



**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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Children's Bell Choir

Emmaleigh Crowthers

Adult Bell Choir

Jerry Goodman

Signer

Debi Snow

Librarian

Catherine Lim

Prayer List S

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*Rooted in the Evangelical
and Reformed Traditions*

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



Therefore,

THE PROMISE COMES BY FAITH,
SO THAT IT MAY BE BY GRACE
AND MAY BE GUARANTEED
TO ALL ABRAHAM'S OFFSPRING.

ROMANS 4:16, NIV

***September 13, 2026
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost***

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

Sanctuary Service: 10:30 a.m.

September 13, 2026

Tune your FM Radio to 107.5

8:00 am

Sanctuary Service

10:30 am

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Announcements & Greetings

Prelude

“Here I Am Lord” Schutte

Todd Baldosser

***Opening Hymn**

“God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand”

No. 725

(8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 4)

- 1) **God of the ages, whose almighty hand
leads forth in beauty all the starry band
of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,
our grateful songs before thy throne arise.**
- 2) **Thy love divine hath led us in the past;
in this free land with thee our lot is cast;
be thou our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay,
thy Word our law, thy paths our chosen way.**
- 4) **Refresh thy people on our toilsome way;
lead us from night to neverending day;
fill all our lives with love and grace divine;
and glory, laud, and praise be ever thine.**

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Welcome to this place of inspiration and Worship, whether you attend every week or are attending for the first time in years

All: **We gladly welcome you home.**

Leader: Each of us come this morning with a mixture of joys, hope, dreams and histories.

All: **God does not ask for perfection. He simply invites us home.**

Leader: Come, let us Worship.

All: **Let us celebrate the God who invites us with open arms and
welcomes us with an open heart**

***Please stand if you are able**

***Prayer of Invocation**

All: Gracious and loving God, Thank you for the gift of gathering. You know the paths that brought us here today—some well-worn and familiar, others hesitant and new. Heal our weariness, quiet our anxieties and open our hearts to Your Presence. Help us to see clearly, to listen well and to love deeply. We celebrate this authentic place of worship and this sanctuary of true belonging as we pray these words;

***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.**

Giving Moment

Brian Lensink - Treasurer

Choir Anthem (10:30 a.m.) “Camp Meeting” Page

Scripture Reading

Romans 4:16-18

Jeff Conner

Scripture Reading

Proverbs 23:7

Sermon

“Becoming, Manifesting, Attaining”

Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

Hymn

“O Jesus, I Have Promised” (8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 4) No. 612

1)

**O Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;
be thou for ever near me, my master and my friend;
I shall not fear the battle if thou art by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if thou wilt be my guide.**

2)

**O let me feel thee near me! The world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me, around me and within;
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer, and shield my soul from sin.**

4)

**O Jesus, thou hast promised to all who follow thee
that where thou art in glory there shall thy servant be;
and, Jesus, I have promised to serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow, my master and my friend.**

Invitation for Faithful Giving

Offertory

“Tell Me the Stories of Jesus” Challinor

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 grace and God of glory, You continually renew and refresh us. As we offer these gifts to You this day, transform these offerings into ministries of compassion and acts of service that reflect Your love to a world in need. Increase our commitment to be Your agents of goodness, gladness and praise. We give with grateful hearts. In Jesus’ Name

***Closing Hymn “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” No. 5**
(8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 4)

- 1) **O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer’s praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of God’s grace.**
- 2) **Jesus, the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease;
‘tis music in the sinner’s ears,
‘tis life, and health, and peace.**
- 4) **Glory to God and praise and love
be ever, ever given
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heaven.**

***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 “Jesus Loves the Little Children” Root Todd Baldosser

Pastor Steve’s Quote of the Week

“Better to do something imperfectly than to do nothing perfectly.”

Rev. Dr. Robert Schuller

Dr. Swisher’s message next week:

Sunday, September 20, 2026

“Born to Be a Leader”

Psalm 95:1-7

Sermon Notes

To our members, dear friends and visitors:

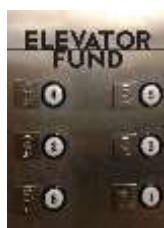
You are an important part of the worship and ministry that goes on here, and we are thankful for your presence. Please sign the attendance pads on the tables. Thank you!

St. John's Little Free Pantry

Take what you need. Give what you can.



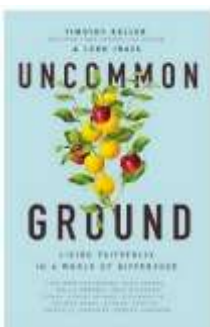
To replenish our food pantry every day we need your help every week. There are collection boxes near each entrance to the Church. Keep in mind that many of the people using this pantry have limited cooking facilities. Ollie's, Dollar Tree, and Aldi's are good places to find foods at good prices. Cans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



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.

Book Club



The book club will continue to meet each Thursday in September (17, and 24) at 11am at the River Road Coffee House on the north side of the square in downtown Newark. You are welcome to join us for food and fellowship as we discuss a book by Timothy Keller and John Inazu called Uncommon Ground, Living Faithfully in a World of Difference. The book is available online.

Fall Kick-Off



September 13, 2026

Food • Fun • Friends!

Continental Breakfast Served

8:45AM—10:30AM

9:15AM Rally Day Program

“Creation is Grand”

by Ken Kroah

Plus, hands-on science stations

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

Bible Discovery Zone Sunday Classes Starting Sept. 20

Adult Class

Join us for
“Revelation: Hope vs Fear”

by Carl Kochendorfer

Led by Carl Kochendorfer

Meet in the large meeting room

Youth Class

Join us for
“The Thread”

By YM360

Led by Elaine Gard

Meet in the small meeting room

Bible Discovery Zone Children’s Church

During the 10:30AM Worship Service

Ages 5 - 12: Join us for Bible lessons, crafts and games

Meets in the Bible Discovery Zone classroom

Ages 0—5 Nursery care is available

Trunk or Treat



St. John’s United Church of Christ

October 25, 2026

4pm—5:30pm

Family Fun! Come in costume, enjoy candy, hotdogs and more.

Trunk or Treat starts at 4. For more information about this community event call the Christian Education office at 740-323-2408.

St. John’s members and friends - Planning to pass out candy, plan on 250 pieces. Come in costume and/or decorate your car! Come, join in the fun and welcome our friends and neighbors to St. John’s.

Prize for the best decorated car!

DONATIONS OF CANDY ARE WELCOMED AND APPRECIATED



St. John's United Church of Christ
Positive Living Podcast

Hosted by
Rev. Dr. Stephen L. Swisher
 St. John's UCC Senior Pastor

Special Guests Include



Shawn Barker
 Johnny Cash
 Tribute Artist



Clint Holmes &
 Kelly Clinton Holmes
 Entertainer
 Inspirational Speaker



Karen Hester
 Dolly Parton
 Tribute Artist



Rev. Adam Hamilton
 Sr. Pastor and Author



Dr. Robert A. &
 Donna Schuller
 Speakers & Leadership
 Consultants



Donna Chafee
 Author of
 "First Great Sorrow:
 My Years with RFK"



Dwight Icenhower
 World Renowned
 Elvis Tribute artist



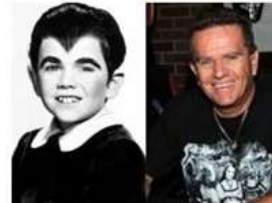
Justin Ezra
 Sullivan
 Kenny Rogers
 Tribute artist



E'Casanova Evans
 Michael Jackson
 Tribute Artist



Steve March-Torme
 Musician/Radio Host
 Son of Mel Torme



Butch Patrick
 Child star Best known
 as Eddie Munster



Brandon Cruz
 Child star Best known
 as Eddie in
 The Courtship of Eddie's Father

New episodes the last Tuesday each month.

on St. John's Facebook page • website • YouTube channel.

NIGHT of Inspiration

with Dr. Robert A. Schuller

October 2, 2026

7:00PM

at

St. John's UCC

285 W. National Drive, Newark

The evening's keynote speaker and a friend of Rev. Swisher's for almost 30 years, Dr. Robert A. Schuller is the former Senior Pastor of the Crystal Cathedral, New York Times Best-selling author and current Pastor in Newport Beach, Ca. He is also the President and CEO of Comstar Media.

Be ready for a faith-filled, grace-filled night of worship, bringing people together from all over the region.



Dr. Robert A. Schuller
Sr. Pastor Newport Beach, CA



Dr. Robert A. and Donna
Schuller



Rev. Dr. Stephen L. Swisher
Sr. Pastor at St. John's UCC

★ JOIN US ★

THE
AM KEVIN
CLUB
Show

WITH
DR. STEVE SWISHER

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

★ **LIVE FROM NASHVILLE** ★



11:00 AM LIVE



General Prayers: Charlie Bruah,
Rev. Dr. Winfield Strout, Eli Taylor, Carl
Kochendorfer, Trisha Boehmer, Delores Williams,
and Jerry Goodman

Church Members Homebound and Nursing

Facility Residents: Bonita Farmer, Patricia
Gilbert, Paula Hatfield, Faith Kelly, Dolores
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. Charles Dudley

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

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



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!

THIS WEEK'S GLANCE



Sunday: September 13, 2026

Sixteenth Sunday

after Pentecost

Rally Day

8:00 am Outdoor Drive-In Service
8:45 – 10:15 am Rally Day Breakfast &
Program
10:30 am Sanctuary Service – Choir
Sings
10:30 am Cradle Roll

Tuesday:

12-1:00 pm LifeWise Academy

Wednesday:

3:30 pm Music Committee Meeting
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

12:30-1:30 pm LifeWise Academy

Sunday:

September 20, 2026

Seventeenth Sunday

after Pentecost

8:00 am Outdoor Drive-In Service
9:00 am Youth & Adult Sunday
School Classes
10:30 am Sanctuary Service
10:30 am BDZ Children's Church &
Cradle Roll

Attendance Report for Sunday, September 6, 2026

8:00 a.m. - 20 10:30 a.m. – 46

Sunday, September 6 Live Stream Views – 223

Finances for the Month and Year to Date

General Fund Income

August

Year to date

Congregation giving (Faith Promise)	8,857.94	70,189.16
Income from Foundation Fund	11,500.00	92,000.00
Monthly Income from Emerson Miller Fund	3,758.33	30,066.64
Month & YTD Total Income	24,948.80	198,536.32
General Fund Expenses	30,402.46	209,620.57
Over/Under Month & YTD	(5,453.66)	(11,084.25)

() = Negative

