



**St. John's
United Church of Christ
285 W. National Drive
Newark OH
43055-5298**

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Church Website

www.stjohnsnewark.org

Our Church Staff

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Emmaleigh Crowthers

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Rebecca Swartz

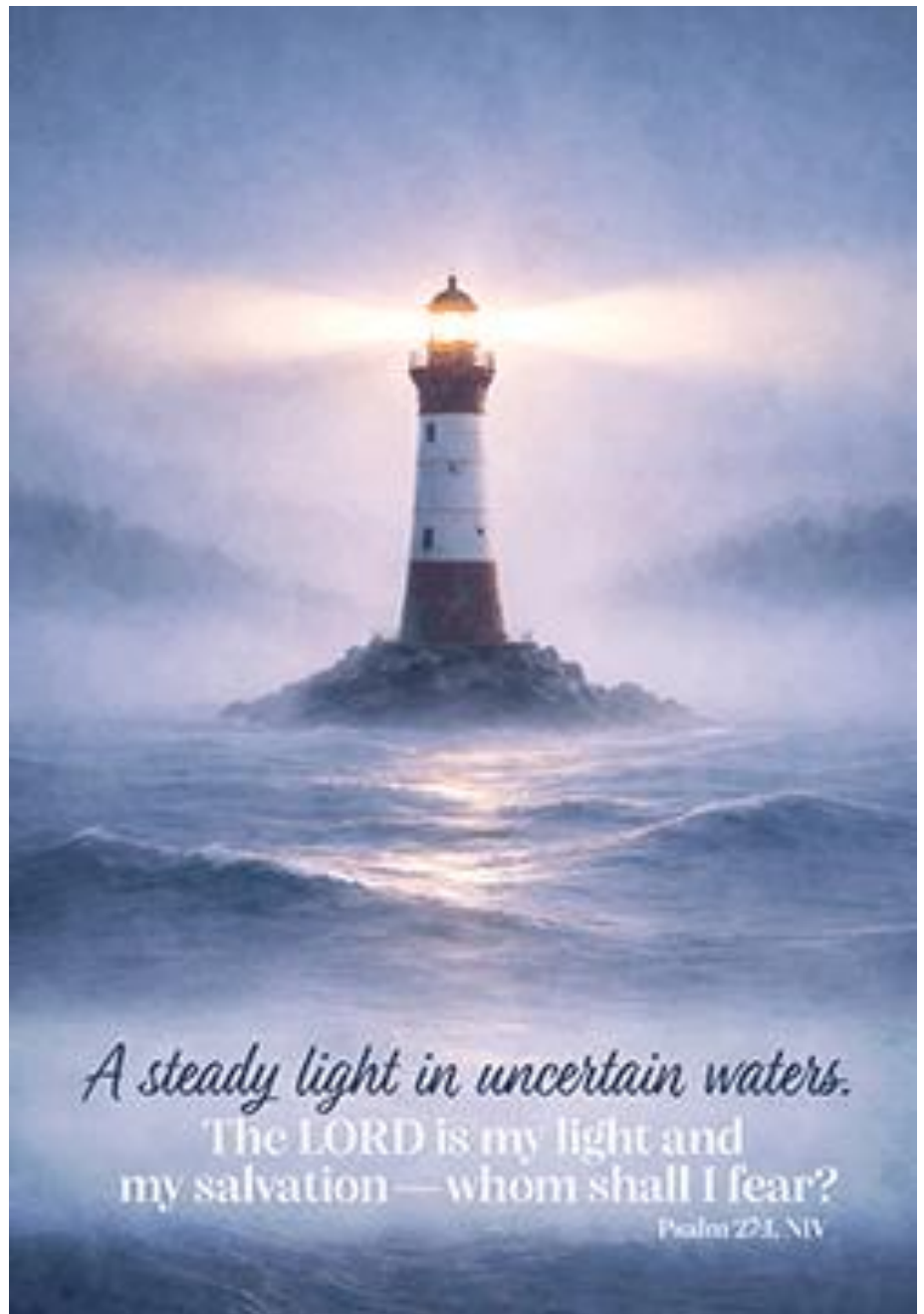
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*Rooted in the Evangelical
and Reformed Traditions*

*We are Sowing Seeds of Hope
in a Time of Chaos*

So We May All Be One



August 16, 2026
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
Outdoor Drive-in Service: 8:00 a.m.
Sanctuary Service: 10:30 a.m.

August 16, 2026

Tune your FM Radio to 107.5

8:00 am

Sanctuary Service

10:30 am

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Announcements & Greetings

Prelude “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms” arr. by Paxton Jane Shoemaker

***Opening Hymn** “He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought!” **No. 545**
(8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 3)

1) **He leadeth me: O blessed thought!**
O words from heavenly comfort fraught!
What e’er I do, wher e’er I be,
still ‘tis God’s hand that leadeth me.

Refrain *He leadeth me, he leadeth me,*
by his own hand he leadeth me:
His faithful follower I would be,
for by his hand he leadeth me.

2) **Lord, I would place my hand in thine,**
nor ever murmur nor repine;
by waters still, o’er troubled sea,
still ‘tis thy hand that leadeth me.

Refrain

3) **And when my task on earth is done,**
when, by thy grace, the victory’s won,
e’en death’s cold wave I will not flee,
since God thro’ Jordan leadeth me.

Refrain

***Call to Worship**

Leader: How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity

All: We gather today to worship the Holy One with heart and voice

Leader: Come let us praise the Lord

All: Who brings peace and refreshes our spirits

Leader: Our lives are a witness to God’s steadfast love and mercy

***Please stand if you are able**

***Prayer of Invocation**

All: Dear God, Remind us today of what really matters. As we worship today, help us to be active participants focusing on kindness, love and our sacred worth in you. You are with us now in our midst in this moment. We affirm our family connection to You and one another as we pray the words that came directly from Your heart and mouth....

****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.**

***Affirmation of Faith - The Nicene Affirmation of Faith**

No. 358

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, light from light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**

he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. 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	“What A Wonderful World”	Weiss/Thiele	Leap of Faith
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Scripture Reading	John 1:4-9	Jeff Conner
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Scripture Reading	John 8:12
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Sermon	“Carrying the Light”	Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher
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Hymn	“Fairest Lord Jesus”	No. 97
		(8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 3)

1) **Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature,
O thou of God to earth come down;
thee will I cherish, thee will I honor,
thou, my soul’s glory, joy and crown.**

2) Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands
robed in the blooming garb of spring:
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
who makes the woeful heart to sing.

3) Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,
and all the twinkling, starry hosts:
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer,
than all the angels heaven can boast.

Invitation for Faithful Giving

Offertory "Agape" Clark Jane Shoemaker

***Doxology** No. 46

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: Eternal God, Help us to focus on what we have and what we can
share and how our tithes and offerings this day can bless others.
We give intentionally, on purpose to build Your Kingdom and to
foster and extend Your Light throughout our community and to the
ends of the earth. In Jesus' Name. Amen

***Closing Hymn** "My Faith Looks Up to Thee" No. 576
(8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 3)

1) My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine! Now hear me while I pray; take all my
guilt away; oh, let me from this day be wholly thine.

2) May thy rich grace impart strength to my fainting heart,
my zeal inspire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my
love to thee pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire.

3) While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs around me spread,
be thou my guide; bid darkness turn to day; wipe sorrow's
tears away; nor let me ever stray from thee aside.

***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 "Proclaim the Glory of the Lord" arr. by Milliken Jane Shoemaker

Pastor Steve's Quote of the Week

"Let your hopes not your hurts, shape your future."

Rev. Dr. Robert H. Schuller

Dr. Swisher's message next week:

Sunday, August 23, 2026

"Decide to Think Positively"

Ephesians 6:10

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!

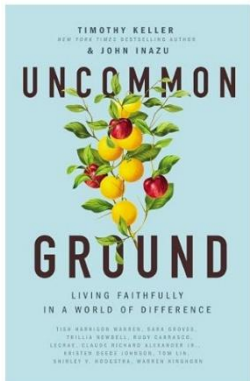
St. John's Little Free Pantry

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 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 Inazu. 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.



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.

Read the Bible in a Year

Journey Together: Our Year in the Bible

Reading Guides and bookmarks are available in the Fellowship room and on line at www.stjohnsnewark.org

Additional Books & Resources in the Church Library

Sunday—1 Timothy 4-6

Monday— 2 Timothy 1-3

Tuesday—Titus 1-3

Wednesday—Philemon



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.

Upcoming Guests Include



Entertainer/Inspirational Speaker
Clint Holmes & Kelly Clinton Holmes



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



Dolly Parton Tribute Artist
Karen Hester



Sr. Pastor of Resurrection UMC and Author
Rev. Adam Hamilton

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

Fall Kick-Off



September 13, 2026

Food • Fun • Friends!

Continental Breakfast Served

8:45AM—10:30AM

9:15AM Rally Day Program

“Science is Grand”

by Ken Kroah

Plus, hands-on science stations

*And, a Wrap-up of our
“Read the Bible in a Year” challenge*

The Summer Reading Program is in Full Swing!



New Books Added!

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.

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



Rev. Stephen Swisher

will be featured on

AM Kevin Club

show with host Kevin Shorey.

Streaming live

September 18 at 11AM CST

on Apple Podcasts and YouTube at *AM Kevin Club*



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



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

Church Members Homebound and Nursing

Facility Residents: Bonita Farmer, Patricia
Gilbert, Paula Hatfield, Rosalie Johnson, Faith
Kelly, Dolores McDonald, Esther Gillham, Helen
McGaughy, Mary Lou Hostetler, Molly Sheets,
Debi Snow

We Appreciate Those Serving Today!

Liturgist:

Jeff Conner

Cantor:

10:30 a.m. April Kinser

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: Julie Kroah/Ken Kroah

THIS WEEK AT GLANCE



Sunday: August 16, 2026

8:00 am Outdoor Drive-In Service

10:30 am Sanctuary Service

10:30 am Cradle Roll

Wednesday:

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

Sunday: August 23, 2026

8:00 am Outdoor Drive-In Service

10:30 am Sanctuary Service

10:30 am Cradle Roll

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 9, 2026

8:00 a.m. - 25 10:30 a.m. - 36

Sunday, August 9 Live Stream Views - 222

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

	<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

