



**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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Colleen Kroah

Adult Bell Choir

Jerry Goodman

Signer

Debi Snow

Librarian

Catherine Lim

Prayer List

Rebecca Swartz

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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

**The promise that he would
inherit the world did not
come to Abraham...**



**through the law but through
the righteousness of faith.**

Romans 4:13, NRSV

September 21, 2025

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

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

Sanctuary Service: 10:30 a.m.

September 21, 2025

Tune your FM Radio to 107.5

8:00 am

Sanctuary Service

10:30 am

Announcements & Greetings

Prelude

“Canon in D” Pachelbel

Todd Baldosser

***Opening Hymn “How Majestic Is Your Name”**

No. 63

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.

O Lord, we praise your name. O Lord, we magnify your name:

Prince of Peace, Mighty God; O Lord God Almighty.

***Call to Worship**

Jeff Conner

Leader: When we are surrounded in every side, wondering which way is up

All: Help is, God, for the glory of Your name

Leader: When we question how to follow Your plan for our lives

All: Help us God, for the glory of Your name

Leader: When we find our rest in God and long for others to know the sweet peace of God’s embrace

All: Help us God, for the glory of Your name

Leader: Today as we gather for Worship, may we be ready to listen and discern God’s help that meet us right where we are

All: Help us, God to receive Your help and to extend Your help to others all for the glory of Your Name

***Prayer of Invocation**

All: Loving and gracious God, tender to all who call upon You with believing hearts, bless us we pray with Your special Presence this day. Teach us to learn Your ways, inspire us who seek Your wisdom, energize those who are exhausted, comfort those who grieve and strengthen those who are weak. Indeed, O God, fill our hearts with Your praise and lead us in holiness and righteousness in this hour and in the hours to come. We draw near to You now as we pray the words You taught us; Our father who art in Heaven.....

***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: Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada**

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

**who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

We are called to be the church:

**to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God. 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.**

Mission Moment - Cathy Stofac, Development Director of the Men's Haven

All: Unshakeable and merciful God, You meet us in times of challenge and in times of rejoicing. When all feels lost, You are not. When we stumble for answers, You remain our refuge. Receive these tithes and offerings, given not from abundance alone but from hearts who dare to trust. Let them be signs of Your Presence in broken places, tools of healing, hope and grace in a hurting world. Help us to love our praise, as Your people who believe in Your goodness. In Jesus' Name. Amen

***Closing Hymn**

“Standing in the Need of Prayer”

No. 579

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

It’s me (it’s me), O Lord, standing in the need of prayer. It’s me (it’s me), it’s me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer.

- 1) Not my brother, not my sister, but it’s me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer.**
- 2) Not the preacher, not the teacher, but it’s me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer.**
- 4) Not the stranger, not the neighbor, but it’s me, O Lord, standing in the need of prayer.**

***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 “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing” Traditional Todd Baldosser

Pastor Steve’s Quote of the Week

“I can be changed by what happens to me. But I refuse to be reduced by it”

Maya Angelou

1928-2014

Dr. Swisher’s message next week:

September 28, 2025

“Take Away our Bent to Sinning”

Romans 5: 12-19

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/>

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.

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 & Recourses in the Church Library

Sunday—Genesis 43-46

Monday—Genesis 47-50

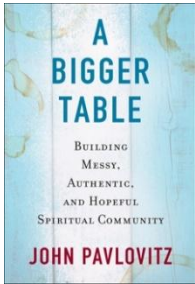
Tuesday—Exodus 1-3

Wednesday—Exodus 4-6

Thursday—Exodus 7-9

Friday—Exodus 10-12

Saturday—Exodus 13-15



The book study group will meet each Thursday in October (2, 9, 16, 23, 30) at 11am at the River Road Coffee House in downtown Newark on the north side of the square. Join us as we continue our discussion of the book "A Bigger Table-Building Messy, Authentic and Hopeful Spiritual Community" by John Pavlovitz.. The book is available online and there is space at the table for you to join us for discussion and fellowship.

SEASON 5



The
CHOSEN

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

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. The season 5 DVD is available in the church library.*

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



St. John's United Church of Christ

October 19, 2025

4pm—5:30pm

Family Fun! Come in costume, enjoy candy, hotdogs and more.

Trunk or Treat starts at 4. For more information about this community event call the Christian Education office at 740-323-2408.

St. John's members and friends - Planning to pass out candy, plan on 250 pieces. Come in costume and/or decorate your car! Come, join in the fun and welcome our friends and neighbors to St. John's.

DONATIONS OF CANDY ARE WELCOMED AND APPRECIATED



Bible Discovery Zone

9:00AM—10:00AM

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

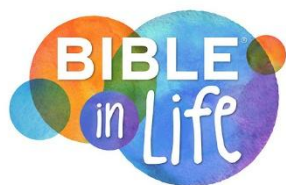
"Pilgrims Progress" by Bunyan led by Elaine Gard

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. Charles Dudley

Ushers:

Frank Davis, Larry Jones, Terry Gano,

Barry Dooley, Gary Kinser

Cradle Roll:

Volunteer/Avery Nagel

BDZ – Children's Church

Elaine Gard & Pat Farley

Media Worship Team:

Sound & Video:

8:00 am: Mike Dooley

10:30 am: Ken Kroah/Julie Kroah

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 21, 2025
Fifteenth 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

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 28, 2025
Sixteenth 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

Attendance Report for Sunday, September 14, 2025
 8:00 am - 30 10:30 am – 42
 Sunday, September 14 Live Stream Views – 153

Financial Update
Monthly Faith Promise goal \$ 8,419.25
Income as of September 14, 2025 3,203.50
Month to Date Balance (\$ 5,215.75)