



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

Main: 740-323-2407

Church Website

[www.stjohnsnewark.org](http://www.stjohnsnewark.org)

**Our Church Staff**

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Jane Shoemaker

Children's Bell Choir

Colleen Kroah

Adult Bell Choir

Jerry Goodman

Signer

Debi Snow

Librarian

Catherine Lim

Prayer List

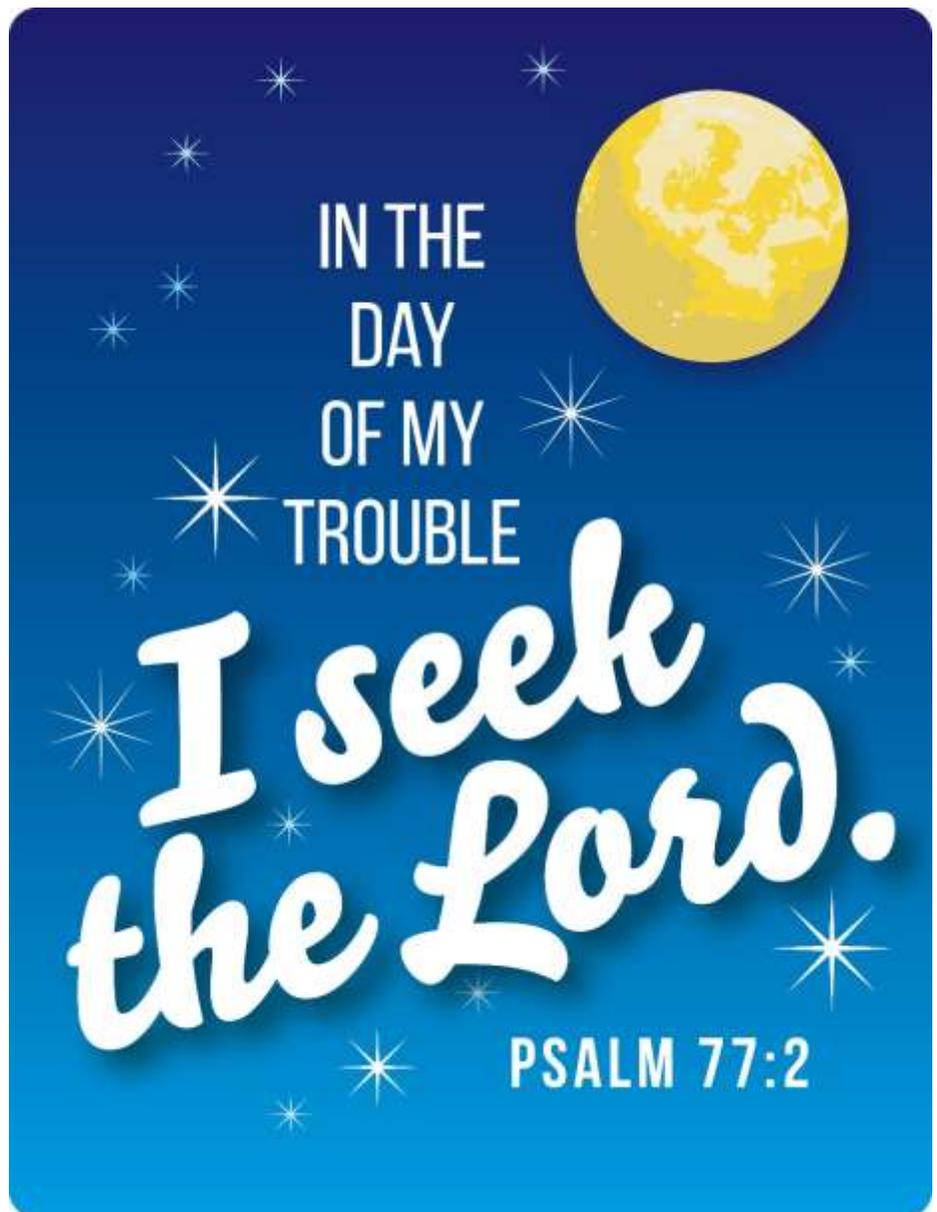
Rebecca Swartz

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*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 8, 2026***

**Chapel Service: 8:00 a.m.**

**Sanctuary Service: 10:30 a.m.**

February 8, 2026

Chapel Service  
Sanctuary Service

8:00 am

10:30 am

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## Announcements & Greetings

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

“We Are So Blessed” Gaithers/arr. by Milliken

**Prelude (10:30 a.m.)** “Joyful, Joyful” Beethoven Todd Baldosser

**Opening Hymn “Be Thou My Vision” (8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 4) No. 595**

- 1) **Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art  
thou my best thought by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**
- 2) **Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
thou my redeemer, my love thou hast won,  
thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.**
- 4) **Great God of heaven, my victory won,  
may I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heaven’s Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

**\*Call to Worship** Jeff Conner

Leader: Giving thanks to God, we are eager to act on our Faith

**All: We want to do what is right and just and Holy**

Leader: Today we choose to walk blamelessly in both thought and action

**All: This day we reject darkness and doubt**

Leader: We embrace light, joy and hope

**All: This day we join all people everywhere who seek to follow Jesus**

Leader: We walk forward figuratively and literally as we seek to continually abide in Him

**All: Let us Worship the Living Lord together**

**\*Please stand if you are able**

## **\*Prayer of Invocation**

**All: Holy God, we join our ancestors who have praised You over the Centuries. Thank you for the delight of coming together to honor You with our hearts and voices and gifts. Help us to walk as Your Disciples and renew in us the capacity to live as people of the Light. Accept our Praise and instill in us the passion to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. As together we affirm our commitment to You with these words; ...**

**\*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.**

**Special Music (8:00 a.m.)**

**Jane Shoemaker**

**A Quiet Moment with “Amazing Grace” arr. by McDonald**



**\*Closing Hymn      “Abide with Me”      (8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 5) No. 636**

- 1)      Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;  
the darkness deepens, God, with me abide;  
when other helpers fail, and comforts flee,  
help of the helpless, O abide with me.**
  
- 2)      Swift to its close ebbs out life’s little day;  
earth’s joys grow dim; its glories pass away;  
change and decay in all around I see;  
O thou who changest not, abide with me.**
  
- 5)      Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;  
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;  
heaven’s morning breaks, and earth’s vain shadows flee;  
in life, in death, O God, abide with me.**

**\*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.)      Jane Shoemaker**

**“Lift High the Cross” arr. by Tornquist**

**Postlude (10:30 a.m.)      “Amazing Grace” Traditional      Todd Baldosser**

**Pastor Steve’s Quote of the Week**

**“Whoever is happy will make others happy too.”  
Anne Frank**

**Dr. Swisher’s message next week:**

**February 15, 2026  
“Guard Your Heart”  
Jeremiah 17: 1-5**

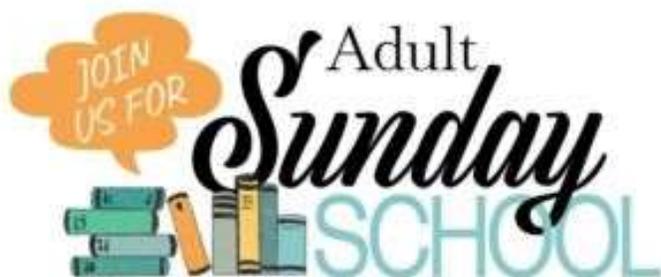
# Sermon Notes

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!

### **Mission and Outreach Focus for February**

The United Church of Christ celebrates Racial Justice on the 2nd Sunday of February, the 8th, this year. The United Church of Christ acknowledges and supports the equality of all human beings. Racial justice is inclusive and never excludes anyone based on skin color, culture, or ethnic origin. We affirm God's creation. All people bear God's image and likeness with equal status. Prayerfully consider this month how God is calling you to advocate for racial justice in today's world.



*Sundays at 9:00AM*  
in the Large Meeting Room

Through February 22	Starting March 8
<i>Abide in Christ</i>	<i>Ancient Christians</i>
led by Carl Kochendorfer	led by Tim Powers

### **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!

**Congregational Meeting**



### **Annual Congregational Meeting**

Sunday, February 15, 2026 after the 10:30 a.m. Service.

We hope to see you at the Congregational Pot Luck and Annual Meeting.



### **2026 Meetings**

11:30AM—1:00PM

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

## 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

## Youth Canned Soup Drive February 8, 2025



Canned soups and  
monetary donations welcome

**Benefits the Licking County Food Pantry**

Collection bins will be in the  
Fellowship Room

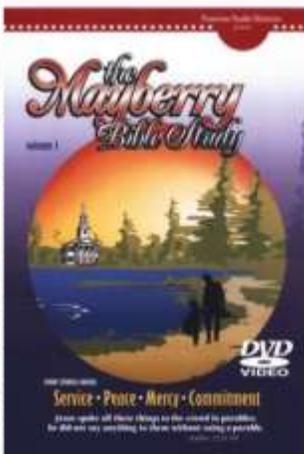
*"Vote" for your favorite team with your donation.*



## Bible Discovery Zone



### 9:00 AM Youth and Children's Classes

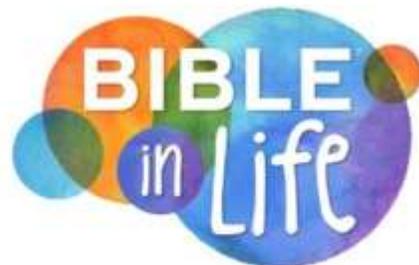


led by Elaine Gard  
In the Small Meeting Room

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

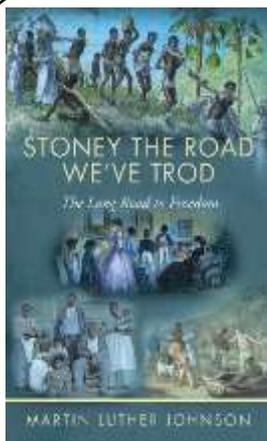
## St. John's Little Free Pantry

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 "STONE 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.

February 18  
7:00PM

## ASH Wednesday

Imposition of ashes, communion,  
inspirational music and

Rev. Dr. Swisher's  
life changing message

**"Ashes and Dust"**

Psalms 51:1-4

Lenten devotional books available



# Welcome



**Read the Bible in a Year**

**Q&A**

**March 1, 2026 at 9:00AM**

Bring your questions. Bring your insights.

Bring you curiosity.

Enjoy the conversation.

*Be sure to drop your questions in the box  
in the Fellowship Room*

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](http://www.stjohnsnewark.org)

*Additional Books & Resources in the Church Library*

Reading List for February 8—February 14 (Days 155-161)

Sunday—Psalms 1-5

Thursday—Psalms 21-25

Monday—Psalms 6-10

Friday—Psalms 26-30

Tuesday—Psalms 11-15

Saturday—Psalms 31-35

Wednesday—Psalms 16-20



St. John's can now be found on Instagram.

You can find us @StJohnsUCC.Newark



# 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](mailto:newarkoh@lifewise.org) to connect!



Scan for tickets!

For more information about LifeWise Newark, visit [lifewise.org/newarkcityoh](http://lifewise.org/newarkcityoh) or contact [newarkoh@lifewise.org](mailto:newarkoh@lifewise.org)

## *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	<b>Over/Under</b>
<b>Month &amp; YTD</b>	<b>(\$182.76)</b>	<b>(\$182.76)</b>	<b>( ) = Negative</b>





**General Prayers:** Bill Carr, Charlie Bruah, Rev. Dr. 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:**

- 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 Chiridon's father under Hospice Care)

Mrs. Barbara Swisher

**We Appreciate Those Serving Today!**

Liturgist:

Jeff Conner

Cantor:

10:30 a.m. Julie Davis

Ushers:

Frank Davis, Terry Gano,

Barry Dooley, Gary Kinser

Cradle Roll:

Volunteer

Bible Discovery Zone:

Marla Crowthers & Youth if needed

Media Worship Team:

Sound & Video:

10:30 am: Karson Ewing/Julie Kroah

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.



*Attendance Report for Sunday, February 1, 2026*

8:00 a.m. - 9                      10:30 a.m. - 43

Sunday, February 1 Live Stream Views – 364



**Sunday: February 8, 2026**  
**Transfiguration**

- 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 Youth Group Meeting

**Tuesday:**

- 7:00 pm Finance & Stewardship Meeting

**Wednesday:**

- 10:00 pm Christian Education Committee Meeting
- 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 Rehearsal

**Friday:**

- 2:00 pm Music Committee Meeting

**Sunday: February 15, 2026**

- 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 Potluck and Annual Congregational 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](http://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!