

Welcome Home for Easter..

St. John's

UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST



Easter Sunrise Drive-In: 7:00 am Sanctuary: 8:30 am & 11:00 am

The 2025 April Chimes



Prayer List

Prayers: Bill Carr, Charlie Bruah, Debbie Snow, Steve Slyh, Larry Crane, Cindy Dunn, Teresa McCoy & the family of Brenda Pursley

Homebound and Nursing Facility Residents: Mel Cunningham, Jeanette Morris, Bonita Farmer, Patricia Gilbert, Paula Hatfield, Rosalie Johnson, Faith Kelly, Delores and Harold McDonald, Esther Gillham, Helen McGaughy, Mary Lou Hostetler, Charles & Lois Meyers, Molly Sheets, & Lois Swonger.

Please contact Rev. Swisher if you know of any sick or hospitalized members. Remember, if you want someone on the Bea's Blessings prayer chain, you can email the office at stjohnsunited@windstream.net

Thank You!

"Thank you to Don and the late Lois Boldt for their donation of the baby grand piano which is now located in the chapel. We appreciate your generosity of this beautiful instrument."



Member News!



New members: Hailey Corey and Tobias Ware joined our membership on March 2, 2025.



Brenda Mae Pursley
Born: October 7, 1963
Died: March 11, 2025

A member of St. John's since 1977

Financial Update

Monthly Faith Promise goal	\$ 8,419.25
Income as of March 23, 2025	5,163.50
Month to Date Balance	(\$ 3,255.75)
Boiler Cost	\$ 99,260.00
Boiler loan amount	\$ 26,654.19
Boiler Donations received	\$ 19,543.20
Donations still needed	\$ 7,111.99



April Sunday Worship Hours

8:30 a.m. Chapel Service

11:00 a.m. Traditional Sanctuary Service

Easter Services: 7:00 a.m. Outdoor Sunrise Drive-in,
8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary

Beginning April 27: 8:00 a.m. Outdoor Drive-in Service
10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service

Office Hours -Monday, Tuesday, & Friday: 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. For additional times, please call the office (740) 323-2407 and leave a message to make an appointment or call/text Anita at 740-973-8218. Thank you!



The Resurrection is Relevant

Dear friends,

When we think about Easter and its meaning, we are immediately confronted with the fact of the Resurrection. This concept and story is unique to Christianity. No other religion or philosophy has even a similar story.

In our faith God chose to reach out to us to become just like you and me to communicate, share, love and offer a second chance opportunity. Of course, we know that the one chance becomes 8 or 20 or as many chances as we need. That is Grace.

But more than that, the relevancy of the resurrection of Jesus for every generation stems from the miracle of renewal, new life, renewed strength that meets each of us at exactly the point of our need. That is real, substantial, life changing. Think about it this way.....because Jesus resurrected from the dead you and I have the promise of eternal life. But more than that, we can apply Jesus' resurrection power to today....right this very minute. We can allow the surging power of new life that comes from the King of Kings to resurrect us now from our tombs of despair, fear, doubt and discouragement. Jesus' new life surges through the veins of every Christian. That is why throughout history we have been called Easter people not just in March or April but 365 days a year.

My mentor, Dr. Robert H. Schuller, wrote an Easter hymn with collaboration from his wife, Arvella. It has become my favorite Easter song. I believe its truth is indispensable for every believer.

If you have a copy of our 2025 Lenten Devotional, then you'll find the song reprinted in our Easter Sunday entry. But for our purposes the following verse is most relevant:

It's Easter, It's Easter the stones rolled away.
It's Easter, It's Easter this is the Lord's day.
New hope for the doubter, new joy for the sad.
Our Savior walks with us to make our hearts glad.

May the gladness of Jesus, the joy of Easter life and the promise of a fresh and new tomorrow lift you today and throughout the month ahead.

Your friend and partner in Ministry,

Pastor Steve

The Confirmation Class

During the month of April, the Confirmation Class will meet on Sunday, April 13, to study "The Church as Teacher, Friend and Missionary" at 9:30 a.m. and on April 27, to study "Why Do I Need the Church and Why Does the Church Need Me" at 9:00 a.m. (**Note:** the change in time!) Classes are held in the Small Meeting Room.

The students are working on a special banner to celebrate their Confirmation during the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, June 1. They are also in the process of writing their own Statements of Faith.

Please pray for our students as they complete their work and look forward to becoming full members of the Church of The Lord Jesus Christ.



Notes from Church Council Meeting, Monday, March 17, 2025

Attending: Rev. Swisher, Chuck Chirdon, Julie Davis, Frances Hill, Tim Powers, Brian Lensink, Gary Kinser, April Kinser, and Jeff Conner, President

Staff attending: Anita Chirdon, Office Administrator and Kim Workman, Office Assistant

The meeting was called to order at 6:37pm and Rev Swisher provided the opening prayer.

Rev. Swisher continues working to meet the requirements to become a UCC pastor. He is currently taking a UCC polity class and progressing nicely. (Lots of writing). He hopes to be done by April but May definitely at the latest.

Starting on Easter Sunday, ushers will begin passing the collection plate during worship.

Council received a thank you note for the recent staff recognition.

The current class of Confirmation students was approved for membership on Confirmation Sunday, June 1, 2025. The class includes five new members and one who is desiring to reaffirm her faith.

Vacation Bible School will be June 23 to June 27, 2025, and the Council approved the use of the church for this event.

The South Newark Civic Association will not be having their clean-up event this year.

Brothers Masonry has been contacted concerning repair needed on the outdoor cross at the patio.

Council approved a time change for Sunday services to take effect the first Sunday after Easter. Early outside service will be at 8:00am with inside worship at 10:30am. Again, start date will be April 27, 2025.

Good Friday service will be at 7pm. Outdoor Easter Sunrise Service will be at 7am. Following that, there will be indoor sanctuary services at 8:30 am and 11am.

An extra piano currently in Herman Hall may be donated to a church member.

The meeting closed with all attending joining hands and saying The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, April Kinser, Secretary

The next meeting is on Monday, April 21, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. All members of St. John's are always welcome to attend.



Purple Strips of Cloth

Be sure to pick up a purple strip of cloth at the front or rear of the sanctuary. Purple is the color of Lent. It symbolizes pain, suffering, mourning and penitence. It signifies the feeling of sorrow for our sins in the light of Christ's passion and death. In Lent, purple is used beginning Ash Wednesday and extending through Maundy Thursday.

Use the strip of cloth in a way so that you see it every day as a reminder of Lent and in preparation of Easter. For example, tie it on your rearview mirror, tie it on your purse, on a kitchen cabinet or lay it across your workspace.



Dear friends,

As we approach the most important day in the Christian year....Easter, our minds and hearts turn to how we might do more to support the ministry of Jesus through our Church.

The natural response to the gift that Jesus gave each of us is to want to do something to remember and to commemorate this life-changing experience.

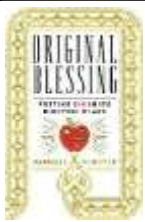
As you know, we have had a number of people traveling or facing various illnesses the last few months and we are facing a bit of a shortfall at the moment. Your faithful tithes, offerings and gifts to God through St. John's UCC will go a long way in helping us continue to do vital ministry here at home and throughout our world. Thank you for your support that makes this possible.

May this prayer give us renewed strength:

Dear God, at this most Holy time of the year, we want to thank you for the gift of Jesus. The life-changing grace, love and resurrection power that comes from Him has transformed our lives and given us hope for tomorrow. As we think about what we can do for our Church, we ask you to guide us as we make a quality decision to present our best selves, our best gifts and our best commitment to You this Easter 2025. Take these gifts and use them to build Your Kingdom. Along with these gifts, we also embody the words of a beloved song of another Holy season; the Little Drummer boy songs "What can I give him? Give my heart." Accept our hearts along with these gifts. In Jesus' Name. Amen

Thank you and May Easter blessings surround you and those you love.

Pastor Steve



Please join us as we meet on Thursday's April 3, 10, 17, and 24 at 11am to continue our discussion of the book entitled "Original Blessing, Putting Sin In its Rightful Place" by Danielle Shroyer. We enjoy coffee and conversation as we meet at the River Road Coffee House on the square in downtown Newark. The book is available online.

Afternoon Circle -

-will meet on Wednesday, April 2, at 1:00 p.m. in the Large Meeting Room. Our refreshments will be served by Bev Lange and Sandy Johnson. Our Bite Size Bible Study will be on Dinah. Our program will be "Mary, the Mother of Jesus", using pictures by Tomie DePaola as the basis of our study.

Looking ahead: Wednesday, May 7, will be our 153rd Anniversary. We'll have our usual Salad Smorgasbord Potluck. So be looking up your favorite salad recipe to share for lunch at 12:00 noon.

All women of our St. John's Church Family are invited to attend any and all of our meetings.



Sundays at 9:30AM

Coffee, refreshments and good conversation in the Fellowship room.
Or enjoy time in the sanctuary for worship preparation or quiet prayer.



Mission and Outreach Committee - Focus for April

Our clothing drive continues with a focus this month on men's clothing. Pants, jackets, underwear, shoes and shaving supplies continue to be needed. Many thanks to the women who have donated clothing so generously this past month. As we give, my prayer is that we will feel God's spirit dressing us, as it says in Colossians 3: 12 with " compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience." We will continue to highlight a different mission outreach one Sunday each month during worship. In April, we hope to hear a representative from The Lookup Center

St. John's Youth Car Wash



Saturday, April 19, 2025

11am—2pm

At O'Reilly Auto Parts on Deo Drive, Newark

A free will offering will be accepted

All proceeds support the Mission Trip fund

The Youth of St. John's presents



Easter Breakfast

Sunday April 20
Serving 7:30am – 10:45am

Come let the Youth cook your breakfast. Enjoy pancakes, sausage, egg casseroles, fruit and more.



*Join us for Youth Sunday as we present
the why and the who we "Praise"*

Praise!

April 27, 2025

8:00am and 10:30am

Holy Week Schedule



Palm Sunday - April 13, at 8:30AM & 11:00AM.

Dr. Swisher's message "A Short Ride to a Long Week"

Good Friday Service - April 18 at 7:00PM

Dr. Swisher's message "What's Good about Good Friday?"

Easter Sunday - April 20

Outdoor Drive-In Sunrise Service at 7:00AM

Dr. Swisher's Sunrise service message

"A Finished Story or a New Beginning?"

Sanctuary Services at 8:30AM and 11:00AM

Dr. Swisher's Easter message

"The Relevancy of the Resurrection"

Easter Breakfast Served 7:30AM to 10:45AM

Free-Will Offering accepted.





Easter

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING OUR RISEN SAVIOR

Join us for Dr. Swisher's uplifting message "A Finished Story or a New Beginning?" at the 7:00am *Outdoor Drive-In Sunrise* service. Then continue the celebration with his special Easter message "The Relevancy of the Resurrection" at the 8:30am or the 11:00am Sanctuary services.

Communion will be served at all services.

Easter Breakfast served 7:30am to 10:45am (free-will offering accepted)

Sunday, April 20th

Dr. Stephen Swisher will lead services at

7:00am, 8:30am and 11:00am

St. John's United Church of Christ
285 W. National Drive Newark • (740) 323-2407
www.stjohnsnewark.org



Embracing Each New Day

By Darrell Delaney
Todaydevotional.com

Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. — Lamentations 3:22-23

Each new day is a gift, a fresh opportunity to embrace life's possibilities and blessings. When we approach each day with gratitude and openness, we unlock the potential for growth, joy, and fulfillment.

I have learned the importance of starting each day with a positive mindset. Regardless of yesterday's challenges or successes, a new day brings renewed hope and opportunities. Lamentations 3:22-23 reminds us of God's faithful love and abundant compassion and mercy—they are "new every morning."

Embracing each new day involves letting go of past regrets and worries about the future. It means appreciating the blessings around us and making the most of every opportunity. I recall a time when I faced a difficult season in life. Each morning I reminded myself of God's unfailing love and the fresh mercies he provides daily. This gave me strength and resilience to face challenges with faith and optimism.

As we embrace each new day, let's cultivate habits of gratitude, reflection, and positivity rooted in God's faithfulness. Let's greet each morning with a heart filled with thankfulness for the gift of life and the opportunity to make a difference.

Lord, thank you for the gift of each new day. Help us to embrace it with gratitude and joy, knowing that you always love and care for us. Guide us to live for you faithfully. Amen.



PLEASE NOTE

Starting April 27, 2025

8:00AM Outdoor Drive-In Service

9:00AM Adult Sunday school &
Confirmation Class

10:30AM Sanctuary Service



GRADUATION SUNDAY –May 18, 2025

Do you know of someone who is graduating from high school or college this spring? We would like to invite them to join us on Sunday, May 18, 2025, to celebrate the momentous event. Please fill out the form and place it in the offering plate or turn it into the office by May 4, 2025!

Name _____

Parents/Church Family _____

Graduating from _____

Degree _____

Plans for the future _____

Additional information to share _____



	<p>Mark Your Calendar!</p> <p>Vacation Bible School</p> <p>June 23—27 • 9am— 11:30am</p> <p>If you are interested in being a part of the VBS team reach out to Julie Kroah for more information.</p>
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Adult Sunday school class continues looking at Digging Deeper: A Lenten study of the gospel of Luke by Larry E. Davis lead by Rev. Stephen Swisher. The Adult class meets at 9:30am in the large meeting room.

Be sure to pick up your St. John's 2025 Lenten Devotional and get one to share with a friend. If you would like to have a devotional mailed to you, please call the church office or email stjohnsucc.ce@windstream.net to request a copy.



The Youth will meet April 13. Activities: The Youth will have a **Car Wash** on April 19 11AM – 2PM at O'Reilly's Auto Parts on Deo Drive with all donations supporting the Mission Trip Fund. The Youth will also present an **Easter Breakfast** for all to enjoy 7:30AM to 10:45AM. **Youth Sunday** is April 27, 2025; the Youth will be presenting "Praise." Join the Youth and hear their message of why we praise and learn how others praised God. **The Youth Overnight** will start April 26 at 6:00PM.

Save the Date! VBS is June 23 – 27. Our theme is The Armor of God. Join us as we learn what Paul taught the Ephesians about how to stand strong in their faith with games, crafts, science, stories and, more. Bring a friend or tell a neighbor. Everyone is welcome!



Sunday School Classes

Adult class – 9:30AM every Sunday.

Confirmation Class – Sundays at 9:30AM

Bible Discovery Zone – ages 5 to 14 at 11AM.

Cradle Role – Available during the 11AM service.

April Worship Service Duties

Ushers: Frank Davis, Jeff Conner, Larry Jones, Terry Gano, Mike Dooley, Barry Dooley

Cradle Roll

- 6 Avery Nagel/Volunteer
- 13 Avery Nagel/Volunteer
- 20 Avery Nagel/Volunteer
- 27 Avery Nagel/Volunteer

Cantors

- 6 Todd Baldosser
- 13 Julie Davis
- 18 Charles Dudley
- 20 Julie Davis
- 27 April Kinser

Bible Discovery Zone

- 6 Brian Lensink & Pat Farley
- 13 Marla Crowthers & Youth
if needed
- 20 Elaine Gard & Youth if needed
- 27 Frances Hill & Youth if needed

Sunday Sound Worship Team





- 6 Mike Dooley
- 13 Ken Kroah
- 20 Mike Dooley
- 27 Ken Kroah

Sunday Video Worship Team

- 6 Tom Lawyer
- 13 Julie Kroah
- 20 Tom Lawyer
- 27 Julie Kroah



APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>30</p> <p>8:30am Early Indoor Service in the Chapel 9:30am Adult Sunday School Special Lenten Study 11:00am Bible Discovery Zone 11:00am Sanctuary Service</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>1:00pm The Afternoon Circle of the Women's Guild Meeting 6:00pm Private Use-Chorus Practice</p>	<p>3</p> <p>11:00am Thursday Book Study Group - "Original Blessing, Putting Sin in Its Rightful Place" Shroyer - at River Road Coffee on the Square</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6</p> <p>8:30am Early Indoor Service in the Chapel 9:00am Adult Sunday School Special Lenten Study 11:00am Bible Discovery Zone 11:00am Sanctuary Service</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10:00am Christian Education Meeting 6:00pm Private Use-Chorus Practice</p>	<p>10</p> <p>11:00am Thursday Book Study Group - "Original Blessing, Putting Sin in Its Rightful Place" Shroyer - at River Road Coffee on the Square</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13</p> <p> Palm Sunday 8:30am Early Indoor Service in the Chapel 9:30am Confirmation Class 11:00am Bible Discovery Zone 11:00am Sanctuary Service 12:00pm Youth Group Meeting</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7:00pm Finance & Stewardship Meeting</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6:00pm Private Use-Chorus Practice</p>	<p>17</p> <p> 11:00am Thursday Book Study Group - "Original Blessing, Putting Sin in Its Rightful Place" Shroyer - at River Road Coffee on the Square</p>	<p>18</p> <p> 7:00pm Good Friday Service</p>	<p>19</p> <p>11:00am Youth Car Wash - at O'Reilly Auto Parts on Deo Drive, Newark</p>
<p>20</p> <p> Easter Sunday 7:00am Easter Outdoor Sunrise Drive-In Service 7:30am Easter Breakfast - Free will offering 8:30am Early Service - Sanctuary 11:00am Bible Discovery Zone 11:00am Sanctuary Service</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6:30pm Church Council Meeting</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Earth Day</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:00pm Private Use-Chorus Practice</p>	<p>24</p> <p>11:00am Thursday Book Study Group - "Original Blessing, Putting Sin in Its Rightful Place" Shroyer - at River Road Coffee on the Square</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>6:00pm Youth Overnight</p>
<p>27</p> <p>Youth Sunday 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service -New Time 9:00am Confirmation Class - New Time 10:30am Bible Discovery Zone -New Time 10:30am Sanctuary Service -New Time 11:30am Youth Group Meeting - New Time</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6:00pm Private Use-Chorus Practice</p>	<p>1</p> <p>National Day of Prayer</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>



St. John's United Church of Christ
 285 W. National Drive
 Newark, Ohio 43055

*Rooted in the Evangelical and Reformed Traditions
 We are Sowing Seeds of Hope in a Time of Chaos
 So We May All Be One*

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Worship Services!


8:30 a.m. Chapel Service
 11:00 a.m. – Sanctuary Service
Easter Services: 7:00 a.m. Outdoor Drive-in Sunrise Service
 8:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service, 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Service
After Easter Sunday:
 8:00 a.m. Outdoor Drive-in Service, 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service
 Volume 25 Number 4

Address Service Requested



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LIBRARY FOCUS FOR APRIL



The First Easter by Peter Marshall and Jesus Loved Them by Sam Patrick.
The story of Easter and drawings of 67 people who's lives were touched by Jesus.

Death and Resurrection of the Messiah: Bringing God's Shalom to a world in Chaos. By Rey Vander Laan. DVD 10 lessons.

For Children

The Easter Story by Heather Amery. Usborn Bible Stories for young children to read.

***** These featured books and DVD's can always be found in the church library on the short shelves in the center on the room*****