



**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

m

Cell: 214-549-7835
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

rebecasmail@aol.com &

stjohnsunity@windstream.net



*Rooted in the Evangelical
and Reformed Traditions*

*We are Sowing Seeds of Hope
in a Time of Chaos*

Fourth Sunday in Lent



March 15, 2026

Chapel Service: 8:00 a.m.

Sanctuary Service: 10:30 a.m.

March 15, 2026

Chapel Service
Sanctuary Service

8:00 am

10:30 am

Announcements & Greetings

Prelude (8:00 a.m.) “The Power of the Cross” arr. by Tornquist Jane Shoemaker

Prelude (10:30 a.m.) “The King of Love My Shepherd Is” Dykes Todd Baldosser

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

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: The Psalms invite us “Come let us sing unto the Lord!”

All: And we respond; “Come let us make a joyful sound to the Rock of our Salvation.”

Leader: We come into God’s Presence with Thanksgiving

All: And share our joy-filled praises to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords

Leader: We come to worship God, our Creator, the author of joy

All: The joy of the Lord is our strength

*Prayer of Invocation

All: We lift our voices in praise O Holy One, for You are the Rock of our lives. The Shepherd who cares for each one of us. Thank You for the ways You lift us up even in the midst of challenges. Help us to receive new revelation and fresh awareness of Your Presence today as we pray, sing and worship. We now commit ourselves to the words of connection You taught our ancestors and each of us;

***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.**

*Please stand if you are able

***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 - Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada**

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

**who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

We are called to be the church:

**to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God. 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

“More Precious than Silver” arr. by Tornquist

Choir Anthem (10:30 a.m.)

“Hallowed Be Thy Name” Besig

Scripture Reading

Galatians 2: 20

Scripture Reading

Acts 3: 1-10

Sermon

“Why Live the Hard Way?”

Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

Hymn **“Precious Lord Take My Hand”** (8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 3) **No. 628**

**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 (10:30 a.m.)

Todd Baldosser

“I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light” Thomerson

***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: Life-giving God, You breathe hope into our valleys of despair and
call forth life where we saw only dry bones. We come today, not
out of habit, but out of longing to be a part of Your good work that
restores, renews and redeems. Take these tithes and offerings
today and use them to loose the restraints that keep people bound.
Let them be signs of trust, symbols of restoration and tools of
transformation. May our offering, like our living, lean into Your
Spirit and testify that life –abundant, eternal and holy - is possible
in You. In Jesus’ Name. Amen**

***Closing 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

***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

“Praise Him! Praise Him!” arr. by Tornquist

Postlude (10:30 a.m.)

“Lift High the Cross” Nicholson

Todd Baldosser

Pastor Steve's Quote of the Week

"I never dreamed about success. I worked for it."

Estee Lauder

Perfume and Beauty Product Pioneer

Dr. Swisher's message next week:

March 22, 2026

"Doing the Things that Can't be Done"

Luke 18: 27

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!



Purple Strips of Cloth

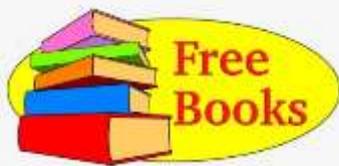
Be sure to pick up a purple strip of cloth at the front or rear of the sanctuary. Purple is the color of Lent. It symbolizes pain, suffering, mourning and penitence. It signifies the feeling of sorrow for our sins in the light of Christ's passion and death. In Lent, purple is used beginning Ash Wednesday and extending through Maundy Thursday.

Use the strip of cloth in a way so that you see it every day as a reminder of Lent and in preparation of Easter. For example, tie it on your rearview mirror, on your purse, on a kitchen cabinet or lay it across your workspace.

MISSION AND OUTREACH FOCUS FOR MARCH

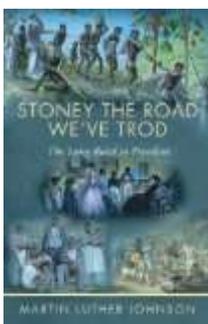
One Great Hour of Sharing is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports disaster, refugee, and development ministries. The Global H.O.P.E. Team oversees the offering proceeds in collaboration with partners. Special Offering Envelopes are included or mark your envelope or check for "O.G.H.S"

Thank you for your consideration in supporting this special mission.



There are free books available in the Fellowship Room. Most are duplicates from previous Bible studies. They will be available until April 12 at which time they will be donated.

Book Study Group



Come join us as we continue our discussion of the book, **STONEY THE ROAD WE'VE TROD: The Long Road to Freedom** by Martin Luther Johnson. We meet on Thursdays at the River Road Coffee House on the square in Newark. This month we will meet on the 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th at 11am. The book is available through Thrift Books. Come join us.



2026 Meetings

11:30AM—1:00PM

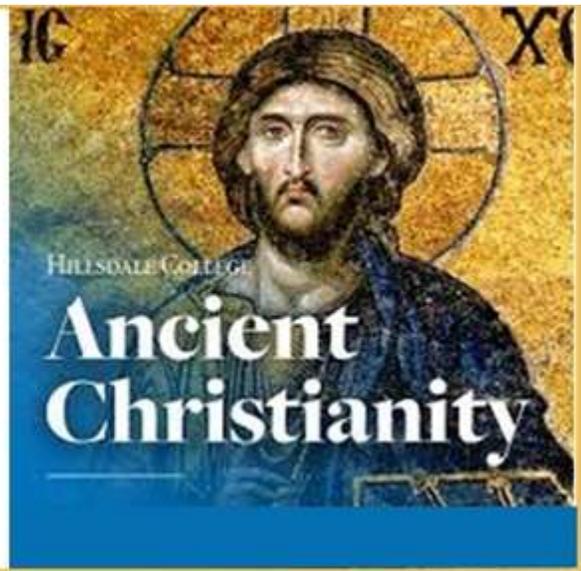
March 8, 22 and April 12, 26

Adult Class at 9:00AM

Led by Tim Powers

in the large meeting room

The history of the Christian Church from its origins to its rise as the dominant religion in the Roman Empire. Focusing on primary texts and development in the first 400 years of Christian history.



Bible Discovery Zone



9:00 AM Youth and Children's Classes

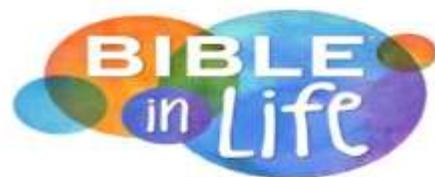


led by Elaine Gard
In the Small Meeting Room

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.

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/>

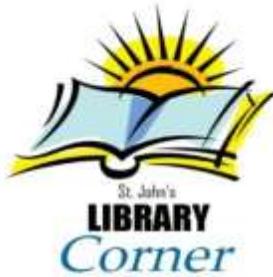


Oh Death, Where is Your Victory?

April 12, 2026

8:00am and 10:30am

Join us as we celebrate Jesus' victory over death!



EXCITING NEWS!

We are looking to purchase some new books for the library.
Is there a book you're interested in reading that would make a good addition to the Church Library?

Write the name and author on the **NEW white board** in the Church Library.

If you have any questions, see our librarian, Catherine Lim or email stjohnsucc.ce@windstream.net.



Book Title: _____

Author: _____

Suggested by: _____ Contact information: _____

Cut and drop in the collection plate

Finances for the Month and Year to Date

<u>General Fund Income</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Congregation giving (Faith Promise)	8,049.44	15,473.90
Income from Foundation Fund	11,500.00	23,000.00
Monthly Income from Emerson Miller Fund	3,758.33	7,516.66
Month & YTD Total Income	24,259.03	48,370.33
General Fund Expenses	\$27,549.91	\$51,843.97
Over/Under Month & YTD	(\$3,290.88)	(\$3,473.64)



() = Negative



Easter Memorials

You may choose to remember a loved one with a gift to the Abiding Memorial Fund or the Foundation Fund (if established). All such gifts noted and received **by March 29, 2026**, will be listed in the bulletin on **April 5, 2026, Easter Sunday**. Abiding Memorial and Foundation Fund Cards and Envelopes are available in the literature rack in the Narthex or in the office or you can use this form and place in the offering plate with your contribution. Thank you!

Be sure to complete the following to be printed in the bulletin: (i.e.: In honor of or in memory of..... by)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

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 March 15—March 21 (Days 190-196)

Sunday—Proverbs 16-18

Thursday—Proverbs 28-31

Monday— Proverbs 19-21

Friday—Eccl 1-3

Tuesday—Proverbs 22-24

Saturday—Eccl 4-6

Wednesday—Proverbs 25-27

Holy Week Schedule



Palm Sunday - March 29 at 8:00AM & 10:30AM

Dr. Swisher's message "Enduring Hardship"

Maundy Thursday - April 2 at 7:00PM

Dr. Swisher's message "The Table and the Garden"

Good Friday Service - April 3 at 7:00PM

Dr. Swisher's message "The Via Dolorosa"

Easter Sunday - April 5

At 7:00AM Outdoor Drive-In Sunrise Service

At 10:30AM Sanctuary Service

Dr. Swisher's Easter message "Standing Firm"

Easter Breakfast Served 7:30AM to 10:00AM
Donations accepted for Youth Ministry Programs





Easter

You're invited to come and worship with us this Easter season

Sunday, April 5

7:00AM Outdoor Drive-In Sunrise Service

10:30AM Sanctuary Service

Easter Breakfast served 7:30AM—10:00AM

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

(740) 323-2407

www.stjohnsnewark.org



General Prayers: Charlie Bruah,
Winfield Strout, Rev. Gunnar Cerda, Brian
Lensink, Eli Taylor, Don Boldt & Anita Chiridon
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, Lois
Meyers & Sally Penrose



**Additional prayer requests on Bea's
Blessings:**

- Rev. Harvey Antle – moved into Rehab after a stroke (Terry Hill's uncle in Kentucky)
- Ashley (Robin Green's Granddaughter) – Recent Lupus diagnosis
- Beth Crawford – hospitalized and in severe pain – Still unknown diagnosis
- Carly (Teresa McCoy's daughter)
- Calvin Campbell – scheduled for shoulder surgery
- 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:

Elaine Gard/Rebekkah Crowthers

Media Worship Team:

Sound & Video:

10:30 am: Karson Ewing/Tom Lawyer

Attendance Report for Sunday, March 8, 2026

8:00 a.m. - 14 10:30 a.m. - 42

Sunday, March 8 Live Stream Views – 182

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!



Sunday: March 15, 2026
Fourth Sunday in Lent
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

Monday:
6:30 pm Church Council Meeting

Wednesday:
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

Sunday: March 22, 2026
Fifth Sunday in Lent
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

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

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.

