

# Welcome Home!

to the Church you remember....Welcome home to....



The 2025 August Chimes

United Church of Christ



## Prayer List

**Prayers:** Bill Carr, Charlie Bruah, Debbie Snow, Larry Crane, Rev. Dr. Winfield Strout, Molly Sheets, Annmarie McCoy, Mike Dunn, Robin Lyn Green, Marla Crowthers, Anita Chirdon & the family of Lois "Lyn Cayton" Montgomery

**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 and 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 [stjohnsunitied@windstream.net](mailto:stjohnsunitied@windstream.net)



*Lois (Lynn Cayton) Montgomery*

Born: September 2, 1954

Died: June 30, 2025

*A member of St. Johns since 1967*

## **Financial Update**

Monthly Faith Promise goal	\$ 8,419.25
Income as of July 20, 2025	<u>4,890.00</u>
Month to Date Balance	(\$ 3,529.25)
Boiler Cost	\$ 99,260.00
Boiler loan amount	\$ 26,654.19
Boiler Donations received	\$ 26,839.19

**Thank you! Our goal has been met!**

## **ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS:**

After two years of your faithful giving, the boiler loan has been paid in full. Thank you for your continued support of this needed improvement.

Frank Davis, Treasurer

## Thank You!

Vicky and I would like to thank everyone who could attend our 50th anniversary celebration and for all the wonderful cards and congratulations we received. We would also like to thank Todd, Mike, Jeff, Terry and Catherine for their help in making this a special day for us. Thank you to Rev. Dr. Swisher for the meaningful service that was given.

Frank and Vicky Davis

Dear St. John's,

Thank you for your generous donation to New Beginnings. We appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

Tricia Hufford, Director

Dear St. John's,

Thank you so much for your generous support. Your recent gift will mean the world to the girls and young women we serve. Because of you, more girls will have the chance to stay in school, and build a brighter future. We are so grateful to have you standing with us in this work.

With heartfelt thanks, Lorna Macleod

Huru International



## **August Sunday Worship Hours**

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

10:30 a.m. Traditional Sanctuary

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

## *From the Pastor*



### Why Time Flies

We've all heard the phrases, "Time flies when you're having fun," or "Where does time go" or "I just turned around and this or that happened." The passage of time has been a mystery since the beginning of humanity, and it is one that we can't seem to unlock or decipher.

Here we are in August with Summer melting away and I'm sure we are all wondering where it all has gone.

The Bible puts it this way in Ecclesiastes 3:11: "He has made everything beautiful in its time. God has also set time in the human heart, yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end."

Scientists tell us there are several reasons for the phenomenon and sensation of time passing quickly. Here are a few I've discovered while researching this topic:

\*\*\*\*Routine and Familiarity—As our life becomes more routine and familiar, our brain tends to register fewer "new" experiences and less distinct memories. Which can make time appear to go faster.

\*\*\*\*Attention and Absorption—When fully engaged in an activity or "state of flow", our attention is focused on that activity or event and in that process we lose awareness of the moment-by-moment passage of time, making it feel like time is going more quickly.

\*\*\*\*Proportionality of Time—A year represents a smaller portion of a longer life. For a young child, a year is a large fraction of their existence. But as we age, it becomes a much smaller one. This contributes to the feeling that time speeds up as we age.

\*\*\*\*Body Temperature—Changes in body temperature can also affect time perception. Higher temperatures, like Summer brings, are associated with the feeling of faster subjective time.

While the physical passage of time remains constant, the subjective experience of it is influenced by a combination of factors like the ones noted above.

Our perception of time can be startling. But when we remember that God is the author of time and that He has our days planned out and numbered, we can relax knowing God has the best in store for you and me.

Whether time goes fast or slow, it is all in His hands. But we have an important part to play. Namely using the time we have wisely and making the most of each moment.

One concrete way we can do that is by participating in Church each week. Combine that with meaningful times with family and friends and always reserving our personal moments with God, and we will know that all of it is definitely time well spent. May time become your friend and may each moment bring blessings.

Have an awesome August. I look forward to seeing you in Church and around the community.

Your friend,

Pastor Steve



## St. John's Church is 184 years old!

N. N. Hill's 1881 HISTORY OF LICKING COUNTY states that as early as 1835 St. John's German Lutheran Church was organized by Heinrich Rickenbach. Church records indicate that in May of 1839, fifty-two men were members of the German Evangelical Lutheran Reformed Church. On **July 18, 1841**, twenty-five religiously inclined German men, under the leadership of Rev. Martin Schaad, united in a religious organization which was incorporated as the GERMAN EVANGELICAL PROTESTANT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH OF NEWARK, OHIO.

Happy Anniversary to Us!

One hundred eighty-four years of serving God and this south Newark community.



### Notes from Church Council Meeting of July 14, 2025

Attending: Jeff Conner, Brian Lensink, April Kinser, Gary Kinser, Frances Hill, Terry Gano, Frank Davis, Ken Kroah, Chuck Chirdon, Greg Crowthers, Julie Davis, and Office Administrator, Anita Chirdon and Office Assistant, Kim Workman

Devotions were provided by G. Kinser, who read an excerpt from the Masonic funeral service on our relationship with God and how he is always with us with us through trials or loss.

Terry Gano has agreed to come onto Church Council to fill the open position at least until February of 2026.

Use of the church for a St John's Music Potluck (choir) was approved for September 14, 2025.

St John's will be celebrating the 184-year Anniversary of the church on July 18, 2025. A note will be placed in the bulletin of July 20, 2025, commemorating this event.

Lammers Memorial Sunday will be celebrated on July 27, 2025, with a special offering going to support future seminary students from St John's UCC.

Three estimates have been received regarding necessary masonry repair to the church exterior. Property and Maintenance Committee and Finance and Stewardship Committee will jointly review and make further recommendations.

Lifewise of Newark would like to have a bus. This will be a topic in upcoming committee conversations.

Chuck Chirdon will provide devotions for August 18, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

April Kinser, Secretary   Jeff Conner, President

Our next meeting will be August 18, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. All members of St. John's are always welcome to attend.

### Afternoon Circle -

- will meet on Wednesday, August 6, at 1:00 p.m. in the Large Meeting Room at the church.

Last month we had to cancel our picnic at Rotary Park because of a number of absences AND the extreme heat. So, this month we come back inside the air-conditioned comfort of the church for our monthly get together.

Julie Kroah will provide refreshments. Our Bite-size Bible Study will be on Achsah and her wedding day request. And, we will celebrate the Church Festival of the Transfiguration.

All women of our St. John's Church Family are invited to join us.

### **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. This is an ongoing Mission project and we replenish the pantry every day. It takes quite a bit of food to accomplish this task. If everyone that can, would bring items to church on Sundays and place them in the provided bins throughout the church it would help this mission project. Those attending the drive-in service can leave their donations with one of the ushers when you enter the parking lot. Your donations are greatly appreciated by those that need to utilize the little food pantry throughout the week.

Thanks for your support!

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

### **Back to School Time**

As summer rolls on, we are reminded that school will be starting soon. Our mission focus this month will be the Look Up Center, a community-education and service center with the Glory Rising school for children ages 3 to 5 years. This is a faith-based, half-day learning program for potty-trained children, which includes art and music and preparation for school readiness. They are dependent on local support for their Christ-centered outreach. We can assist with necessary supplies. Donations needed include: Glue sticks, Crayons, Markers, colored pencils, tissues, hand wipes (Not bottles of sanitizer) and paper towels. Snacks needed include individual bags (Small) of cookies, chips or goldfish, juice boxes, animal crackers, fruit roll ups, fruit cups, applesauce, and pudding (individual servings). Donations may be dropped off in the Fellowship Room and will be delivered prior to the start of school in September.

With many thanks from the Mission and Outreach Committee



The book study group will meet each Thursday (August 7,14,21,28) at 11am at the River Road Coffee House on the square in downtown Newark. Our current book is titled " A Bigger Table- Building Messy, Authentic, and Hopeful Spiritual Community " by John Pavlovitz and is available online. Please come and join us as we enjoy coffee and discussion





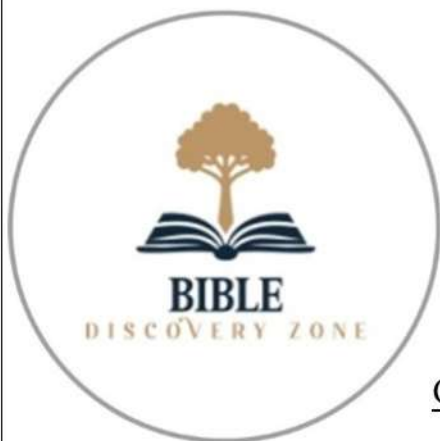
**September 7, 2025**

**9:00AM to 10:30AM**

**Food • Fun • Friends!**

Interactive Bible Stations  
for kids and adults

*On Rally Day, we will begin our journey together, reading the Bible in a year.*



**9:00AM—10:00AM**

**Classes starting September 14**

Adult Class held in the Large meeting room  
“Searching the Scriptures” by Swindoll led by Rev. Swisher

Youth class held in the Small meeting room  
“Pilgrims Progress” by Bunyan led by Elaine Gard

Children’s class held in the Bible Discovery Zone room  
(ages infant to 12)

From the St. John's E & O Committee

## Well-Oiled Sheep

Lesli Van Milligen

July 15, 2025 todaydevotional.com

*You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.  
Psalm 23:5*



This line in Psalm 23 picks up on an interesting tidbit about the shepherd's care for his sheep. Shepherds will use oil on a sheep's head to keep pesky bugs away and to help protect the animal's skin from the sun.

The psalmist David's phrasing here also points symbolically to anointing as a calling or commissioning that comes from God. Anointing a person's head with oil was very significant in ancient Israel. David himself was anointed with oil when God chose him to be the king of Israel (1 Samuel 16:1-13). Prophets and priests were also anointed with oil (see Exodus 29:9; 1 Kings 19:15-16). And these anointings included more than just a few drops on the recipient's head. Psalm 133 describes the anointing oil as "running down on the beard" and dripping onto the collar of a person's robe. This picture describes something of the lavish blessing and equipping that God bestows on his dedicated servants.

When David says his cup overflows, he is referring to the lavishness of the shepherd's care and protection. The psalmist is overwhelmed by the goodness of God, despite the foolishness and wandering of his beloved sheep.

In what ways are you experiencing God's lavish care?

***Generous Shepherd, fill our minds and hearts with memories of the many ways you care for and provide for us, watching over us always. We are grateful for the lavish abundance of your care. Amen.***



### MISSION TRIP WRAP UP

St. John's Mission Team traveled to Big Creek Missions in Kentucky June 29 to July 5 to serve the counties of Leslie and Hyden. The 11-member team was made up of Emmaleigh Crowthers, Greg

Crowthers, Remington Crowthers, Julie Davis, Paxton Hill, Colleen Kroah, Julie Kroah, Ken Kroah, Matthew Kroah. The Team worked to serve the community with their physical needs, but more importantly to bring the Gospel to a community that has more than its share of hopelessness and despair. They renovated a kitchen for a homeowner who is blind, rebuilt unstable floors and foundations, worked with kids at 1 of the 2 day camps, assembled weekly food boxes for 1,125 people and hosted a free community July Fourth carnival. By request, we are already planning to return next year. If you are interested in joining, please let one of the missionaries know.



St. John's hosted 18 students for Vacation Bible School June 23 -27. Together with leaders and helpers, we learned about "Putting on the Armor of God" from Ephesians 6:10 -18 through stories, games, science, crafts and music. Our mission this year was to raise money to supply smoke detectors for Licking county residences. We raised \$336.96 and will be able to purchase 40 smoke detectors. Thank you to everyone who donated cookies and snacks. A special thank you to all the volunteers who, from painting to teaching, helped make VBS a fun and successful event this year; Aiden Barnes, Barbara Beck, Emmaleigh Crowthers, Marla Crowthers, Rebekkah Crowthers, Remington Crowthers, Frank Davis, Julie Davis, Vicky Davis, Elaine Gard, Patricia Farley, Frances Hill, Colleen Kroah, Matthew Kroah, Catherine Lim, Theresa McCoy, Emily Swisher, Rev. Steve Swisher and Pamela Tulloss.

Mark your calendar for Rally Day September 7, 2025, 9am to 10:30am!! It's the start of new Sunday school classes and a day of fun, food and friends. Join us for ***Journey Together: Our Year in the Bible.***



#### Sunday School Classes

**Adult class** – will return in the fall

**Bible Discovery Zone** – will return in the fall

**Cradle Roll** – Available during the 10:30AM service.

#### **August Worship Service Duties**

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

##### Cradle Roll

3 Avery Nagel/Volunteer  
10 Avery Nagel/Volunteer  
17 Avery Nagel/Volunteer  
24 Avery Nagel/Volunteer  
31 Avery Nagel/Volunteer

##### Cantors

3 Charles Dudley  
10 April Kinser  
17 Dianne Reef  
24 Todd Baldosser  
31 Julie Davis



##### Sunday Sound Worship Team

3 Mike Dooley  
10 Karson Ewing  
17 Mike Dooley  
24 Karson Ewing  
31 Mike Dooley

##### Sunday Video Worship Team

3 Tom Lawyer  
10 Ken Kroah  
17 Tom Lawyer  
24 Ken Kroah  
31 Tom Lawyer





# August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>27</b> Lammers Memorial Sunday 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 10:30am Sanctuary Service	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice	<b>31</b> 11:00am Thursday Book Study Group - "A Bigger Table- Building Messy, Authentic, and Hopeful Spiritual Community" by John Pavlovitz- at River Road Coffee on the Square	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 10:30am Sanctuary Service - Choir Sings	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 1:00pm The Afternoon Circle of the Women's Guild Meeting 6:00pm Mission & Outreach Committee Meeting 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice	<b>7</b> 11:00am Thursday Book Study Group - "A Bigger Table- Building Messy, Authentic, and Hopeful Spiritual Community" by John Pavlovitz- at River Road Coffee on the Square	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 10:30am Sanctuary Service	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 7:00pm Finance & Stewardship Meeting	<b>13</b> 10:00am Christian Education Meeting 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice	<b>14</b> 11:00am Thursday Book Study Group - "A Bigger Table- Building Messy, Authentic, and Hopeful Spiritual Community" by John Pavlovitz- at River Road Coffee on the Square	<b>15</b> 2:45pm Music Committee Meeting	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 10:30am Sanctuary Service	<b>18</b> 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice	<b>21</b> 11:00am Thursday Book Study Group - "A Bigger Table- Building Messy, Authentic, and Hopeful Spiritual Community" by John Pavlovitz- at River Road Coffee on the Square	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 10:30am Sanctuary Service	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice	<b>28</b> 11:00am Thursday Book Study Group - "A Bigger Table- Building Messy, Authentic, and Hopeful Spiritual Community" by John Pavlovitz- at River Road Coffee on the Square	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 10:30am Sanctuary Service	<b>1</b> Labor Day	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 1:00pm The Afternoon Circle of the Women's Guild Meeting 6:00pm Mission & Outreach Committee Meeting 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>





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*

### **Worship Services!**

8:00 a.m. Outdoor Drive-in Service  
10:30 a.m. – Sanctuary Service  
Volume 25 Number 8

**Address Service Requested**

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Newark, Ohio  
Permit No. 103



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740-323-2407

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#### **Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher**

Our Minister

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#### **Todd Baldosser**

Organist/Choir Director

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**Kim Workman**/Office Assistant

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**Mike Dooley**

Church Sexton

740-398-5863

**Julie Kroah**

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## **LIBRARY FOCUS FOR AUGUST**

***Get Out of that Pit:*** Straight Talk about God's Deliverance by Beth Moore

***Fire on the Mountain: Discovering god in a Broken world. DVD.***

Discover how God teaches the Israelites what it means to be part of a community that loves him and what that means for us today. Ray Van Der Laan.

### **For Children**

***Put On Your Armor! Custom fit, totally cool, radically styled—just for you! By Virginia Finnie***