



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

www.stjohnsnewark.org

Our Church Staff

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Emmaleigh Crowthers

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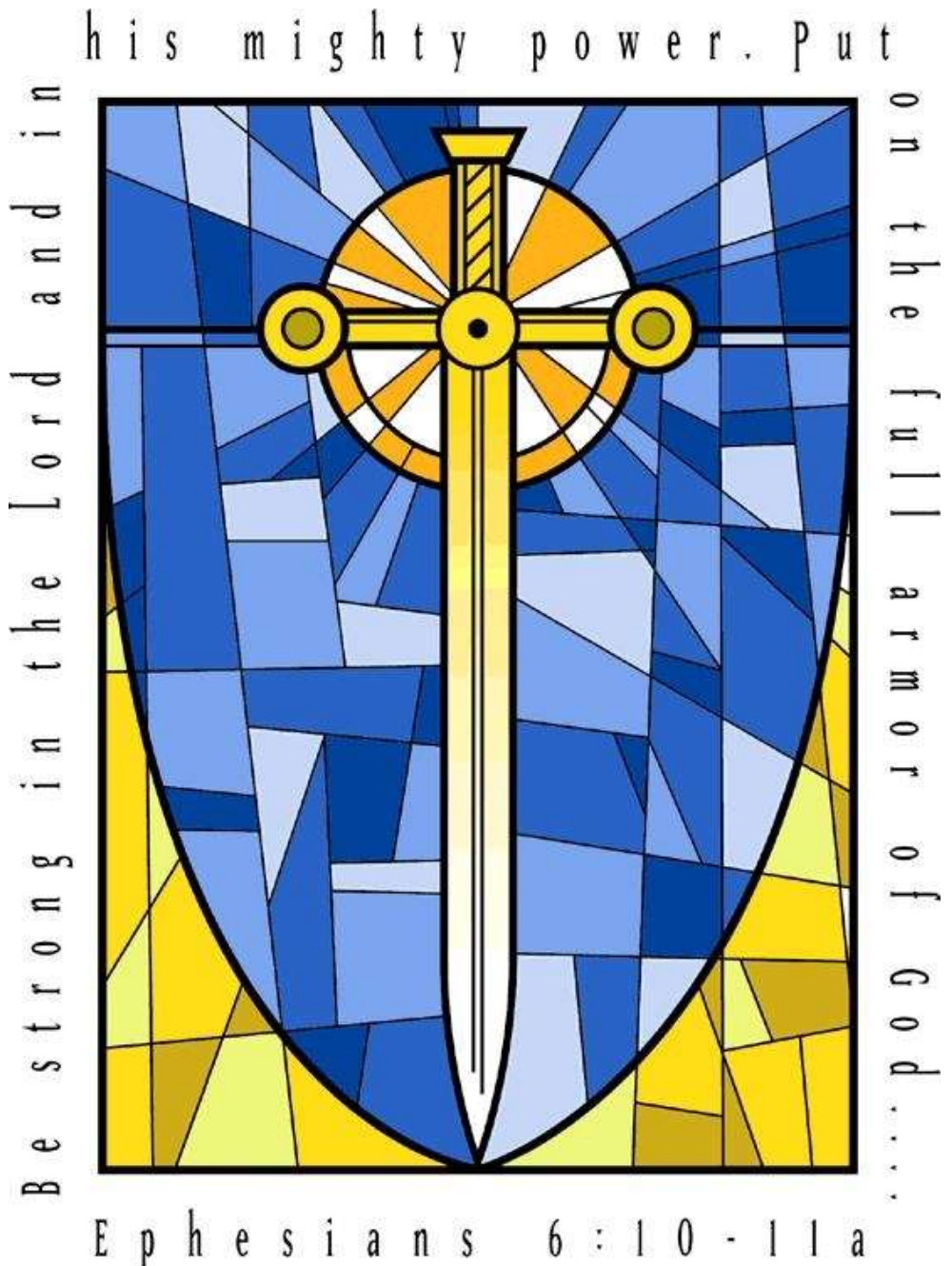
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Rooted in the Evangelical

and Reformed Traditions

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

So We May All Be One



August 23, 2026
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Outdoor Drive-in Service: 8:00 a.m.
Sanctuary Service: 10:30 a.m.

August 23, 2026

Tune your FM Radio to 107.5

8:00 am

Sanctuary Service

10:30 am

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Announcements & Greetings

Prelude “Meekness and Majesty” Kendrick Todd Baldosser

***Opening Hymn** “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” No. 16
(8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 3)

- 1) Come, thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of thy redeeming love.
- 2) Here I raise to thee an altar; hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.
- 3) O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee:
prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

***Call to Worship**

Leader: We come this morning to give thanks to God, who has been, is now and
always will be on our side

**All: When life is tough, God is with us. When life is filled with joy, God
is with us**

Leader: When challenges surround us and floods threaten to carry us away

All: God reaches out and preserves our lives

Leader: So let us lift our hearts and voices and rejoice together

**All: For our help is in the Name of the Lord, who made Heaven and
earth**

***Prayer of Invocation**

**All: In confidence we lift our hearts to You, Loving Lord. We are
grateful for the witness of Scripture, the assurance from history
and the experience of faith in our daily lives. You do not give up on
us. We give you thanks for the knowledge that our help is in Your
Name as we pray the words of encouragement You created; ...**

***Please stand if you are able**

****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 Apostles' Creed (*Traditional Version*)**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the universal Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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

Crystal City Chorus

Scripture Reading

Psalm 20:1-4

Jeff Conner

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 6:10

Sermon

“Decide to Think Positively”

Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

(8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 4) **No. 546**

- ### *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 “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken” Traditional Todd Baldosser

Pastor Steve's Quote of the Week

“Failure is not falling down it is refusing to get back up.”

Rev. Dr. Robert H. Schuller

Dr. Swisher's message next week:

Sunday, August 30, 2026

“Believe in God's Presence”

Psalm 8:1-4

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 Thursday, August 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.



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.

The Summer Reading Program is in Full Swing!

St. John's Library
Summer



Reading Program

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!

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.

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

Reading List for —August 23—August 29 (Days 351-357)

Sunday—Hebrews 10-13

Thursday—2 Peter 1-3

Monday—James 1-3

Friday—1 John 1-3

Tuesday—James 4-5

Saturday—1 John 4-5

Wednesday—1 Peter 1-5



Positive Living Podcast

Hosted by

Rev. Dr. Stephen L. Swisher

St. John's UCC Senior Pastor

Entertainer and Inspirational Speaker

Clint Holmes and Kelly Clinton Holmes

are Pastor Steve's interview guests this week on
the Positive Living Podcast.

Mr. Holmes known for "Playground in My Mind" and Kelly
Clinton Holmes currently headlines in Las Vegas.



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*



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



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. Todd Baldosser

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: Karson Ewing/Tom Lawyer



Sunday: August 23, 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 30, 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 16, 2026

8:00 a.m. - 23 10:30 a.m. - 34

Sunday, August 16 Live Stream Views - 141

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

