



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

Main: 740-323-2407

Church Website

www.stjohnsnewark.org

Our Church Staff

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

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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 2, 2026
Communion Sunday
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
Outdoor Drive-in Service: 8:00 a.m.
Sanctuary Service: 10:30 a.m.

August 2, 2026

Tune your FM Radio to 107.5

8:00 am

Sanctuary Service

10:30 am

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Announcements & Greetings

Prelude

“Table of Plenty” Schutte

Todd Baldosser

***Opening Hymn**

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!”

No. 91

(8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 5)

- 1) **All Hail the power of Jesus’ name! Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all;
bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all.**
- 2) **Ye seed of Israel’s chosen race, ye ransomed of the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all;
hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all.**
- 5) **O that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall!
We’ll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all;
we’ll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all.**

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Let us Worship the Lord, our God

All: For there is One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism

Leader: We come to Worship with joy and hope

All: Let us Celebrate the God who desires our hearts

Leader: We bring our whole selves in Worship to our God

All: Let us lay aside all that distracts us

Leader: As we Worship the One who calls us together

**All: We are here to Worship with all that we are and all that we will
become**

***Prayer of Invocation**

**All: Dear God, life sustainer, dream originator, hope instilled, We
receive all of the good things you offer us this day and every new
day. Grant us wisdom to be open to Your Word and help us use its
teachings to build our faith, energize our bodies and empower our
spirits as we pray the words of power You taught our
ancestors...**

***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.**

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

“Chatter With the Angels” Schram

St. John's Choir

Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 9:20-25

Jeff Conner

Scripture Reading

Philippians 3:13-14

Sermon

“Staying Focused on Your Goal”

Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

Hymn

“Break Thou the Bread of Life”

No. 321

(8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 3)

- 1) Break thou the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
as thou didst break the loaves beside the sea;
beyond the sacred page I seek thee, Lord,
my spirit pants for thee, O living Word.**
- 2) Bless thou the truth, dear Lord, to me, to me,
as thou didst bless the bread by Galilee;
then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall;
and I shall find my peace, my all in all.**
- 3) O send thy Spirit, Lord, now unto me;
touch thou my longing eyes that I may see;
give me to eat and live with thee above;
teach me to love thy truth, for thou art in love.**

Service of Holy Communion

Prayer of Confession

All: Everlasting God of grace and glory we confess we have not always lived as Your people. Who strive to do so and do our best but often our efforts are left wanting. We serve many masters but find no hope in them. Forgive us and heal our brokenness. Make us well, so that by our healing, we might be the hope and love others need in their lives, even as Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, brought these gifts to us, calling us to be faithful with the grace, peace and joy entrusted to us.

Assurance of Pardon

Pastor: God is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. We are God's beloved children, we choose to receive and then to model God's grace and love in our hearts. Thanks be to God, we are cleansed, refreshed and forgiven.

Serving of the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation

Invitation for Faithful Giving

Offertory "Come to the Water" Foley Todd Baldosser

***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: God of compassion and author of second chances, All that we are and all that we have comes from Your inexhaustible abundance. May these tithes and offerings that come directly from our hearts become real help, food for the hungry, comfort for the lost, inspiration for those struggling to hold on. Use these tangible gifts to make the broken world whole again and share Your steadfast love across the street, around the corner and throughout the world. In Jesus' Name. Amen

- 1) To God be the glory, great things he hath done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Refrain

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory, great things he hath done!*

- 2) O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to every believe the promise of God,
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Refrain

- 3) Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,
and great our rejoicing thru Jesus the Son;
but purer, and higher, and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

Refrain

***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

“I Come With Joy” Webb/Wren

Todd Baldosser

Pastor Steve's Quote of the Week

“Change your thoughts and you change your world.”

Rev. Dr. Norman Vincent Peale

Dr. Swisher's message next week:

Sunday, August 9, 2026

“Rooted Together”

Colossians 2:6-7

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!



In memory of Don Boldt

In memory of Spencer and Sally Penrose by Bill and Nancy McInturf

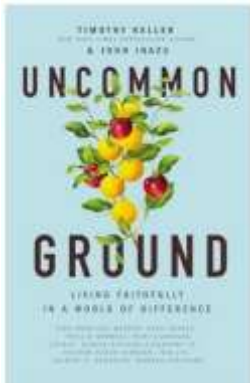
St. John's Little Free Pantry

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.



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.

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.



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

*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.

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 2—August 8 (Days 330-336)

Sunday—1 Corinthians 13-16

Thursday—2 Corinthians 10-13

Monday— 2 Corinthians 1-3

Friday—Galatians 1-3

Tuesday—2 Corinthians 4-6

Saturday—Galatians 4-6

Wednesday—2 Corinthians 7-9

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!

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*



General Prayers: Charlie Bruah,
Rev. Dr. Winfield Strout, Eli Taylor, Carl
Kochendorfer, Trisha Boehmer, Delores Williams,
Dolores McDonald & family, and Mike McCreary
& family

Church Members Homebound and Nursing

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

We Appreciate Those Serving Today!

Liturgist:

Jeff Conner

Cantor:

10:30 a.m. Julie Davis

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: Ken Kroah/Julie Kroah



Sunday: August 2, 2026

Communion Sunday

8:00 am Outdoor Drive-In Service

10:30 am Sanctuary Service

10:30 am Cradle Roll

Wednesday:

1:00 pm Afternoon Circle Meeting

6:00 pm Mission & Outreach

Committee Meeting

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 9, 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, July 26 2026

8:00 a.m. - 25 10:30 a.m. - 38

Sunday, July 26 Live Stream Views - 213

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 (Incomplete)	July	Year to date
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	23,080.37	173,577.93
General Fund Expenses	23,581.45	178,931.95
Over/Under Month & YTD	(\$ 501.08)	(\$5,354.02) () = Negative

