



**St. John's  
United Church of Christ  
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Main: 740-323-2407

Church Website

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

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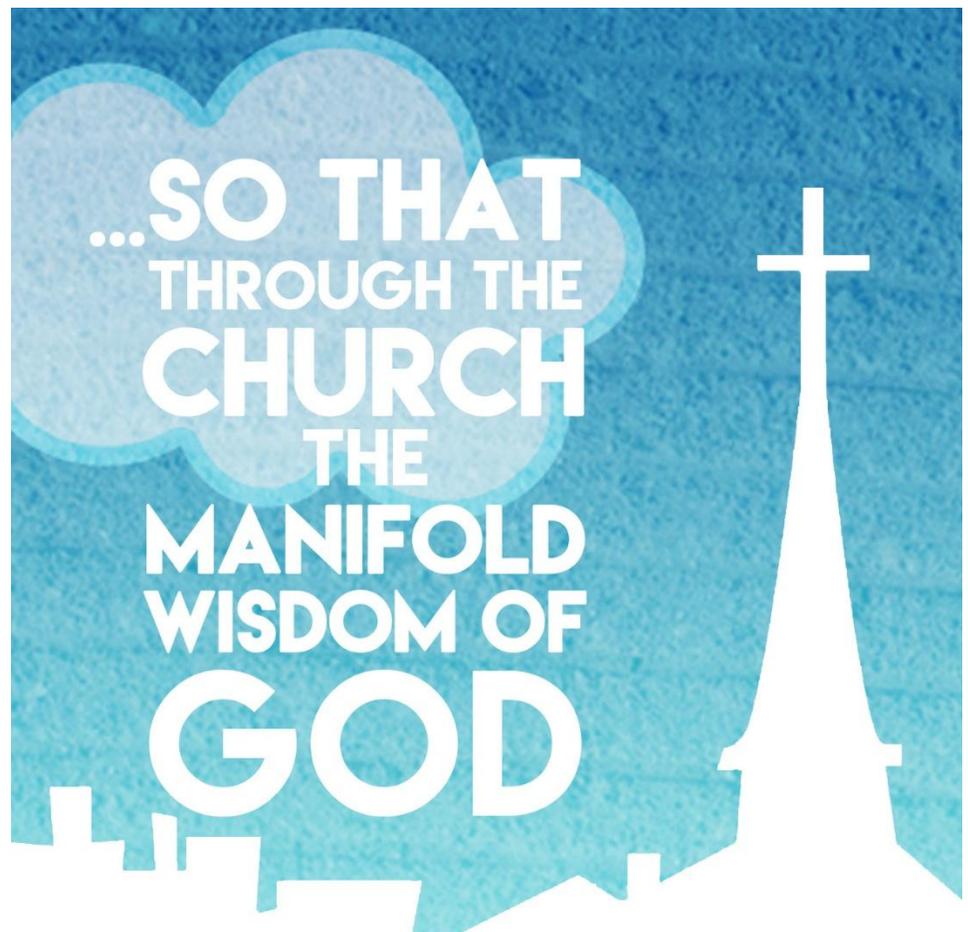
*Rooted in the Evangelical*

*and Reformed Traditions*

*We are Sowing Seeds of Hope*

*in a Time of Chaos*

*So We May All Be One*



**MIGHT NOW  
BE MADE  
KNOWN...**

EPHESIANS 3:10, ESV

***January 25 2026***

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

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

January 25, 2026

Chapel Service  
Sanctuary Service

8:00 am

10:30 am

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## Announcements & Greetings

**Prelude**            “Let Us Break Bread Together” arr. by Fettke    Jane Shoemaker

**Opening Hymn**            “God of Grace and God of Glory”            **No. 464**  
(8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 5)

- 1) **God of Grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;  
crown thine ancient church’s story; bring its bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the facing of this hour,  
for the facing of this hour.**
  
- 2) **Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail thy ways!  
From the fears that long have bound us, free our hearts to faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the living of these days,  
for the living of these days.**
  
- 5) **Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;  
let the search for thy salvation be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore,  
serving thee whom we adore.**

## \*Call to Worship

Jeff Conner

Leader:    You call us, O God, to love as Your disciples  
**All:            With new life, new paths and renewed faith**  
Leader:    In Your call into deep waters  
**All:            Grant us strength**  
Leader:    In Your command not to fear  
**All:            Grant us courage**  
Leader:    In Your invitation to follow  
**All:            Grant us motivation**  
Leader:    Restore to us joy  
**All:            That we might travel with You**  
Leader:    In the way of miracles  
**All:            Amen**

\*Please stand if you are able

## **\*Prayer of Invocation**

**All: God, who calls us through the generations, You have always invited Your people to join in Your Holy and transformational work. Thank you for calling us to live as disciples and friends. Grant us the ability to hear Your call this day and grant us the presence of mind and desire of heart, that we would answer Yes. So that we might bear witness to resurrection power in a world that so desperately needs to experience it, we pray your power words of faith...**

**\*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 - A Statement of Faith of the Christian Korean Church**

**We believe in the one God,  
Creator and Sustainer of all things,  
Father of Nations,  
the Source of all goodness and beauty,  
All truth and love**

**We believe in Jesus Christ  
God manifest in the flesh  
our teacher, example and Redeemer,  
the Savior of the World**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit  
God present with us for guidance  
for comfort and for strength**

**We believe in the forgiveness of sins, in the life of love and prayer and in  
grace equal to every need**

**We believe in the Word of God contained in the Old and New Testaments as  
the sufficient rule both of faith and practice**

**We believe in the Church, those who are United in the living Lord for the purpose of worship and service**

**We believe in the reign of God  
as the divine will realized in human society  
and in the family of God, where we are all brothers and sisters**

**We believe in the final triumph of righteousness and in 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.)            “Faith” arr. by Hayes                    Jane Shoemaker**

**Scripture Reading                    Colossians 1: 25-27**

**Scripture Reading                    Ephesians 3: 1-13**

**Sermon                    “Locked Up for a Good Reason”                    Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher**

**Hymn “In Christ There Is No East or West” (8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 4) No. 687**

- 1) In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,  
but one community of love throughout the whole wide earth.**
- 2) In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;  
his service is the golden cord closebinding humankind.**
- 4) In Christ now meet both east and west in him meet south and north;  
all loving hearts are one in him throughout the whole wide earth.**

### **Prayer of Confession**

**All: Loving God, we confess our mistakes and areas we have fallen short in service to You and one another and pray You will fill us with Your light that we might live lives as true disciples in Your name without counting the cost. In the name of Jesus, who showed us the way, we pray. Amen**



- 4) **Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine;  
may Jesus Christ be praised!  
Be this the eternal song, through all the ages long:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!**

**\*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 "The God of Abraham Praise" arr. by Lopez Jane Shoemaker**

**Pastor Steve's Quote of the Week**

**"If Walt Disney gave up after his theme park concept was trashed 302 times,  
there would be no Disney"**

**Dr. Swisher's message next week:**

February 1, 2026

"Fixing the Feelings of February"

Psalm 77: 1-20

**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!



*In Memory*

*Larry E. Crane*

Born: November 10, 1937

Died: January 18, 2026

*A member of St. John's since 1986.*



*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



New  
Offering  
Envelopes

## 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

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

**Youth Canned Soup Drive  
February 9, 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.*

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 January 25—January 31 (Days 141-147)

Sunday—Job 1-3

Thursday—Job 13-15

Monday— Job 4-6

Friday—Job 16-18

Tuesday—Job 7-9

Saturday—Job 19-21

Wednesday—Job 10-12

## **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.



## ***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!

JOHN PAVLOVITZ

**WORTH  
FIGHTING  
FOR**

FINDING COURAGE & COMPASSION  
WHEN CRUELTY IS TRENDING

The book club will continue to meet on Thursday, January 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.

### **Afternoon Circle -**

- will meet for lunch again this month on Wednesday, February 4, at 12 o'clock noon. This month we will meet at The Olive Garden. In case of bad weather, our meeting will be cancelled.

Last month 10 ladies met at Longhorn Steak House to enjoy a good meal and fellowship together. All ladies of our Church Family are invited to attend. If you are new to the group, please let Bev Lange know by Sunday, February 1, that you will be coming.

**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



**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*

# 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](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>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
<b>Over/Under Month &amp; YTD</b>	<b>\$ 518.14</b>	<b>(\$13,478.00)</b>
<b>Additional Inc. needed from Emerson Miller Fund</b>		<b><u>13,478.00</u></b>
<b>General Fund December 31, 2025</b>		



( ) = Negative



**General Prayers:** Bill Carr, Charlie Bruah, Rev. Dr. Winfield Strout, Rev. Gunnar Cerda, & Brian Lensink, Eli Taylor & the family of Larry Crane.



**Homebound and Nursing Facility Residents:** Bonita Farmer, Patricia Gilbert, Paula Hatfield, Rosalie Johnson, Faith Kelly, Delores and Harold McDonald, Esther Gillham, Helen McGaughey, 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. Diane Reef

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: January 25, 2026**  
**Third Sunday after the Epiphany**  
**Communion**  
 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- "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: February 1, 2026**  
**Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**  
 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

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)

*Attendance Report for Sunday, January 18, 2026*  
 8:00 am - 14    10:30 am - 55  
 Sunday, January 18 Live Stream Views - 282

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!

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.

