

Welcome Home!

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



The 2025 May Chimes

United Church of Christ



Prayer List

Prayers: Bill Carr, Charlie Bruah, Debbie Snow, Larry Crane, Rev. Dr. Winfield Strout, Lois "Lyn Cayton" Montgomery & Carolyn Igo

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 Charlotte Kinser for sewing each Bible Discovery Zone and Youth student a Pocket Prayer Oratory for them to personalize with favorite prayers and charms. Your talents are greatly appreciated. Christian Education Committee

Thank you!

St. John's United Church of Christ

Thank you for your generous support of LifeWise Newark City! Your gift is making an eternal impact by helping us share God's Word with the next generation. I'm grateful for your partnership and pray God blesses you for your kindness.

In Christ, Adrienne Tice

Director LifeWise Newark City

To all our friends at St. John's,

We thank God for all of you and your willingness to help others! We truly appreciate your partnership with us in Kingdom work.

God Bless, Your friends at L.C.J. M.

(Licking County Jail Ministry)

Thank you to the members of the Handbell Choir for your dedication to the music mission of the church. Special thanks to Jane Shoemaker for marking the music parts and all she does in both handbells and piano. Hopefully our music glorifies God in a way that is meaningful to the congregation. Jerry Goodman

Financial Update

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Monthly Faith Promise goal | \$ 8,419.25 |
| Income as of April 27, 2025 | 9,582.00 |
| Month to Date Balance | \$ 1,162.75 |
| Boiler Cost | \$ 99,260.00 |
| Boiler loan amount | \$ 26,654.19 |
| Boiler Donations received | \$ 20,918.20 |
| Donations still needed | \$ 5,735.99 |



May 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 (740) 323-2407 and leave a message to make an appointment or call/text Anita at 740-973-8218. Thank you!

From the Pastor

Hello friends,

May is here and warm weather has finally dawned! Our drive-in services have begun again and friends from all over our region are joining us for Worship.

Let me take a moment to thank everyone who worked so hard during our Lent and Easter season. Our staff and volunteer teams outdid themselves, our Youth members made us all proud with their dedication and service and together we all did our best to serve each other and our Community. Thank you very much. The Lord was honored and our Community was served with heart, quality and distinction. That's what ministry is all about. We couldn't have done it without everyone participating and making such a difference.

With May comes a number of exciting opportunities as well. Including Mother's Day, Graduation Sunday and Memorial Day Sunday. In each of these services we will honor loved ones who have made and continue to make an impact in our lives. Plan to be a part of all of these Worship events.

Of course the first week of June brings Confirmation Sunday and we are so thankful to confirm and welcome many into full membership. This is a very exciting time for all of us.

As we think about the upcoming holidays, I want to reprint here a poem that has always meant a lot to me and I'll bet to you, too. It's called I Am the American Flag by Howard Schnauber. Here are a few excerpts:

My name is Old Glory
I fly atop the world's tallest buildings
I stand watch over America's halls of Justice.

I fly majestically over halls of learning
I stand guard with power in the world.

I stand for peace, honor, truth and Justice.
I stand for freedom. I am confident.

I have fought in every battle of every war for over two hundred years. I was flown at Valley Forge, Gettysburg and Appomattox. I was there at San Juan Hill, the beaches of Normandy, Korea, Khe Shan and Vietnam, too.

I have slipped the bonds of earth and stood watch over the uncharted frontiers of space from my vantage point on the moon.

I have born silent witness to America's greatest hours. But my finest hour is yet to come.

I am proud. I am the flag of the United States of America.

God Bless you and may God continue to bless our Community, State and Nation.
Pastor Steve



Member News

Excerpts from:



LICKING COUNTY
AGING PARTNERS

Heritage Times

May-June 2025



LICKING COUNTY
AGING PARTNERS

1058 East Main Street, Newark, OH 43055
Monday-Friday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
(740) 345-0821 lcap@lcap.org

The Power of Experience

In a world where people are living, learning, and earning longer, it is not surprising to have people tackle several careers. LCAP is proud to have four octogenarians (someone whose age is in the eighties) in employment! These employees bring a wealth of knowledge and life experience to the organization and our clients.



Tom Lawyer

Tom, 86, spent 58 years in the retail lumber/building material business, serving as Vice President and Treasurer of Granville Lumber Company. He now serves as a flex driver, delivering meals as needed. **"Take care of yourself first so that you can enjoy helping others. We are all here for a short period of time, so 'do what you like and like what you do!'"** He views this service as a way to give back to the community that has been so good to him and his family.

Afternoon Circle's 153rd Anniversary Celebration -

-will take place on Wednesday, May 7, at 12 'clock Noon, in the Large Meeting Room. We will have our annual salad smorgasbord, each bringing our favorite salad to share. Beverages will be provided. For our program, we will be celebrating "Birthdays". All women of our St. John's Church Family are invited to attend and bring a salad to share. Please call Mrs. Bev Lange (740-277-3392) to confirm your attendance. And please remember our traditional Anniversary Offering of one (1) penny per year of the Circle. That is \$1.53 this year.

The Afternoon Circle was formed on May 9, 1872, in the sanctuary of the old church building at 5th and Poplar. Over 90 ladies attended that day. The Circle has met continuously since then, making it the oldest fellowship group in St. John's. Come and be a part of the proud heritage.



Confirmation Class

The Confirmation Class has only two classes left this month - May 11 and 25, at 9:00 a.m. in the small meeting room. The students will complete their studies, put the finishing touches on their Statements of Faith, and practice for their Confirmation on Sunday, June 1.

These young people have worked very hard to complete all that is required of them and are eager to become full members of St. John's and the Church Universal. Please pray for them as they finish their work and make the decision, to join the Lord Jesus in His work on earth.



Notes from Church Council Meeting, Monday, April 21, 2025

Attending: Rev. Stephen Swisher, President Jeff Connor, Tim Powers, Ken Kroah, Frank Davis, Frances Hill, Greg Crothers, Gary Kinser, April Kinser, Brian Lensink, Julie Davis, Chuck Chirdon, Anita Chirdon, Office Administrator, & Kim Workman, Office Assistant.

A devotion for the Easter season was given by Frank Davis, a reflection on the meaning of Jesus on the Cross.

Rev. Swisher offered thanks for all who had helped in so many ways to make this a special Lenten season for our church.

A thank you was read from LifeWise Academy/Newark for helping with their initial start-up.

A representative from The Verdin Company will be here Monday, April 28, to inspect the tower bells.

End of year appreciation/ thank you for teachers and volunteers is being planned.

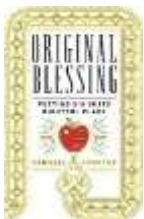
Still in search of a substitute pianist for occasional service.

Continuing to discuss masonry needs and costs for repair to the bell tower.

Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted, April Kinser, Secretary Jeff Connor, President

The next meeting is on Monday, May 19, 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 in May (1, 8, 15, 22, 29) at 11am at the River Road Coffee House on the north side of the square in downtown Newark. We continue our discussion of the book "Original Blessing, Putting Sin In Its Rightful Place" by Danielle Shroyer. Come join us as we unite in laughter, fellowship and good coffee. The book is available online. You are always welcome.



From the St. John's E&O Committee

Peter Yet Again

Bret Lamsma

April 21, 2025 todaydevotional.com

Go tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'" Mark 16:7

We might not like to be singled out, but many of us know what that's like. It may be for a special honor, or it may be for doing something wrong. Either way, being singled out can be embarrassing and make us want to hide.

Peter was singled out by Jesus here. And while Peter may have gulped deeply when he heard about this, it wasn't a bad thing. Peter had denied Jesus three times, even after saying he would never leave Jesus' side (see [Mark 14:27-31](#), [66-72](#)). I can't imagine the guilt Peter must have felt. But Jesus needed Peter to know that he was still welcome among his followers. He was still invited to the reunion in Galilee that Jesus had mentioned. In fact, he was still part of the plan Jesus had for his disciples and the whole world.

We could all make a laundry list of the many things we do that should separate us from Jesus. There are times when we do what we shouldn't do and times when we don't do what we should do. But none of those things separates us from Jesus and his kingdom, because his death has covered all the sins of our lives—even the ones we haven't done yet. That's how vast the forgiveness of God is! And when the Lord singles us out, we can be sure he is calling us to join with him.

Can you sense the Lord calling you today?

Jesus, thank you for calling us to follow you, even though we have failed you in many ways. Help us to be faithful, we pray. Amen.



Mission Focus for May

Our Youth group is planning their summer mission trip to Big Creek Missions in Kentucky. This will be the 10th year that St John's Youth have been involved and we would like to celebrate that special milestone with them. As a way to make the trip more special for Big Creek and the St. John's mission team, we would like to collect necessary supplies that Big Creek Mission uses every day. During the month of May, we will collect 13-gallon size garbage bags and 33-gallon size trash bags in our collection baskets in the Fellowship room. (New, unused boxes of bags only please) In June, we will send all supplies collected along with the Youth as their gift to Big Creek Missions.

Also in May, we will be having a mission moment highlighting The Main Place, our south end neighbor providing service to those with mental health needs.

Mission and Outreach Committee



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 _____



St. John's United Church of Christ



Vacation Bible School June 23 - 27

Join us for music, stories, science, games, snacks and more!

9:00am – 11:30am

Ages pre-school through 6th grade.

285 W. National Drive, Newark

740-323-2407 www.stjohnsnewark.org



ST. JOHN'S UCC VBS REGISTRATION FORM

285 W. National Dr. Newark, OH 740-323-2407

Preschool through Sixth Grade

June 23 - 27, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Child's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____

Home telephone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Home e-mail address: _____

Child's age: _____ Last school grade completed: _____

In case of emergency (when the parent/guardian cannot be reached), please contact:

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Relationship to child: _____

Please list any allergies (including food allergies) the VBS staff should be aware of: _____

Person responsible for picking up this child at the end of each VBS day:

Name: _____ Phone # _____

Signature of parent/guardian: _____

Photographs (Please sign only to disallow photo use)

I Do Not allow photographs and/or video representations of me or my child to be taken for the express purpose of telling stories about the church VBS experience and/ or promoting church activities in the future.

Signature _____ Date _____



ADULT Sunday School

The Adult Sunday school class will be looking at **Grow In Christ: A Bible Study on Spiritual Growth** written and led by Carl Kochendorfer starting April 27 through May 18. Join us at **9:00AM** for a lively discussion and a look into spiritual growth.

The Youth will meet May 11 following the 10:30AM service to finish up the year and plan summer activities.



Save the Date! VBS is June 23 – 27. Join us for The Armor of God. Learn about the spiritual readiness that Paul taught, how to stand strong in faith with games, crafts, science, stories and, more. Bring a friend or tell a neighbor. Everyone is welcome!

Confirmation Sunday is June 1 at 10:30AM. Be sure to come and support our confirmands on their special day.



Join us in honoring our graduates on May 18 at the 10:30AM service with a reception to follow.

Thank you to all who came out to support the Youth at the Car Wash and the Easter Breakfast. Your generosity will provide mission and fellowship opportunities.

Thank You!



Sunday School Classes

Adult class – 9:00AM every Sunday.

Confirmation Class – Sundays at 9:00AM

Bible Discovery Zone – ages 5 to 14 at 10:30AM.

Cradle Role – Available during the 10:30AM service.

May Worship Service Duties

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

Cradle Roll

4 Avery Nagel/Volunteer
11 Avery Nagel/Volunteer
18 Avery Nagel/Volunteer
25 Avery Nagel/Volunteer

4 Brian Lensink & Youth if needed
11 Marla Crowthers & Youth
if needed
18 Elaine Gard & Pat Farley
25 Frances Hill & Youth if needed

4 Mike Dooley
11 Ken Kroah
18 Mike Dooley
25 Ken Kroah

Cantors

4 Diane Reef
11 Todd Baldosser
18 Julie Davis
25 Charles Dudley

Bible Discovery Zone

Sunday Video Worship Team

4 Tom Lawyer
11 Julie Kroah
18 Tom Lawyer
25 Julie Kroah





| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|---|------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| 27 Youth Sunday 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service -New Time 9:00am Adult Sunday School - 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 | 28 | 29 | 30 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice | 1 National Day of Prayer | 2 | 3 |
| 4 Communion Sunday 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 9:00am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Bible Discovery Zone 10:30am Sanctuary Service | 5 | 6 | 7 12:00pm The Afternoon Circle Anniversary Celebration- Salad Smorgasbord- Bring your favorite salad 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 Mother's Day 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 9:00am Adult Sunday School 9:00am Confirmation Class 10:30am Bible Discovery Zone 10:30am Sanctuary Service | 12 | 13 7:00pm Finance & Stewardship Meeting | 14 10:00am Christian Education Meeting 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18 Graduation, Teacher & Volunteer Appreciation Sunday 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 9:00am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Bible Discovery Zone 10:30am Sanctuary Service | 19 6:30pm Church Council Meeting | 20 | 21 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 9:00am Confirmation Class 10:30am Bible Discovery Zone 10:30am Sanctuary Service | 26 Memorial Day | 27 | 28 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice | 29 | 30 | 31 |



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 5

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www.stjohnsnewark.org

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stjohns.pastorstephen@gmail.com

Todd Baldosser

Organist/Choir Director

scarlatti35@hotmail.com

Anita Chirdon/Office Administrator

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Charles Bruah

Church Sexton

740-975-2699

Julie Kroah

Christian Education Director

Direct Number 740-323-2408

stjohnsucc.ce@windstream.net

ADULT *Sunday School*

When you join us in the large meeting room for Adult Sunday school, you join a great group of people, engaging conversation and Biblical learning.

This new study led by Carl Kochendorfer will discuss navigating spiritual growth.

Starting April 27, 2025

At 9:00AM

