. by Paxton

Postlude (10:30 a.m.)

Todd Baldosser

“The Cherry Tree Carol” Traditional Herefordshire tune

Pastor Steve's Quote of the Week

“A winning team boils down to three key aspects;

1) The team the starts the fastest, 2) Plays the hardest; 3) Is too smart to make mistakes. That is the team that will win.”

Woody Hayes

Legendary Coach

The Ohio State University

Dr. Swisher's message next week:

December 7, 2025

“You are to name Him Jesus”

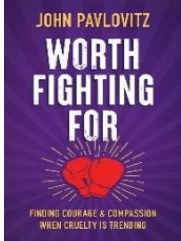
Matthew 1: 18-23

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 meet on Thursday's, December 4, 11, and 18 at 11am at the River Road Coffee House in downtown Newark on the north side of the square. We continue our discussion of the book titled "Worth Fighting For, Finding Courage and Compassion When Cruelty Is Trending " by John Pavlovitz, a pastor from North Carolina. In this book he shares his ideas for courage and hope as we as Christians attempt to share love and compassion with those in need. Come join us.



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.

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 30—December 6 (Days 85-91)

Sunday—1 Samuel 22-24

Thursday—2 Samuel 4-6

Monday—1 Samuel 25-27

Friday—2 Samuel 7-9

Tuesday—1 Samuel 28-31

Saturday—2 Samuel 10-12

Wednesday—2 Samuel 1-3

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!

JOIN US SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9:00AM



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.

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, 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 – The Kroah Family

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 – Teresa McCoy &

Annmarie McCoy

“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





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 today, 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!

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



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 an 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**

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!

NEW Classes Starting

January 4, 2026 9:00AM—10:00AM

Adult Class

Abiding In Christ

By Carl Kochendorfer

led by Carl Kochendorfer

December 24, 2025

3:00pm Sanctuary service

7:00pm Special music

7:30pm Sanctuary service

Communion & Candlelight at both services

Youth Live Nativity 6:30PM

WELCOME!

COME, LET US ADORE HIM

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

www.stjohnsnewark.org • 740-323-2407



CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY DINNER



December 20th 2025 @ Noon

Location:

*The American Legion Post 85
85 S. 6th St. Newark, Ok 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. Charles Dudley

Ushers:

Frank Davis, Terry Gano,

Barry Dooley, Gary Kinser

Cradle Roll:

Volunteer/Avery Nagel

BDZ – Children's Church

Julie Kroah & Youth if needed

Media Worship Team:

Sound & Video:

10:30 am: Ken Kroah/Julie Kroah

Attendance Report for Sunday, November 23, 2025

8:00 am - 15 10:30 am – 45

Sunday, November 23 Live Stream Views – 388

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!



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

Wednesday:

- 12:00 pm Afternoon Circle of the Women's Guild Christmas Luncheon
- 6:00 pm Crystal City Chorus
- 6:30 pm Mission & Outreach Committee

Thursday:

- 11:00 am Thursday Book Study- "Worth Fighting For, Finding Courage and Compassion When Cruelty Is Trending" by John Pavlovitz at River Road Coffee on the Square
- 12 – 2pm LifeWise Academy

Sunday: December 7, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent

- 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 Congregational Budget Meeting

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.



St. John's can now be found on Instagram. You can find us @StJohnsUCC.Newark