

# Welcome Home!

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

# St. John's

The 2025 February Chimes

United Church of Christ



## Prayer List

**General Prayers:** Bill Carr, Charlie Bruah, Debbie Snow, Steve Slyh, Larry Crane, & Cindy Dunn

**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](mailto:stjohnsunited@windstream.net)

## New Member News!

- Steve Slyh - Joined on November 10, 2024
- Carolyn Igo - Baptized & joined on November 10, 2024
- Catherine Lim - Joined on December 15, 2024
- Carl Kochendorfer -Joined on January 26, 2025
- Brenda Smith – Joined on January 26, 2025

## **Financial Update**

Monthly Faith Promise goal	\$ 8,419.25
Income as of January 26, 2024	5,152.00
Month to Date Balance	( 3,267.25)
Boiler Cost	\$ 99,260.00
Boiler loan amount	\$ 26,654.19
Boiler Donations received	\$ 17,878.20
Donations still needed	\$ 8,775.99

**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!

## Thank You!

Thank you for your contributions to New Beginnings this holiday season. Your gift has made another's holiday full of Peace & Joy.

Tricia Hufford, Director

Hospitality Crew

Thank you so much for your hospitality after Scott Boldt's Memorial on 12/4/24. Your service to the family members who traveled from afar for a sad moment in their lives is immeasurable. Your patience as we communed with family was greatly appreciated. Thank you again for nourishing our bodies and souls!

In Christ love,

Donald Boldt & Wendy Millett (sister)

To the members of St. John's Church:

On behalf of her family, I would like to express our appreciation for your concern, support and prayers during Debbie's long illness and recent death.

Debbie attended St. John's as a small child with her family. She was confirmed and married here. In keeping with Debbie's love of this church, her passing was celebrated here.

We would like to thank Dr. Stephen Swisher, Todd Baldosser, and the church staff, the volunteers and the Special Events Committee. The funeral service was deeply meaningful. The luncheon was delicious. It allowed family and friends to spend time together.

I am so grateful I am a member of St. John's.  
Larry Jones



## February Sunday Worship Hours

8:30 a.m. Chapel Service

Traditional Sanctuary Service at 11:00 a.m.



## Winning Every Day

Hello friends,

In this second month of the year, it's a good time to gauge how we are doing with our 2025 goals.

The Bible tells us that faith and winning go hand in hand. Throughout the Holy Scripture we read again and again words like these:

"Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" 1 Corinthians 15:57 and

"Thanks be to God who always causes us to triumph in Christ" 2 Corinthians 2:14.

Experts tell us that we need at least 3 Wins every day: a Physical win, a Mental win and a Spiritual win.

A. Physical win: Here are some options to accomplish on a regular basis: Walking, Running, Swimming, any type of exercise

B. Mental win: Try reading, writing, creating and learning.

C. Spiritual win: Praying, attending Church, studying the Bible

If we choose an option from each of these areas, we will find a Win, Win, Win experience on a daily basis.

One of my mentors, Dr. Robert Schuller, used to say, "Every positive thought is a prayer." Isn't that a great way to think? Every positive thought is an act of faith and trust that God is helping us, and that we have the ability to take a daily step toward God's unfolding and beautiful plan for our lives.

May February be an important month of winning and faith fulfillment for each of us.

See you soon in Church and around the community,

Pastor Steve

### ***Annual Meeting and Potluck Luncheon - February 16, 2025***

**Congregational Meeting**



Please join us directly after the 11:00 a.m. Service on Sunday, February 16, 2025, for our annual meeting and potluck luncheon! The Special Events committee will be supplying hot sandwiches, and we ask each family to bring your favorite side dish or dessert. This will be a great time of fellowship and a time to hear all of the activities and community engagement that our church has worked on and will be working on in the coming months. As with Annual Meetings of the past, we will be voting on new and returning Council members for the coming year. We hope to see everyone at this important meeting in our Church year.

Blessings, Tim Powers, Vice-President - Council and Chair - Special Events Committee

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.

Notes from Church Council Meeting, Tuesday, January 21, 2025 (Rescheduled from 1/20/2025)



Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm by President Jeff Conner. Others attending included Rev. Swisher, Brian Lensink, Tim Powers, Gary Kinser, April Kinser, Greg Crowthers, Frances Hill, Mike Dooley, Julie Davis, Frank Davis and Anita Chirdon.

Devotions were led by T. Powers, who led us in a reminder for the New Year that accomplishments that we attribute to ourselves are really God working through us and led us in prayer that we (as a congregation) would grow in faith and unity this year.

Although expenses were heavier than anticipated this year, all bills are paid and there is a positive feeling on council. A new system for giving may be implemented this year.

The Adult Sunday School Class has been enjoying Rev. Swisher's book "God's Way to Good Health." Several "Use of Facility" requests were approved. Request by CE Committee for doing "The Chosen Series" on Wednesday nights at 6:30pm February 5, 12, 19 and 26, in the Fellowship Room. Request for Church use for youth sleepover on Saturday, April 26, 2025 before Youth Sunday 2025. Request for meeting room for LifeWise Academy for organizational meeting on Monday, March 27, from 4-5pm from Julie Kroah and Julie Davis.

We will be continuing with our current church insurance agent. Some discussion centered on improvements we might consider regarding the building.

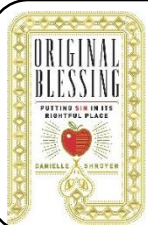
Names of people interested in membership were brought forward and approved: Carl Kochendorfer, Brenda Smith, and Ralph and Charla Devine.

Ash Wednesday service will be March 5 7PM.

The annual meeting in February will be a potluck. Sandwiches will be provided with congregation to bring sides and desserts.

A Foundation Fund meeting was held to open a Foundation Fund in the name of Debra Lynn Jones. Respectfully submitted, April Kinser, Secretary

The next meeting is on Monday, February 17, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. All members of St. John's are always welcome to attend.



The book study group will meet each Thursday morning in February (6, 13, 20, 27) at 11am at the River Road Coffee House on the square in downtown Newark. We are discussing the book "Original Blessing, Putting Sin In It's Rightful Place" by Danielle Shroyer. Come join the discussion as we seek to gain understanding together.



## Youth Canned Soup Drive

**February 9, 2025**

Canned soups of all kinds or monetary donations  
**Benefits the Licking County Food Pantry**

Collection bins will be in the Fellowship Room  
*"Vote" for your favorite team*

## *Afternoon Circle -*

*-weather permitting, will meet for lunch at the Longhorn Steak House by Walmart, on Wednesday, February 5, at noon. No reservations are needed. However, if it's snowing or very cold or icy, please stay home and be safe.*

## **Confirmation Class**

will meet this month on: Sunday, February 9, 2025, to study the history of St. John's  
Sunday, February 16, 2025, to study the symbolism of the stained glass windows and symbolism elsewhere in the Sanctuary in a special class time  
Sunday, February 23, 2025, to study worship

Anyone who would like to join us for these studies is always welcome. Confirmation Class meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month in the Small Meeting Room by the Office Door.



### **THANK YOU FOR KEEPING LITTLE ONES WARM!**

Thank you for the many donations of hats, mittens, scarves, and socks for the little kids at Ben Franklin Elementary School. We took them over to the school right after the below 0° F wind chills blew through Newark, and our gifts were gratefully accepted. Thank you for helping to keep little extremities warm this winter.

The Mission and Outreach Committee is looking for members who would like to be involved in a more personal way with the mission outreach of our congregation. Meetings are held monthly, but attendance at meetings is not a requirement. Perhaps you would like to assist with one specific mission or outreach of the congregation. We recently had a couple offer to make our own little food pantry their mission focus. They will monitor it regularly and update the congregation from time to time about this specific mission. Working together, we can find a way to increase the congregational impact to the need and suffering in our local area and around the world. Please notify April Kinser (740-323-3500) if you are interested or call the church office (740-323-2407). 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

# Sermons in Stone and Glass

with Elaine Gard

February 16, 2025 at 9:30am

While this study is part of the Confirmation Class curriculum, it is open to all who want to learn more about the symbolism in our sanctuary. The stained glass windows, the carvings in the stone, the woodwork, all were designed to enhance our worship experience. But you need to know the secrets they are shouting to us.

We will meet in the back of the sanctuary and start promptly at 9:30. We have so much to learn as we walk to the altar, study the symbols in the chancel, look at each window, lean back to see the ceiling, count stairs, and much more.

This study is led by our long-time member, Elaine Kopke Gard. Anyone and everyone is invited to attend and join this interesting study. We pray it will add to your worship experience here at St. John's.

## St. John's United Church of Christ



*Scripture, Story, Prayer*

*Submissions deadline is February 16, 2025*

It's hard to believe that in just a few short weeks, together we will begin the season of Lent. As part of your Lenten journey this year, we are asking that you share your favorite scripture, an inspirational story, along with a prayer. The story can be your own or one that inspires you. Then we will use these to create our own Lenten devotional to share with each other.

***Please submit by post, the offering plate or email to [stjohnsucc.ce@windstream.net](mailto:stjohnsucc.ce@windstream.net)***

SEASON

4

# The CHOSEN

The CHOSEN



Invite a friend and join us for fun, lively fellowship.

February 5 discussion of episodes 1, 2

February 12 discussion of episodes 3, 4

February 19 discussion of episodes 5, 6

February 26 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.*



## Ash Wednesday Worship Service

March 5, 2025 at 7:00PM

Remember that you are dust  
and to dust you shall return."

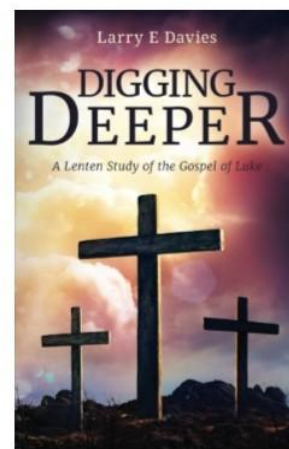
Genesis 3:19

## SPECIAL LENTEN STUDY

March 9 through April 6

9:30AM in the Large Meeting Room

Join Rev. Stephen Swisher for a discussion of "Digging Deeper: A Lenten Study of the Gospel of Luke" by Larry Davis, a study designed to help you strengthen your relationship with God through studying the life, miracles and teaching of Jesus Christ.



From Your Evangelism & Outreach Committee

## God, the Father

By Ben McKnight *Todaydevotional.com*

*The Spirit you received . . . brought about your adoption. . . . And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.”*



• — Romans 8:15

Belonging to something bigger or greater than ourselves is something that nearly everyone wants. We experience moments of belonging at concerts, or sporting events, or community gatherings. In those moments we can feel like a member of our favorite musical group or like a player for our favorite sports team. We feel connected as we share stories with our neighbors and friends. We feel seen. We feel heard. We feel accepted. We may even feel loved.

God has a similar desire for us—he wants us to feel that we belong to him. God longs for us to feel connected to him, to be satisfied in knowing that he sees, hears, and accepts us. The difference, though, in belonging to God begins with his unconditional love and care for us. That kind of love happens when we accept and embrace that God’s love for us is so great and grand that he wants to satisfy our greatest desire of belonging by adopting us into his family and calling us his own. As a part of God’s eternal family, we are seen, we are heard, we are accepted, and we are loved by the unconditional love of our heavenly Father.

*Father God, thank you for adopting me into your family, and for satisfying my desire to belong to something greater. Help me today to show that same kind of love to others so that they may know you also. For Jesus’ sake, Amen.*



### *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.

## St. John's 2024 Christmas Wrap-Up

A big thank you to everyone who served throughout the Christmas season.

The season started with the hanging of the greens on November 24. Many hands made light work of decorating the sanctuary with decorated trees, garland and bows, beautiful nativity scenes and the Advent candles. Thank you to those who led the Advent candle lighting and scripture readings each week: Carl Kochendorfer, Hailey Corey, Tobias Ware, Catherine Lim, Greg Crowthers, Marla Crowthers, Emmaleigh Crowthers, Remington Crowthers, Rebekkah Crowthers, Harley Crowthers, Kimber Crowthers, Jeremy Hill, Kayla Hill, Paxton Hill, Rayce Hill, Barbara Swisher, Emily Swisher, Tom Lawyer and Phyllis Lawyer.

The first event of the season was the German Language service. We had more than 65 people attend the service that featured the service completely in German, the story of "Silent Night" historical information of St. John's and the city of Newark. Traditional German Christmas hymns were provided by Todd Baldosser on the organ as well as The Newark Maennerchor. A fun reception followed with a table full of German cookies, punch, rich hot chocolate and joy-filled fellowship.

Next was the children's Sunday school program "Gather Around the Christmas Tree." The children's message reminded us to remember the birth of Jesus and to ask God what he wants from us at Christmas.

We were blessed with wonderful music all season long by the Adult Choir, the Handbell Choir, the Children's Ring Out Bell Choir, Leap of Faith and soloists: Todd Baldosser, Julie Davis, Rayce Hill, Diane Reef, Colleen Kroah, Matthew Kroah and Jane Shoemaker, who all shared their talents during the Advent and Christmas season.

The Youth presented a Living Nativity as members and friends entered the church for the Christmas Eve Services. They collected non-perishable food items and monetary donations to benefit the Licking County Food Pantry Network.

Finally, thank you to the ushers, Communion servers, and Altar Guild members for preparing Communion. Following Epiphany Sunday, to finish the celebration, many hands gathered to carefully put the decorations away until next year, when we will again celebrate the birth of our savior Jesus Christ.





February 16, 2025 - **Sermons in Glass** presented by Elaine Gard. Join us for a tour of the beautiful stained glass windows in the sanctuary of St. John's. Learn the details of the stained glass windows and how they help teach the stories of the Bible.



Adult Sunday school class will finish up the discussion of "God's Way to Good Health" by our very own Rev. Dr. Stephen L. Swisher. For the remaining Sundays in February, we will continue to use this time to study God's word and how it relates to our lives.

Youth Group meeting dates are February 9, 23 and March 9 and 23 following the 11AM service. We will be hard at work preparing our theme of "Praise" for Youth Sunday.



As part of our Lenten journey this year we are asking that you share your favorite **scripture**, an inspirational **story**, along with a **prayer**. The story can be your own or one that inspires you. Then, we will use these to create our own Lenten devotional to share with each other. Please submit by post, the offering plate or email to [stjohnsucc.ce@windstream.net](mailto:stjohnsucc.ce@windstream.net). *Submissions deadline is February 16, 2025.*

**The Chosen Season 4** discussion group will meet on February 5, 12, 19, and 26 from 6:30PM to 8:00PM. Join us for fun, lively fellowship. It is helpful to have watched the TV series for discussion, but it is not necessary to have the book. Please contact Julie Kroah for ride-share arrangements.



Space is still available for the Mission Trip June 29 – July 5. If you are interested in joining the mission team, contact Julie Kroah.

**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 Roll** – Available during the 11AM service



**February Worship Service Duties**

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

**Cradle Roll**

- 2 Avery Nagel/Volunteer
- 9 Avery Nagel/Volunteer
- 16 Avery Nagel/Volunteer
- 23 Avery Nagel/Volunteer

**Bible Discovery Zone**

- 2 Brian Lensink & Youth if needed
- 9 Marla Crowthers & Pat Farley
- 16 Elaine Gard & Youth if needed
- 23 Frances Hill & Pat Farley

**Sunday Sound Worship Team**

- 2 Mike Dooley
- 9 Ken Kroah
- 16 Mike Dooley
- 23 Ken Kroah

**Cantors**

- 2 Julie Davis
- 9 Charles Dudley
- 16 Diane Reef
- 23 April Kinser



**Sunday Video Worship Team**

- 2 Tom Lawyer
- 9 Julie Kroah
- 16 Tom Lawyer
- 23 Julie Kroah



# FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>26</b> 8:30am Early Indoor Service in the Chapel 9:30am Adult Sunday School - God's Way to Good Health 11:00am Bible Discovery Zone 11:00am Sanctuary Service - Choir Sings 12:00pm Youth Group Meeting -Cookies for the Salvation Army	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 10:15am Chimes Assembly	<b>29</b> 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice	<b>30</b> 11:00am Thursday Book Study Group - "Original Blessing, Putting Sin In Its Rightful Place" Shroyer - at River Road Coffee on the Square	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b> Communion Sunday 8:30am Early Indoor Service in the Chapel 9:30am Adult Sunday School - God's Way to Good Health 11:00am Bible Discovery Zone 11:00am Sanctuary Service	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 12:00pm The Afternoon Circle out for Lunch - Long Horn Steakhouse 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice 6:30pm The Chosen Season 4	<b>6</b> 11:00am Thursday Book Study Group - "Original Blessing, Putting Sin In Its Rightful Place" Shroyer - at River Road Coffee on the Square 7:15pm Choir Practice	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> Souper Bowl of Carling Canned Goods Collection 8:30am Early Indoor Service in the Chapel 9:30am Confirmation Class 11:00am Bible Discovery Zone 11:00am Sanctuary Service - Choir Sings 12:00pm Youth Group Meeting	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 7:00pm Finance & Stewardship Meeting	<b>12</b> 10:00am Christian Education Meeting 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice 6:30pm The Chosen Season 4	<b>13</b> 11:00am Thursday Book Study Group - "Original Blessing, Putting Sin In Its Rightful Place" Shroyer - at River Road Coffee on the Square	<b>14</b> Valentine's Day	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 8:30am Early Indoor Service in the Chapel 9:30am Confirmation Class - Stained Glass Windows 11:00am Bible Discovery Zone 11:00am Sanctuary Service 12:00pm Annual Congregational Meeting with Potluck	<b>17</b> Office Closed Presidents' Day 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice 6:30pm The Chosen Season 4	<b>20</b> 11:00am Thursday Book Study Group - "Original Blessing, Putting Sin In Its Rightful Place" Shroyer - at River Road Coffee on the Square	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 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	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 10:15am Chimes Assembly	<b>26</b> 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice 6:30pm The Chosen Season 4	<b>27</b> 11:00am Thursday Book Study Group - "Original Blessing, Putting Sin In Its Rightful Place" Shroyer - at River Road Coffee on the Square	<b>28</b>	<b>1</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!**

8:30 a.m. Chapel Service  
11:00 a.m. – Sanctuary Service  
Volume 25 Number 2

**Address Service Requested**



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Newark, Ohio  
Permit No. 103

#### **Main Office Phone**

740-323-2407  
[www.stjohnsnewark.org](http://www.stjohnsnewark.org)

#### **Our New Minister**

Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher  
Office 740-323-2854  
[stjohns.pastorstephen@gmail.com](mailto:stjohns.pastorstephen@gmail.com)

#### **Todd Baldosser**

Organist/Choir Director  
[scarlatti35@hotmail.com](mailto:scarlatti35@hotmail.com)

#### **Anita Chiridon/Office Administrator**

**Kim Workman/Office Assistant**  
[stjohnsunited@windstream.net](mailto:stjohnsunited@windstream.net)

#### **Charles Bruah**

Church Sexton  
740-975-2699

#### **Julie Kroah**

Christian Education Director  
Direct Number 740-323-2408  
[stjohnsucc.ce@windstream.net](mailto:stjohnsucc.ce@windstream.net)



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## LIBRARY FOCUS FOR FEBRUARY

***Glory of Creation*** by Thomas Kincade Brilliant paintings highlight spiritual and reflective quotes that celebrate the wonder and beauty of nature.

***Heaven is For Real DVD*** A Little Boy's Astounding Story of His Trip to Heaven and Back.

### **For Children**

***Greater Miracles of Jesus.*** A change-the-picture story book for young children.

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