



**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

Rebecca Swartz



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stjohnsunity@windstream.net

*Rooted in the Evangelical
and Reformed Traditions*

We are Sowina Seeds of Hope



*“I will lie down and
sleep in peace, for you
alone, O LORD, make
me dwell in safety.”*

Psalm 4:8, NIV

***September 6, 2026
Communion Sunday
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Outdoor Drive-in Service: 8:00 a.m.
Sanctuary Service: 10:30 a.m.***

September 6, 2026

Tune your FM Radio to 107.5

8:00 am

Sanctuary Service

10:30 am

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Announcements & Greetings

Prelude “Jesus Lover of My Soul” Wesley Todd Baldosser

***Opening Hymn** “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” No. 622
(8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 3)

- 1) **Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand;
bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.**
- 2) **Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing waters flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through;
strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield, be thou still my strength and shield.**
- 3) **When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
bear me through the swelling current; land me safe on Canaan’s side;
songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee, I will ever give to thee.**

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Family of God, in Jesus, Love became flesh and moved into the
neighborhood

All: We gather to Worship Christ the image of God

Leader: In Jesus we meet the fullness of God

All: With no barriers to access

Leader: In Jesus our separation from God, neighbor, self and creation has been
removed

All: We are free for loving connection once again

Leader: Children of God, come!

**All: Let us worship the Lord, whose power makes love visible to us that
we might reflect it to the world**

***Please stand if you are able**

***Prayer of Invocation**

All: As we gather today, keep us open and receptive to Your Presence around us and within us, so that we may grow closer to You and show your grace and compassion to everyone we meet. Give us the strength for each day of life, the wisdom to walk in faith and hearts to serve as we pray the words You taught 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.

***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

“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 (10:30 a.m.)

“Peace in the Valley” Dorsey

Charlie Mays

Scripture Reading

Hebrews 2:6-9

Jeff Conner

Scripture Reading

Psalm 8:1-4

Sermon

“Believe in God's Presence”

Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

Hymn

“Blessed Assurance”

(8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 3) No. 543

1)

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain

***This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.***

- 2) **Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.**

Refrain

- 3) **Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.**

Refrain

Service of Holy Communion

Prayer of Confession

All: **Everlasting God of grace and glory, We confess we have not always
lived as Your people. Who strive to do so and do our best but often
our efforts are left wanting. We serve many masters but find no
hope in them. Forgive us and heal our brokenness. Make us well,
so that by our healing, we might be the hope and love others need
in their lives, even as Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, brought
these gifts to us, calling us to be faithful with the grace, peace and
joy entrusted to us.**

Assurance of Pardon

Pastor: **God is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from
all unrighteousness. We are God's beloved children, we choose to
receive and then to model God's grace and love in our hearts.
Thanks be to God, we are cleansed, refreshed and forgiven.**

Serving of the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation

Invitation for Faithful Giving

Offertory

"Give Me a Clean Heart" Douroux

Todd Baldosser

**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, Your Word speaks truth into our lives and calls us into joyful community. As we offer our gifts, may our love shine through our giving. Increase our impact and lift others through our commitment and faithfulness to You. In Jesus' Name. Amen

***Closing Hymn**

"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"

No. 589

(8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 3)

- 1) Lord, I want to be a Christian in-a my heart, in-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in-a my heart.
In-a my heart, in-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in-a my heart.**
- 2) Lord, I want to be more loving in-a my heart, in-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be more loving in-a my heart.
In-a my heart, in-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be more loving in-a my heart.**
- 3) Lord, I want to be like Jesus in-a my heart, in-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in-a my heart.
In-a my heart, in-a my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in-a my heart.**

***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 “Theme from New World Symphony” Dvorak Todd Baldosser

Pastor Steve’s Quote of the Week

“The only place where your dream becomes impossible is in your own thinking.”

Rev. Dr. Robert H. Schuller

Dr. Swisher’s message next week:

Sunday, September 13, 2026

“Becoming, Manifesting, Attaining”

Proverbs 23:7

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!



Rosalie J. Johnson

Born: March 12, 1932

Died: May 4, 2026

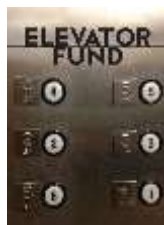
A member of St. John's since 1997

St. John's Little Free Pantry

Take what you need. Give what you can.



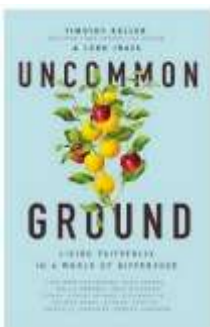
To replenish our food pantry every day we need your help every week. There are collection boxes near each entrance to the Church. Keep in mind that many of the people using this pantry have limited cooking facilities. Ollie's, Dollar Tree, and Aldi's are good places to find foods at good prices. Cans 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 (3, 10, 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.

St. John's Youth Car Wash



Saturday, September 12, 2026

11am—2pm

At O'Reilly Auto Parts on Deo Drive, Newark

A free will Offering will be available

All proceeds support the Mission Trip fund



September 13, 2026

Continental Breakfast Served

8:45AM—10:15AM

Rally Day Program

"Creation is Grand" by Ken Kroah

Plus, hands-on science stations.

Wrap-up of our Read-the-Bible-in-a-Year Challenge



Rev. Stephen Swisher

will be featured on

AM Kevin Club

show with host Kevin Shorey.

Streaming live

October 9 at 11AM CST

on Apple Podcasts and YouTube at *AM Kevin Club*

***Don't miss this excellent conversation on
faith, life, and leadership!***





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



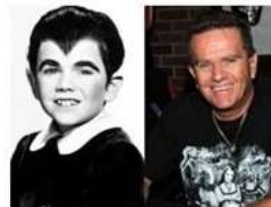
Justin Ezra
 Sullivan
 Kenny Rogers
 Tribute artist



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.

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



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

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



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

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:

April Kinser

Cantor:

10:30 a.m. Julie Davis

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: 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



Attendance Report for Sunday, August 30, 2026

8:00 a.m. - 30 10:30 a.m. - 77

Sunday, August 30 Live Stream Views - 622

THIS WEEK AT GLANCE



Sunday: September 6, 2026

Communion Sunday

8:00 am Outdoor Drive-In Service

10:30 am Sanctuary Service

10:30 am Cradle Roll

**Monday: Labor Day
Office Closed**

Tuesday:

6-7:00 pm LifeWise Open House

Wednesday:

10:00 am Christian Education
Committee

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

7:15 pm Choir Practice

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

8:00 am Outdoor Drive-In Service

10:30 am Sanctuary Service

10:30 am Cradle Roll

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!

Finances for the Month and Year to Date

General Fund Income (Incomplete)	<u>August</u>	<u>Year to date</u>	
Congregation giving (Faith Promise)	8,657.94	69,989.16	
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	30,275.46	209,493.57	
Over/Under Month & YTD	(5,326.66)	(\$10,957.25)	() = Negative

