



**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

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Anita Chirdon

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Julie Kroah

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Sexton

Mike Dooley

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Chapel Pianist

Jane Shoemaker

Children's Bell Choir

Colleen Kroah

Adult Bell Choir

Jerry Goodman

Signer

Debi Snow

Librarian

Catherine Lim

Prayer List

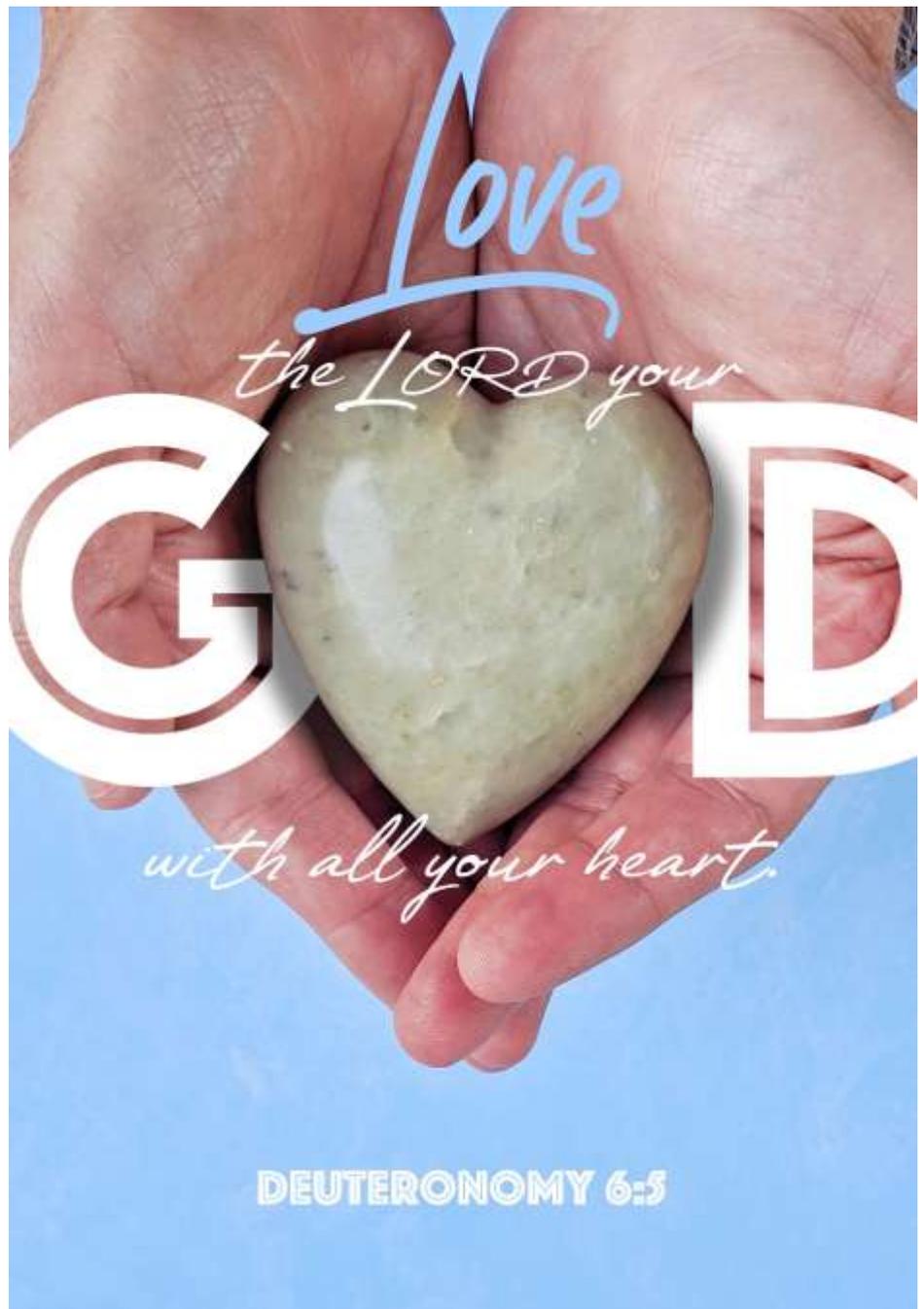
Rebecca Swartz

rebecasmail@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 15, 2026

Chapel Service: 8:00 a.m.

Sanctuary Service: 10:30 a.m.

February 15, 2026

Chapel Service
Sanctuary Service

8:00 am

10:30 am

Announcements & Greetings

Prelude (8:00 a.m.) Jane Shoemaker

“Nobody Knows the Trouble I’ve Seen” arr. by Fettke

Prelude (10:30 a.m.) Todd Baldosser

“Immortal Invisible God Only Wise” Welsh Folk

Opening Hymn “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” **No. 622**

(8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 3)

- 1) **Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand;
bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.**
- 2) **Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing waters flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through;
strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield, be thou still my strength and shield.**
- 3) **When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
bear me through the swelling current; land me safe on Canaan’s side;
songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee, I will ever give to thee.**

***Call to Worship** Jeff Conner

Leader: Jesus brings light into the world as God’s inspired gift

All: We seek to shine our light as brightly as the break of Dawn

Leader: We come to loft our voices to the Lord, trusting He will answer

All: We call out to God, and anxiously await His response

Leader: We have gathered today eager to gain courage, to do as God directs and to share our food with the hungry

All: As God’s beloved children let us Worship God at this time and in our actions throughout the week ahead

***Please stand if you are able**

***Prayer of Invocation**

All: God of Community, we rejoice in this time to Worship You in this Holy place and through the miracle of technology which gathers us from many places. Help us to reach beyond our walls as we share our resources with those in need. Inspire us to open our hands, our hearts and minds that we might truly be the Disciples of Jesus who shows us The Way as we pray these words of faith You taught; ...

***The Lord's Prayer – Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

***Gloria Patri**

No. 35

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

***Affirmation of Faith –**

The Nicene Affirmation of Faith

No. 358

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, light from light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

**We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Special Music (10:30 a.m.) “10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)” Myrin/Redman
Leap of Faith (Julie Davis, Brian Lensink & Jane Shoemaker)

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Response “Hear Our Prayer, O Lord” **No. 306**
**Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord,
incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace. Amen.**

Special Music (8:00 a.m.) Jane Shoemaker
“This Is My Father’s World” arr. by Wright

Choir Anthem (10:30 a.m.)
“He's Got the Whole World In His Hands” Traditional

Scripture Reading Deuteronomy 6: 5-9

Scripture Reading Jeremiah 17: 1-5

Sermon “Guard Your Heart” Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

Hymn

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

No. 16

(8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 3)

- 1) **Come, thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.**

- 2) **Here I raise to thee an altar; hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.**

- 3) **O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee:
prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.**

Invitation for Faithful Giving

Offertory (10:30 a.m.) “Jesus, Lover Of My Soul” Wesley Todd Baldosser

***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: Radiant God, just as You revealed Your glory to the Disciples,
shine Your light upon these gifts we bring that they may reflect
Your love in the valleys of this world. Through our giving help us
see more clearly the path You set before us. In Jesus' Name. Amen**

***Closing Hymn “Praise Him! Praise Him!” (8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 3) No. 93**

**1) Praise him! praise him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!
Sing, O Earth, his wonderful love proclaim!
Hail him! hail him! highest archangels in glory;
strength and honor give to his holy name!
Like a shepherd Jesus will guard his children,
in his arms he carries them all day long:**

Refrain

***Praise him! praise him! tell of his excellent greatness;
praise him! praise him ever in joyful song!***

**2) Praise him! praise him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!
For our sins he suffered, and bled and died;
he our Rock, our hope of eternal salvation,
hail him! hail him! Jesus the crucified.
Sound his praises! Jesus who bore our sorrows;
love unbounded, wonderful, deep and strong:**

Refrain

**3) Praise him! praise him! Jesus, our blessed Redeemer!
Heavenly portals loud with hosannas ring!
Jesus, Savior, reigneth forever and ever;
crown him! crown him! Prophet and Priest and King!
Christ is coming! over the world victorious,
Power and glory unto the Lord belong:**

Refrain

***Benediction**

***Please join us in the singing of the Congregational Benediction**

**Go Now In Peace/Never be afraid/God will go with you/Each hour of ev'ry
Day/Go now in Faith/Steadfast, strong and true/Know He will guide you in
all you do. Go now in Love/And show you believe/Reach out to others/So
all the world can see/God will be there/Watching from above/Go now in
Peace/In Faith and in Love. Amen/Amen/Amen.**

CCL#2548454

Postlude (8:00 a.m.) “To God Be the Glory” arr. by Berry Jane Shoemaker

Postlude (10:30 a.m.) Todd Baldosser
“Allemande” from Suite #3 in D minor Handel

Pastor Steve’s Quote of the Week

“To accomplish big things, we must not only act but also dream.
Not only plan but also believe.”
Rev. Dr. Norman Vincent Peale

Dr. Swisher’s message next week:

February 22, 2026
“Boundless Love”
1 Corinthians 13: 1-13

Sermon Notes

To our members, dear friends and visitors:

You are an important part of the worship and ministry that goes on here and we are thankful for your presence. Please sign the attendance pads on the tables. Thank you!

Congregational Meeting



Annual Potluck and Congregational Meeting Today!

after the 10:30 a.m. Service

We hope to see you!



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, on your purse, on a kitchen cabinet or lay it across your workspace.



Directories and Chimes

Updated directories will be available at the Congregational Meeting today. If you do not have a shredder, a bin is available in the Fellowship Room for dropping off your outdated Church Directories/Bulletins/Chimes copies to be shredded here at the church. Personal information has less of a chance of exposure if shredded. As always, be careful of spam emails, texts and mail. Always confirm the sender before responding. Please bring only our Church's publications. Thank you!

St. John's Youth Fundraiser

Place your order with the Youth February 1st to the 16th.



Order forms are in the Fellowship room

Original Rollers 2.50 each or \$32.50 for a case or
Specialty Rollers \$3 each or \$39 a case

February 18
7:00PM

ASH Wednesday

Imposition of ashes, communion,
inspirational music and

Rev. Dr. Swisher's
life changing message
"Ashes and Dust"

Psalm 51:1-4

Lenten devotional books available



Welcome



Sundays at 9:00AM
in the Large Meeting Room

Through February 22
Abide in Christ
led by Carl Kochendorfer

Starting March 8
Ancient Christians
led by Tim Powers



2026 Meetings

11:30AM—1:00PM

February 8, 22, March 8, 22 and April 12, 26



Read the Bible in a Year Q&A

March 1, 2026 at 9:00AM

Bring your questions. Bring your insights.
Bring your curiosity.
Enjoy the conversation.
*Be sure to drop your questions in the box
in the Fellowship Room*



2026 Offering Envelopes

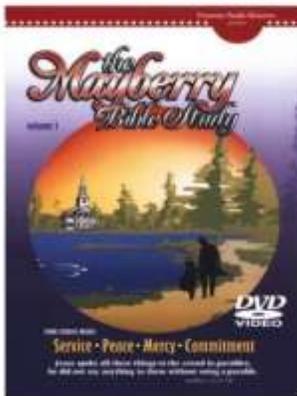
Assigned envelopes are in the Fellowship Room. If your envelopes are not there or if you would like assigned envelopes, please contact Anita or Kim in the office. Thank you!



Bible Discovery Zone



9:00 AM Youth and Children's Classes

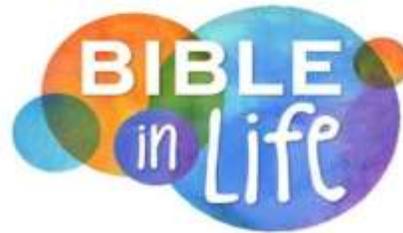


led by Elaine Gard
In the Small Meeting Room

Truth
for
kids

Devotions and crafts
ages 5 to 12
In the Thou Art Room
Lower Level

10:30 AM Children's Church



ages 5 to 12
Bible Lessons and Crafts
In the Thou Art Room
Lower Level

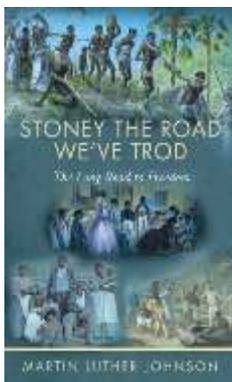
St. John's Little Free Pantry

Take what you need. Give what you can.



Our little food pantry needs your help.

To replenish our food pantry every day we need your help every week. There are collection boxes near each entrance to the Church. Keep in mind that many of the people using this pantry have limited cooking facilities. Ollie's, Dollar Tree, and Aldi's are good places to find foods at good prices. Cans with pull tabs when possible and no glass containers! Thanks for your support! <https://www.littlefreepantry.org/>



The book study group will meet each Thursday at 11am (February 5, 12, 19, 26) at the River Road Coffee House on the north side of the square in downtown Newark. We have selected a new book to start this month which can be found online. The book we have selected is "STONEY THE ROAD WE'VE TROD: The Long Road to Freedom" by Martin Luther Johnson. This book, published in 2004, provides insights into the life and struggles of abolitionist David Walker, focusing on American racism and the inconsistencies between slavery, Christianity, and the teachings of Jesus. Rev. Johnson was an Army Chaplain and a Bishop with the Church of God in Christ. Please join us as we learn about the past as we journey together to become better followers of Jesus Christ.

Read the Bible in a Year

Journey Together: Our Year in the Bible

Reading Guides and bookmarks are available in the Fellowship room
and on line at www.stjohnsnewark.org

Additional Books & Resources in the Church Library

Reading List for February 15—February 21 (Days 162-168)

Sunday—Psalms 36-40

Thursday—Psalms 56-60

Monday—Psalms 41-45

Friday—Psalms 61-65

Tuesday—Psalms 46-50

Saturday—Psalms 66-70

Wednesday—Psalms 51-55

LIFEWISE
ACADEMY

QUARTER AUCTION

Join us at the Look Up Center for a LifeWise event!

A Quarter Auction is a fun, low-cost fundraising event where participants bid on donated items using quarters instead of large dollar amounts. Tickets are \$20 a piece and include a light dinner with your paddle to bid!

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19
5 PM**

LOOK UP CENTER

**50 O'BANNON AVE,
NEWARK, OH 43055**

*Want to be a vendor or
donate to the auction? Email
newarkoh@lifewise.org to
connect!*



Scan
for
tickets!

For more information about LifeWise Newark,
visit lifewise.org/newarkcityoh
or contact newarkoh@lifewise.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 - \$15.00



THE DEADLINE for placing orders is **Sunday, March 8, 2026.**

There is a limited supply this year, so early ordering is recommended.

_____ 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 March 22, 2026**, will be listed in the bulletin on **April 5, 2026, 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



Finances for the Month and Year to Date

<u>General Fund Income</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Congregation giving (Faith Promise)	7,424.46	7,424.46
Income from Foundation Fund	11,500.00	11,500.00
Monthly Income from Emerson Miller Fund	3,758.33	3,758.33
Month & YTD Total Income	24,111.30	24,111.30

General Fund Expenses	\$24,294.06	\$24,294.06
Month & YTD	(\$182.76)	(\$182.76)



Over/Under
() = Negative

This event is hosted at the Look Up Center
50 O'Bannon Avenue
Newark, OH 43055

You're Invited
**An Evening of
God's Gracious Love**

Join us for a sacred and beautiful evening where God's love is poured out, stories of transformation are honored, and kindness set in motion. This night is about more than a meal - it's about reflecting on lives changed by love and creating a ripple effect that reaches far beyond.

"May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you."

1.Thessalonians 3:12

 **February 20**

 **6:00-8:00 PM**
(Doors open at 5:45 PM)

 **Ages 12 and up**

**Dinner
Included**

**Spaghetti & Chili
Fresh salad & rolls
Desserts lovingly
Prepared by Olivia**

**All proceeds
benefit Kingdom Pillars
Ministry**



**Special Musical
Offering**

**Angelic harp music by
Olivia Claggett,
creating an atmosphere
of peace, reflection
and worship.**

**Cost:
\$25 per person
Includes one
raffle ticket of choice**

**Additional raffle tickets:
\$1 each or 6 for \$5**

**Register online:
[https://securefundeasy.com/ministrsync/
event/?e=31816](https://securefundeasy.com/ministrsync/event/?e=31816)**





General Prayers: Charlie Bruah, Winfield Strout, Rev. Gunnar Cerda, Brian Lensink, Eli Taylor & Sally Penrose

Homebound and Nursing Facility Residents: Bonita Farmer, Patricia Gilbert, Paula Hatfield, Rosalie Johnson, Faith Kelly, Delores and Harold McDonald, Esther Gillham, Helen McGaughy, Mary Lou Hostetler, Molly Sheets, Debi Snow, and Lois Meyers



Additional prayer requests on Bea's Blessings:

- Beth Crawford – hospitalized and in severe pain
- Carly (Teresa McCoy's daughter)
- Calvin Campbell – Home from the hospital, will have a long recovery
- Christina (Carolyn Igo's daughter) – Cancer diagnosis
- Mr. Ron Baker (Chuck Chirdon's father under Hospice Care)

Mrs. Barbara Swisher

We Appreciate Those Serving Today!

Liturgist:

Jeff Conner

Cantor:

10:30 a.m. Diane Reef

Ushers:

Frank Davis, Terry Gano,
Barry Dooley, Gary Kinser

Cradle Roll:

Volunteer

Bible Discovery Zone:

Elaine Gard

Media Worship Team:

Sound & Video:

10:30 am: Ken Kroah/Tom Lawyer

Thank you for your continued support! In addition to your giving in person, by drop off, by mail, or by clicking on the donate button on the website, you can also scan this QR Code. We continue to find new ways to connect with our members and our community that are convenient, secure, helpful, and relevant to the ways in which some people prefer to donate. We thank God for our ability to offer these methods for those who may choose to use them.



- Sunday: February 15, 2026**
Transfiguration Sunday
- 8:00 am Chapel Service
 - 9:00 am All BDZ Classes
 - 10:30 am Sanctuary Service – Choir Sings
 - 10:30 am Bible Discovery Zone - Children's Elementary Class
 - 11:30 am Potluck and Annual Congregational Meeting
- Monday: President's Day**
Office Closed
- 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting
- Wednesday:**
- 6:00 pm Crystal City Chorus
 - 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service – Communion & Imposition of Ashes
- Thursday:**
- 11:00 am Thursday Book Study "STONEY THE ROAD WE'VE TROD: The Long Road to Freedom" by Martin Luther Johnson at River Road Coffee on the Square
 - 12 – 2pm LifeWise Academy
- Sunday: February 22, 2026**
First Sunday in Lent
- 8:00 am Chapel Service
 - 9:00 am All BDZ Classes
 - 10:30 am Sanctuary Service
 - 10:30 am Bible Discovery Zone - Children's Elementary Class
 - 11:30 am Youth Group Meeting

Live streaming is now available on Facebook. If you missed the Live stream, you can watch a replay anytime on our YouTube or Facebook pages. Links for both of these sites can be found on our church website at www.stjohnsnewark.org

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday & Friday: 9am - 12pm. Please call the office 740-323-2407 and leave a message to make any additional appointments or call/text Anita at 740-973-8218. Thank you!

Attendance Report for Sunday, February 8, 2026

8:00 a.m. - 11 10:30 a.m. - 52

Sunday, February 8 Live Stream Views – 209