



**St. John's
United Church of Christ
285 W. National Drive
Newark OH
43055-5298**

Main: 740-323-2407

Church Website

www.stjohnsnewark.org

Our Church Staff

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

stjohns.pastorstephen@gmail.com

Cell: 214-549-7835

Office: 740-323-2854

Office Administrator

Anita Chirdon

Office Assistant

Kim Workman

stjohnsunited@windstream.net

Organist & Choir Dir.

Todd Baldosser

scarlatti35@hotmail.com

Christian Education Director

Julie Kroah

stjohnsucc.ce@windstream.net

Sexton

Mike Dooley

Mikedooley537@gmail.com

Chapel Pianist

Jane Shoemaker

Children's Bell Choir

Colleen Kroah

Adult Bell Choir

Jerry Goodman

Signer

Debi Snow

Librarian

Catherine Lim

Prayer List

Rebecca Swartz

rebecasmil@aol.com &

stjohnsunited@windstream.net

*Rooted in the Evangelical
and Reformed Traditions
We are Sowing Seeds of Hope
in a Time of Chaos
So We May All Be One*



February 18, 2026

Sanctuary Service

7:00 p.m.

Announcements & Greetings

Prelude "Create In Me a Clean Heart" Schoepf Todd Baldosser

***Opening Hymn** "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" No. 180

- 1) Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray,
teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.
- 2) As you with Satan did contend, and did the victory win,
O give us strength in you to fight, in you to conquer sin.
- 4) Abide with us, that through this life of doubts and hope and pain,
an Easter of unending joy we may at last attain!

***Call to Worship** Jeff Conner

Leader: Return to the Lord with all of your heart

All: We will return to God because He is gracious and merciful

Leader: His steadfast love endures forever

All: We choose to be a Blessing for the Kingdom of God

Leader: Let us call every one from every age and stage of life

All: To come back to God

Leader: And to be mindful of all He has done

All: In and through each of us

***Prayer of Invocation**

**All: Almighty God, to You all hearts are open, all desires known, from
You no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by
the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You
and worthily magnify Your Holy Name as we embark on this
Lenten journey together.**

Choir Anthem "Lenten Walk" Traditional

Scripture Psalm 51: 1-4 Jeff Conner

Sermon "Ashes and Dust"

Hymn "Just as I Am, Without One Plea" No. 339

- 1) Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bid'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

*Please stand if you are able

2) **Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt;
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

4) **Just as I am, thy love unknown,
hast broken ev'ry barrier down;
now, to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

Special Music "Lamb of God" arr. by Wolaver/Keveren Jane Shoemaker

Service of Holy Communion

Confession

All: Holy and merciful God, we confess to You and to one another, that we have not always measured up to Your preferred plan for our lives. We have sinned, made mistakes and fallen short - sometimes on purpose, more frequently by unintended actions done or not done. Sometimes we have been deaf to Your call to serve, and we have not always loved You and others with our whole heart, mind and strength. We ask for mercy and forgiveness.

Words of Grace

Pastor: God is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Your mercy, pardon and forgiveness are readily available to all who ask in true faith and repentance. We receive Your deliverance now and the cleansing of our mind, soul and heart that can only come directly from you. In Jesus' Name. We are forgiven. Hallelujah. Amen

The Presentation of the Bread of Life and Cup of Salvation

Invitation for Generosity and Faithful Giving

Offertory

***Doxology**

No. 46

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly hosts:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

Prayer of Thanksgiving over the Offering

All: Holy God of compassion and mercy, help us enter this Holy Season with the hearts you desire and with the gifts that will please You. More than letting go of bad habits let us embrace new ways to serve You in the days ahead. As we bring our tithes and offerings this evening, we dedicate them to the work of goodness and compassion. In so doing, may light arise in the darkness. In Jesus' Name. Amen

Prayer over the Ashes

All: Holy and gracious God, we thank you for these ashes and we receive them as a remembrance that we are made of earth, ashes and dust. We love only as You give us life. We pray with a spirit of repentance and gratefulness for Your forgiveness and grace. Thank you for being the kind of God to whom we can bring our shortcomings and know that you love us in spite of it all. We bless these ashes now in Jesus' name. Amen

Imposition of Ashes

***Hymn "Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult" No. 337**

- 1) Jesus calls us o'er the tumult of our life's wild restless sea, day by day his sweet voice soundeth, saying, "Christian, follow me";**
- 2) Long ago apostles heard it by the Galilean lake, turned from home, and toil, and kindred, leaving all for his dear sake.**
- 5) Jesus calls us! By thy mercies, Savior, may we hear thy call, give our hearts to thine obedience, serve and love thee best of all.**

Postlude "Ashes to Ashes" Schutte Todd Baldosser

Join us on Sundays at 8:00 a.m. in the Chapel and 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Dr. Swisher's message on Sunday, February 22, 2026

"Walking with Purpose"

Matthew 4: 1-11