



**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



*Always be sober-minded,
endure suffering,
do the work of an evangelist,
fulfill your ministry.*

2 TIMOTHY 4:5, ESV

May 3, 2026

Communion Sunday

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Outdoor Drive-in Service: 8:00 a.m.

Sanctuary Service: 10:30 a.m.

May 3, 2026

Tune your FM Radio to 107.5

8:00 am

Sanctuary Service

10:30 am

Announcements & Greetings

Prelude “For All the Saints” Vaughn Williams Todd Baldosser

***Opening Hymn** “Faith of Our Fathers” **No. 635**
(8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 3)

- 1) **Faith of our fathers, living still
in spite of dungeon, fire and sword,
oh, how our hearts beat high with joy
when-e'er we hear that glorious word!
Faith of our fathers, holy faith,
we will be true to thee till death.**

- 2) **The martyrs bound in prison chains
were still in heart and conscience free,
and bless'd would be their children's fate,
if they, like them, should live for thee!
Faith of the martyrs, holy faith,
we will be true to thee till death.**

- 3) **Faith of our mothers, we will love
both friend and foe in all our strife,
and preach thee, too, as love knows how,
by saving word and faithful life!
Faith of our mothers, holy faith,
we will be true to thee till death!**

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Rejoice, people of God; this is our Sabbath day

All: Rejoice, friends in Christ; this is our time for worship

Leader: God set aside this day for rest and restoration

All: God is worthy of worship, our creator, healer and inspiration

Leader: People of God, Welcome!

All: Welcome to this place of love and grace

Leader: Welcome to this place of hope and perseverance

All: God invites each of us

Leader: Into His loving Presence

All: Let us worship the King of Kings together

**Please stand if you are able*

***Prayer of Invocation**

All: Dear God, we begin this new month with thankfulness for the opportunities ahead. We look with anticipation to all You are going to do in us and through us as May unfolds. We come today lifting up not just our own needs but the needs of those around us. Strengthen the weary, comfort the brokenhearted and shine Your light on those walking through dark places. Guard our steps, shield us from harm and fill our hearts and our homes with peace. As we pray the words You taught us to say;

***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 - Statement of the Christian Church of South Korea**

**We believe in the one God,
Creator and Sustainer of all things,
Father of Nations,
the Source of all goodness and beauty,
All truth and love**

**We believe in Jesus Christ
God manifest in the flesh
our teacher, example and Redeemer,
the Savior of the World**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit
God present with us for guidance
for comfort and for strength**

**We believe in the forgiveness of sins, in the life of love and prayer and in
grace equal to every need**

We believe in the Word of God contained in the Old and New Testaments as the sufficient rule both of faith and practice

We believe in the Church, those who are United in the living Lord for the purpose of worship and service

We believe in the reign of God as the divine will realized in human society and in the family of God, where we are all brothers and sisters

We believe in the final triumph of righteousness and in 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.

Scripture Reading **Matthew 28: 18-19** **Jeff Conner**

Scripture Reading **2 Timothy 4:1-2; 5**

Sermon **“Are We Using Our Gifts?”** **Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher**

Hymn **“O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee”** **No. 602**
(8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 4)

- 1) O Master, let me walk with thee in lowly paths of service free; tell me thy secret; help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.**
- 2) Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word of love; teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way.**
- 4) In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future’s broadening way; in peace that only thou canst give, with thee, O Master, let me live.**

Service of Holy Communion

Invitation

Pastor: You that do truly and earnestly repent of your sins and are in love and charity with your neighbors and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking in His Holy ways; draw near with faith and take this Holy Sacrament to your comfort.

Words of Assurance (*from 1784*)

All: Hear what comforting words Jesus offers to all that truly turn to Him: “Come unto me all you that are burdened and heavy-laden and I will give you rest.” In the Name of Jesus Christ You are forgiven. Hallelujah. Amen

Offering of the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation

Invitation for Faithful Giving

Offertory “Gymnopedie” Satie 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: Gracious God, we believe in the gift of Your Son Jesus, who is the way, the truth and the life. We offer these tithes and offerings in hope that Your great good work will continue and flourish to bless all creation. Please use them to proclaim Your love in every place. In Jesus’ Holy Name we pray. Amen

***Closing Hymn** “Take my Life and Let it Be” **No. 609**

(8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 6)

- 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.

***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

“Shall We Gather at the River” Traditional

Todd Baldosser

Pastor Steve's Quote of the Week

“The difference between winning and losing is most often not quitting.”
Walt Disney

Mrs. Barbara Swisher's message next week:

Sunday, May 10, 2026

My Heart Christ's Home

Ephesians 3: 14-21

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!



In Memory of Debra Jones' birthday with fond memories by Jill Ehrenfried

Afternoon Circle Celebrates 154 Years!

Afternoon Circle will meet on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, to celebrate the 154th Anniversary of its founding.

A potluck salad smorgasbord will be served at 12:00 noon, in the Fellowship Room. Tableware, bread, dessert, and beverages will be provided.

Along with our regular monthly offering and Least Coin Offering, our special Anniversary Offering will be collected - one penny for each year that the Afternoon Circle is old; this year equals \$1.54.

The theme of the day will be "Blessing of Unity - Cornerstone of Love".

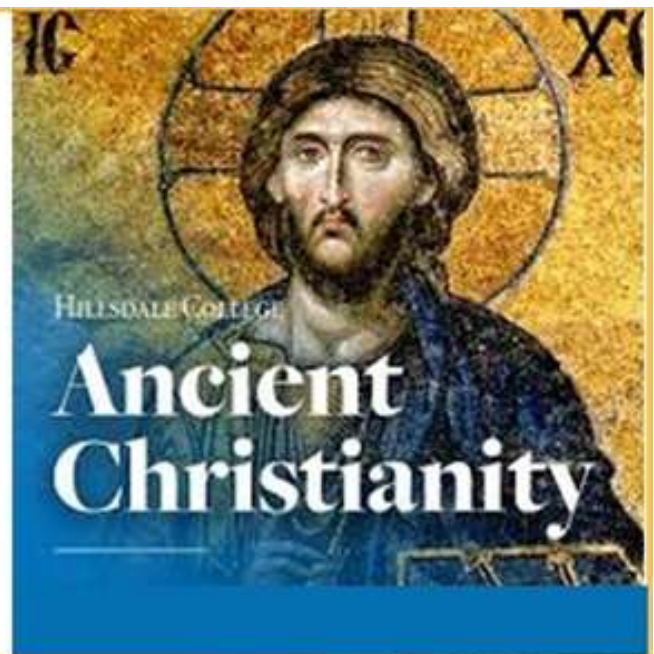
All ladies of our St. John's Church Family, as always, are invited to come, to share a salad, and to celebrate with us.

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.





Understanding Pentecost

Led by Elaine Gard

May 10 & 17 at 9:00AM

(in the Large Meeting Room)



Have you ever wondered what Pentecost really means—and why it still matters today?

- Come explore the powerful moment when the Holy Spirit came, transforming lives and launching a movement that continues across the world.

I will pour out my spirit on all people. Acts 2:17

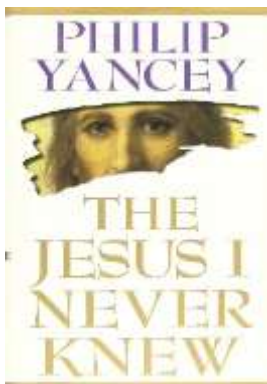
Pentecost Sunday is May 24.

In celebration of the birthday of the church, plan to wear red.



Pentecost is celebrated 50 days after Easter (including Easter) that commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus in Jerusalem, marking the "birthday of the Church".

Book Study Group



The book study group meets every Thursday at the River Road Coffee House on the north side of the square in downtown Newark. We will gather on May 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 11am to enjoy fellowship and conversation about our recent book selection. We are reading "The Jesus I Never Knew" by Philip Yancey. This book won the Gold Medallion Christian Book of the Year Award in 1996 and looks at Jesus Christ - his teachings, his miracles, and his death and resurrection. The book is available online. We would love to have you join us.



The annual National Day of Prayer “Prayer Around the Square” for Licking County will be held at the Public Square in Newark, Ohio, from 7am to 7pm on Thursday, May 7. There will be sixteen prayer stations posted around the Square. You are invited to participate any time during the day to make personal prayers of repentance and intercession for the sins of our communities and nation. This year's theme is “A Time To Repent” from the scripture Mark 1: 14-15. Pastor Steve will be leading one of the prayers at noon at the Licking County Courthouse on the east side steps.



GRADUATION SUNDAY –May 17, 2026

Do you know of someone who is graduating from high school or college this spring? We would like to invite them to join us on Sunday, May 17, 2026, to celebrate the momentous event.

Please fill out the form and place it in the offering plate or turn it into the office by **today!** Thank you!

Name _____

Parents/Church Family _____

Graduating from _____

Degree _____

Plans for the future _____

Additional information to share _____

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST – PRAYER LIST

OUR PRAYER LIST IS DEDICATED TO BEA PURSLEY, WHO LOVINGLY DEDICATED HER TIME TO OUR CHURCH MINISTRY AND PROVIDED THIS LIST FOR SEVERAL YEARS.



Bea's Blessings! will transition back to its original email prayer chain as of June 1, 2026, since we have been able to add the prayer chain list to our newer Constant Contact platform that we use for the bulletin preview and the monthly Chimes newsletter.

During May, we will list Bea's Blessings! prayer requests on both the back of the bulletin and on the email prayer chain in order to give you additional time to sign up for Bea's Blessings email list. We will then discontinue the bulletin version on June 1. Please fill out the Stay Connected form below to add your name to continue to receive Bea's Blessings! if you are not already on the list. This prayer list is for prayer concerns for anyone, like friends, neighbors, etc.

stayCONNECTED

St. John's has many ways for you to stay up to date and connected with all the events and happenings.

To add to or change your current requests, fill out the information below and drop it in the offering plate.

- _____ Sunday Preview: Email of the Sunday bulletin and special events.
- _____ Bea's Blessings: Emailed Prayer Circle including a wider network of requests.
- _____ One Call Now: A phone call for cancelations and special announcements.
- _____ The Chimes newsletter delivered by mail.
- _____ The Chimes newsletter delivered electronically by email.

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____



SEE ALSO



www.stjohnsnewark.org

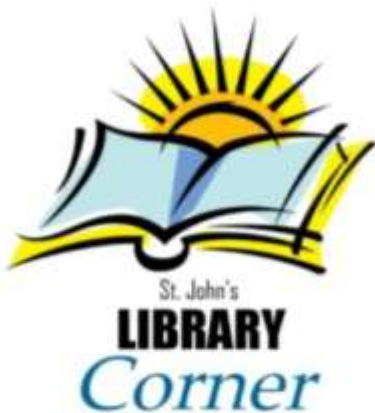


St. John's Little Free Pantry

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/>

Summer Reading Program!



Designed for **adults, teens, and kids**—because everyone needs a place to learn, connect, and be inspired. Whether you're diving into deeper study, exploring new stories, or reading with your child - discover the joy of reading.

June through August

New books arriving soon!

Continue to let us know what books you are interested in by filling in the information below and drop in the collection plate or write it on the **NEW white board** in the Church Library.

✂.....

Book Title: _____ Author: _____

Suggested by: _____ Contact information: _____

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

Finances for the Month and Year to Date

<u>General Fund Income</u> (Incomplete)	<u>April</u>	<u>Year to date</u>
Congregation giving (Faith Promise)	25,543.85	103,306.23
Income from Foundation Fund	11,500.00	46,000.00
Monthly Income from Emerson Miller Fund	3,758.33	15,033.32
Month & YTD Total Income	25,543.85	103,306.23
General Fund Expenses	23,393.05	101,380.99
Over/Under Month & YTD	\$ 2,150.80	\$ 1,925.24



() = Negative



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, & Lois Meyers



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

- Dennis Maddy – Rebecca Swartz’s brother
- Bill Klinessmith, Jr. – Julie Kroah’s brother -
improving
- Rev. Harvey Antle – is home now after a stroke
(Terry Hill’s uncle in Kentucky)
- Ashley (Robin Green’s Granddaughter) – Recent
Lupus diagnosis
- Beth Crawford – has improved, moved to a long
term care facility!
- Carly (Teresa McCoy’s daughter)
- Calvin Campbell –shoulder surgery went well.
- 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:

Brian Lensink & Rebekkah Crowthers

Media Worship Team:

Sound & Video:

8:00 am Mike Dooley

10:30 am: Karson Ewing/Tom Lawyer

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

THIS WEEK AT GLANCE



Sunday: May 3, 2026
8:00 am Outdoor Drive-In Service
9:00 am BDZ Classes
10:30 am Sanctuary Service
10:30 am Bible Discovery Zone -
Children’s Church

Wednesday:
12:00 pm Afternoon Circle’s 154th
Anniversary Luncheon.
6:00 pm Crystal City Chorus
6:30 pm Mission & Outreach
Committee Meeting

Thursday:
7am – 7pm National Day of Prayer on
the Square
11:00 am Thursday Book Study, THE
JESUS I NEVER KNEW by
Phillip Yancey at River
Road Coffee on the Square
12:00 pm Rev. Dr. Swisher- Prayer at
the Courthouse on the square
12 – 2 pm LifeWise Academy

Sunday: May 10, 2026
Mother’s Day
8:00 am Outdoor Drive-In Service
9:00 am All BDZ Classes
10:30 am Sanctuary Service
10:30 am Bible Discovery Zone -
Children’s Church

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!

Attendance Report for Sunday, April 26, 2026

8:00 a.m. - 26 10:30 a.m. – 37

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.

