



**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

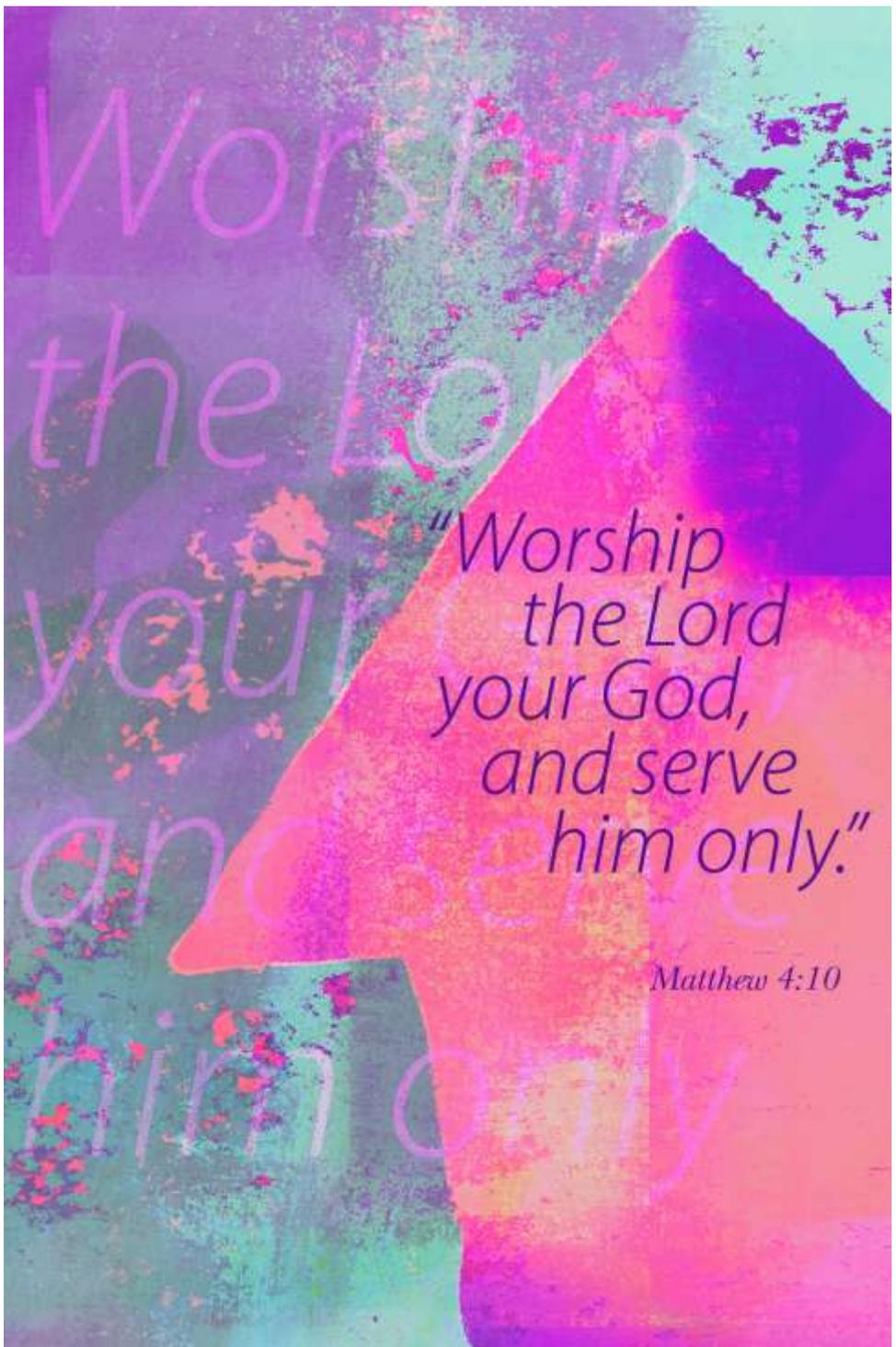
rebecasmail@aol.com &

stjohnsunity@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 22, 2026

Chapel Service: 8:00 a.m.

Sanctuary Service: 10:30 a.m.

February 22, 2026

Chapel Service
Sanctuary Service

8:00 am

10:30 am

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Announcements & Greetings

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

“Nothing but the Blood with At the Cross” arr. by Berry

Prelude (10:30 a.m.) “All Are Welcome” Manibusan Todd Baldosser

Opening Hymn “The God of Abraham Praise” **No. 24**

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

1) **The God of Abraham praise. All praised be the Name,
who was, and is, and is to be, is still the same;
the one eternal God, ere all that now appears,
the First, the Last, beyond all thought through timeless years!**

2) **God’s spirit flowing free, high surging where it will –
in prophet’s word it spoke of old – is speaking still.
Established is God’s law, and changeless it shall stand,
deep writ upon the human heart, on sea, or land.**

3) **God has eternal life implanted in the soul.
God’s love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.
Praise to the living God! All praised be the Name,
who was, and is, and is to be, is still the same!**

***Call to Worship**

Jeff Conner

Leader: We rise in body and spirit to honor the Lord in Worship

All: With joy we come to lift our voices to praise God

Leader: Lover of grace, we worship You

All: Forgiving God, You are Holy

Leader: You answer when we call

All: We gather to Worship You our God

Leader: The author of Light and the giver of Life eternal

All: Even in the wilderness You lead us into the Promised Land

***Please stand if you are able**

***Prayer of Invocation**

All: Mighty God we have gathered here in person and through our broadcast channels focused on You as the Lord of our lives. Thank you for the good gift of this day, for the joy of coming together in community and for the opportunity to give to Your good work and to strengthen this congregation. Thank you for the love made known to us even in the midst of challenges and tribulations. Call us forth to be even more faithful followers of Jesus as we affirm the words He 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 Apostles' Creed (Traditional Version)**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the universal Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

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.

Installation of Church Council Officers and Members (11:00 a.m.)

Special Music (8:00 a.m.) “Amen” arr. by Hayes Jane Shoemaker

Scripture Reading Mark 1: 12-13

Scripture Reading Matthew 4: 1-11

Sermon “Walking with Purpose” Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

Hymn “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” (8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 4) **No. 517**

- 1) **Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown;
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.**
- 2) **Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit, into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit, let us find thy promised rest;
take away our love of sinning; alpha and omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.**
- 4) **Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

Invitation for Faithful Giving

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

Prelude in E minor, op.28. no. 4, Chopin

***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: God of Mercy, You meet us in wilderness places and walk beside
us through trial and temptation. Even when we feel alone, Your
grace is never far, Your Presence never absent. In this moment of
giving, we offer not just our resources, but our trust that You are
already at work, shaping us through challenge, strengthening us
through sacrifice and surrounding us with unseen angels. Use these
gifts to bring hope where there is hunger, healing where there is
pain and light where there is despair. In Jesus' Name. Amen**

Dr. Swisher's message next week:

March 1, 2026

“Getting on Board with Jesus”

Luke 5: 1-11

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!

2026 Church Council Officers, Members and Committee Assignments

Church Council President – Tim Powers, Special Events Chair

Church Vice President – Chuck Chirdon, Property Maintenance Committee

Representative

Treasurer – Brian Lensink

Assistant Treasurer – Ken Kroah

Church Council Secretary – April Kinser, Mission & Outreach Committee Chair

Christian Education Committee Chair – Frances Hill

Church & Ministry Committee Chair – Jeff Conner

Congregational Care Committee Chair – Rebecca Swartz

Evangelism & Outreach Committee Chair – Greg Crowthers, Property

Maintenance Committee Member

Music Committee Chair – Julie Davis

Personnel Committee Chair – Terry Gano

Property Maintenance Committee Chair – Gary Kinser



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.

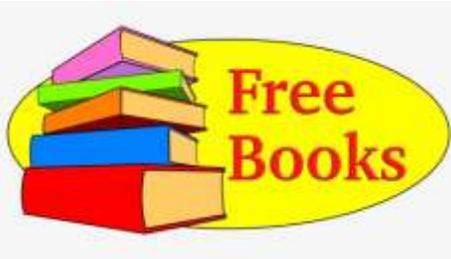
Afternoon Circle -

- will meet for this month on Wednesday, March 4, at 1 o'clock. All ladies of our Church Family are invited to attend.



Directories and Chimes

Updated directories available in the Fellowship Room. 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!



There are free books available in the Fellowship Room. Most are duplicates from previous Bible studies. They will be available until April 12 at which time they will be donated.



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

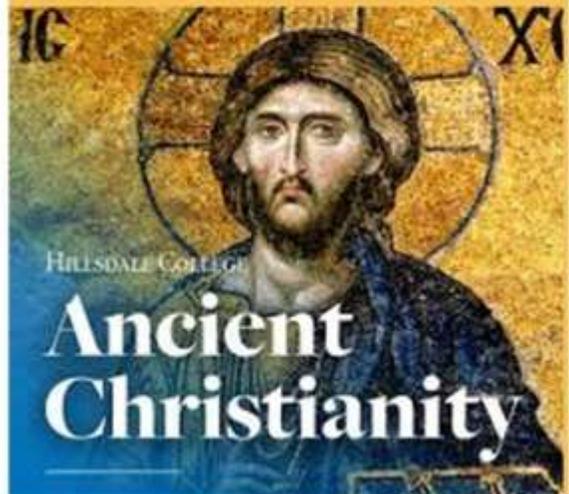
Starting Sunday March 8, 2026

at 9:00AM

Led by Tim Powers

The history of the Christian Church from its origins to its rise as the dominant religion in the Roman Empire. Focusing on primary texts and development in the first 400 years of Christian history.

NEW ADULT CLASS

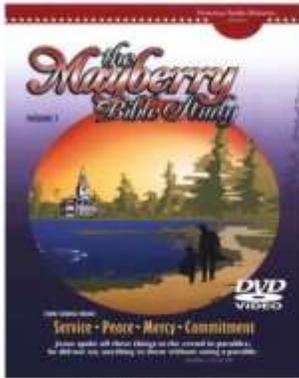




Bible Discovery Zone



9:00 AM Youth and Children's Classes

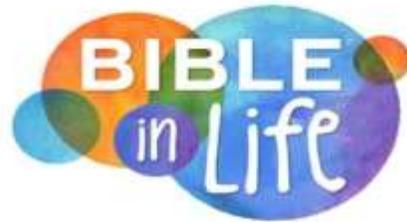


led by Elaine Gard
In the Small Meeting Room

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



2026 Meetings

11:30AM—1:00PM

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

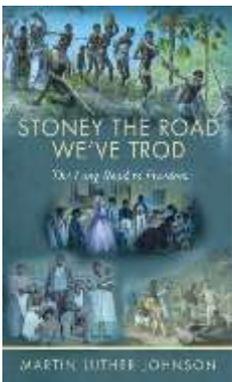
St. John's Little Free Pantry

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 22—February 28 (Days 169-175)

Sunday—Psalms 71-75

Thursday—Psalms 91-95

Monday—Psalms 76-80

Friday—Psalms 96-100

Tuesday—Psalms 81-85

Saturday—Psalms 101-105

Wednesday—Psalms 86-90



Join us at Licking Springs Country Club on March 7, 2026 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.

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 29, 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



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:**

- Ashley (Robin Green's Granddaughter) – Recent
Lupus diagnosis
- 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 Chirton's father
under Hospice Care)

Mrs. Barbara Swisher

We Appreciate Those Serving Today!

Liturgist:

Jeff Conner

Cantor:

10:30 a.m. Todd Baldosser

Ushers:

Frank Davis, Terry Gano,

Barry Dooley, Gary Kinser

Cradle Roll:

Volunteer

Bible Discovery Zone:

Frances Hill & Youth if needed

Media Worship Team:

Sound & Video:

10:30 am: Karson Ewing/Julie Kroah



**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

Wednesday:

- 6:00 pm Crystal City Chorus

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
- 7:15 pm Choir Practice

**Sunday: March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent
Communion Sunday**

- 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

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

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.



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 15, 2026
8:00 a.m. - 17 10:30 a.m. - 43
Sunday, February 15 Live Stream Views – 182