

Welcome Home for Easter...

St. John's

UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST



Easter Drive-In: 7:00am - Traditional: 10:30am

The 2026 April Chimes



Prayer List

General Prayers: Charlie Bruah, Rev. Dr. Winfield Strout, Rev. Gunnar Cerda, Eli Taylor, Karl Kochendorfer

Homebound and Nursing Facility Residents: Jeanette Morris, Bonita Farmer, Patricia Gilbert, Paula Hatfield, Rosalie Johnson, Faith Kelly, Delores and Harold McDonald, Esther Gillham, Helen McGaughy, Mary Lou Hostetler, Lois Meyers, Molly Sheets, Sally Penrose & Don Boldt

Please contact Rev. Swisher if you know of any sick or hospitalized members. Remember, if you want someone on the Bea's Blessings prayer chain, you can email the office at stjohnsunited@windstream.net

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.



Thank you!

Thank you so much for the generous donation of wish list items to New Beginnings. We are so grateful for your support.
Sincerely, Tricia Hufford

Dear St. John's,
Thank you for the many ways you all support Lifewise Newark City. We are truly grateful for your partnership with us. It is because of partners like you that we can provide the Gospel to students during school hours. We are eternally grateful!

Blessings, Lifewise NC Team

St. John's,
Thank you so much for hosting our clothing closet. It was such a blessing and a huge help! We are so very grateful for your hospitality for our clothing closet. And thank you for your support to fostering Further! We hope to continue partnering in the future!

With gratitude, Your Fostering Further Team



April Worship Hours

7:00 a.m. Easter Outdoor Sunrise Service
10:30 a.m. Traditional Sanctuary Service
Balance of April - 8:00 a.m. Outdoor Drive-In Service
10:30 a.m. Traditional Sanctuary Service

Office Hours -Monday, Tuesday, & Friday: 9 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. For additional times, please call the office at (740) 323-2407 and leave a message to make an appointment Thank you!

From the Pastor

Welcome to the month of Easter! We have finally made it through the days of Lent and are at the precipice of the most significant day in the Christian year. The original Ancient Greek word Pesach meaning Passover is mentioned 29 times in the New Testament. It is this term our ancestors used to signify Resurrection, Renewal, Restoration. We believe as Christians that because Jesus rose from His tomb so you and I can walk out of whatever tomb is holding us back from being everything God created us to be in this life and the next. Tombs of fear, doubt, sickness, confusion and even death have no power over us any longer.

In order to celebrate this fact, we have a number of meaningful and exciting worship services during Holy Week including Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunrise, Youth Team Sponsored breakfast and more. Be sure to be a part of all we have to offer as we fully participate in Easter 2026.

The week after Easter we will enjoy our Youth Sunday, then the week after that Peter Lemongello will be our special guest. Peter sold out both Carnegie Hall and the Lincoln Center in less than 20 minutes. He is the first artist to sell more than a million albums through direct TV sales and appeared on the Tonight Show with Johnny Carson 25 times. His hit songs Do I Love You and I Can't Get You Off My Mind became favorites of many across our Nation.

On May 2 we will be hosting Pastors from across our region for the Spring Association Meeting. Pastors and Church leaders from across Ohio, West Virginia and Kentucky will assemble on our Campus for a day of inspiration, training and encouragement. We are honored to be the host of this special event.

You are invited to be a special part of all God is doing. We need you. Together we are making a significant difference for the Kingdom of God. I'm grateful to be in this good work with you.



Happy and Blessed Easter to you and those you love!!!

Pastor Steve

Afternoon Circle -

- will meet on Wednesday, April 1, at 1:00 p.m., in the Large Meeting Room of the Church. Sandy Johnson and Bev Lange will be hostesses that afternoon. During this Holy Week, we will observe our annual Lenten Quiet Hour, focusing on some of the Stations of the Cross.

All of the women of our St. John's Church family are invited to attend.

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



The Youth of St. John's presents

FREE!

Easter Breakfast

**Sunday April 5
Serving 7:30am – 10:00am**

Come let the Youth cook you breakfast. Enjoy pancakes, sausage, egg casseroles, fruit and more.

Donations accepted for the Youth mission trip





Easter

You're invited to come and worship with us this Easter season

Sunday, April 5

7:00AM Outdoor Drive-In Sunrise Service

10:30AM Sanctuary Service

Easter Breakfast served 7:30AM—10:00AM

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

(740) 323-2407

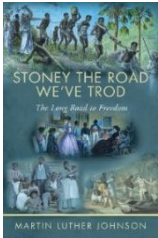
www.stjohnsnewark.org



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/>



The book study group meets each Thursday at 11am at the River Road Coffee House on the north side of the square in downtown Newark. We continue our study of the book, STONEY THE ROAD WE'VE TROD: The Long Road to Freedom by Martin Luther Johnson. The book is available on line and discusses the history of the abolitionist movement and its relationship to Christianity We enjoy fellowship as we learn more of our history. Come join us on April 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30th.



2026 Meetings

11:30AM— 1:00PM

April 12 and 26



Council Meeting March 16, 2026

Attending: Reverend Stephen Swisher, Tim Powers, Chuck Chirdon, Gary Kinser, Rebecca Swartz, Frances Hill, Terry Gano, April Kinser, Greg Crowthers, Brian Lensink, Julie Davis, Ken Kroah, Anita Chirdon and Kim Workman

The Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by President T. Powers. Opening devotions were offered by T. Gano, who spoke on "Angels Among Us" and referred to Hebrews 13:2 and Genesis 18:1-8. Angels bring calm and wisdom from God and impart strength and assurance.

Rev. Swisher spoke about looking forward to Holy Week services and thanksgiving for being able to minister in person to a family in need who have been able to participate in worship through our televised ministry.

There are several upcoming activities that will be using our church facilities. On Saturday, April 18, 2026, the South End Newark Civic Association will be holding the South End Cleanup Day. We will be providing doughnuts and coffee and a light lunch for the volunteers. On Sunday evening, April 26, 2026, Lifewise, the school-time Christian Education program, will host "An Evening of Impact" for leaders, families, volunteers and students. They will be using Hermann Hall and serving a small meal as they meet to inform, educate, celebrate and have fellowship with Newark area participants. The church will be used for a member wedding on June 27, 2026. Plans proceed for the CSEO Association (UCC) meeting on May 2, 2026. Volunteers will be needed to assist with set-up. Planned repair of the bell tower roof is scheduled for April 7, 2026.

The meeting ended with all present joining hands and saying The Lord's Prayer together.

Respectfully submitted,

April Kinser, Secretary Tim Powers, President

Our next meeting will be on April 20, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. All members of St. John's are always welcome to attend.

Starting April 12 at 8:00AM



OUTDOOR DRIVE-IN SERVICE

Drive-In Service at 8:00AM and Sanctuary Service at 10:30AM

YOUTH CLASS DURING OUR 9:00 a.m. BIBLE DISCOVERY HOUR

Our Youth Bible Study Class has begun a new study on Prayer.

Our schedule for April and May will be:

April 5: Easter Sunday and Breakfast - NO CLASS

April 12: Youth Sunday - NO CLASS

April 19: Session 4 of "Prayer"

April 26: Session 5 of "Prayer"

May 3: Session 6 of "Prayer"

May 10: Session 1 of "Pentecost"

May 17: Session 2 of "Pentecost"

May 24: Pentecost - BEGINNING OF SUMMER BREAK



Oh Death, Where is Your Victory?

April 12, 2026

8:00am and 10:30am

Join us as we celebrate Jesus' victory over death!

CELEBRATE



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 May 3, 2026! Thank you!

Name _____

Parents/Church Family _____

Graduating from _____

Degree _____

Plans for the future _____

Additional information to share _____

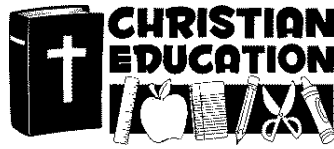


Finances for the Month and Year to Date

<u>General Fund Income - Incomplete</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Congregation giving (Faith Promise)	12,280.00	27,753.90
Income from Foundation Fund	11,500.00	34,500.00
Monthly Income from Emerson Miller Fund	3,758.33	11,274.99
Month & YTD Income	27,813.58	76,183.91
General Fund Expenses	22,040.55	73,884.52
Month & YTD - <u>Incomplete</u>	\$ 5,773.03	2,299.39



Over/Under
() = Negative



Adult Sunday school class will continue studying “Ancient Christianity” led by Tim Powers.. Join Tim Sunday mornings at 9:00AM in the Large Meeting room for this informative study.



Read the Bible in a Year: Our Journey Together. We’re starting month 8 of our year-long journey together.



9:00AM - Adults will meet to continue the study of Ancient Christianity and children’s classes will have Easter devotions and crafts then at 10:30AM a special Easter lesson and an outdoor (weather permitting) egg hunt!

On Easter Sunday, the Youth will serve a free breakfast from 7:30AM to 10:00AM and will accept donations for their upcoming mission trip. Next, on April 11-12 is the Youth Overnight and Youth Sunday where they will present the message “Oh, Death Where is Your Victory” at 8:00AM and 10:30AM services.



Save the Date! VBS is June 22 – 26. Our theme is Adventure Through Acts 1. Come along as we trace the exciting, explosive spread of the Gospel during the early days of the church! Ages Pre-K through 6th grade welcome for stories, crafts, science, games and snacks.



Sunday School Classes

Adult class – Sundays at 9:00AM

Youth Class – Sundays at 9:00AM

Bible Discovery Zone – ages 5 to 14 at 10:30AM

Cradle Roll – Available during the 10:30AM service

April Worship Service Duties

Ushers: Frank Davis, Jeff Conner, Terry Gano, Barry Dooley, Gary Kinser

Cradle Roll

- 5 Volunteer
- 12 Volunteer
- 19 Volunteer
- 26 Volunteer

Cantors

- 2 Charles Dudley
- 3 April Kinser
- 5 Julie Davis
- 12 Diane Reef
- 19 Todd Baldosser
- 26 Charles Dudley

Bible Discovery Zone 10:30 a.m.

- 5 Brian Lensink & Rebekkah Crowthers
- 12 Marla Crowthers & Youth
- 19 Elaine Gard & Pat Farley
- 26 Frances Hill & Rebekkah Crowthers

Bible Discovery Zone 9:00 a.m.

- 5 Rebecca Swartz
- 12 Julie Kroah
- 19 Jeremy/Kayla Hill
- 26 Julie Kroah

Sunday Sound Worship Team

- 5 Karson Ewing
- 12 Ken Kroah
- 19 Karson Ewing
- 26 Ken Kroah

Sunday Video Worship Team

- 5 Tom Lawyer
- 12 Julie Kroah
- 19 Tom Lawyer
- 26 Julie Kroah



*Be sure to join us as we welcome the incredible voice and testimony of
Dr. Swisher's longtime friend and our **special guest***

Peter Lemongello

at St. John's UCC

April 19, 2026 at 10:30AM

- Recently headlining in Branson, Missouri
- Celebrating 50 years of his million selling *Love 76* album
- Appeared on the Tonight Show with Johnny Carson 25 times and on the Ed Sullivan, Dinah Shore, and Mike Douglas shows
- Headlined in Las Vegas and Atlantic City
- Sold out Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center
- An American pop-singer and entertainer with a unique "mood rock" style and energetic stage presence.

Join Dr. Swisher and Peter Lemongello together for a powerful message of hope and encouragement, plus great music.



Journey Together: Our Year of Bible Discovery
Reading the Bible in a Year as a Congregation

Fruitful Vines: Daily Bread 8 Reasons You Need it More Than You Think (Excerpt 1) by Melissa Kruger

General Benefits of Daily Bible Reading:

Make You Wise For Salvation

When Paul wrote to Timothy about his faith, he mentioned that Timothy had known the Scriptures from childhood and that they were, “able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus” ([2 Tim. 3:15](#)). If you don’t know exactly what you believe, the best place to begin is to spend a year reading the Bible for yourself. Cultural Christianity and modern media tend to quote the same ten verses time and again. Why not dig a little deeper and take the time to reflect upon the entire message? There is nothing lost by spending a year reading the Bible and there is much to gain.

Bible Reading Plans are available in the Fellowship room or on our website at www.stjohnsnewark.org.

We are in weeks 31 to 34 of Reading the Bible Together

At this point we’ve read Genesis 1 to Isaiah 18. We’ve read about Adam & Eve, Cain & Abel, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. We learned about Moses, the Passover and The Red Sea, The 12 Spies and Balaam. Then we were off to Jericho and Deborah, Samson, Samuel. Then King Saul and King David, on to Solomon, Elijah & Elisha and the Exile. Then we learned of Daniel, Esther and rebuilding the walls. Finally Job, Psalms, Proverbs and the Prophet Isaiah. We’ve come a long way, it’s all leading to Jesus, just a few weeks away.

ASK THE
Pastor

If you have questions as you read the Bible this year, submit you questions into the box located in the Fellowship room.



Faithfulness in the Morning

by Jul Medenblik

March 2, 2026 todaydevotional.com

*His compassions never fail. They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness
Lamentations 3:22-23*

Have you ever lost sleep because your mind and heart were busy or burdened? You can lie down and try to fall asleep, but sleep won't come.

Jeremiah surely knew what that was like. He often poured out his heart and soul to God and to his people, but most of the people ignored what he had to say as God's prophet. At times he was even put in prison for speaking God's Word.

Jeremiah lamented over the people who denied God and persecuted him. The book of Lamentations is a brief collection of some of those laments. They are a companion piece to the narrative provided in the book of Jeremiah. Jeremiah had done all he could to bring God's Word to his people, but it was not enough. Even so, one of the great hymns of faith—"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"—arises from the passage we have read for today.

I have often wondered how a great song about faithfulness could be born out of lament. Yet this is a key insight for us to ponder. When times are good, we tend to forget about God and rely on ourselves. But when times are hard and we cry out to God in our struggles, we can often see God and his work more clearly. God's love, compassion, and faithfulness stand out against the darkness of sin and destruction.

God is with us always, and he promises new beginnings and new life each day to all who seek him. "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" is a song we can sing every day!

God of all days and nights, thank you for your faithfulness to us each day and throughout every season. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SNCA

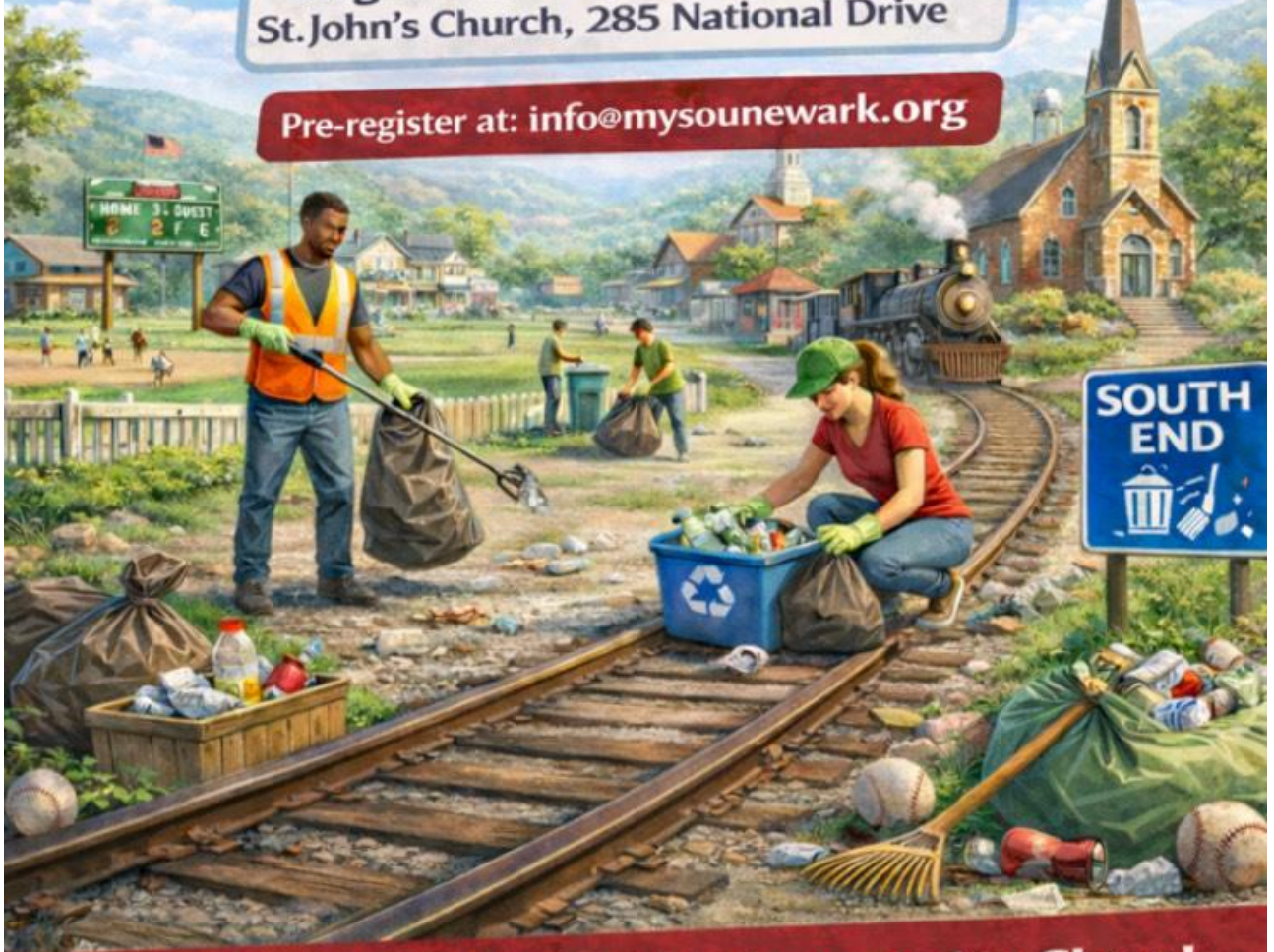
South Newark Civic Association

South End Cleanup

April 18th | 9:00 - 12:00

Registration opens at 8:30
St. John's Church, 285 National Drive

Pre-register at: info@mysounewark.org



Join Us To Help Keep Our Community Clean!

Supplies Provided • All Volunteers Welcome!

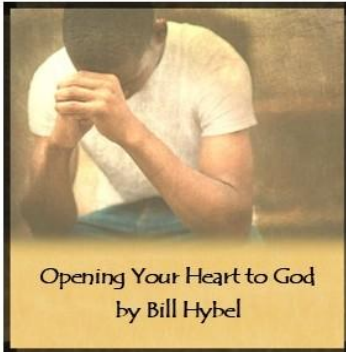
285 National Drive Newark, OH



Bible Discovery Zone



9:00 AM Youth and Children's Classes



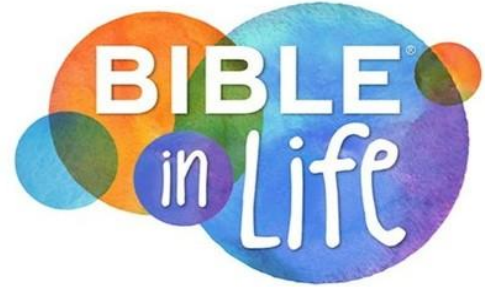
Opening Your Heart to God
by Bill Hybel

Truth for kids

Devotions and crafts
ages 5 to 12
In the Thou Art Room
Lower Level

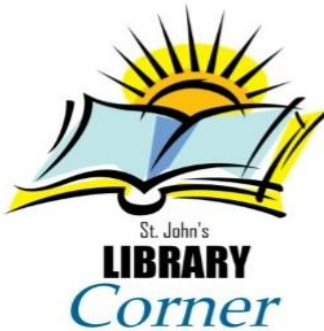
led by Elaine Gard
In the small meeting room
Ages 12 and up

10:30AM Children's Church



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

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?

Fill in the information below and drop in the collection plate or write it 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

APPRIAL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>29 Palm Sunday 8:00am Chapel Service 9:00am Bible Discovery Zone Elementary Class in BDZ Classroom 9:00am Youth Class 10:30am Bible Discovery Zone Children's Church 10:30am Sanctuary Service - Choir Sings</p>	30	31	<p>1 1:00pm The Afternoon Circle of the Women's Guild Meeting 6:00pm Mission & Outreach Committee Meeting 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice</p>	<p>2 Maundy Thursday 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service</p>	<p>3 Good Friday 7:00pm Good Friday Service</p>	4
<p>5 Easter Sunday 7:00am Outdoor Drive-in Easter Sunrise Communion Service 7:30am Easter Breakfast served by our Youth 9:00am Bible Discovery Zone Elementary Class in BDZ Classroom 10:30am Bible Discovery Zone Children's Church 10:30am Easter Sanctuary Service with Communion</p>	6	7	<p>8 10:00am Christian Education Meeting 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice</p>	9	10	<p>11 6:00pm Youth Overnight</p>
<p>12 Youth Sunday 8:00am Outdoor Drive-in Service 9:00am Bible Discovery Zone Elementary Class in BDZ Classroom 9:00am Youth Class 10:30am Bible Discovery Zone Children's Church 10:30am Sanctuary Service - Guest, Peter Lemongello 11:30am Youth Group Meeting</p>	13	<p>14 7:00pm Finance & Stewardship Meeting</p>	<p>15 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice</p>	16	<p>17 2:00pm Music Committee</p>	18
<p>19 8:00am Outdoor Drive-in Service 9:00am Bible Discovery Zone Elementary Class in BDZ Classroom 9:00am Youth Class 10:30am Bible Discovery Zone Children's Church 10:30am Sanctuary Service</p>	<p>20 6:30pm Church Council Meeting</p>	21	<p>22 Earth Day 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice</p>	23	24	25
<p>26 8:00am Outdoor Drive-in Service 9:00am Bible Discovery Zone Elementary Class in BDZ Classroom 9:00am Youth Class 10:30am Bible Discovery Zone Children's Church 10:30am Sanctuary Service 11:30am Youth Group Meeting</p>	27	28	<p>29 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice</p>	30	1	<p>2 8:00am Central Southeast Association Meeting - Must Pre-register</p>



St. John's United Church of Christ
285 W. National Drive
Newark, Ohio 43055

*Rooted in the Evangelical and Reformed Traditions
We are Sowing Seeds of Hope in a Time of Chaos
So We May All Be One*

Worship Services!

8:00 a.m. Chapel Service
10:30 a.m. – Sanctuary Service
Volume 26 Number 4

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Main Office Phone

740-323-2407

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Our Minister

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stjohns.pastorstephen@gmail.com

Todd Baldosser

Organist/Choir Director

scarlatti35@hotmail.com

Anita Chirdon/Office Administrator

Kim Workman/Office Assistant

stjohnsunited@windstream.net

Mike Dooley

Church Sexton

740-398-5863

Julie Kroah

Christian Education Director

Direct Number 740-323-2408

stjohnsucc.ce@windstream.net

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.

