



**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

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

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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***



*Therefore,*

THE PROMISE COMES BY FAITH,  
SO THAT IT MAY BE BY GRACE  
AND MAY BE GUARANTEED  
TO ALL ABRAHAM'S OFFSPRING.

ROMANS 4:16, NIV

***September 14, 2025***

***Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost***

**Outdoor Drive-in Service: 8:00 a.m.**

**Sanctuary Service: 10:30 a.m.**

September 14, 2025

Tune your FM Radio to 107.5

8:00 am

Sanctuary Service

10:30 am

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**Announcements & Greetings**

**Prelude** "Faith of Our Fathers" Faber Todd Baldosser

**\*Opening Hymn** "God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand" **No. 725**  
(8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 4)

- 1) God of the ages, whose almighty hand  
leads forth in beauty all the starry band  
of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,  
our grateful songs before thy throne arise.
- 2) Thy love divine hath led us in the past;  
in this free land with thee our lot is cast;  
be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay,  
thy Word our law, thy paths our chosen way.
- 4) Refresh thy people on our toilsome way;  
lead us from night to neverending day;  
fill all our lives with love and grace divine;  
and glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.

**\*Call to Worship**

Jeff Conner

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song

**All: For He has done marvelous things**

Leader: He has remembered His mercy

**All: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God**

Leader: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, rejoice and sing Praises

**All: Praise Him for His great acts and His excellent greatness**

Leader: Let everything that has breath Praise the Lord

**All: Let us Praise the Lord together**

**\*Prayer of Invocation**

**All: Steadfast and loving God, You are our refuge in every age. You call us out of darkness into light, out of fear into faith, out of doubt into belief. Help us build a life and a community that reflects Your own heart of Hope. Help us to trust in You and in each other. Inspire us to love redemptively and hopefully. Use us as good ripples that flow outward for the healing of hearts and the strengthening of Your people. As we pray the prayer of Hope 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.**

**\*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.**

**Scripture Reading**

**Genesis 15: 4-7**

**Scripture Reading**

**Romans 4: 15-17**

**Sermon**

**“Hope x 4”**

**Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher**

**Hymn**

**“O Jesus, I Have Promised”**

**No. 612**

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

**1) O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;  
be thou for ever near me, my master and my friend;  
I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.**

- 2) O let me feel thee near me! The world is ever near;  
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;  
my foes are ever near me, around me and within;  
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer, and shield my soul from sin.
- 4) O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee  
that where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be;  
and, Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;  
O give me grace to follow, my master and my friend.

# Invitation for Faithful Giving

**Offertory**                      “My Faith Looks Up to Thee” Mason                      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: Dear God, we hope in You. One thing never leaves our hearts,  
Your promise to be our God. This truth stands firm and we hold it  
with trust and confidence. We want to share this message with  
others and impact our world, our culture, our community for You.  
Accept these tithes and offerings that we bring now as a pledge, a  
promise to do all we can to share words of hope, grace and love.  
Multiply these gifts that we might build Your Kingdom as You  
asked us to do. In Jesus' Name. Amen**

[illegible]

- 1) **O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of God's grace.**
- 2) **Jesus, the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;  
'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.**
- 4) **Glory to God and praise and love be ever, ever given  
by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heaven.**

## **\*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**

**“We Walk by Faith” Haugen**

**Todd Baldosser**

## **Pastor Steve's Quote of the Week**

**“The difference between winning and losing is most often not quitting.”  
Walt Disney**

## **Dr. Swisher's message next week:**

**September 21, 2025**

**If You Get Confused Say This....**

**Romans 4: 1-5; 13-17**

## **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!

### ***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

<https://www.littlefreepantry.org/>



*Music Volunteer Potluck*

### **St. Johns Music Volunteer Potluck**

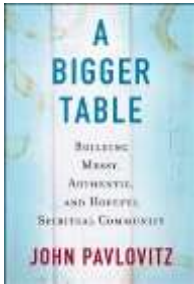
Thanks to all those bringing special music to St. John's services this past summer. Your music was wonderful and added to our services.

The Saint John's music volunteer potluck will occur Sunday, September 14, immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service. Anyone involved in music making and assisting in music making at the church is invited. Please bring a covered dish or dessert. See you there.

### **Mission Focus for September**

This month we will wind up our collection of school supplies for the Glory Rising educational program for preschoolers at The Lookup Center. This Christian based program for 3 to 5 year olds depends on the community for needed supplies, Needs include glue sticks, crayons, markers, colored pencils, colored paper as well as snack needs such as small bags of cookies, crackers, fruit rollups, applesauce and pudding (individual servings). Hygiene needs include paper towels, tissues, and hand wipes (not bottles of sanitizer). Donations may continue until the end of September.





The book study group will meet each Thursday in September (4, 11, 18, 25) as we continue our discussion of the book "A BIGGER TABLE - Building Messy, Authentic and Hopeful Spiritual Community" by John Pavlovitz. Come join us at 11am at the River Road Coffee House on the square in downtown Newark. The book is available online and there is space at the table for you to join us for discussion and fellowship.

Read the Bible in a Year

*Journey together: Our Year in the Bible*

Reading guides and bookmarks are available in the Fellowship Room  
and online at [www.stjohnsnewark.org](http://www.stjohnsnewark.org)

*Additional Books & Recourses in the Church Library*

Reading List for September 14—20

Sunday—Genesis 22-24	Thursday—Genesis 34-36
Monday—Genesis 25-27	Friday—Genesis 37-39
Tuesday—Genesis 28-30	Saturday—Genesis 40-42
Wednesday—Genesis 31-33	

SEASON  
5



The  
CHOSEN

Invite a friend and join us for fun, lively discussion on Season 5 of the series.

September 17 discussion of episodes 1, 2

September 24 discussion of episodes 3, 4

October 1 discussion of episodes 5, 6

October 8 discussion of episodes 7, 8



**6:30PM in the Fellowship Room**

Books are available to purchase online or at Memory Petals & Christian Gift Shop in Heath, or if you like, the church will purchase the book for you. *It is not necessary to have the book for the discussion group.*

*Rides are available. Please see Julie Kroah, Frances Hill or Elaine Gard if you need a ride.*



# Bible Discovery Zone

9:00AM • starting September 14

## **Adult Class**

*in the Large Meeting Room*

Join Pastor Steve for a new Fall Bible Study! We invite you to join us as we study "Searching the Scriptures" by Charles Swindoll. Let's get ready to look at the Scriptures and uncover its profound truths for our lives. We'll look at the principles of Bible study that will help you understand God's Word, apply it, and communicate it clearly to those around you.

## **Youth Class**

*in the Small Meeting Room*

"Pilgrims Progress" by Bunyan led by Elaine Gard  
Pilgrims Progress is commonly regarded as one of the most significant works of Protestant devotional literature and of wider early modern English literature.

## **Children's Class** (ages infant to 12)

*held in the Bible Discovery Zone room*

Truth For Kids devotions, plus crafts and outreach.



## **Bible Discovery Zone—Extended Elementary Class • During the 10:30AM Service**

**Bible Based Spiritual Growth with Real Life Application**

Ages 5-12 • meets in the BDZ room

*Nursery Care is also available during the 10:30AM Service*



## FREE Harp Concert

I would LOVE your help in spreading the word. Please invite anyone – family, friends, coworkers, women's club members, and anyone else you would like! This is going to be a refreshing and inspiring afternoon filled with music, laughter, and amazing stories of God's leadership!

I hope to see you there!

With many thanks, Olivia





**General Prayers:** Bill Carr, Charlie Bruah, Rev. Dr. Winfield Strout, Molly Sheets, Mike Dunn, Marla Crowthers & Rev. Gunnar Cerda and Family

**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 and Lois Meyers, Molly Sheets, Lois Swonger & Debi Snow



**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 – Health concerns
- Mr. Ron Baker (Chuck Chirdon's father under Hospice Care)
- Mr. Bill Klinesmith (Julie Kroah's father)
- Mrs. Barbara Swisher
- Mark Derus: Under Hospice Care

**We Appreciate Those Serving Today!**

Liturgist:

Jeff Conner

Cantor:

10:30 a.m. Julie Davis

Ushers:

Frank Davis, Larry Jones, Terry Gano, Barry Dooley, Gary Kinser

Cradle Roll:

Volunteer/Avery Nagel

BDZ – Children's Church

Marla Crowthers & Youth if needed

Media Worship Team:

Sound & Video:

8:00 am: Mike Dooley

10:30 am: Karson Ewing/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.



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.



**Sunday: September 14, 2025**  
**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
 8:00 am Outdoor Drive-In 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 Youth Group Meeting  
 11:30 am Music Pot luck

**Monday:**  
 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting

**Wednesday:**  
 6:00 pm Crystal City Chorus  
 6:30 pm The Chosen Season 5 in the Fellowship Room

**Thursday:**  
 11:00 am Thursday Book Study "A BIGGER TABLE- Building Messy, Authentic, and Hopeful Spiritual Community" by John Pavlovitz - at River Road Coffee on the Square  
 7:15 pm Choir Practice

**Sunday: September 21, 2025**  
**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
 8:00 am Outdoor Drive-In Service  
 9:00 am All BDZ Classes  
 10:30 am Sanctuary Service – Choir Sings  
 10:30 am Bible Discovery Zone – Children's Elementary Class

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

*Attendance Report for Sunday, September 7, 2025*  
 8:00 am - 28      10:30 am – 48  
 Sunday, September 7 Live Stream Views – 301

**Financial Update**  
**Monthly Faith Promise goal**      \$ 8,419.25  
**Income as of September 7, 2025**      **1,115.00**  
**Month to Date Balance**      (\$ 7,304.25)