

Welcome Home!

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



St. John's

The 2025 March Chimes

United Church of Christ



Prayer List

General Prayers: Bill Carr, Charlie Bruah, Debbie Snow, Steve Slyh, Larry Crane, Cindy Dunn, Teresa McCoy, Rev. Mark Katrick and the family of Dorothy Turdo

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!

Dear Church,
Thank you for sharing your lovely poinsettias with us!
Patricia Martin (Larry Jones' sister)
For Sharon Glyn Community

Dear St. John's United Church of Christ:
On behalf of the LCCH Board of Directors, staff, and the many clients we serve, I want to thank you for your recent contribution... (2024)
Your support is greatly appreciated, and your generosity will help LCCH to continue to provide housing services to the Licking County community.

Again, thank you for your gift, and we look forward to your continued support.

Sincerely, Katrina Woods
Executive Director



March Sunday Worship Hours

8:30 a.m. Chapel Service
Traditional Sanctuary Service at 11:00 a.m.

Thank You! Continued

On behalf of the entire team at OneWorld Health, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your generous donation. (2024) Your support is instrumental in helping us partner with communities in developing countries to bring permanent, sustainable healthcare to the chronically underserved.

Thanks to your generosity, we can continue offering hope and healing to individuals and communities in East Africa and Central America. Your support makes a meaningful difference in the lives of many.

Thank you again for your commitment to improving healthcare access and quality for all.

Many thanks!
Michael O'Neal

Baptism & Member News!

Gunner Delmar Keith Locke

Born: February 16, 2023

Baptized: February 23, 2025

Parents: McKayla Marie Locke & Dontez Rey Dickerson
Grandmother: Lori Dickerson



New members: Teresa McCoy and Annmarie McCoy joined our membership on February 23, 2025.

Dorothy Ellen Turdo

Born: March 16, 1937

Died: February 19, 2025

A member of St. Johns since 2000



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!

Member News! Continued

Connor Boyce was part of President Carter's private funeral in Georgia as part of the Rifle Squad. Then, on January 20, he was part of the escort for President Trump's Inauguration at the Capital. He then got to go to the Commander and Chief Ball. He is currently working with the Chaplain at Arlington Cemetery and also still serves on the rifle squad at some of the Navy burials at Arlington Cemetery. Connor has been in the Navy for nearly 16 months. He is stationed in Washington D.C. at Arlington Cemetery.

Financial Update	
Monthly Faith Promise goal	\$ 8,419.25
Income as of February 23, 2025	5,935.00
Month to Date Balance	(2,484.25)
Boiler Cost	\$ 99,260.00
Boiler loan amount	\$ 26,654.19
Boiler Donations received	\$ 18,838.20
Donations still needed	\$ 7,815.99



Hello friends,

March is the month of Mardi Gras, Lent, counting down to Easter, St. Patrick's Day and the beginning of Spring.

This month has so much to offer and like a fresh, sparkling, inviting swimming pool, I hope we all dive in and experience all of it. I invite you to join us for Ash Wednesday and the official Launch of the Season of Lent 2025 on Wednesday, March 5, at 7pm in our main Sanctuary.

In the meantime, some of you have asked for copies of the Prayer I gave for our Ohio State Senate recently. I hope you enjoy it.



Ohio State Senate

Opening Prayer

February 19, 2025

**Rev. Dr. Stephen Lowell Swisher, Senior Pastor
St. John's United Church of Christ, Newark, Ohio**

Dear God, on this 146th Year of Celebrating President's Day in America, as we did this last Monday, we remember notable elected leaders like each of these gathered in this sacred chamber today. We are grateful for their heart, determination and commitment to serving, not only their constituents, but every Buckeye in our beloved State.

As we say this prayer aloud, each of us from our souls, whisper our own unique prayer directly to You. Speak to us in this moment and fill us with warm memories, Holy commitments and deep abiding peace.

Help us walk where you lead us this day. Open our eyes to see Your guidance, Open our ears to hear Your wisdom and Open our hearts to understand the challenges we are facing and to discern fresh and incisive solutions.

I ask Your Blessing now upon each Senator, their families, staff members and every officer of our Ohio State Senate. Surround them with protection, encouragement, favor and health.

In Your Divine friendship, envelope us outwardly...abide with us inwardly. We rejoice that you called us friends and have made Your will known to all who will Ask, Seek, and Knock.

We thank You, O God, and look with anticipation to all this day has to offer.

In Jesus' Name,

Amen



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

Meeting called to order at 6:35 by President Jeff Conner. Also attending were Vice President Tim Powers, Assistant Treasurer Brian Lensink, Secretary April Kinser, Gary Kinser, Chuck Chirdon, Greg Crowthers, Ken Kroah, Frances Hill, Julie Davis, Mike Dooley, and Office Administrator, Anita Chirdon.

Jeff Conner led the devotions relating stories of musicians Bill Withers and Reba McIntire and how Christian music was important in their lives. Christian music can provide unity through times of crisis and remind us of love for others when we are at our worst. God and music go hand in hand and songs can lead you to prayer.

Rev Swisher has had requests from Teresa McCoy and Annmarie McCoy for membership. Motion was put forward by J. Davis for approval with 2nd by M. Dooley. Motion approved.

Rev. Swisher will also be doing a Baptism.

There was some discussion of upcoming events and needs. Possibility of insulating the parsonage in the future. Maintenance is needed on the small bell in the tower-not always ringing. Some tuck-pointing needs (masonry). Requests for continued use of facility as we move forward on the LifeWise program was approved. Also a \$1500 donation was approved as a startup cost to the LifeWise program in the search for a Director for the program in the Newark area. This is a one-time donation, and the program is not dependent on the church for funding.

A (smaller) baby grand piano has been gifted to the church from Don Boldt and plans are to place it in the chapel.

Pencil and card holders have been placed in the chapel pews.

Comments were made about how nice it was to see the confirmation class attend the annual meeting and participating with the church.

Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully Submitted, April Kinser, Secretary Jeff Conner, President

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

The Afternoon Circle -

will meet on Wednesday, March 5, at 1:00 p.m. in the Large Meeting Room at the Church for our annual Lenten Quiet Hour (which this year happens to fall on Ash Wednesday). Our Bite Size Bible Study will be about "The Anointing Woman". The Hostess this month is Jane Shoemaker.

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

Mission and Outreach for 2025

CURRENT NEEDS The clothing drive that we did in 2024 was so appreciated that we have decided to continue it for 2025. A donation tub is under the table in the Fellowship Room. All sizes of men's and women's clothing are needed. Also appreciated are liquid soaps and shampoos. All may be deposited in the same collection container and they will be sorted as needed before the donation. As you clean out closets or discard articles that don't fit or appeal to you as they once did, remember men and women in our local community have a need and would appreciate your donations. We assist The Men's Haven, The Main Place and the Licking County Jail Ministry.

The Confirmation Class

will meet this month on March 9, to study The Sacraments, and on March 23, to study The Work of the Denomination. Classes are at 9:30 a.m. the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, in the Small Meeting Room.

This year has been going very fast, and there are only a couple months left. This class of six will be confirmed on Sunday, June 1. The students have been very faithful in their attendance both in class and in the Youth Fellowship as they study there and practice being in service to the community, being Jesus' hands and feet to our brothers and sisters.

We ask that the congregation add these young people to your prayer lists, as we get closer to the time when they will be making the decision to follow Jesus and become members of St. John's Church. This decision is not taken lightly by any one of these young people:

Emmaleigh Crowthers	Kayden Ewing
Rebekkah Crowthers	Karson Ewing
Remington Crowthers	Paxton Hill

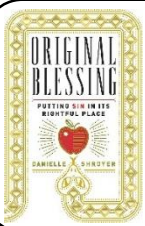
They all need your prayers and support as they finish their Confirmation studies and look to the future as full members of this local parish and the Church Universal.



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.




The book study group will continue to meet each Thursday in March (6,13,20,27) at 11am at the River Road Coffee House on the square in downtown Newark. We continue with the book "Original Blessing - Putting Sin in its Rightful Place" by Danielle Shroyer. The book is available online. Come and share in the discussion and the laughter as we fellowship together.

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.

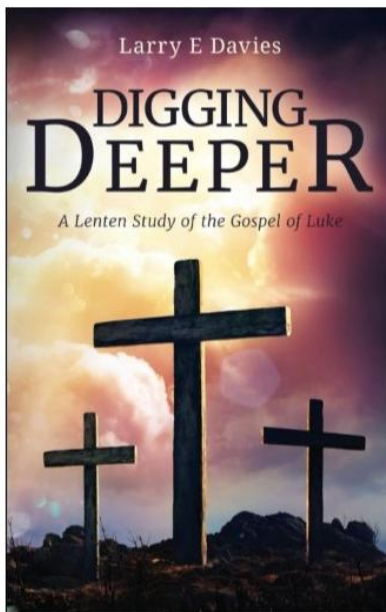


Ash Wednesday
Worship Service

March 5, 2025 at 7:00PM

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

Genesis 3:19



**Special Lenten Study on the
Gospel of Luke**

ADULT
Sunday School

March 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6 at 9:30am

Lead by Pastor Steve

This study is designed to help you strengthen your relationship with God through studying the life, miracles and teaching of Jesus Christ

For hundreds of years, God sent prophets and messengers to tell us a Messiah was coming. Now, the time has come.



Join us at Licking Springs Country Club (formerly The Trout Club) on March 22, 2025 for MHA's Night of Hope and help us break the stigma surrounding mental health. The evening will feature a cash bar, live auction showcasing a variety of exciting items, and live music with Big Bad Stache.

\$100 VIP Tickets: 6 pm Complimentary food and drink prior to the live auction and music.

\$35 Tickets: 7 pm live auction and 8 pm music.

To purchase:
<https://tinyurl.com/mr223kud>

Questions? Call 740.522.1341



Gold Sponsorship: Duchess Convenience Stores
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Friends of MHA Sponsorship: CENTURY 21 Frank Frye Real Estate / David Wyeth REALTOR & Auctioneer, Clark Schaefer Hackett, First Federal Savings, Hope Timber Garden & Vintage, Kiwanis Club of Newark, and Debbie Matesich

LENTEN *Schedule*

Adult Lenten Study

Sundays at 9:30am

Digging Deeper: A Lenten Study of the book of
Luke by Larry E. Davies
Lead by Rev. Swisher

Ash Wednesday, March 5th • 7:00pm

Inspirational music, Imposition of Ashes

Dr. Swisher's life changing message

Free Children's activity books available

Lenten Devotional books for all ages.

St. John's United Church of Christ

285 W. National Drive Newark Ohio

740-323-2407

www.stjohnsnewark.org

Easter Lilies

This Easter, we will again beautify our sanctuary and our lobby window with an array of Easter lilies to be displayed at both services, which will be purchased from a local nursery. If you would like to participate in this celebration of Easter, please fill out the form below or contact the church office.

6" pot traditional white - \$13.00



THE DEADLINE for placing orders is **Sunday, March 30, 2025.**

I desire the office to purchase a lily for me to keep.

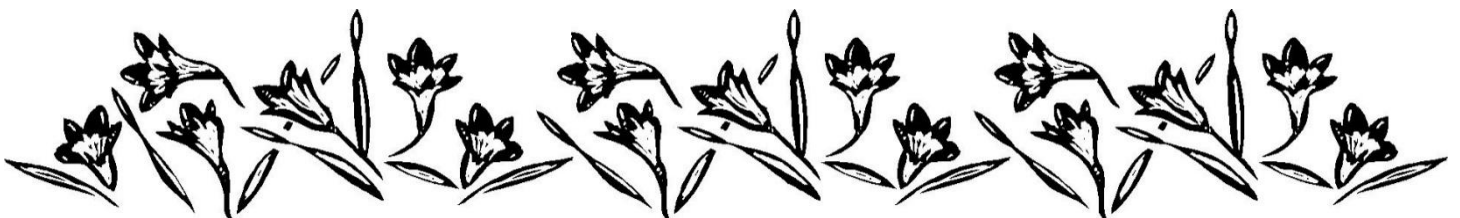
I desire the office to purchase a lily to be donated to a shut-in.

Be sure to complete the following to be printed in the bulletin: (i.e.: In honor of or in memory of..... by) for lily purchases, Abiding Memorials and/or Foundation Fund Contributions.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

You may also choose to remember a loved one with a gift to the Abiding Memorial Fund or the Foundation Fund. All such gifts noted and received **by April 13, 2025,** will be listed in the bulletin on **April 20, 2025, Easter Sunday.** Abiding Memorial and Foundation Fund Cards and Envelopes are available in the literature rack in the Narthex or in the office or you can use this form and place in the offering plate with your contribution. Thank you!

_____ Foundation Fund _____ Abiding Memorial Fund





6 Reasons to Read a Daily Devotional

By Jordan An
Todaydevotional.com

Like any other relationship, our relationship with God benefits from daily connection. And it makes sense that reading the Bible is a great place to start. However, our *desire* to engage with God's Word does not always translate to *action*. Maybe you've wanted to start reading the Bible more regularly, but you've found it intimidating and don't know where to start. Or perhaps you've purchased a Bible study but never actually started it.

A daily devotional is a helpful tool that interprets and clarifies scripture passages and offers reflections and application for your everyday life. Reading God's Word through a daily devotional is a great place to start (or continue) your journey with the Bible.

If you're looking for the motivation to start this new habit, here are six reasons to read a daily devotional:

Spiritual Growth: Daily devotionals provide structure for Bible reading, reflection, and prayer, and these daily practices encourage spiritual growth.

Connection with God: Daily devotions create space for encountering God in his Word and prayer. Spending regular time with God increases intimacy and closeness in your relationship with God.

Hope and encouragement: Devotionals offer words of encouragement for life's daily challenges. In times of uncertainty or despair, wisdom from God's Word can be a source of hope, reminding you of his faithfulness and love.

Guidance for life: Many devotionals provide practical insights and guidance on how to apply biblical principles to everyday situations, helping you navigate life's challenges through the lens of your faith.

Cultivation of spiritual discipline: Establishing a habit of daily devotions can promote discipline and consistency in your spiritual life.

Community and fellowship: Many devotionals are designed for individual use, but they can also serve as a point of connection with others who share your faith (or those who may not). Discussing what you've learned in your devotional time with others can deepen your relationships and strengthen your faith.

As you begin your devotional journey, reflect on the benefits of reading God's Word as described in 2 Timothy:

All scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work. @ Timothy 3:16-17, NLT.



ADULT Sunday School

Adult Sunday school class begins 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.

Youth Group meeting dates are March 9 and 23, April 13, and 27 following the 11AM service. We will be planning the details for the Easter Breakfast as well as working hard preparing our theme of "Praise" for Youth Sunday.



The 2025 St. John's Lenten Devotional will be available March 2. Thank you to everyone who submitted your own story, thoughts or shared a favorite devotional. If you would like to have a devotional mailed to you, please call the church office or email stjohnsucc.ce@windstream.net and request a copy.



Thank you for participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring. Our friendly competition had the Eagles ahead with more pounds of food, but the Chiefs were in the lead with monetary donations. Because of your generosity we will be donating 69 pounds of food and \$87 to the Licking County Food Pantry!



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.

March 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
30 Avery Nagel/Volunteer

Cantors

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

Bible Discovery Zone

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

Sunday Sound Worship Team


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

Sunday Video Worship Team

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





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23 8:30am Early Indoor Service in the Chapel 9:30am Adult Sunday School 10-15am Belt Choir Practice 11:00am Bible Discovery Zone 11:00am Sanctuary Service 12:00pm Youth Group Meeting	24	25 10:15am Chimes Assembly	26 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice 6:30pm The Chosen Season 4	27 11:00am Thursday Book Study Group - "Original Blessing, Putting Sin In Its Rightful Place" Stryver - at River Road Coffee on the Square	28	1
2 Communion Sunday Transfiguration Sunday 8:30am Early Indoor Service in the Chapel 9:30am Adult Sunday School 11:00am Bible Discovery Zone 11:00am Sanctuary Service	3	4	5  1:00pm The Afternoon Circle of the Women's Guild Meeting 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service	6 11:00am Thursday Book Study Group - "Original Blessing, Putting Sin In Its Rightful Place" Stryver - at River Road Coffee on the Square	7 World Day of Prayer	8
9 Daylight-Saving Time Begins 8:30am Early Indoor Service in the Chapel 9:30am Adult Sunday School Special Lenten Study 9:30am Confirmation Class 11:00am Bible Discovery Zone 11:00am Sanctuary Service 12:00pm Youth Group Meeting	10	11 7:00pm NO Finance & Stewardship Meeting	12 10:00am Christian Education Meeting 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice	13 11:00am Thursday Book Study Group - "Original Blessing, Putting Sin In Its Rightful Place" Stryver - at River Road Coffee on the Square	14 2:45pm Music Committee Meeting	15
16 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	17 St. Patrick's Day 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	18	19 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice	20 First Day of Spring 11:00am Thursday Book Study Group - "Original Blessing, Putting Sin In Its Rightful Place" Stryver - at River Road Coffee on the Square	21	22
23 8:30am Early Indoor Service in the Chapel 9:30am Adult Sunday School Special Lenten Study 9:30am Confirmation Class 11:00am Bible Discovery Zone 11:00am Sanctuary Service 12:00pm Youth Group Meeting	24	25	26 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice	27 11:00am Thursday Book Study Group - "Original Blessing, Putting Sin In Its Rightful Place" Stryver - at River Road Coffee on the Square	28	29
30 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	31	1	2 1:00pm The Afternoon Circle of the Women's Guild Meeting 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice	3	4	5



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
 Volume 25 Number 3

Address Service Requested



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Anita Chiridon/Office Administrator Kim Workman/Office Assistant stjohnsunited@windstream.net	Charles Bruah Church Sexton 740-975-2699	Julie Kroah Christian Education Director Direct Number 740-323-2408 stjohnsucc.ce@windstream.net



LIBRARY FOCUS FOR MARCH

God's Way to Good Health by Stephen Lowell Swisher. Explore the faith-health connection.

Vanishing Grace by Philip Yancey . DVD study. Stories of faith and the Good News.

For Children

The Parable of the Sower by Helen Caswell. Simple. Simple and illustrated retelling of the parable for children.

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