



**St. John's  
United Church of Christ  
285 W. National Drive  
Newark OH  
43055-5298**

Main: 740-323-2407

Church Website

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

**Our Church Staff**

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

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Colleen Kroah

Adult Bell Choir

Jerry Goodman

Signer

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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*

# THIRD Sunday in Lent



## March 8, 2026

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

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





**\*Prayer of Invocation**

**All:** Caring God, we turn to You this day filled with gratitude for the ways You stand with us. As we move through this Season of Lent, may we tune our hearts to sing Your praise and focus our hearts to honor You with our thoughts and actions. May our worship be pleasing in Your sight as we seek to renew our commitment to be followers of Jesus who taught us to pray;

**\*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 Apostles' Creed (Traditional Version)**

**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 (8:00 a.m.)**

**Jane Shoemaker**

**“There Is a Balm In Gilead” arr. by Hayes**

**Scripture Reading**

**Hebrews 11: 28-30**

**Scripture Reading**

Joshua 6: 1-21

**Sermon**

“A Marching Miracle”

Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

**Hymn**

“What Wondrous Love Is This” (8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 4) **No. 200**

1)

**What wondrous love is this,  
O my soul, O my soul,  
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!  
What wondrous love is this  
that caused the Lord of bliss  
to bear the dreadful curse  
for my soul, for my soul,  
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!**

2)

**When I was sinking down,  
sinking down, sinking down,  
When I was sinking down, sinking down;  
When I was sinking down,  
beneath God’s righteous frown,  
Christ laid aside his crown  
for my soul, for my soul,  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!**

4)

**And when from death I’m free,  
I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on,  
and when from death I’m free, I’ll sing on!  
And when from death I’m free,  
I’ll sing and joyful be,  
and through eternity  
I’ll sing on, I’ll sing on,  
and through eternity I’ll sing on!**

**Invitation for Faithful Giving**

**Offertory (10:30 a.m.)**

Jane Shoemaker

“There Is a Balm in Gilead” arr. by Hayes

**\*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: Steadfast God of hope, You have called us to rejoice, not in ease but in the Grace that sustains us through suffering, the love that meets us in struggle and the hope that does not disappoint. You pour Your Spirit into our hearts, shaping us into a people who give not out of obligation, but out of gratitude. As we bring these tithes and offerings, may they testify to Your Presence among us and to the promise of reconciliation You offer the world through Jesus Christ. Make us bold in our sharing, joyful in our worship and confident in Your grace. In the Name of Jesus, who lives within us, we pray. Amen.**

## **\*Closing Hymn “Trust and Obey” (8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 4) No. 556**

- 1) When we walk with the Lord in the light of his word,  
what a glory he sheds on our way!  
While we do his good will, he abides with us still,  
and with all who will trust and obey.  
Trust and obey, for there’s no other way  
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.**
  
- 2) Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,  
but our toil he will richly repay;  
not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross,  
but is blest if we trust and obey.  
Trust and obey, for there’s no other way  
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.**
  
- 4) Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at his feet,  
or we’ll walk by his side in the way;  
what he says we will do, where he sends we will go;  
never fear, only trust and obey.  
Trust and obey, for there’s no other way  
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.**

## **\*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** "Come, Thou Almighty King" arr. by Lopez Jane Shoemaker

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

"The mind is not a vessel to be filled but by a fire to be kindled."

Plutarch

Greek Philosopher

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

March 15, 2026

"Why Live the Hard Way?"

Acts 3: 1-10

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.

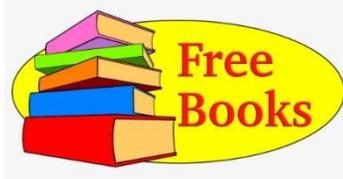
### **MISSION AND OUTREACH FOCUS FOR MARCH**

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 will be available next Sunday or mark your envelope or check for "One Great Hour of Sharing" Thank you for your consideration in supporting this special mission.



### **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**

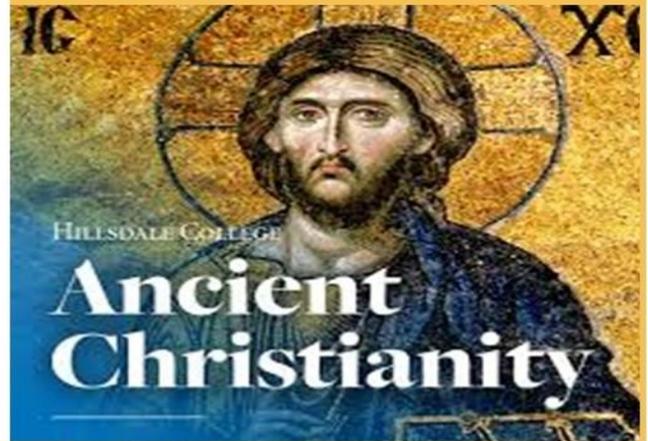
11:30AM—1:00PM

March 8, 22 and April 12, 26

## NEW ADULT CLASS

Starting Sunday March 8, 2026  
at 9:00AM  
Led by Tim Powers

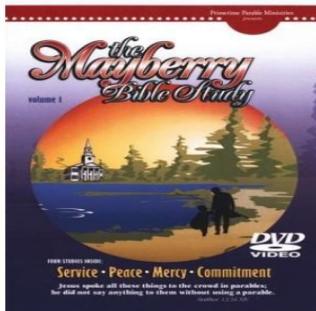
The history of the Christian Church from its origins to its rise as the dominant religion in the Roman Empire. Focusing on primary texts and development in the first 400 years of Christian history.



## Bible Discovery Zone



### 9:00 AM Youth and Children's Classes

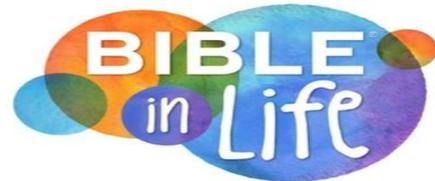


led by Elaine Gard  
In the Small Meeting Room

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

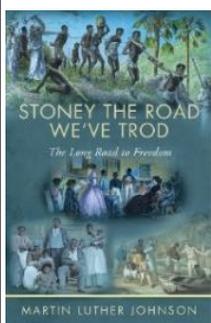
## St. John's Little Free Pantry

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.

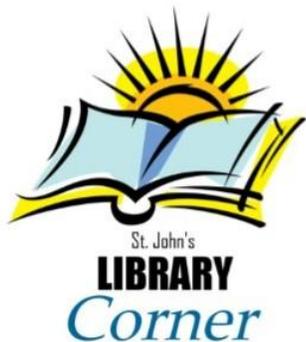


*Oh Death, Where is Your Victory?*

**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](mailto: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 **Today, 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.

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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



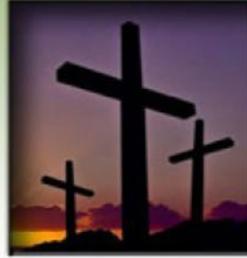
### *Finances for the Month and Year to Date*

<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	24,135.59	48,246.89
General Fund Expenses	\$27,556.12	\$51,850.18
<b>Month &amp; YTD</b>	<b>(\$3,420.53)</b>	<b>(\$ 3,603.29)</b>



**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  
Lensing, Eli Taylor, Don Boldt & Anita Chirdon  
**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 – 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 –  
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 Chirdon's father  
under Hospice Care)

Mrs. Barbara Swisher

**We Appreciate Those Serving Today!**

Liturgist:

Jeff Conner

Cantor:

10:30 a.m. April Kinser

Ushers:

Frank Davis, Terry Gano,

Barry Dooley, Gary Kinser

Cradle Roll:

Volunteer

Bible Discovery Zone:

Marla Crowthers/Pat Farley

Media Worship Team:

Sound & Video:

10:30 am: Ken Kroah/Julie Kroah

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.



**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

**Tuesday:**

- 7:00 pm Finance & Stewardship  
Meeting

**Wednesday:**

- 10:00 am Christian Education  
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:**

- 2:00 pm Music Committee Meeting

**Sunday: March 15, 2026**

**Fourth 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

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)

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, March 1, 2026*  
8:00 a.m. - 14                      10:30 a.m. - 46  
Sunday, March 1 Live Stream Views – 188