



**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

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Sexton

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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 &

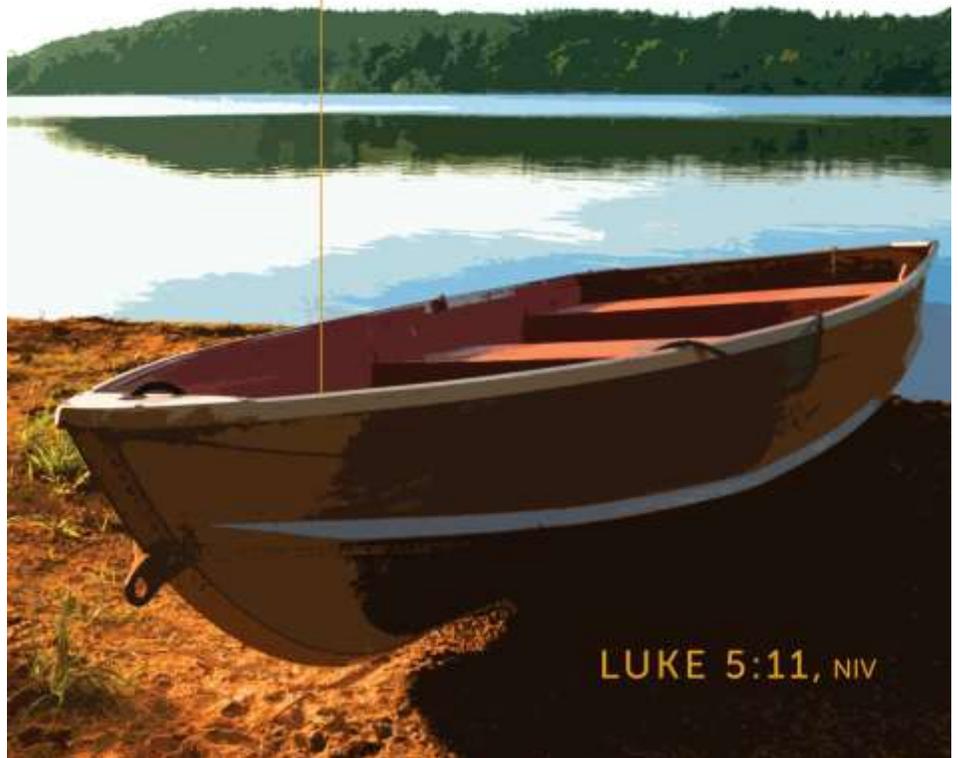
stjohnsunited@windstream.net

*Rooted in the Evangelical
and Reformed Traditions*

*We are Sowing Seeds of Hope
in a Time of Chaos
So We May All Be One*



So they pulled their
boats up on shore,
left everything and
followed him.



*March 1, 2026
Communion Sunday
Second Sunday in Lent*

**Chapel Service: 8:00 a.m.
Sanctuary Service: 10:30 a.m.**

March 1, 2026

Chapel Service
Sanctuary Service

8:00 am

10:30 am

Announcements & Greetings

Prelude (8:00 a.m.) Jane Shoemaker

“Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus” arr. by Fettke

Prelude (10:30 a.m.) “The Summons” Kelvingrove Todd Baldosser

Opening Hymn “Take My Life” (8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 6) **No. 609**

1) **Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

2) **Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee,
swift and beautiful for thee.**

6) **Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasures store.
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.**

***Call to Worship** Jeff Conner

Leader: The voice of God is calling us to come

All: With all that we are and all that we carry

Leader: Come, Let us Worship

All: Members of the family of God

Leader: Bring all that You are to be molded by Grace

All: Refocused toward love

Leader: Woven together as community

All: Come, Let us Worship the Living Lord

***Prayer of Invocation**

**All: Prepare us, dear God, for the work of ministry. Equip us with
saints who will say yes to Your will and yes to Your way. Get us
ready, God, to journey with Jesus through life’s uncertain paths.
Help us rise to the occasion to be everything You planned for us to
be as we prayer the prayer of hope and victory You taught, ...**

***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.**

Pastoral Prayer

**Prayer Response No. 306
“Hear Our Prayer, O Lord”
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
“Let Us Break Bread Together” arr. by Fettke**

Choir Anthem (10:30 a.m.) “Angel Band” Kupferschmid

Scripture Reading Matthew 4: 18-20

Scripture Reading Luke 5: 1-11

Sermon “Getting on Board with Jesus” Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

Hymn “What a Friend We Have In Jesus” (8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 3) No. 585

- 1) What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and grief to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit, oh, what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.**
- 2) Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful, who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer!**
- 3) Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge, take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.**

Prayer of Confession

All: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your steadfast love. For we know the sins and mistakes which are frequently before us. We have not always lived up to Your call on our Lives. We have not always cared for ourselves, others or for Your creation as You have asked. Forgive us. According to Your mercy blot out our transgressions and cleanse us. Restore to us the joy of Your salvation and sustain in us a willing spirit. Free to know joy and gladness and to live our days in praise.

Affirmation of Forgiveness

Pastor: The proof of God's love and unending grace is that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. In the Name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah. Amen.

The Service of Holy Communion

Invitation for Faithful Giving

Offertory (10:30 a.m.) "Shine Jesus Shine" Kendrick 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 of New Beginnings, You call us, as You called Abraham, to trust in what we cannot see and follow where you lead even when the road is unclear. In the shadows of uncertainty, You meet us with Grace not condemnation. As Nicodemus discovered, Your love is not earned but freely given. Receive now the gifts we offer, not as payment or proof, but as signs of our belief, our hope and our gratitude. Use them to focus Your transforming love with a bright light for the world still searching for hope in the darkness. In Jesus' Name. Amen

***Closing Hymn "How Firm a Foundation" (8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 5) No. 618**

**1) How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent word!
What more can be said than to you God has said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?**

- 2) **“Fear not, I am with thee, oh, be not dismayed,
for I am thy God, and will still give thee aid.
I’ll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.**
- 5) **“The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no never, no never forsake!”**

***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

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name” arr. by Labenske

Postlude (10:30 a.m.) Todd Baldosser

“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say” Vaughn Williams

Pastor Steve’s Quote of the Week

“Be a Rainbow in Someone Else’s Rainy Day.”

Maya Angelou - Poet, Author, Speaker

Dr. Swisher’s message next week:

March 8, 2026

A Marching Miracle

Joshua 6: 1-21

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.

Afternoon Circle -

- will meet for this month on Wednesday, March 4, at 1 o'clock. All ladies of our Church Family are invited to attend.



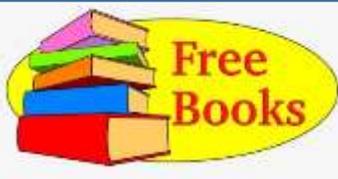
Directories and Chimes

Updated directories available in the Fellowship Room.

If you do not have a shredder, a bin is available in the Fellowship Room for dropping off your outdated Church Directories, Bulletins, Chimes copies to be shredded here at the church.

Personal information has less of a chance of exposure if shredded.

As always, be careful of spam emails, texts and mail. Always confirm the sender before responding. Please bring only our Church's publications. Thank you!



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.



2026 Meetings

11:30AM—1:00PM

March 8, 22 and April 12, 26



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

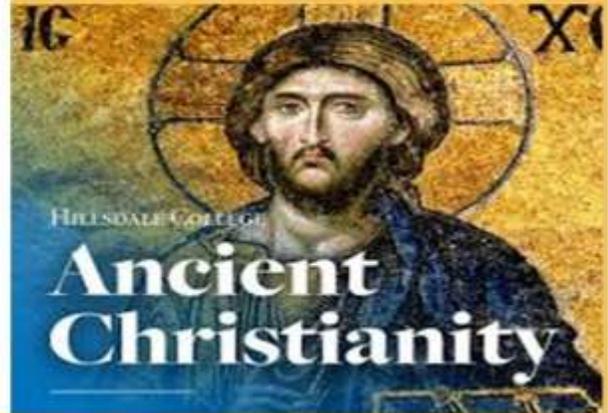
Starting Sunday March 8, 2026

at 9:00AM

Led by Tim Powers

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.

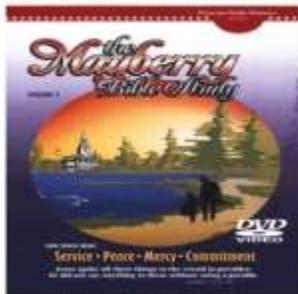
NEW ADULT CLASS



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



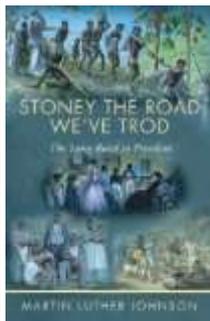
ages 5 to 12
Bible Lessons and Crafts
In the Thou Art Room
Lower Level

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/>





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.

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 1—March 7 (Days 176-182)

Sunday—Psalms 106-110

Thursday—Psalms 126-130

Monday—Psalms 111-115

Friday—Psalms 131-135

Tuesday—Psalms 116-120

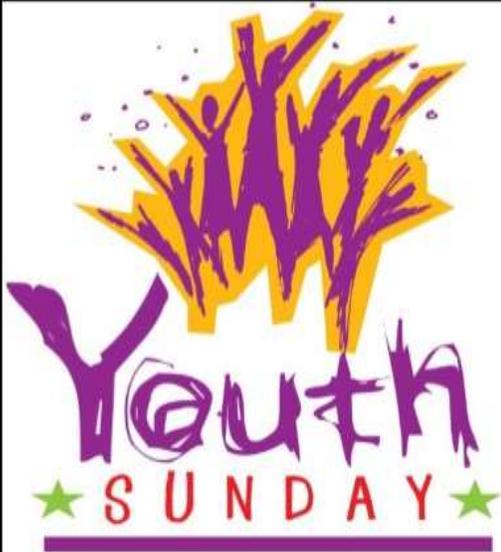
Saturday—Psalms 136-140

Wednesday—Psalms 121-125



Join us at Licking Springs Country Club on March 7, 2026 for MHA's Night of Hope and help us break the stigma surrounding mental health. The evening will feature a cash bar, live auction showcasing a variety of exciting items, and live music with Big Bad Stache.

\$100 VIP Tickets: 6 pm Complimentary food and drink prior to the live auction and music.

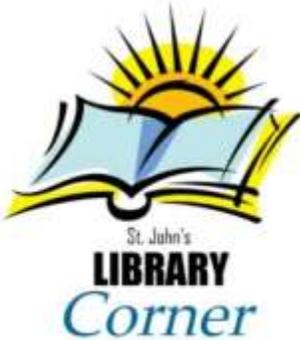


Oh Death, Where is Your Victory?

April 12, 2026

8:00am and 10:30am

Join us as we celebrate Jesus' victory over death!



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

Easter Lilies

This Easter, we will again beautify our sanctuary and our lobby window with an array of Easter lilies to be displayed at both services, which will be purchased from a local nursery. If you would like to participate in this celebration of Easter, please fill out the form below or contact the church office.

6" pot traditional white - \$15.00



THE DEADLINE for placing orders is **Sunday, March 8, 2026.**

There is a limited supply this year, so early ordering is recommended.

_____ I desire the office to purchase a lily for me to keep.

_____ I desire the office to purchase a lily to be donated to a shut-in.

Be sure to complete the following to be printed in the bulletin: (i.e.: In honor of or in memory of..... by) for lily purchases, Abiding Memorials and/or Foundation Fund Contributions.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

You may also choose to remember a loved one with a gift to the Abiding Memorial Fund or the Foundation Fund. 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!

_____ Foundation Fund _____ Abiding Memorial Fund



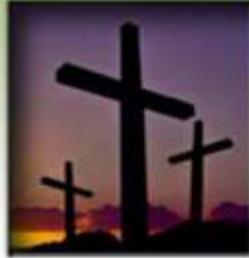
Finances for the Month and Year to Date

<u>General Fund Income</u> (Incomplete)	<u>February</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Congregation giving (Faith Promise)	7,926.00	15,350.46
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	24,131.33	48,242.63
General Fund Expenses	\$27,563.46	\$51,857.52
Month & YTD	(\$3,432.13)	(\$ 3,614.89)



Over/Under
() = Negative

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





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

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:

- Rev. Harvey Antle – hospitalized after a stroke (Terry Hill's uncle in Kentucky)
- Ashley (Robin Green's Granddaughter) – Recent Lupus diagnosis
- Beth Crawford – hospitalized and in severe pain
- 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. Charles Dudley

Ushers:

Frank Davis, Terry Gano,

Barry Dooley, Gary Kinser

Cradle Roll:

Volunteer

Bible Discovery Zone:

Brian Lensink & Rebekkah Crowthers

Media Worship Team:

Sound & Video:

10:30 am: Karson Ewing/Tom Lawyer



Sunday: March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent
Communion Sunday
 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

Wednesday:
 1:00 pm Afternoon Circle Meeting
 6:00 pm Mission & Outreach Committee Meeting
 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

Friday: World Day of Prayer
Sunday: March 8, 2026
Third 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.



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, February 22, 2026
 8:00 a.m. - 16 10:30 a.m. - 44
 Sunday, February 22 Live Stream Views – 151
 Ash Wednesday Attendance - 43 Views - 158