



**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

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Cell: 214-549-7835

Office: 740-323-2854

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Anita Chirdon

Office Assistant

Kim Workman

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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

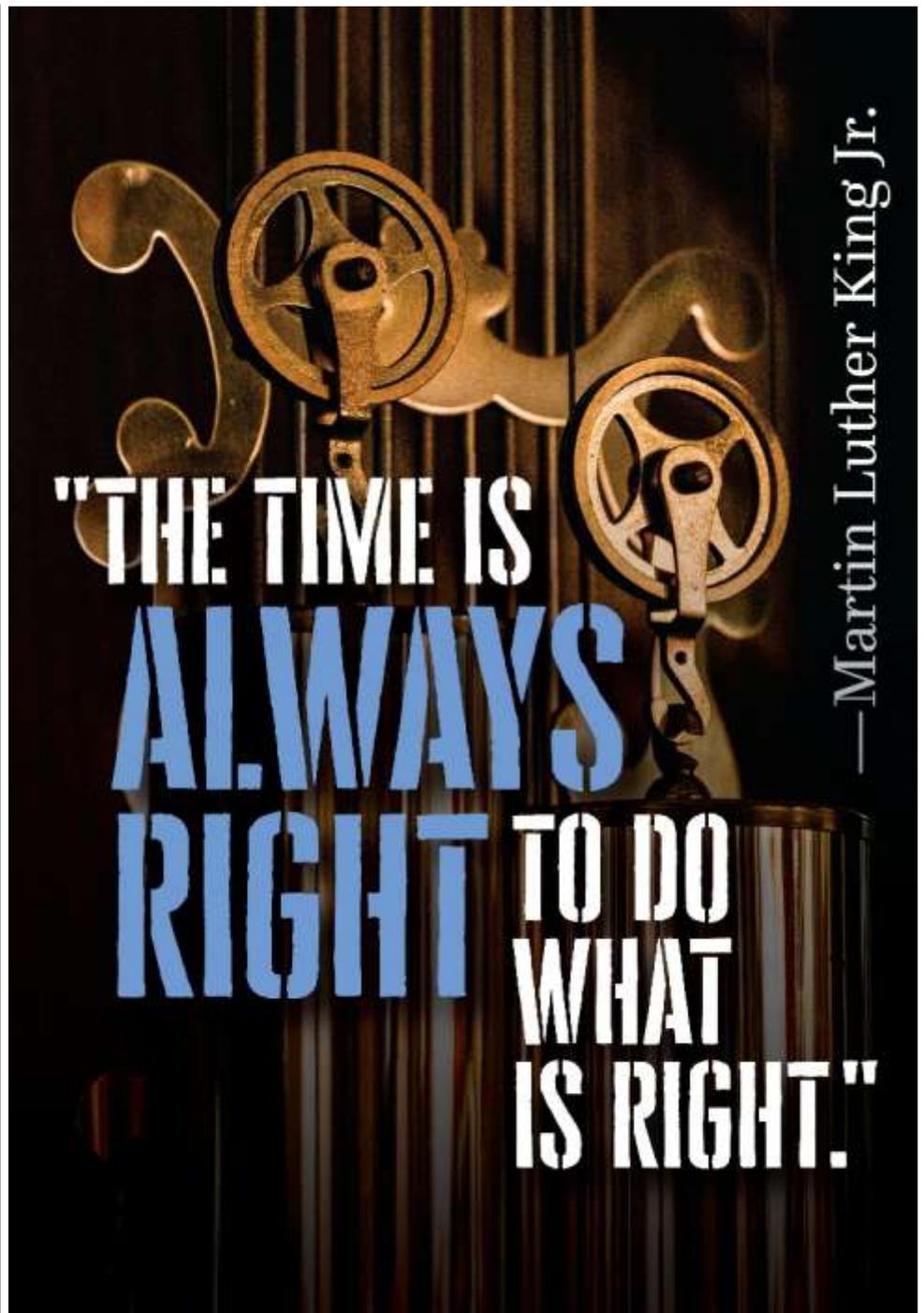
Rebecca Swartz

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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*



January 11, 2026

Chapel Service: 8:00 a.m.

Sanctuary Service: 10:30 a.m.

January 11, 2026

Chapel Service
Sanctuary Service

8:00 am

10:30 am

Announcements & Greetings

Prelude (8:00 a.m.) Jane Shoemaker
“What a Friend We Have in Jesus” arr. by Hayes

Prelude (10:30 a.m.) “Lift Every Voice and Sing” Johnson Todd Baldosser

***Opening Hymn** “Amazing Grace” **No. 546**
(8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 4)

- 1) **Amazing Grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.**
- 2) **‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!**
- 4) **When we’ve been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we’ve no less days to sing God’s praise than when we’d first begun.**

***Call to Worship** Jeff Conner

Leader: Sisters and Brothers, God is still at work in the world calling us to build
the Beloved Community

All: We are listening Lord

Leader: The prophet tells us the dawn will break, and the land will no longer be
desolate

All: Show us your path

Leader: We are called to become the hope the world needs

All: Where Justice flows like a might stream

Leader: And truth and fairness have the final word

All: We will follow you, Lord Jesus

***Prayer of Invocation**

**All: Gracious God, we live in times of division, mistrust and violence.
Open our hearts and minds to your truth and renew our commitment
to justice and peace pursued through cooperation and love. Fill us
with your Holy Spirit that we might realize and accept that we are all
a vital part of the human family created in Your image. May the
memory of Dr. King inspire us to see in one another our common
origin and destiny that together we can nobly fulfill Your promise for
our Country; One Nation under God with Liberty and Justice for all.
As we pray the ultimate prayer of freedom and faith You taught us...**

*Please stand if you are able

***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

“Just a Closer Walk With Thee” arr. by Bober

Scripture Reading

Galatians 5: 13

Jeff Conner

Scripture Reading (8:00 a.m. only)

Philemon 3: 12-14

Sermon (8:00 a.m.)

“Taking Inventory”

Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

Introduction of Dr. King

Dr. Stephen Swisher

Sermon (10:30 a.m.)

Rev. Dr. Joel King

Hymn "There Is a Balm in Gilead" (8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 3) **No. 501**

Refrain *There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole,
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.*

1) Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work's in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

Refrain

2) If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus, and say, "He died for all!"

Refrain

3) Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend;
and if you lack for knowledge He'll ne'er refuse to lend.

Refrain

Invitation for Faithful Giving

Offertory (10:30 a.m.) "If I Can Help Somebody" Androzza 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: Faithful God, continue to call us into community, into covenant and into new life through the waters of grace and acts of Justice. Just as Jesus showed up and stood up for us, so we ask that you use the tithes and offerings to uplift others and to proclaim Your Kingdom. Help us to be glimmers of healing, hope and holy transformation in this world longing for the Good News. In Jesus' Name. Amen

***Closing Hymn**

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

No. 628

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

1) Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:

Refrain *Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.*

2) **When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,
when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall:**

Refrain

3) **When the darkness appears and the night draws near,
and the day is past and gone,
at the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:**

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.) "New Born Again" arr. by McDonald Jane Shoemaker

Postlude (10:30 a.m.) "This Train" Traditional Todd Baldosser

Pastor Steve's Quote of the Week

"It's kinda fun to do the impossible." Walt Disney

Dr. Swisher's message next week:

January 18, 2026

"Living our Faith"

Revelation 21: 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!



Norma Jean Martin
Born: June 30, 1937
Died: December 25, 2025
A member of St. John's since 1951

NEW Classes Starting

January 11, 2026 9:00AM—10:00AM

Adult Class

Abiding In Christ

By Carl Kochendorfer

led by Carl Kochendorfer



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.

The Youth BIBLE DISCOVERY ZONE Class

Beginning Sunday, January 4, The Youth Class will begin a new study of "Mayberry Bible Study". We'll watch an episode of the old Mayberry TV series and then follow a scripture passage that goes with the episode and study how life is impacted by scripture.

The Youth Class meets during the BIBLE DISCOVERY ZONE hour (9:00 to 10:00 a.m.) every Sunday morning. Any Youth 7th grade and above is invited to join us in the Youth Class Room next to the offices.

Mission and Outreach Focus for January

As we go through the ups and downs of winter, our focus turns to those who need a place to get in out of the cold. The United Way Warming Task Force of Licking County operates a warming center located inside of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and it opens when the outside temperature will be 13 degrees or below. They are expecting a hard winter and are in need of volunteers to staff assigned shifts, including overnights which is the hardest to fill. Other needs include paper products, coffee, hot chocolate, hand warmers and waterproof gloves. They anticipate serving 70 people per night. Emma Chapman, the volunteer coordinator may be reached at 740-345-6685, Ext. 301 or echapman@unitedwaylc.org.

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 January 11—January 17 (Days 127-133)

Sunday—2 Chron 25-27

Thursday—Ezra 1-3

Monday—2 Chron 28-30

Friday—Ezra 4-6

Tuesday—2 Chron 31-33

Saturday—Ezra 7-10

Wednesday—2 Chron 34-36



St. John's Little Free Pantry

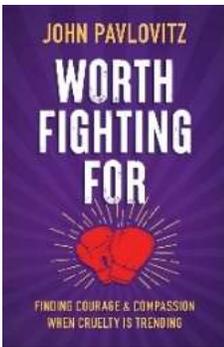
Take what you need. Give what you can.

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/>



Happy New Year!

The book club will continue to meet each Thursday, January 8, 15, 22 and 29 at The River Road Coffee House in downtown Newark on the north side of the square. We continue with discussion and fellowship as we discuss the book "WORTH FIGHTING FOR, Finding Courage and Compassion When Cruelty is Trending" by John Pavlovitz. The book is available online and we welcome you to join us.



2026 Meetings

11:30AM—1:00PM

January 11, 25, February 8, 22 and March 8, 22



Youth Canned Soup Drive

February 8, 2026

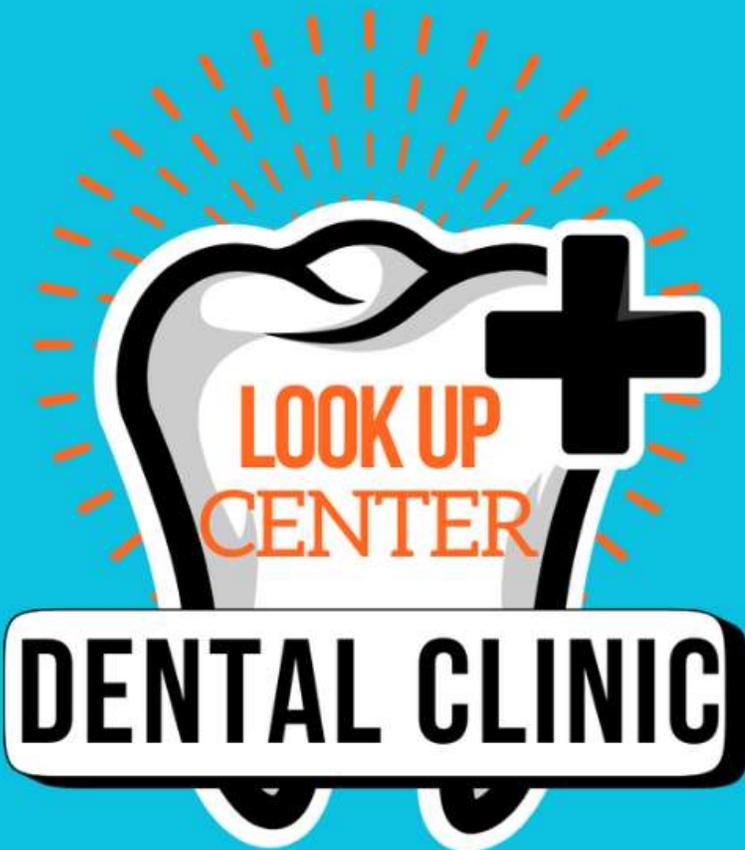
Canned soups of all kinds or monetary donations
Benefits the Licking County Food Pantry

Collection bins will be in the Fellowship Room
"Vote" for your favorite team

VOLUNTEER DENTISTS & DENTAL HYGIENISTS NEEDED!

Our Look Up Center Dental Clinic is in need of volunteer dentists and dental hygienists for our dental clinic. We have an average of two urgent dental clinics a month for 2-4 hours. Volunteer once a year, once a month, or on a regular basis, however you are able! There is an opportunity to earn CEUs!

Contact Susan Steinman:
lookupdentalvol@gmail.com or
call 740-345-6026



50 O'BANNON AVE
NEWARK, OHIO 43055

Finances for the Month and Year to Date

<u>General Fund Income</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Congregation giving (Faith Promise)	12,997.02	93,831.00
Income from Foundation Fund	10,500.00	126,000.00
Monthly Income from Emerson Miller Fund	3,758.33	45,099.96
Month & YTD Income	27,742.46	282,072.80
General Fund Expenses	\$27,224.32	\$295,550.80
Over/Under Month & YTD	\$ 518.14	(\$13,478.00)
Additional Inc. needed from Emerson Miller Fund		<u>13,478.00</u>
General Fund December 31, 2025		0.00



() = Negative



General Prayers: Bill Carr, Charlie Bruah, Rev. Dr. Winfield Strout, Rev. Gunnar Cerda, Brian Lensink & Carl Kochendorfer and the family of Norma Martin

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 Chirdon's father under Hospice Care)

Mrs. Barbara Swisher

We Appreciate Those Serving Today!

Liturgist:

Jeff Conner

Cantor:

10:30 a.m. April Kinser

Ushers:

Frank Davis, Terry Gano,

Barry Dooley, Gary Kinser

Cradle Roll:

Volunteer/Avery Nagel

Bible Discovery Zone:

Marla Crowthers & Youth if needed

Media Worship Team:

Sound & Video:

10:30 am: Karson Ewing/Julie Kroah

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, January 4, 2026
8:00 am - 14 10:30 am - 40
Sunday, January 4 Live Stream Views - 410



Sunday: January 11, 2026

Baptism of Christ

10:30 am Sanctuary Service

10:30 am Bible Discovery Zone - Children's Elementary Class

11:30 am Reception for the King family in the Fellowship Room

Tuesday:

7:00 pm Finance & Stewardship Committee Meeting

Wednesday:

10:30 am Christian Education Committee Meeting

6:00 pm Crystal City Chorus

Thursday:

11:00 am Thursday Book Study- "Worth Fighting For, Finding Courage and Compassion When Cruelty Is Trending" by John Pavlovitz at River Road Coffee on the Square

12 - 2pm LifeWise Academy

Sunday: January 18, 2026

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

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

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 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.

