



**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

Office: 740-323-2854

Office Administrator

Anita Chirdon

Office Assistant

Kim Workman

stjohnsunity@windstream.net

Organist & Choir Dir.

Todd Baldosser

scarlatti35@hotmail.com

Christian Education Director

Julie Kroah

stjohnsucc.ce@windstream.net

Sexton

Mike Dooley

Mikedooley537@gmail.com

Chapel Pianist

Jane Shoemaker

Children's Bell Choir

Colleen Kroah

Adult Bell Choir

Jerry Goodman

Signer

Debi Snow

Librarian

Catherine Lim

Prayer List

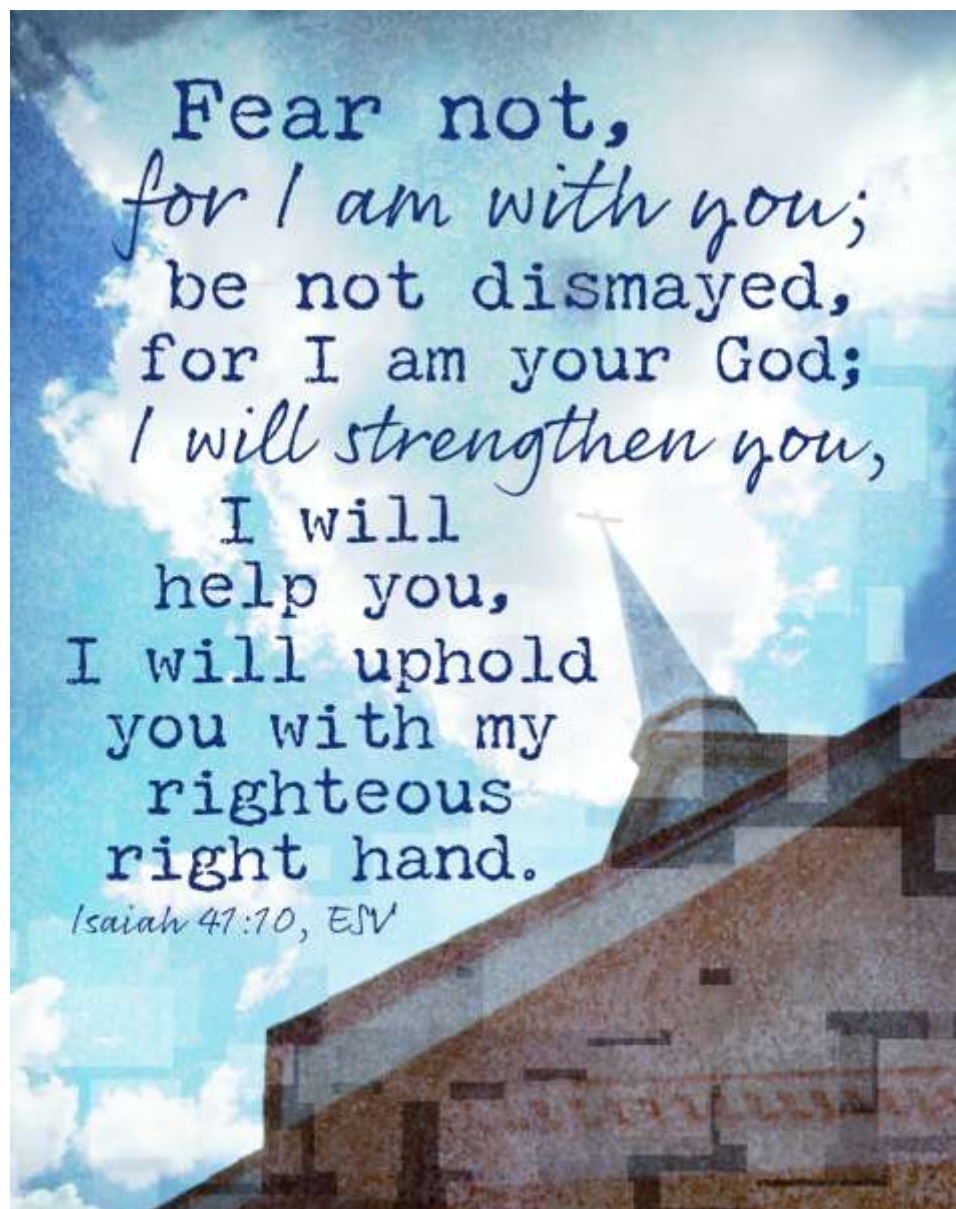
Rebecca Swartz

raswartz1231@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***



July 26 2026
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Outdoor Drive-in Service: 8:00 a.m.
Sanctuary Service: 10:30 a.m.

July 26, 2026

Tune your FM Radio to 107.5

8:00 am

Sanctuary Service

10:30 am

.....
Announcements & Greetings

Prelude "In This Place" Thomson Todd Baldosser

***Opening Hymn** "He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought!" **No. 545**
(8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 3)

1) **He leadeth me: O blessed thought!**
O words from heavenly comfort fraught!
What e'er I do, where'er I be
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Refrain *He leadeth me, he leadeth me,*
by his own hand he leadeth me:
His faithful follower I would be,
for by his hand he leadeth me.

2) **Lord, I would place my hand in thine,**
nor ever murmur nor repine;
by waters still, o'er troubled sea,
still 'tis thy hand that leadeth me.

Refrain

3) **And when my task on earth is done,**
when, by thy grace, the victory's won,
e'en death's cold wave I will not flee,
since God thro' Jordan leadeth me.

Refrain

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord and Call on God's Name

All: **Shout praises to God!**

Leader: Tell of His wonderful works!

All: **Seek God's Presence continually**

Leader: Remember and call to mind the wonderful things He has done

All: **Today is the day for giving thanks to God**

Leader: Let us Praise His Name and Celebrate His mercy

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

***Please stand if you are able**

***Prayer of Invocation**

All: Gracious and loving God, You have made Yourself known to us. When we seek You, we find You. You surround us with love and goodness. You strengthen and uplift us. While we gather together this morning, we are mindful that Your wisdom speaks, Your power heals, and Your heart lifts. Help us to be faithful and may You be ever glorified as we pray the words we learned directly from You;

****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 Nicene Creed, A.D. 325 (*Traditional Version*)**

We believe in One God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible

And in One Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages,

God from God,

Light from Light,

True God from True God,

Begotten not made;

of the same essence as the Father.

Through Him all things were made.

For us and our salvation; He came down from Heaven and became incarnate by the Holy Spirit. He was crucified under Pontius Pilate, He suffered and was buried. The third day He rose again. He ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in Glory to judge the living and the dead. His Kingdom will never end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. He proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.

We believe in the one true Holy and Apostolic Christian Church. We affirm one Baptism. We look forward to the resurrection from the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen

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 Chopin Nocturne OP.9 No.2 Catherine Lim

Scripture Reading Romans 8:31-39 Jeff Conner

Scripture Reading Isaiah 41:10

Sermon “Don’t Let Fear Paralyze You” Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

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

Invitation for Faithful Giving

Offertory

“There is a Longing”- Quigley

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: God of goodness and growth, All creation is Yours. Nourish us through these gifts that we might proclaim Your steadfast love in our community, region and throughout the world. Use these offerings to further Your Kingdom of Light. Through these gifts meet the needs of the physically and spiritually hungry across the street or in some foreign land. Empower us to be everything You intend for us to be and equip us to accomplish Your plan through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. Amen

***Closing Hymn**

“Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”

No. 709

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

- 1) Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God;
God, whose word cannot be broken, formed thee for a blest abode.
On the Rock of Ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation’s walls surrounded, thou mayest smile at all thy foes.
- 2) See, the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters, and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint, while such a river ever flows their thirst to assuage?
Grace, which like our God, the Giver, never fails from age to age.
- 3) Round each habitation hovering, see the cloud and fire appear
for a glory and a covering, showing forth that God is near!
Thus deriving from their banner light by night and shade by day,
safe they feed upon the manna which God gives them when they pray.

***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

"Go Out, Go Out" Curtis Stephan

Todd Baldosser

Pastor Steve's Quote of the Week

"Live your life and forget your age."

Rev. Dr. Vincent Peale

Dr. Swisher's message next week:

Sunday, August 2, 2026

"Staying Focused on your Goal"

Philippians 3:13-14

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!

St. John's Little Free Pantry

Take what you need. Give what you can.



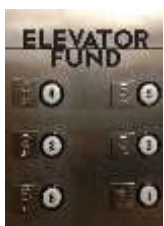
To replenish our food pantry every day we need your help every week. There are collection boxes near each entrance to the Church. Keep in mind that many of the people using this pantry have limited cooking facilities. Ollie's, Dollar Tree, and Aldi's are good places to find foods at good prices. Cans with pull tabs when possible and no glass containers! Thanks for your support! <https://www.littlefreepantry.org/>

Book Study Group

The book club is reading and discussing UNCOMMON GROUND, Living Faithfully in a World of Difference by Timothy Keller and John Inazu. Timothy Keller was an American pastor, theologian, author and founder of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City. John Inazu is an author and The Sally Danforth Distinguished Professor of Law and Religion at Washington University in St Louis, Missouri. We live in a time of deep division and the authors, along with stories provided by others, show us what it means to live with humility, patience and tolerance while engaging faithfully across differences. The book is available online and in paperback. Come and join in the discussion on Thursdays at 11am at the River Road Coffee House in downtown Newark.

Mission and Outreach for July

This month our church was able to supply towels needed for the St Vincent Men's Haven. The men were very appreciative about how colorful and comforting the towels were. We would like to add to our gift by supplying some 3 in 1 body wash and shampoo. Please deposit donations in the appropriate container in the Fellowship Room. by the end of July. Thank you in advance for your support of this local outreach.



As we move forward with the elevator upgrade project, we have placed envelopes at both bulletin tables in the Sanctuary for your use if you would like to contribute to the Elevator Project Fund. Contributions will be used to repay the loan amount back to the Foundation Fund.

You can also mark your offering envelope or check with Elevator Fund. Thank you for your support for this important investment for our church.

Afternoon Circle -

will meet again on Wednesday, August 5, at 1:00 p.m. in the Large Meeting Room. Refreshments will be served by Julie Kroah and Julie Davis. Our program will be on the Old Licking County Children's Home with Brenda Simross. Brenda and her parents were residents/employees at the Children's Home during Brenda's early childhood. All ladies of our St. John's Church Family are encouraged to attend.

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 —July 26—August 1 (Days 323-329)

Sunday—Romans 7-9

Thursday—1 Corinthians 4-6

Monday— Romans 10-12

Friday—1 Corinthians 7-9

Tuesday—Romans 13-16

Saturday—1 Corinthians 10-12

Wednesday—1 Corinthians 1-3

The Summer Reading Program is in Full Swing!

St. John's Library
Summer



Reading Program

New Books Added!

The Bible in 100 Pages: Seeing the big Picture in
God's Great Story by Phil Moore.

Usborne History of the World in Pictures
by Rob Lloyd Jones.

Be sure to check out all the
great reads in the library!



Positive Living Podcast

Hosted by

Rev. Dr. Stephen L. Swisher

St. John's UCC Senior Pastor

Premiere episode July 27, 2026

Popular Johnny Cash Tribute artist

Shawn Barker

will be Pastor Steve's interview guest on his Podcast Positive Living.

Mr. Barker is headlining the nearly Sold Out Johnny Cash Show at the Hollywood Casino in Columbus on July 31st



Future PodcastGuests Include ...



Clint Holmes and Kelly Clinton Holmes
Mr. Holmes known for "Playground in My Mind" and Kelly Clinton Holmes currently headlines in Las Vegas.



Dr. Robert and Donna Schuller
Dr. Robert A. Schuller is the President of Robert Schuller Ministries. Dr. and Mrs. Schuller are speakers and leadership consultants.

St. John's Neighborhood Celebration



August 16, 2026

Noon to 1:30PM

*Fun Treats, School Supply Give-a-way,
games and activities!*

We are accepting donations of school supplies:
glue sticks, highlighters, pencils, pencil cases, spiral
notebooks, scissors, crayons, colored pencils,
pencil top erasers

Fall Kick-Off



September 13, 2026

Food • Fun • Friends!

Continental Breakfast Served

8:45AM—10:30AM

9:15AM Rally Day Program

“Science is Grand”

by Ken Kroah

Plus, hands-on science stations

*And, a Wrap-up of our
“Read the Bible in a Year” challenge*



General Prayers: Charlie Bruah,
Rev. Dr. Winfield Strout,
Eli Taylor, Carl Kochendorfer, Trisha

Boehmer & Delores Williams

Church Members 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

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

Media Worship Team:

Sound & Video:

8:00 am: Mike Dooley

10:30 am: Karson Ewing/Tom Lawyer

THIS WEEK'S GLANCE



Sunday: July 26, 2026

8:00 am Outdoor Drive-In Service

10:30 am Sanctuary Service

10:30 am Cradle Roll

Wednesday:

6:00 pm Crystal City Chorus

Thursday:

11:00 am Thursday Book Study,
UNCOMMON GROUND,
Living Faithfully in a World
of Difference by Timothy
Keller and John Inazu at
River Road Coffee on the
Square

Sunday: August 2, 2026

Communion Sunday

8:00 am Outdoor Drive-In Service

10:30 am Sanctuary Service

10:30 am Cradle Roll

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



Attendance Report for Sunday, July 19, 2026

8:00 a.m. - 23 10:30 a.m. - 45

Sunday, July 19 Live Stream Views - 192

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday & Friday: 9am -12
pm. Please call the office 740-323-2407 and leave a
message to make any additional appointments.
Thank you!

Finances for the Month and Year to Date

General Fund Income

	<u>June</u>	<u>Year to date</u>
Congregation giving (Faith Promise)	6,899.91	53,835.28
Income from Foundation Fund	11,500.00	69,000.00
Monthly Income from Emerson Miller Fund	3,758.33	22,549.98
Month & YTD Total Income	22,708.67	150,497.56
General Fund Expenses	26,541.87	155,350.50
Over/Under Month & YTD	(\$ 3,833.20)	(\$4,852.94) () = Negative

