

Welcome Home!

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



The 2026 May Chimes

United Church of Christ



Prayer List

General Prayers: Charlie Bruah, Rev. Dr. Winfield Strout, Eli Taylor, Carl Kochendorfer, Trisha Boehmer, Delores Williams and the families of Sally Penrose & Don Boldt

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

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



Sally Kay Penrose
Born: October 8, 1943
Died: April 11, 2026

A member of St. John's since 1956
A Memorial Service will be at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 31, 2026 after our 10:30 a.m. service.



Donald M. Boldt
Born: July 20, 1935
Died: April 23, 2026

A member of St. John's since 1997
A Memorial Service will be at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 23, 2026.

Thank you!

THANK YOU!
GIVING A HAND UP, NOT A HAND OUT
Thank you for your continued support!
Trish & the team at NHO!
(Newark Homeless Outreach)

To our friends at St. John's:
We are so grateful for your continued support of Fostering Further. Your generosity over the years has made a meaningful difference in the lives of many of the individuals and families we serve. We are especially grateful for the recent donation of graduation cards and gift cards as we celebrate 50 grads this year! Your kindness helps us recognize their achievement in a tangible and meaningful way.
With appreciation, Shelby Conley, Executive Director

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



May is full of exciting events we will all want to be a part of including these special events:

***We host the Spring Denominational meeting for Pastors and leaders from across our region

***We participate in the National Day of Prayer at our Courthouse where I will offer the prayer for Government officials and employees

***Mother's Day worship services featuring a special message by Mrs. Barbara Swisher

***Pentecost Sunday where we encourage everyone to wear Red to honor the flame of the Holy Spirit

***Our Youth Mission Team will head out for their mission work in Kentucky

***Memorial Day Sunday where we will again honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom

We look forward to all of this and more. The Lord is positioning us to make a bigger and wider difference for Him, and we are accepting every opportunity He brings our way. I invite you to be a part of it all.

I've found this poem about May that I thought was particularly appropriate and meaningful. I hope you might enjoy the excerpts below:

Spring by Mary Oliver

May...blossoms storm out of the darkness, wildflowers and moccasin flowers. Bees dive into them to gather their spiritual honey.

Theirs is the deepest certainty that this existence too, this sense of wellbeing rides near the hub of the miracle that everything is as good as a prayer that illuminates any dark place on earth.

I'll see you in Church and around the Community,

Pastor Steve

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.



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



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".

Bible Discovery Zone: Youth Class Schedule for May

The Youth Class meets every Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m., in the Small Meeting Room next to the offices.

For May, the scheduled topics are:

May 3 - the final chapter of our Prayer Study

May 10 - Pentecost Study

May 17 - Pentecost Study

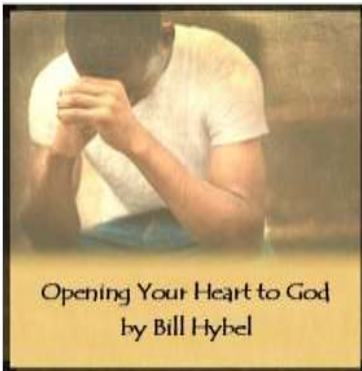
May 24 - PENTECOST - WEAR RED! (No class - beginning of summer break)



Bible Discovery Zone



9:00 AM Youth and Children's Classes



Opening Your Heart to God
by Bill Hybel

led by Elaine Gard

In the small meeting room

Ages 12 and up

Truth
for
kids

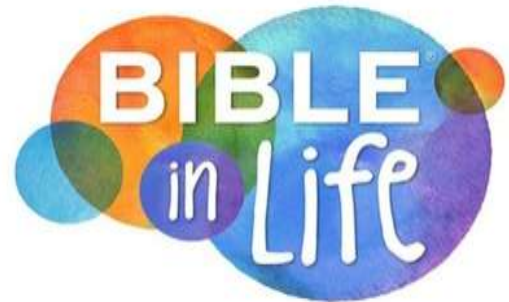
Devotions and crafts

ages 5 to 12

In the Thou Art Room

Lower Level

10:30AM Children's Church



ages 5 to 12

Bible Lessons and Crafts

In the Thou Art Room

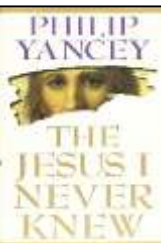
Lower Level

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 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.



Notes from Church Council Meeting of April 20, 2026

Attending: Tim Powers, Ken Kroah, Brian Lensink, Terry Gano, Frances Hill, Greg Crowthers, Gary Kinser, April Kinser, Julie Davis, Jeff Conner, Chuck Chirdon, Rebecca Swartz, Reverend Swisher, Anta Chirdon- Office Administrator, Kim Workman - Office Assistant, and Mike Dooley – Church Sexton.

After the call to order and the approval of the agenda, the meeting opened with K. Kroah offering the evening devotion based on things he has learned through his home renovation and repair ministry. 1. Sometimes you need to tear things down before building them back up. 2. Working on the foundation isn't appealing but important. God's truth provides a solid foundation. 3. Stay humble enough to recognize you may need professional help.

Pastor's report: reflected thanks for recent community event (South Newark Clean-Up Day). Also with Mother's Day approaching, requested that his mother, a retired minister be permitted to provide the sermon that day which has been their custom in year's past. Council felt this was a wonderful suggestion. Also, he will be off on Sunday, June 7, 2026.

B. Lensink provided the Treasurer's Report which showed an income of \$77,762.38 and expenses of \$77,875.16 for a year to date deficit of \$112.78.

F. Hill (CE Committee) reports that VBS will be June 22 to June 26, and the theme will be Adventure Through Acts, Volume One. Also there are sixteen people (youth and adults) going on the Big Creek Mission trip from May 31 to June 6, 2026. Council approved special mission funds to assist this year.

A. Chirdon will be off on May 15 and the week of May 18, 2026.

Property and Maintenance Committee will be working to reinstall locks on the men's bathroom stalls.

Planning continues for the May 2, 2026 - CSEOA meeting to be held at the church.

President T. Powers reported an increase in church attendance this year and a need to consider the future and how to maintain this growth. Rev. Swisher commented "continue to do what we do well and add to it."

Graduation Sunday is on May 17, and we are also learning about Pentecost with a special class by Elaine. Pentecost Sunday is May 24, 2026. (Remember to wear red - the traditional color of celebration for Pentecost). We will also have the "Strengthen the Church."

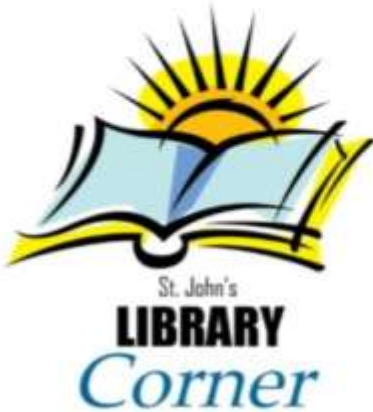
Meeting adjourned with all present joining hands and saying The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

April Kinser, Secretary Tim Powers, President

Our next meeting will be on May 18, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. All members of St. John's are always welcome to attend.

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.

Mission and Outreach Focus for May 2026

May seems to be such a busy month with Mother's Day, graduations and Memorial Day. It is important in the church calendar also. May 17, 2026, is recognized within the United Church of Christ as Mental Health Sunday. Some general principles that are important for good mental health include: Remember to express emotions openly but safely, prioritize rest and reflection, engage in supportive communities, seek purpose and hope, and combine faith with practical care when needed.

May 24, 2026, is Pentecost Sunday, a day when we celebrate the birth of the church. Please wear red that day (which is traditional to the celebration). We will collect a special offering within the UCC that day called "Strengthen the Church." This is our opportunity to build up the body of Christ. Funds are used to support leadership development, provide grants to new congregations, and equip youth and young adult ministry. Thank you for your support of this outreach ministry!

Pentecost

by Beth Fellingner George Koopmans

May 28, 2023 todaydevotional.com



In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. ’’— [Acts 2:17](#)

There is an old saying that “Actions speak louder than words.” One of the students in the chaplaincy ministry at our college “oozes” the fruit of the Spirit. His kindness, gentleness, joy, and patience are clearly evident. As people see this, they are attracted to him, and opportunities to share his faith are multiplied. Another student frequently pours out her heart to the Lord in prayer as she pleads for the advancement of God’s kingdom.

The Spirit of God gave Jesus’ apostles the ability to speak in many languages on that day of Pentecost written about in Acts 2, and the same Spirit enables us to speak and to act in winsome ways today. Through the power of the Spirit, God’s kingdom is advancing, and he has called and equipped each of us to be his witnesses in whatever circumstances we may find ourselves.

Today we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. But our celebration of Pentecost is not so much meant to be talked about as it is to be lived—in word and deed. By the power of the Spirit working through us, our words and fruit-filled actions are the tools God uses to build his kingdom.

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of the Spirit poured out on Jesus’ followers on that Pentecost day so long ago. Help us to live by the power of the Spirit today and every day. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Finances for the Month and Year to Date

<u>General Fund Income - Incomplete</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Congregation giving (Faith Promise)	8,817.00	38,128.81
Income from Foundation Fund	11,500.00	46,000.00
Monthly Income from Emerson Miller Fund	3,758.33	15,033.32
Month & YTD Income	25,491.33	103,253.71
General Fund Expenses	23,087.75	100,962.91
Month & YTD - <u>Incomplete</u>	\$ 2,403.58	2,290.80



Over/Under
() = Negative



Adult Sunday school class will finish the study “Ancient Christianity” led by Tim Powers on May 3. For the May 10 and 17 classes, join Elaine Gard for a combined class with the Youth at 9AM in the large meeting room for a study of Pentecost and the importance of “the birthday of the church.” Then, remember to wear red on May 24, Pentecost Sunday!



Read the Bible in a Year: Our Journey Together. We’re starting *month 9* of our year long journey together.

The final Youth meeting of the year is May 10 following the 10:30AM service. We will have special activities and opportunities to serve throughout the summer.



Save the Date! VBS is June 22 – 26. Our theme is Adventure Through Acts Volume 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 are welcome for stories, crafts, science, games and snacks.



Sunday School Classes

- Adult class** – Break for summer starting May 24
- Youth Class** – – Break for summer starting May 24
- Bible Discovery Zone** – – Break for summer starting May 24
- Cradle Roll** – Available during the 10:30AM service

May Worship Service Duties

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

Cradle Roll

- 3 Volunteer
- 10 Volunteer
- 17 Volunteer
- 24 Volunteer
- 31 Volunteer

Cantors

- 3 April Kinser
- 10 Julie Davis
- 17 Todd Baldosser
- 24 Diane Reef
- 31 Charles Dudley

Bible Discovery Zone 10:30 a.m.

- 3 Brian Lensink & Rebekkah Crowthers
- 10 Marla Crowthers & Youth
- 17 Elaine Gard & Pat Farley
- 24 No Class
- 31 No Class

Bible Discovery Zone 9:00 a.m.

- 3 Rebecca Swartz
- 10 Rebecca Swartz
- 17 Jeremy Hill/Kayla Hill
- 24 No Class
- 31 No Class

Sunday Sound Worship Team

- 3 Karson Ewing
- 10 Ken Kroah
- 17 Karson Ewing
- 24 Ken Kroah
- 31 Mike Dooley

Sunday Video Worship Team

- 3 Tom Lawyer
- 10 Julie Kroah
- 17 Tom Lawyer
- 24 Ken Kroah
- 31 Tom Lawyer

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:

Grow Your Relationship with God

All relationships take time to build. Friends plan times to get together and catch up. Spouses reconnect on date nights. Church members chat over potluck dinners. Building fellowship with others takes time. If we want to grow a friendship with God, we need time in His presence for that relationship to flourish. Reading the Bible on a daily basis allows us the opportunity to get to know God: What does He care about? How does He respond? Who does He love?

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

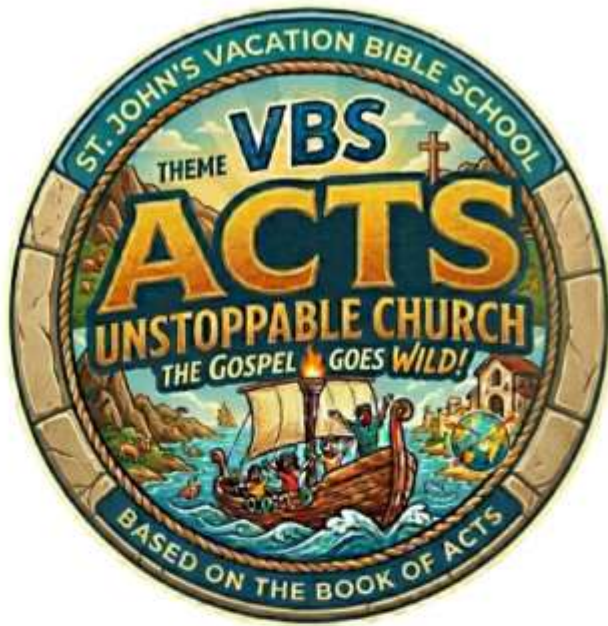
We are in weeks 35 to 38 of Reading the Bible Together

Some of the stories we'll be reading about will include Daniel in the Lions' Den, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in The Fiery Furnace, Belshazzar's Feast & The Writing on the Wall, Nebuchadnezzar's Dreams regarding future kingdoms and the king's own insanity. We'll continue with Hosea and Gomer, Ezekiel eating a scroll, then Isaiah and his dramatic visions of the Dry Bones and God's presence leaving sinful Temple in Jerusalem. In Lamentations, we read poems about the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonians. Then on to the poetic oracles of Joel who describes the day of the Lord and the Holy Spirit and Amos who tells of justice and God's judgement. **We've come a long way, it's all leading to Jesus, which will start next month.**

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.

St. John's United Church of Christ



Vacation Bible School

June 22 - 26

9:00AM—11:30-AM

Ages Pre-K through 6th grade

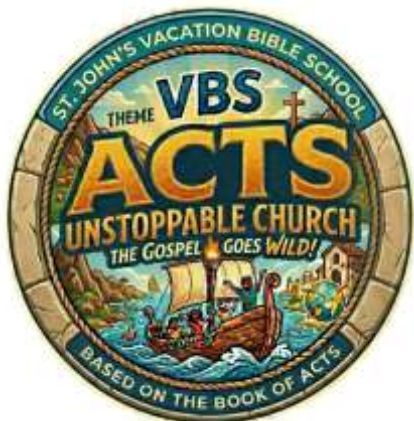
This year we will follow the leaders of the early church through their wild adventures and unbelievable challenges!

Join us for a week filled with Bible stories, crafts, science, games, and FUN!

Donations of vanilla pudding cups, pretzel rods, coco puffs, oyster crackers, fruit roll-ups, goldfish crackers, red and blue Hawaiian punch are appreciated

285 W. National Drive, Newark

740-323-2407 www.stjohnsnewark.org



ST. JOHN'S UCC
285 W. National Dr.
Newark, OH 43055
740-323-2407

Preschool through Sixth Grade
June 22 - 26, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Child's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____

Home telephone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Home e-mail address: _____

Child's age: _____ Last school grade completed: _____

In case of emergency (when the parent/guardian cannot be reached), please contact:

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Relationship to child: _____

Please list any allergies (including food allergies) the VBS staff should be aware

of: _____

Person responsible for picking up this child at the end of each VBS day:

Name: _____ Phone # _____

Signature of parent/guardian: _____

Photographs (Please sign only to disallow photo use)

I Do Not allow photographs and/or video representations of me or my child to be taken for the express purpose of telling stories about the church VBS experience and/ or promoting church activities in the future.

Signature _____ Date _____



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 8:00am Outdoor Driveth Service 9:00am Bible Discovery Zone Elementary Class in BDZ Classroom 10:30am Bible Discovery Zone Children's Church 10:30am Sanctuary Service 11:30am Youth Group Meeting	27	28	29 6:00pm Private Use-Chorus Practice	30 11:00am Thursday Book Study, THE JESUS I NEVER KNEW by Phillip Yancey at River Road Coffee on the Square	1	2 8:00am Central Southeast Association Meeting - Must pre-register for lunch & childcare
3 8:00am Outdoor Driveth Service 9:00am Adult Sunday School 9:00am Bible Discovery Zone Elementary Class in BDZ Classroom 10:30am Bible Discovery Zone Children's Church 10:30am Sanctuary Service	4	5 7:00pm Finance & Stewardship Meeting	6 12:00am The Afternoon Circle Women's Guild 154th Anniversary Luncheon 6:00pm Mission & Outreach Committee Meeting 6:00pm Private Use-Chorus Practice	7 National Day of Prayer 11:00am Thursday Book Study, THE JESUS I NEVER KNEW by Phillip Yancey at River Road Coffee on the Square 12:00pm Rev. Dr. Swisher Prayer at the Courthouse	8 2:00pm Music Committee Meeting	9
10 Mother's Day 8:00am Outdoor Driveth Service 9:00am Bible Discovery Zone Elementary Class in BDZ Classroom 9:00am Youth and Adult Class on Pentecost 10:30am Bible Discovery Zone Children's Church 10:30am Sanctuary Service 11:30am Youth Group Meeting	11	12	13 10:00am Christian Education Meeting 6:00pm Private Use-Chorus Practice	14 11:00am Thursday Book Study, THE JESUS I NEVER KNEW by Phillip Yancey at River Road Coffee on the Square	15	16
17 Graduation & Appreciation Sunday UCC Mental Health Sunday 8:00am Outdoor Driveth Service 9:00am Bible Discovery Zone Elementary Class in BDZ Classroom 9:00am Youth and Adult Class on Pentecost 10:30am Bible Discovery Zone Children's Church 10:30am Sanctuary Service	18 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	19	20 6:00pm Private Use-Chorus Practice	21 11:00am Thursday Book Study, THE JESUS I NEVER KNEW by Phillip Yancey at River Road Coffee on the Square	22	23 11:00am Don Boldt Memorial Service
24 Pentecost 8:00am Outdoor Driveth Service 10:30am Bible Discovery Zone Children's Church 10:30am Sanctuary Service 11:30am Sally Penrose Memorial Service	25 Memorial Day	26	27 6:00pm Private Use-Chorus Practice	28 11:00am Thursday Book Study, THE JESUS I NEVER KNEW by Phillip Yancey at River Road Coffee on the Square	29	30
31 MISSION TRIP TEAM AT BIG CREEK MISSIONS Trinity Sunday 8:00am Outdoor Driveth Service 10:30am Bible Discovery Zone Children's Church 10:30am Sanctuary Service	1 MISSION TRIP TEAM AT BIG CREEK MISSIONS	2 MISSION TRIP TEAM AT BIG CREEK MISSIONS	3 MISSION TRIP TEAM AT BIG CREEK MISSIONS 1:00pm The Afternoon Circle of the Women's Guild Meeting 6:00pm Mission & Outreach Committee Meeting 6:00pm Private Use-Chorus Practice	4 MISSION TRIP TEAM AT BIG CREEK MISSIONS	5 MISSION TRIP TEAM AT BIG CREEK MISSIONS	6 MISSION TRIP TEAM AT BIG CREEK MISSIONS



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*

U.S. Postage
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 Permit No. 103

Worship Services!

8:00 a.m. Chapel Service
 10:30 a.m. – Sanctuary Service
 Volume 26 Number 5

Address Service Requested



Main Office Phone 740-323-2407 www.stjohnsnewark.org	Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher Our Minister Office 740-323-2854 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

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 _____