



**St. John's
United Church of Christ
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Newark OH
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Church Website

www.stjohnsnewark.org

Our Church Staff

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Children's Bell Choir

Colleen Kroah

Adult Bell Choir

Jerry Goodman

Signer

Debi Snow

Librarian

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Prayer List

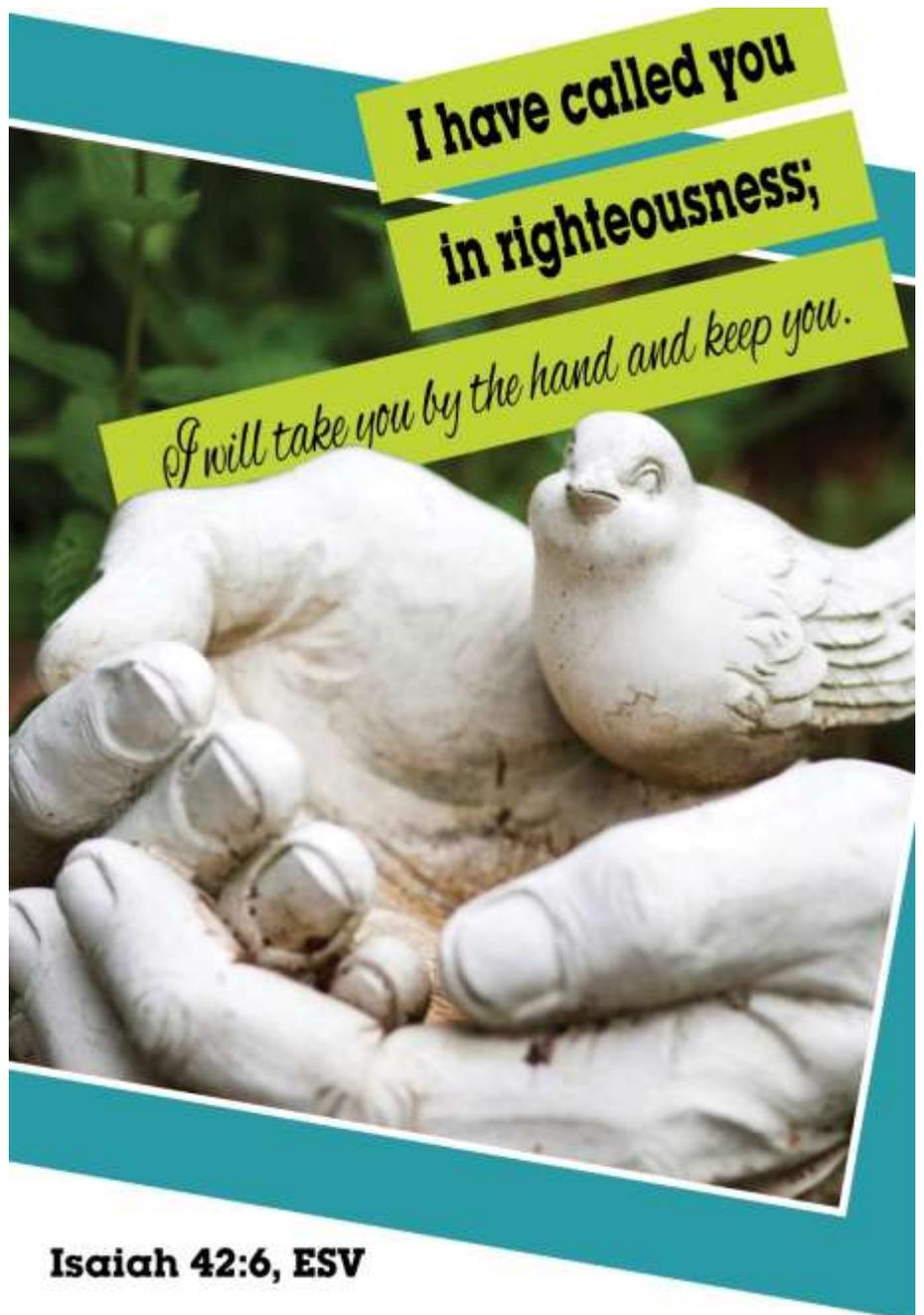
Rebecca Swartz

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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*



Isaiah 42:6, ESV

January 4, 2026

Chapel Service: 8:00 a.m.

Sanctuary Service: 10:30 a.m.

January 4, 2026

Chapel Service
Sanctuary Service

8:00 am

10:30 am

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Announcements & Greetings

Prelude (8:00 a.m.) “Shining Star, Holy Star” Loree Jane Shoemaker

Prelude (10:30 a.m.) “Good Christian Men Rejoice” Bober Todd Baldosser

***Opening Hymn** **“There’s a Song in the Air!”** **No. 159**
(8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 3)

- 1) **There’s a song in the air! There’s a star in the sky!
There’s a mother’s deep prayer and a baby’s low cry!
And the star rains its fire while the angel choirs sing,
for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a king!**
- 2) **There’s a tumult of joy o’er the wonderful birth,
for the Virgin’s sweet boy is the Lord of the earth.
See, the star rains its fire while the angel choirs sing,
for the manger of Bethlehem cradles a king!**
- 3) **We rejoice in the light, and we echo the song
that comes down through the night from the heavenly throng,
and we welcome the glorious gospel they bring,
and we greet in the cradle our savior and king.**

***Call to Worship** Jeff Conner

Leader: On this first Sunday of 2026, we gather as a people looking for God’s
work in the world

All: We gather as a people listening for the whispers of the Spirit

Leader: We look for hints of goodness in the most unlikely places

All: We gather as a people yearning for Love’s Presence

Leader: The assurance that we are not alone

All: And love will have the last word

Leader: God helps us encounter Your Glory

All: As we worship the King of Kings and Lord of Lords

***Please stand if you are able**

***Prayer of Invocation**

All: Light of God, illumine the path that leads us to healing, hope and salvation. Glory of God fill our lives and remove the darkness of fear, doubt, pain and thoughts of unworthiness. Dear God, allow Your brightness to shine with such brilliance that we marvel in awe. Glory of God fill each soul this morning. Light of God we welcome You in this place as we pray the prayer of revelation 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.

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

“Cold December Flies Away” arr. by Anne Organ

Scripture Reading

Matthew 12: 16-21

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 42: 1-9

Sermon

“New Things Are Possible”

Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

Hymn

“We Three Kings”

(8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 5) No. 172

1)

**We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.**

Refrain

***O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.***

2) **Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.**

Refrain

5) **Glorious now behold him arise; Christ and God and sacrifice:
alleluia, alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.**

Refrain

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

Assurance of Pardon

Pastor: God's light is present in this world. Manifested in the Christ child, born to lead us out of darkness. Present in the star, in all that guides us to love. God's light is in the world and darkness has not overcome it. God's Grace is in the world and our missteps have not hindered it. We are loved. We are forgiven. Hallelujah. Amen.

Service of Holy Communion

Presentation of the Bread and Cup

Invitation for Faithful Giving

Offertory (10:30 a.m.) "The Wexford Carol" Hayes 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: Lord Jesus our Savior and Deliverer, we come to You with hearts full of gratitude for the abundant Blessings You give us each day. We acknowledge that cheerful giving is not an obligation but a joyful act of worship. Help us to understand our giving is an expression of our deep love for You and our desire to build Your Kingdom of this earth. In Jesus' Name.

***Closing Hymn**

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

No. 163

- 1) **Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing, Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all, Christ the babe is Lord of all!**
- 2) **Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new,
saw the glory, heard the story - tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow.
Christ the babe was born for you, Christ the babe was born for you!**

Benediction

**All: Lord of Light...Shine on us
Lord of Peace...Dwell in us
Lord of Might...Encourage us
Lord of Love...Enfold us
Lord of Wisdom...Enlighten us**

***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.) “We Three Kings” arr. by Smith Jane Shoemaker
Postlude (10:30 a.m.) “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen” Todd Baldosser

Pastor Steve’s Quote of the Week

“For success, attitude is equally as important as ability.”

Harry F. Banks

Dr. Swisher's message next week:

January 11, 2026 8:00 a.m.

“Taking Inventory”

Philemon 3: 12-14

Our Guest speaker - Rev. Joel King

January 11, 2026 10:30 a.m.

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!

It is our joy and honor to welcome

Rev. Joel King

January 11, 2026

at 10:30AM

Rev. Joel King, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s
first cousin, will speak at the
10:30am service on January 11, 2026



NEW Classes Starting

January 4, 2026 9:00AM—10:00AM

Adult Class

Abiding In Christ

By Carl Kochendorfer
led by Carl Kochendorfer

POSTPONED

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.

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!!

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 4—January 10 (Days 120-126)

Sunday—2 Chron 4-6

Thursday—2 Chron 16-18

Monday—2 Chron 7-9

Friday—2 Chron 19-21

Tuesday—2 Chron 10-12

Saturday—2 Chron 22-24

Wednesday—2 Chron 13-15



St. John's Little Free Pantry

Take what you need. Give what you can.

Our little food pantry needs your help.

This is an ongoing mission project to assist our needy Neighbors. Our little food pantry is replenished every day with the items collected every Sunday. There are collection boxes near each entrance to the Church where you can place donated food items for this important ministry. Thanks for your support!

Afternoon Circle -

would like to thank our church family for the donations of 25 hats, 51 pairs of gloves and 65 pairs of socks for the children at Ben Franklin Elementary School. When items get lost, teachers can quickly replace them from our supply to keep little hands and feet warm and cozy this winter. Thank you for your generosity.

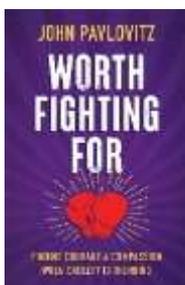
Regular Circle meetings do not happen during January and February. But we do like to get together when we can. On our regular meeting date, January 7, we will meet for lunch at the Longhorn Restaurant in Heath near Walmart at 12 Noon. In the event of bad weather, the get-together will be cancelled.

Inclement Weather – Stay Informed for Church Cancellations
& Other Important Information

It's that time of year when the weather can cause road conditions to be dangerous. Our church policy is to close the church if the Newark area or Licking County is under a level 2 weather advisory. Please add your name and phone number to our ONE CALL NOW list to get important information and updates from St. John's by a phone message if you are not already on this list. Then put this in the offering plate or notify the office. Thank you!

New Addition: Name _____ Phone # _____

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.



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

Finances for the Month and Year to Date (Not completed)

| <u>General Fund Income</u> | <u>December</u> | <u>Year to Date</u> |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Congregation giving (Faith Promise) | 12,547.02 | 93,381.00 |
| Income from Foundation Fund | 10,500.00 | 126,000.00 |
| Income from Emerson Miller Fund | 3,758.33 | 45,099.96 |
| Total Month & YTD Income | 27,284.06 | 281,614.40 |
| General Fund Expenses | \$25,690.53 | \$294,017.01 |
| Over/Under Month & YTD | \$ 1,593.53 | (\$12,402.61) |



() = Negative



General Prayers: Bill Carr, Charlie Bruah, Rev. Dr. Winfield Strout, Rev. Gunnar Cerda, Brian Lensink & Carl Kochendorfer

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



Sunday: January 4, 2026
Second Sunday after Christmas

- 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
- 12:00 pm Mission Trip Planning Meeting

Sunday: January 11, 2026
Baptism of Christ

- 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



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. Julie Davis

Ushers:

Frank Davis, Terry Gano,
Barry Dooley, Gary Kinser

Cradle Roll:

Volunteer/Avery Nagel

Bible Discovery Zone:

Julie Kroah/Pat Farley

Media Worship Team:

Sound & Video:

10:30 am: Ken Kroah/Tom Lawyer

Attendance Report for Sunday, December 28, 2025
8:00 am - 12 10:30 am - 51
Sunday, December 28 Live Stream Views - 467

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.



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!

