

Welcome Home!

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



St. John's

The 2025 September Chimes

United Church of Christ



Prayer List

Prayers: Bill Carr, Charlie Bruah, Debbie Snow, Larry Crane, Rev. Dr. Winfield Strout, Molly Sheets, Mike Dunn, Robin Lyn Green, Marla Crowthers, and Rev. Gunnar Cerda & family

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



The book study group will meet each Thursday in September (4, 11, 18, 25) as we continue our discussion of the book "A Bigger Table- Building Messy, Authentic and Hopeful Spiritual Community" by John Pavlovitz. Come join us at 11am at the River Road Coffee House on the square in downtown Newark. The book is available online and there is space at the table for you to join us for discussion and fellowship.



September Sunday Worship Hours

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

10:30 a.m. Traditional Sanctuary Service

St. John's Music Volunteer Potluck



All music volunteers are invited to a Music Volunteer Potluck on Sunday, September 14. The meal will follow the 10:30 a.m. church service. Anyone involved with St. John's Music ministry is welcome. Please bring a covered dish or dessert. Table service and beverages will be provided. See you there!



Congratulations to Debi on her retirement! Debi Snow is retiring as our church Librarian on August 31, 2025. Debi has been our Librarian for many, many years. We appreciate her dedication and faithful service in caring for the library and assisting with library needs. We thank her for her service. Catherine Lim has become our new Librarian. Catherine is dedicated to continuing the care of the library and eager to search for new and relevant materials that will serve the congregation in the future.

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!

Financial Update

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Monthly Faith Promise goal | \$ 8,419.25 |
| Income as of August 24, 2025 | <u>6,436.50</u> |
| Month to Date Balance | (\$ 1,982.75) |

From the Pastor



The Second January

I just learned the other day about the concept of September being known as the Second January. I was on the fence about that at first, but the more I thought about it the more it grew on me. Even though I never thought of it that way before, it makes sense as we are shifting from one Season of the year to another.

Summer turns into Fall in mid-September and this shift in weather, mindset and anticipation of the Holiday season offers a unique opportunity for reflection, renewal and setting of intention. Just as January is a time of resolutions, September can be a time of fresh starts and renewed enthusiasm.

Let's take a moment to reflect on the fun and sunshine of Summer...swimming pools, family gatherings, barbecues, fireworks, amusement parks, camping, hiking, lemonade and ice cream. We can be thankful for all of that and so much more.

Then we turn with anticipation to our intentions for the final quarter of the year. We can ask ourselves and those closest to us what we want to experience, learn, express, create and contribute in the months ahead.

September brings new beginnings like Back to Church Sunday, on September 7, Back to School, new Bible enrichment classes, the opportunity to read through the Bible in one year with fellow believers and the gift of reconnecting with Church friends after a busy Summer.

September can also be a time of increased positivity and forward momentum similar to that of launching a New Year. It's the perfect time to stay positive and optimistic as we embrace the rest of 2025 with gusto.

In the midst of everything, remember to find inspiration in God's creation all around us. As cool breezes greet the morning and fall colors absorb the trees, nature's transformation can be a powerful reminder of our capacity to adapt, grow and renew.

May all of us discover these truths for ourselves as we walk hand in hand with the Lord throughout the remainder of 2025.

Many blessings to you and those you love,

Pastor Steve

Mission Focus for September

This month we will wind up our collection of school supplies for the Glory Rising educational program for preschoolers at The Lookup Center. This Christian based program for 3 to 5 year olds depends on the community for needed supplies. Needs include glue sticks, crayons, markers, colored pencils, colored paper as well as snack needs such as small bags of cookies, crackers, fruit rollups, applesauce and pudding (individual servings). Hygiene needs include paper towels, tissues, and hand wipes (not bottles of sanitizer). Donations may continue until the end of September.



Synopsis of Council Meeting on August 18, 2025

Attending: Rev. Swisher, Jeff Conner, Terry Gano, Frank Davis, Frances Hill, Tim Powers, Gary Kinser, April Kinser, Chuck Chirdon, Julie Davis, and office personnel Anita Chirdon and Kim Workman

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 and the opening devotion was provided by Chuck Chirdon who presented some meaningful and thoughtful comments for the group. As a group, we all live by God's provisions and God is important to us. God provides for us to do what needs to be done. Philippians 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. He continued with five things we need to be responsible for. 1. Learn how and when to say no. 2. Understand as much as possible. 3. Consider how to accomplish the task. 4. Take necessary time, be patient. 5. Get after the task at hand. As for the outcome, pray for patience and look to God.

Rev. Swisher, will be off Labor Day Sunday, and Rev. Amelia Walker, will fill the pulpit that day.

The Chosen -Season 5 will be discussed this fall using the fellowship room on September 10, 17, 24, and October 1, 2025. (Now revised to September 17, 24, October 1 and 8, 2025.)

Trunk or Treat is planned again this year for October 19, 2025.

Approval was given for LifeWise to use church facilities for necessary interviews, board meetings, and organizational meetings. They will host an open house at the church on September 2, 2025, from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. They will also be hosting students in Hermann Hall throughout the school year.

Council agreed to increase the amount provided to a fill-in minister to meet the recommendation provided by the Central Southeast Ohio Association of the U.C.C.

Council Approved a \$4000.00 donation to LifeWise to assist them to purchase a bus.

The church will celebrate its 185th anniversary in 2026. Tentative plans are for a celebratory chicken BBQ.

Debbie Snow has resigned as church librarian. We thank her for her years of service. Catherine Lim has volunteered to take over. Special thanks to Catherine.

Respectfully submitted,

April Kinser, Secretary

Jeff Conner, President

Our next meeting will be on September 15, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. All members of St. John's are always welcome to attend.

Afternoon Circle -

will meet on Wednesday, September 3, at 1:00 p.m. in the Large Meeting Room. Mrs. Charlotte Kinser will be the hostess. Our Bite-size Bible Study will be about Rahab. And our program will be on part of Ohio history, the USS Shenandoah. We invite all ladies of our church family to join us.

Last month, our ladies decided to give \$300 for the purchase of 4 disaster response buckets for our UCC's Heartland (formerly Ohio) Conference's Disaster Response Team. The 5-gallon buckets are filled with all sorts of cleaning supplies to aid in the clean-up after disastrous storms, flooding, etc., like the one in July in Texas. The disaster buckets will be delivered on October 25, 2025 at the CSEO Association meeting of the UCC.

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

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



September 7, 2025

9:00AM to 10:30AM

Food • Fun • Friends!

Interactive Bible Stations
for kids and adults

Our fall Kickoff of Bible Discovery Zone classes for all ages!

Fall Fling

Save the Date!

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2025
5:30PM BRYN DU FIELDHOUSE
537 JONES ROAD, GRANVILLE

HELP US RECOGNIZE OUR HAVEN HEROES
Tom Harvey & Patty Gaul

Sponsorships are available now!
For information,
contact Cathy Stofac
cstofac@svdphaven.org (740) 670-0822

SEASON

5



The



CHOSEN

Invite a friend and join us for fun, lively discussion on Season 5 of the series.



September 17 discussion of episodes 1, 2

September 24 discussion of episodes 3, 4

October 1 discussion of episodes 5, 6

October 8 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.

A Letter from the Executive Director

What an honor it is to have served as the Starting Strong Director for Fostering Further since 2019 and as Executive Director since 2024. I have met brave young adults, compassionate foster families and incredible supporters in our community. I have had the privilege of sharing the stories of our young friends with several churches and community groups. I have been amazed to watch the collaboration that accomplished the dream of establishing a transitional apartment building for youth who have aged out of foster care. It has been an amazing six years!

But just as the seasons are changing with summer turning into fall and kids heading off to new adventures with the beginning of a new school year, things are changing at Fostering Further as well. I am stepping down as Executive Director of Fostering Further at the end of August. While this decision has been difficult for me, I know that it is the right decision and am looking forward to new adventures as well.

As we enter into this new season, the board of Fostering Further is engaged in a search to fill two key positions: Executive Director and Starting Strong Director. The job descriptions are available at <https://fosteringfurther.org/careers/>

If you or someone you know has a passion for serving our local foster community, please check these out and reach out at info@fosteringfurther.org.

To ensure the continuance of our Starting Strong programs and services, board member Bob Zaborski will serve as the Interim Starting Strong Program Director. I am confident in the future of Fostering Further knowing that the board members and staff are committed to continuing the mission.

What a great ride it has been! What a terrific community we are blessed to be part of. I am grateful for the opportunity to have been part of this incredible organization and to serve our foster families, children and young adults. My heart will forever be with the mission of Fostering Further.

Sincerely,
Yvonne Williams



Classes For All Ages

Starting September 14

9:00AM—10:00AM

Adult Class

Join us for
“Searching the Scriptures”

by C. Swindoll

led by Rev. Swisher

Meet in the large meeting room

Youth Class

Ages 13 and up

Join us for
“Pilgrims Progress”

By J. Bunyan

Led by Elaine Gard

Meet in the small meeting room

Elementary Class

Ages 5—12

Join us for
Bible devotions, crafts & more

Meet in the BDZ room

Bible Discovery Zone Children’s Church

During the 10:30AM Worship Service

Ages 5 - 12: Join us for Bible lessons, crafts and games

Meets in the Bible Discovery Zone classroom

Ages 0—5 Nursery care is available

Journey Together: Our Year of Bible Discovery

Reading the Bible in a Year as a Congregation

Fruitful Vines: 7 Reasons to Read the Bible in a Year (Excerpt 1)
by Melissa Kruger

**Reading the Bible through in a year helps you:
Go Places You Normally Wouldn't Go**

We all have books of the Bible that we naturally enjoy reading. The Psalms minister to our emotions, the Gospels teach us about Jesus, Paul's epistles deepen our theological understanding, and the historical books provide insight into the lives of real people as they followed God.

Yet, God also chose to include books like Leviticus with its many purity regulations, Numbers with its long genealogies, and Revelation with its somewhat confusing symbolism and imagery. These too are beneficial, profitable for teaching, correction, and training (2 Timothy 3:16). We need all of Scripture, not just the parts that may be personally interesting or easy to understand. As we read the Bible in a year, it naturally takes us to the places we may not usually go, allowing us opportunities to reflect upon the full counsel of God and consider: *Why did God include this passage? What does it teach me about God? How can I live in light of this truth?*

Bible Reading Plans
are available in the Fellowship room or on our website at
www.stjohnsnewark.org.

ASK THE
Pastor

If you have questions as you read the Bible this year, submit your questions to Rev. Swisher and he will answer them as time allows. You can submit your questions in the box in the Fellowship room or you can submit by email at www.stjohnsucc.ce@windstream.net.

From the St. John's E&O Committee

The Peter Principle

Kurt Selles

August 21, 2025 todaydevotional.com



In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) . . . Acts 1:15

Have you heard of the “Peter Principle”? It’s a management theory by Laurence J. Peter suggesting that employees will rise to the level of their incompetence. In other words, people can be promoted into roles for which they don’t even have the necessary skills. And people at the top are often not the best suited to fill those top positions.

What about Peter in the Bible? Was he suited for his position at the head of the early church?

Though Peter’s heart was often in the right place, he was prone to extreme ups and downs, from boldly proclaiming Jesus as the “Son of God” to denying that he even knew his Lord. But before Jesus ascended to heaven, Jesus gave Peter the charge to take care of his sheep.

So in the opening chapter of Acts, we see Peter speaking as the leader of the disciples and Jesus’ other followers in Jerusalem. He leads the process of selecting Matthias to replace Judas, who had betrayed Jesus to the religious leaders. From this time on, Peter stands at the head of the founding and growth of the church in its early days.

Was Peter suited for this role? In truth, no. Nevertheless, Jesus chose him, despite his flaws and failings, for a pivotal role in nurturing the early church.

Are we suited for serving Jesus? In truth, no—but he will use us, if we listen to him.

Before you, Jesus, we all fall short. Thank you for loving us and calling us to enjoy life in you. Help us to honor and serve you faithfully. Amen.





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 interactive Bible stations for kids and adults, plus our year-long congregational mission; ***Journey Together: Our Year in the Bible.***

Read the Bible in a Year: Our Journey Together. On Rally Day, join us as we embark on our year-long journey together. There will be reading plans available and support materials as well as the "Ask the Pastor" question box.

Forged Youth group for ages 12 and up meets the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. Devotions, games and local mission planning.



The Chosen Season 5 discussion group will meet September 17, 24 and October 1, 8 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. If you need a ride, please let Julie Kroah know and we can find ride-share arrangements.



Trunk or Treat, will be October 19, 2025 4:00PM -5:30PM. Everyone is invited to come and pass out candy from the trunk of their car to the neighborhood kids. We will also be providing a meal to all who attend. Be creative and decorate your car, wear a costume and add to the fun. Please plan for about 300 kids. **We are also accepting donations of candy.** There will be a competition for the best decorated car/trunk. See you there!



Sunday School Classes

Adult Class – Starts September 14 at 9:00AM

Youth Class – Starts September 14 at 9:00AM

Bible Discovery Zone (Elementary Class) – Starts September 14 at 9:00AM

BDZ Children's Church – Starts September 7 at 10:30AM

Cradle Roll – Nursery care available during the 10:30AM service.

September Worship Service Duties

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

Cradle Roll

7 Avery Nagel/Volunteer
14 Avery Nagel/Volunteer
21 Avery Nagel/Volunteer
28 Avery Nagel/Volunteer

Cantors

7 Todd Baldosser
14 Julie Davis
17 Charles Dudley
28 April Kinser

Bible Discovery Zone

7 Brian Lensink & Youth if needed
14 Marla Crowthers & Youth if needed
21 Elaine Gard & Pat Farley
28 Frances Hill & Youth if needed

Sunday Sound Worship Team

7 Ken Kroah
14 Karson Ewing
21 Ken Kroah
28 Karson Ewing

Sunday Video Worship Team

7 Julie Kroah
14 Tom Lawyer
21 Julie Kroah
28 Tom Lawyer





| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|---|--|---|-----------|
| 31 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 10:30am Sanctuary Service | 1 Labor Day Office Closed | 2 6:00pm LIFEWISE OPEN HOUSE | 3 1:00pm The Afternoon Circle of the Women's Guild Meeting 6:00pm Mission & Outreach Committee Meeting 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice | 4 7:15am Choir Practice 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 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 9:00am Rally Day 10:30am Bible Discovery Zone Children's Church 10:30am Sanctuary Service - Choir Sings | 8 | 9 7:00pm Finance & Stewardship Meeting | 10 10:00am Christian Education Meeting 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice | 11 Patriot Day 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 | 12 2:45pm Music Committee Meeting | 13 |
| 14 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 9:00am Adult Sunday School 9:00am Bible Discovery Zone Elementary Class in BDZ Classroom 9:00am Youth Class 10:30am Bible Discovery Zone Children's Church 10:30am Sanctuary Service 11:30am Youth Group Meeting 11:30pm St. John's Music Potluck | 15 6:30pm Church Council Meeting | 16 | 17 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice 6:30pm The Chosen Season 5 in the Fellowship Room | 18 7:15am Choir Practice 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 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 9:00am Adult Sunday School 9:00am Bible Discovery Zone Elementary Class in BDZ Classroom 9:00am Youth Class 10:30am Bible Discovery Zone Children's Church 10:30am Sanctuary Service - Choir Sings | 22 First Day of Autumn | 23 | 24 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice 6:30pm The Chosen Season 5 in the Fellowship Room | 25 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 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 9:00am Adult Sunday School 9:00am Bible Discovery Zone Elementary Class in BDZ Classroom 9:00am Youth Class 10:30am Bible Discovery Zone Children's Church 10:30am Sanctuary Service 11:30am Youth Group Meeting | 29 | 30 | 1 1:00pm The Afternoon Circle of the Women's Guild Meeting 6:00pm Mission & Outreach Committee Meeting 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice 6:30pm The Chosen Season 5 in the Fellowship Room | 2 7:15am Choir Practice | 3 | 4 |



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 9

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Julie Kroah

Christian Education Director

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LIBRARY FOCUS FOR SEPTEMBER



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Periodicals & Magazines: *Voice of the Martyrs, Israel My Glory, Christianity Today & Common Good.* Various editions are available on the bottom shelf of the DVD & Bible study shelf.

When the Game Stands Tall. DVD The true story of the De La Salle High school football team and their coach Bob Ladouceur.

For Children

The Door of Salvation by Ken Hamm. The story of God's salvation offered to all.

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