

Welcome Home!

to the Church you remember....Welcome home to....



The 2026 August Chimes

United Church of Christ

Prayer List

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

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, & Molly Sheets

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 stjohnsunity@windstream.net

Thank you!

Dear St. John's United Church of Christ,
Thank you for your generous donation to The Center for New Beginnings. We appreciate your support!

Sincerely,
Trisha Hufford, Director

St. John's United Church of Christ,
Thank you for your faithful, continued support of The Coalition of Care! Your contribution allows us to make a difference in someone's life who is struggling to make ends meet. Together we can continue to be the hands and feet of Christ to our neighbors in need in Licking County.

With gratitude,
Melissa Anderson
Executive Director

Thank you! continued

To Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher, Elaine Gard, Church Council, Members and Staff of St. John's Church, The family and I thank you for the caring cards, those who came to the calling hours and service, and the donations given in memory of C. David Carpenter. Thank you for honoring David.

We appreciate your love, support, and thoughtfulness at this most difficult time in our lives.

Jill Carpenter
and family

Thank you to all who helped make VBS a success. Teachers, helpers and those who stepped up to help with snacks. Thank you to everyone who donated food and snacks and helped with painting and decorating. The efforts of many helped to make a great week for all who attended.

From the Christian Education Committee.

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.



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

Hello friends,

We have had an exciting and meaningful Summer. I hope you have enjoyed all of the activities as well as had some time for rest and relaxation. In many ways I wish Summer could last forever. But time marches on and new vistas await for us. The Apostle Paul reminds us in his letter to the Church in Philippi that “We press on to the next goal in Christ Jesus.”

God has many more fulfilling opportunities in the weeks and months to come for us to embrace. These include our Back to School event, our Fall Season Launch Sunday, the Central Ohio Night of Inspiration with Dr. Robert and Donna Schuller and many more!!

I’m especially excited about our new ministry outreach, the Positive Living Podcast. I invite you to tune in and invite others to check us out as well. We have some remarkable guests joining us to talk about faith, family, career and positive living.

Tune in here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/155B1j0Bc5chB_Nk8m7MU-53ZCo-nT611/view?usp=drive_link

As I mentioned in a recent [Sunday](#) morning message, we are focused on both In-reach and outreach. You’ll notice crews around our Campus making improvements and others preparing for our new elevator. These are exciting developments to continue to serve with excellence and offer maximum comfort and accessibility.

Our Sunday afternoon Worship services in Canal Winchester and Columbus are going very well reaching more than 100 people in those areas.

These are great times to be a part of St. John’s. I’m glad we can walk together in mission and ministry.

See you soon in Church and around the Community.

Your friend,

Pastor Steve



Afternoon Circle -

will meet again on Wednesday, August 5, at 1:00 p.m. in the Large Meeting Room. Refreshments will be served by Julie Kroah and Julie Davis. Our program will be on the Old Licking County Children's Home, with Brenda Simross. Brenda and her parents were residents/employees at the Children's Home during Brenda's early childhood. All ladies of our St. John's Church Family are encouraged to attend.

Last month's "Baseball, Hotdogs, Apple Pie, The USA" picnic was a lot of fun. The Stars and The Stripes ended the baseball game in a tie. We enjoyed the hotdogs, apple pies, baked beans, potato salad, etc. And it was great to be inside the air conditioning on a 90+ degree day to celebrate our country's birthday.

St. John's Little Free Pantry

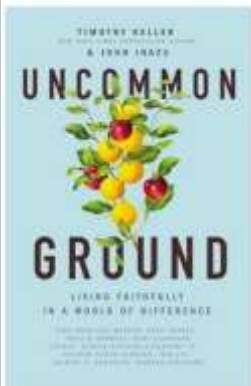
Take what you need. Give what you can.



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 Club



The book study group will meet each Thursday, August 6, 13, 20, and 27 at 11am at the River Road Coffee House on the north side of the square in downtown Newark. We are currently discussing UNCOMMON GROUND, Living Faithfully in a World of Difference by Timothy Keller and John Inauz. The book is available online and discusses how we might live out the scripture message found in Ephesians 4:1-2 which says, Walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love. You are welcome to join us for fellowship and discussion.

*The Haven Joyfully
Presents Our Annual*

SEPTEMBER 17, 2026

Doors open at 5:30p.m.
Reception * Dinner * Live Auction



Tickets and
Sponsorships are
available online



here.

Summertime News from Mission and Outreach Committee

During July, we had a request from the St Vincent Men's Haven for used towels. Reverend Swisher was able to visit and take 18 brand new comfy towels for their use. We wanted to extend our gift and have collected bottles of 3 in 1 body wash/shampoo which will be delivered at the end of July. Of course bathing supplies are an ongoing need for them and we will be happy to "recycle" to The Men's Haven any clean serviceable used towels you would like to donate.

Thank you so much for your continued donations to our Little Free Pantry. The need is great but your continued giving reminds those in need that they are not alone and God is with them.

In August, we will be partnering with Christian Education Committee to sponsor a church neighborhood outreach, a back -to -school Party on the Patio on August 16, 2026, from noon until 2pm. Limited backpacks will be available as well as food, games and school supplies.



Positive Living Podcast

Hosted by

Rev. Dr. Stephen L. Swisher

St. John's UCC Senior Pastor

Currently available on St. John's Facebook page, website, YouTube channel.



July 27, 2026

Johnny Cash Tribute Artist
Shawn Barker



August 2026

Pop Singer & Entertainer
Peter Lemongello



September 2026

Entertainer/Inspirational Speaker
Clint Holmes & Kelly Clinton Holmes



October 2026

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



Some notes from Church Council and Foundation Fund Meeting July 20, 2026

Treasury Report:

Through the end of June our income was \$150,497.56 and expenses were \$155,350.50 which leaves a deficit of \$4,852.94.

The masonry work on the church bell tower is progressing nicely with the cracked and deteriorated mortar being removed and replaced. The work should be done by the end of July. The elevator replacement process is continuing with planning necessary to submit for the construction permits. Expected completion date for the elevator installation is January.

Christian Education Committee Approved Requests:

“Party on the Patio” on Sunday, August 16, 2026, from 12pm to 2pm. This will be a back to school celebration for young people of the congregation as well as from the neighborhood. This is a joint outreach for CE Committee and Mission and Outreach Committee. There will be snacks, games, school supplies and a limited number of backpacks.

“Trunk or Treat” on October 25, 2026, from 4:30pm to 6pm.

Rally Day is being planned for September 13, 2026.

VBS was enjoyed by all and raised \$151.96 which when combined with a gift from M & O Committee resulted in a mission outreach from VBS of \$401. 96 to the Licking County Jail Ministry.

Emmaleigh Crowthers is going to be the new Children’s Hand Bell Choir Director. Thank you Emmaleigh!

Ken Kroah’s home repair ministry currently has thirteen clients on wait list.

Rev. Swisher: Reports his thanks for all the hard work for the America 250 celebration and feels it turned out better than we could have hoped. Sunday afternoon worship at the care centers are going well. Sunday, July 19, 2026, at Canal Winchester, there were 32 residents, 3 staff members, and 2 from our congregation worshipping together.

Sunday, October 4, 2026, we will have special guests, Dr. Robert and Donna Schuller.

Music Committee Report:

was greatly impressed with the outstanding concert given in honor of celebrating America’s 250th birthday, would like to thank the staff for organizing and working out all the details, and want to give a HUGE “shout out” to Rev. Swisher for how he continually brings in new people to St. John’s and is able to get more people involved.

The Mission and Outreach Committee:

would also like to thank the staff and volunteers and participants for the outstanding night of music and inspiration and faith, to our community partner in this venture, to VELVET Ice Cream and to all those who attended, many, many thanks. We were able to collect \$800 for our Mission projects for the night divided equally between the Food Pantry Network of Licking County and Bibles for the World which supplies language appropriate Bibles for areas of the world where Bibles are scarce.

Council took a few minutes to express many positive feelings about the success of the America 250 celebration.

Foundation Fund Approved: Don and Lois Boldt Motion

The next Council meeting will be on August 17, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. All members of St. John’s are always welcome to attend.

St. John's Neighborhood Celebration



August 16, 2026

Noon to 1:30PM

*Fun Treats, School Supply Give-a-way,
games and activities!*

We are accepting donations of school supplies:
glue sticks, highlighters, pencils, pencil cases, spiral
notebooks, scissors, crayons, colored pencils,
pencil top erasers



ELEVATOR FUND

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.

St. John's Library

Summer



Reading Program

Be sure to check out
all the great reads in
the library!

New Books Added!

- Bible Atlas by Stephen Motyer &
Illustrated by Brian Delf
- A Shepherds Heart: Drawing Closer to the
Heart of God by Paul C. Brownlow
- David: Profiles in Character
by Charles Swindoll
- The Bible in 100 Pages: Seeing the big Picture
in God's Great Story by Phil Moore.
- Usborne History of the World in Pictures by
Rob Lloyd Jones.

Finances for the Month and Year to Date

General Fund Income

	<u>June</u>	<u>Year to date</u>
Congregation giving (Faith Promise)	6,899.91	53,835.28
Income from Foundation Fund	11,500.00	69,000.00
Monthly Income from Emerson Miller Fund	3,758.33	22,549.98
Month & YTD Total Income	22,708.67	150,497.56
General Fund Expenses	26,541.87	155,350.50
Over/Under Month & YTD	(\$ 3,833.20)	(\$4,852.94) () = Negative



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 4) by Melissa Kruger

Nourish Your Soul

Psalm 1 tells us the man who delights in the law of the Lord is like a “tree planted by streams of water, that yields its fruit in season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.” Isaiah 55 compares time with the Lord to a feast in which we can delight our souls in the richest of fare. Jesus told us that abiding in Him was more necessary than food or water. Apart from him, we can do nothing (John 15). However, in Christ we can do all things (Phil. 4:13). The most important gift you can give to yourself in the coming year is time with Jesus.

Psalm 119:50 “This is my comfort in my affliction, that your promise gives me life”

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

We are in weeks 48 to 52 of Reading the Bible Together

These are the last weeks of reading the Bible in a year together. We get to read Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Thessalonians, then on to Timothy and Titus, Philemon, Hebrews and finish with James, Peter, 1-3 John, Jude and finally Revelations. It's been an incredible journey to hear the story of God's plan for us from creation and salvation start to finish. Are there books you want to read again, maybe study closer? Nourish you soul and be closer to God.

ASK THE
Pastor

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



Join us for Rally Day September 13, 2026, and the kick off to a new church year. A continental breakfast will be served at 8:45am and a special program “Creation is Grand” by Ken Kroah. There will be hands on activities to enjoy as well.
We will also wrap up our ***Read the Bible in a Year: Our Journey Together.***

VBS was a success with 12 kids in addition to our amazing teachers and helpers. Our mission this year was the Licking County Jail Ministry. Trey Freeman from the jail ministry visited VBS and shared with us all the good that they do. With the help of the Mission & Outreach committee we donated \$251.59 to their cause.



Party on the Patio August 16 at 12-noon to 1:30 p.m.
Celebrate “Back to School” with games, activities, “bless the backpacks” and school supply give-a-way.



Sunday School Classes

Adult class – Will begin September 20 at 9:00AM

Youth Class – – Will begin September 20 at 9:00AM

Bible Discovery Zone – – Will begin September 20 at 9AM & 10:30AM

Cradle Roll – Available during the 10:30AM service

August Worship Service Duties

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

Cradle Roll

2 Volunteer
9 Volunteer
16 Volunteer
23 Volunteer
30 Volunteer

Cantors

2 Julie Davis
9 Charles Dudley
16 April Kinser
23 Todd Baldosser
30 Diane Reef

Sunday Sound Worship Team

2 Ken Kroah
9 Karson Ewing
16 Ken Kroah
23 Karson Ewing
30 Ken Kroah

Sunday Video Worship Team

2 Julie Kroah
9 Tom Lawyer
16 Julie Kroah
23 Tom Lawyer
30 Julie Kroah

AUGUST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Lammers Memorial Sunday 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 10:30am Cradle Roll 10:30am Sanctuary Service	27	28	29 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice	30 11:00am Thursday Book Study, UNCOMMON GROUND, Living Faithfully in a World of Difference at River Road Coffee on the Square	31	1
2 Communion Sunday 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 10:30am Cradle Roll 10:30am Sanctuary Service	3	4	5 1:00pm The Afternoon Circle of the Women's Guild Meeting 6:00pm Mission & Outreach Committee Meeting 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice	6 11:00am Thursday Book Study, UNCOMMON GROUND, Living Faithfully in a World of Difference at River Road Coffee on the Square	7	8
9 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 10:30am Cradle Roll 10:30am Sanctuary Service	10	11 7:00pm Finance & Stewardship Meeting	12 10:00am Christian Education Meeting 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice	13 11:00am Thursday Book Study, UNCOMMON GROUND, Living Faithfully in a World of Difference at River Road Coffee on the Square	14 2:00pm Music Committee Meeting	15
16 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 10:30am Cradle Roll 10:30am Sanctuary Service 12:00pm Party on the Patio	17 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	18	19 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice	20 11:00am Thursday Book Study, UNCOMMON GROUND, Living Faithfully in a World of Difference at River Road Coffee on the Square	21	22
23 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 10:30am Cradle Roll 10:30am Sanctuary Service	24	25	26 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice	27 11:00am Thursday Book Study, UNCOMMON GROUND, Living Faithfully in a World of Difference at River Road Coffee on the Square	28	29
30 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 10:30am Cradle Roll 10:30am Sanctuary Service	31	1	2 1:00pm The Afternoon Circle of the Women's Guild Meeting 6:00pm Mission & Outreach Committee Meeting 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice	3	4	5



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 8

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Todd Baldosser

Organist/Choir Director

scarlatti35@hotmail.com

Julie Kroah

Christian Education Director

Direct Number 740-323-2408

stjohnsucc.ce@windstream.net



September 13, 2026
Continental Breakfast Served
8:45AM—10:15AM

Rally Day Program

"Science is Grand" by Ken Kroah

Plus, hands-on science stations.

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