

Welcome Home!

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



St. John's

The 2026 September 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 stjohnsunited@windstream.net

Thank you!

Thank you to our friends at St. John's, We thank God for all of you & are thankful for your caring of others. We truly appreciate your partnership with us in the Kingdom Work!

God Bless,

Your friends at L.C.J.M. (Licking County Jail Ministry)

Rev. Stephen Swisher,

You are a friend beyond measure! Thank you to St. John's UCC. You consistently lift us up in our work. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Cathy Stofac (The Men's Haven)

Thank you!

Your kindness is deeply appreciated. Thank you to all who made Pat Williams Memorial a success. It was great! (God Bless you all)

Deloris Williams & Family

Special thanks to all of our talented musicians who brought beautiful music to St. Johns this past Summer. Your contribution to worship with your music added so much to our summer services.

St. Johns Summer Special Music Contributors

Diane Reef, Catherine Lim, Johnny Pfeffer, Jane Shoemaker, Colleen Kroah, St. John's Summer Singers, Brian Lensink, Leap of Faith, Crystal City Chorus, Julie Davis, Charlie Mays, Todd Baldosser.

Welcome New Members

On Sunday, August 9, three people joined our church membership. We received Don and Pam Baldwin and Stephen Berger. Please give them a warm welcome!

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

Author J.K. Rowling writes, “Fall seemed to arrive suddenly that year! The first of September felt as crisp and golden as an apple.”

And legendary actor Lawrence Olivier stated; “The windows are open admitting the September breeze. A month that smells like notepaper and pencil shavings and Autumn leaves. A month that feels like progress. Like moving on.”

They both are correct, aren’t they? Summer does seem like it left too quickly and Fall has arrived suddenly. But on the upside the air is crisp, the leaves will be beautiful and we are moving forward and making continual progress.

We have a lot of exciting opportunities for ministry and missional impact in the days ahead including our continued partnership and upcoming events with St. Vincent’s Men’s Shelter and the Look Up Center.

Also, in just a few weeks we are hosting the Night of Inspiration for Central Ohio with Dr. Robert and Donna Schuller on Friday, October 2 at 7pm. This is an exciting event as we hear from the former Senior Pastor of at the time America’s largest Church, the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, California. Dr. Schuller is the author of a number of New York Times best-selling books and hosted the Hour of Power weekly television broadcast.

My parents and I met Robert a number of years ago before I began my Doctoral program. He was serving as Pastor in Rancho Capistrano at the time. We became friends and continued that friendship through the decades. He helped me research my book “God’s Way to Good Health” and was there when I graduated. In turn I was there when he received his Doctorate and on his first Sunday as the Senior Pastor at the Cathedral. He has preached at three of my Churches through the years and has been a guest on my media outreach platforms as well.

I know Robert and Donna will be a great blessing to our Church and the entire Central Ohio region. Be sure to invite friends and family near and far to attend this meaningful event.

In the meantime, may God continue to bless you and those you love in the crisp air, crunchy apples and caramel popcorn of the Season.

I’ll see you in Church and around the community.

Pastor Steve



AFTERNOON CIRCLE -

will meet on Wednesday, September 2, at 1:00 p.m. in the Large Meeting Room of the church. Our hostess for the afternoon is Mrs. Charlotte Kinser. Our Bite-Size Bible Study will be on Rhoda. And the program will be on PRAYER, THE MIGHTIEST FORCE IN THE WORLD, based on the book of the same name by Frank C. Laubach. A business meeting will follow.

Last month's topic, The Old Licking County Children's Home, brought 5 visitors to our meeting, along with our usual ladies! Ms. Brenda Simross brought memories of her own childhood from the Children's Home, living with her parents who were employees under St. John's members, Walter and Mary Zerger, and bringing articles which told of the history of the home. Mrs. Julie Kroah's refrigerated veggie pizza and jello salad cooled us all down on a very muggy afternoon.

All ladies of our St. John's Church Family are always welcome to attend.

St. John's Little Free Pantry

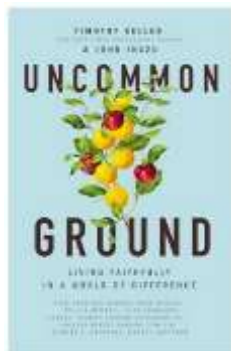
Take what you need. Give what you can.



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 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.

ELEVATOR FUND



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.

NIGHT of Inspiration

with Dr. Robert A. Schuller

October 2, 2026

7:00PM

at

St. John's UCC

285 W. National Drive, Newark

The evenings 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



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



Donna Chafee
Author of "First Great Sorrow"



Peter Lemongello
Pop-Singer and Entertainer



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



Dwight Icenhower
World renowned Elvis Tribute artist



Rev. Adam Hamilton
Sr. Pastor and Author

New episodes the last Tuesday each month.
on St. John's Facebook page • website • YouTube channel.

Tune in to Rev. Swisher's Positive Living Podcast here

https://docs.google.com/videos/d/1QGIMyDppv5HK_AiOE6WC07InzzvvvNvbyB5W_AvGgCU/play?usp=sharing

*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.



News from Mission & Outreach

Many thanks to all those who gave so generously to the Party on the Patio Back to School Event on August 16, 2026. Although neighborhood participation was less than expected, God had a need for all those supplies. We had a generous supply of book bags and school supplies remaining which were delivered on August 19, 2026, to Bear Run Baptist Church in Crooksville, Ohio. They have been assisting flood victims in the area with food and other items and had already given away over 100 book bags but had requests for more. Thanks to your generosity we were able to help.

A table has been donated for church use at the Fall Fling for St. Vincent Men's Haven on September 17, 2026. The event will be at Bryn Du Fieldhouse in Granville. Limited seats are available. Please contact April Kinser if you would like to attend. Rev Swisher will be the table host.

St. John's Library



STOP BY THE LIBRARY
AND SEE WHAT'S NEW!

• ***Practice the Way***

by John M. Comer

• ***Everything Is Never Enough***

by Bobby Jamieson

• ***Checking In***

by Michelle Williams

• ***Know Who You Are***

by Tim Tebow

Finances for the Month and Year to Date

General Fund Income

	<u>July</u>	<u>Year to date</u>
Congregation giving (Faith Promise)	7,495.94	61,331.22
Income from Foundation Fund	11,500.00	80,500.00
Monthly Income from Emerson Miller Fund	3,758.33	26,308.31
Month & YTD Total Income	23,089.96	173,587.52
General Fund Expenses	23,867.61	179,218.11
Over/Under Month & YTD	(\$ 777.65)	(\$5,630.59)

() = Negative





News from St John's United Church of Christ Church Council Meeting on August 17, 2026

Attending: Rev. Stephen Swisher, Chuck Chirdon, Ken Kroah, Greg Crowthers, Terry Gano, Frances Hill, Julie Davis, Gary Kinser, April Kinser, Brian Lensink, Rebecca Swartz, Jeff Conner, Tim Powers, Anita Chirdon, Office Administrator and Kim Workman, Office Assistant.

Rev. Swisher has been asked to provide a worship service one Sunday per month at Story Pointe in Grove City. This will be the fourth facility we serve, including ones in Newark, Canal Winchester, and Columbus.

Rev. Swisher has also been chosen to serve as a guardian on the Mission #155 Honor Flight carrying veterans from Columbus to Washington D.C. on September 23, 2026.

We are all looking forward to the Central Ohio Night of Inspiration planned for October 2, Friday evening at 7 p.m. at St. John's with special guests Dr. Robert and Donna Schuller. Refreshments will be served after the event.

Treasurers report- B. Lensink: Total July income-\$173,587.52 Total July expenses \$179,218.11 leaving a net deficit of \$5,630.59. Additionally, he explained how the Property Maintenance Fund is at an unsustainable level and brought forward a motion recommended by the Finance and Stewardship committee. Council agreed with the recommendation and resolved to bring it forward to the congregation at the next Congregational Budget Meeting. Bell tower work has been somewhat delayed due to rain. Elevator update drawings have been submitted for necessary approval.

C. Chirdon: planning for necessary changes regarding safety, communication, and accessibility when elevator is down.

Gary Kinser: provided info regarding double doors on south side of building starting to rot at the bottom. This will need to be assessed further.

Communications: A thank you has been received for Pat Williams memorial. LifeWise requests use of facility for an open house on September 8, 2026, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. which was approved. School supplies and backpacks remain from the Party on the Patio back to school celebration on August 16. These supplies will be taken to flood victims in the Perry County area. RALLY DAY will be on September 13, 2026, at St. John's to kick-off Sunday School

Since the July meeting, Council voted by email to approve opening a Foundation Fund in memory of Spencer and Sally Penrose and to accept three new members, Don and Pam Baldwin and Stephen Berger.

Respectfully submitted,

April Kinser, Secretary Tim Powers, President

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



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.***

Thanks to everyone who participated and donated to the Party on the Patio event. Although the event was not well attended by our neighborhood families, God had a plan. All of the school supplies that were left over after our event were sent to the Crooksville area schools that were so badly affected by the recent flooding.



The Youth will have a Car Wash Saturday, September 19, 11AM to 2PM at O'Reilly Auto Parts, Newark to benefit the Mission Trip Fund. The Youth Group will begin meeting soon.



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 10:30AM
Cradle Roll – Available during the 10:30AM service

September Worship Service Duties

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

Cradle Roll
6 Volunteer
13 Volunteer
20 Volunteer
27 Volunteer

Bible Discovery Zone
6 Brian Lensink/Youth
13 Marla Crowthers/
Emmaleigh Crowthers
20 Rebecca Swartz/
Pat Farley
27 Jeremy & Kayla
Hill/Youth

Cantors
6 Julie Davis
13 Charles Dudley
20 April Kinser
27 Todd Baldosser

**Sunday Sound
Worship Team**
6 Ken Kroah
13 Karson Ewing
20 Ken Kroah
27 Karson Ewing

**Sunday Video
Worship Team**
6 Julie Kroah
13 Tom Lawyer
20 Julie Kroah
27 Tom Lawyer



SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 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 11:00am Thursday Book Study, UNCOMMON GROUND, Living Faithfully in a World of Difference at River Road Coffee on the Square	4	5
6 Communion Sunday 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 10:30am Sanctuary Service	7 Labor Day	8 6:00pm LIFEWISE OPEN HOUSE for BEN FRANKLIN SCHOOL 7:00pm Finance & Stewardship Meeting	9 10:00am Christian Education Meeting 6:00pm Private Use-Chorus Practice	10 11:00am Thursday Book Study, UNCOMMON GROUND, Living Faithfully in a World of Difference at River Road Coffee on the Square 7:15pm Choir Practice	11 Patriot Day	12
13 Rally Day! 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 8:45am Rally Day! Breakfast, "Creation is Grand" by Ken Krosh, Activities & More 10:30am Sanctuary Service - Choir Sings	14	15 Lifewise Start Up	16 2:00pm Music Committee Meeting 6:00pm Private Use-Chorus Practice	17 11:00am Thursday Book Study, UNCOMMON GROUND, Living Faithfully in a World of Difference at River Road Coffee on the Square	18 Rev. Swisher Guest on AM Kevin Club Show	19
20 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 9:00am Adult Sunday School Class 9:00am Youth Sunday School Class 10:30am Bible Discovery Zone- Children's Church & Cradle Roll 10:30am Sanctuary Service	21 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	22 First Day of Autumn	23 6:00pm Private Use-Chorus Practice	24 11:00am Thursday Book Study, UNCOMMON GROUND, Living Faithfully in a World of Difference at River Road Coffee on the Square 7:15pm Choir Practice	25	26
27 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 9:00am Adult Sunday School Class 9:00am Youth Sunday School Class 10:30am Bible Discovery Zone- Children's Church & Cradle Roll 10:30am Sanctuary Service - Choir Sings	28	29	30 6:00pm Private Use-Chorus Practice	1	2 7:00pm A Night of Inspiration with Dr. Robert A. Schuller - Join Us!	3



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 9

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Todd Baldosser

Organist/Choir Director

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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

“Creation is Grand” by Ken Kroah

Plus, hands-on science stations.

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