

Welcome Home!

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



The 2026 July Chimes

United Church of Christ



Prayer List

General Prayers: Charlie Bruah, Rev. Dr. Winfield Strout, Eli Taylor, Carl Kochendorfer, Trisha Boehmer, Delores Williams & the family of Lois Ann Meyers

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

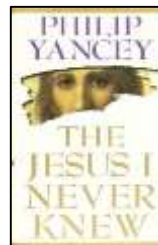
Please contact Rev. Swisher if you know of any sick or hospitalized members. Remember, if you want someone on the Bea's Blessings prayer chain, you can email the office at stjohnsunited@windstream.net



Lois Ann Meyers
Born: January 12, 1933
Died: June 15, 2026

A member of St. John's since 1969

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!



The book study group will meet each Thursday this month, July 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30th at 11am at the River Road Coffee House on the square in downtown Newark. We will be finishing our discussion of the book by Phillip Yancy, "The Jesus I Never Knew. Come join our fellowship and discussion.

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/>

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.



From the Pastor

We are living in historic times. I know I don't have to remind you of that. I'm just highlighting it so it is at the forefront of our minds. Many of us lived through the Bicentennial of our Nation. Now we have the opportunity to see the Semi-quin-centennial. Our children will get to see the Tri-centennial!!!

What an extraordinary time to be alive and to be people of faith. The 4th of July has always been one of my favorite holidays right behind Easter and Christmas. Although not a specifically Christian holiday like the other two, it does have strong Christian roots. America was founded by people of Faith who wanted to create a place where all people could be free to believe and practice those beliefs without persecution or fear.

As a result of the American Revolution, the 13 colonies emerged as a newly Independent Nation--the United States of America. The Second Continental Congress agreed to the Lee Resolution on July 2, 1776, which formally created a new Nation and then issued the Declaration of Independence on July 4th.

In 1776 Christian Influence in America was pervasive on almost every level. Christianity provided the moral framework, local community infrastructure and political language that helped shape the American Revolution and the soon to be new Nation. Congregationalist Churches like our own were dominant in many of the Colonies. Pastors wielded immense influence using sermons to frame the cause of freedom not just as political or economic but fundamentally a spiritual pursuit.

Leaders such as Thomas Paine, George Washington, Patrick Henry and Alexander Hamilton effectively utilized evangelical language and Biblical references to rally colonies to action against tyranny and unfair, ungodly practices.

We are descendants of these Patriots and Freedom Fighters of Faith. As such, we are beginning Independence Week with an America 250 Celebration for our entire Central Ohio region. Nationally known musical guests from Branson and Nashville as well as gifted performers from our community will gather in our Sanctuary to honor God with a festival of faith, family and freedom.

Plan to be with us at 6:00pm on June 28, 2026, in the main Sanctuary of St. John's UCC. Afterwards we will enjoy an old fashioned Ice Cream social provided by our friends at Velvet Ice Cream.

Let's make this such a BIG event that when our loved ones gather for the 300th Birthday of America they will remember it with great fondness and pride. Invite friends and family. I look forward to seeing you there.

May God Bless you and may God continue to Bless America--the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave.

Pastor Steve



AFTERNOON CIRCLE -

*will meet for a 4th of July picnic on Wednesday, July 1, 12 o'clock noon, in the Large Meeting Room of the Church. **"Baseball, Hot Dogs, Apple Pie, THE USA!"** is the theme for the day! We'll be eating the all-American hot dog and apple pie for lunch, enjoy a rousing baseball game of American history trivia, and sing a few patriotic songs. As always, all women of the St. John's Church family are invited to attend. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Room for parts of the meal you can bring. Please RSVP to Bev Lange by Sunday, June 28.*



President's Message - Tim Powers

Hello St. John's, I hope that your summer is productive and filled with family activities. St. John's continues to be active in our ministry both inside our walls and in the community at large. As Reverend Swisher has said, we want St. John's to be the most important thing happening in Newark, Ohio on Sunday mornings!

Last Sunday we had a congregational meeting to embark on a major project which will enhance our building in truly measurable ways. We, as a congregation, voted to replace the existing elevator which has served us well for many years. The existing elevator, while it meets the building codes required when it was built, simply does not meet the needs of our members and guests. The new elevator will truly enhance our building, activities we support and Sunday Worship. Thank you to Brian Lensink and Frank Davis for leading this important project.

We will celebrate our Nation's 250th birthday with evangelist and singer/songwriter Kevin Shorey and his wife Cindy (Mel Tillis' daughter), grammy-nominated and country music legend Barbara Fairchild, along with our local Crystal City Chorus in our church. An Ice Cream Social, courtesy of Velvet Ice Cream, will follow with fellowship and celebration. These activities continue to provide outreach to our community.

Our Social Media Ministry is beginning to become a large part of our overall ministry. Our services stream live on Facebook and then are uploaded to YouTube for viewing at a later time. We are currently averaging over 100 people per week. We have been doing a good job of keeping this ministry relevant and timely; but as this ministry continues to grow, I felt it was time to look at both our service and our ability to optimize our media broadcasts. Technology continues to evolve, and I believe it is prudent to keep our Worship service and the technology that supports, up to date. Jeff Connor, Chairman of the Church and Ministry Committee, will co-chair a special committee to evaluate all of these topics. We will be asking for volunteers to sit on this committee. I hope to keep the committee to 7 or 8 members. We will dissolve the committee once its objectives are met. There will be more to come as we begin this new effort.



Notes from Church Council Meeting June 15, 2026 at 6:30pm

Attending: Tim Powers, Ken Kroah, Terry Gano, Frances Hill, Gary Kinser, April Kinser, Brian Lensink, Jeff Conner and Office Administrator Anita Chirdon and Office Assistant Kim Workman

The devotional message was provided by B. Lensink who spoke about the Bible, and its meaning for him as he shared his personal faith in Jesus Christ. Although we may have questions about the Bible and appreciate it differently, the essential part is putting the message of Christ into action. Sharing unconditional love, spreading forgiveness, focusing on a personal relationship with God, and serving others are traits to exhibit in our lives as we seek to follow the example of Christ

Treasurer's report: Finances through the end of May reflect income of \$127,788.89 and expenses of \$128,808.63 for a deficit of \$1019.74. Also on June 14, 2026, at a special meeting, the congregation approved to withdraw \$340,000 from the interest-earning portion of the Foundation Fund to pay for a new elevator and associated construction costs. An additional \$15,000 was approved to cover unforeseen costs. Treasurer B. Lensink reported he had inadvertently left out of the estimate the original contractor fee but felt that funds had enough cushion to go forward with the project. Motion to accept the Treasurer's report by J. Conner with 2nd by K. Kroah. Motion approved. These funds will need to be replaced to the Foundation Fund, and B. Lensink will post a visual to track this.

Media ministry: There was a problem on June 14 that no audio went out with video. The problem has been rectified.

The America 250 Gospel and Patriotic Concert was discussed. Velvet Ice Cream will be donating ice cream. Council members will be serving as volunteer scoopers for the ice cream. A love offering will be taken and shared between the FPN of Licking County and Bibles For The World which supplies language appropriate Bibles for countries where Bibles are limited like India, SE Asian countries and part of Africa.

Many cards had been collected for "Audrey" at Big Creek Mission who will celebrate her 80th birthday and were to be mailed after the council meeting. Thanks to the congregation.

Reverend Swisher was unable to attend the meeting but reported that the care facility worship services are going well with an average attendance of about 40.

Christian Education Committee has purchased new books for the library in honor of the summer reading program. Also, they plan on updating the Prayer Walk this summer.

Mission and Outreach: The Cloud of Witnesses Memorial Scholarship at CTEC Adult Education Program has been awarded to three young women. All three hope to become nurses one day, and one is enrolled in the medical assistant program and two in the phlebotomy program. This scholarship program is an outreach for the church and is funded by church members and does not involve church finances in any way.

Council approved a Foundation Fund setup request for C. David Carpenter submitted by his family.

The meeting ended with all present joining hands and saying The Lord's Prayer together.

Respectfully submitted

April Kinser, Secretary Tim Powers, President

The next Council meeting will be on July 20, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. All members of St. John's are always welcome to attend.

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 4) by Melissa Kruger

Provide Revival, Wisdom & Joy

Are you weary? Unsure of what to do? In need of wisdom in some area? Just take a moment to read the promises found in Psalm 19:7-11:

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; Revival, joy, and wisdom: these are the jewels we uncover as we mine the riches of God's Word.

Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

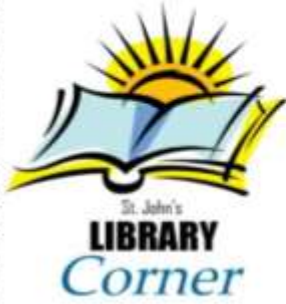
We are in weeks 44 to 47 of Reading the Bible Together

We get started in the book of Luke, finish the Gospels. After that, we get to read about the early church in Acts, Romans. Then, we just start into 1 Corinthians and Paul's writings to the church in Corinth.

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.

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.

stayCONNECTED

St. John's has many ways for you to stay up to date and connected with all the events and happenings.

To add to or change your current requests, fill out the information below and drop it in the offering plate.

- _____ Sunday Preview: Email of the Sunday bulletin and special events.
- _____ Bea's Blessings: Emailed Prayer Circle including a wider network of requests.
- _____ One Call Now: A phone call for cancelations and special announcements.
- _____ The Chimes newsletter delivered by mail.
- _____ The Chimes newsletter delivered electronically by email.

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____



SEE ALSO



www.stjohnsnewark.org

Finances for the Month and Year to Date

<u>General Fund Income</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Year to date</u>
Congregation giving (Faith Promise)	8,754.04	46,935.37
Income from Foundation Fund	11,500.00	57,500.00
Monthly Income from Emerson Miller Fund	3,758.33	18,791.65
Month & YTD Total Income	24,473.52	127,788.89
General Fund Expenses	26,997.44	128,808.63
Over/Under Month & YTD	(\$ 2,523.92)	(\$ 1,019.74)

() = Negative





Read the Bible in a Year: Our Journey Together. We're starting *month 11* of our year-long journey together. We plan to finish and celebrate on Rally Day, September 13. Be sure to mark your calendar and join us for the celebration of a great year and a kick off to new and exciting things to come in the church school year.

VBS is happening at the time of The Chimes publication. Students are learning about Acts 1 and the adventures of the early church. Our Mission this year is The Licking County Jail Ministry. We are learning through Bible stories, STEM, games, snacks, music and FUN!



Sunday School Classes

Adult class – Break for summer

Youth Class – – Break for summer

Bible Discovery Zone – – Break for summer

Cradle Roll – Available during the 10:30AM service



July Worship Service Duties

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

Cradle Roll
5 Volunteer
12 Volunteer
19 Volunteer
26 Volunteer

Cantors
5 Charles Dudley
12 April Kinser
19 Todd Baldosser
26 Diane Reef

**Sunday Sound
Worship Team**
5 Ken Kroah
12 Karson Ewing
19 Ken Kroah
26 Karson Ewing

**Sunday Video
Worship Team**
5 Julie Kroah
12 Tom Lawyer
19 Julie Kroah
26 Tom Lawyer





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>28</p> <p>8:00am Outdoor Drive-in Service 10:30am Sanctuary Service - Kevin Shorey Preview 6:00pm Patriotic and Gospel Concert featuring Kevin Shorey followed by an Ice Cream Social</p>	29	30	<p>1</p> <p>1:00pm The Afternoon Circle of the Women's Guild Meeting 6:00pm Mission & Outreach Committee Meeting 6:00pm Private Use-Chorus Practice</p>	<p>2</p> <p>11:00am Thursday Book Study, THE JESUS I NEVER KNEW by Phillip Yancey at River Road Coffee on the Square</p>	3	<p>4</p> <p>Independence Day</p>
<p>5</p> <p>8:00am Outdoor Drive-in Service</p>	6	7	<p>8</p> <p>10:00am Christian Education Meeting 6:00pm Private Use-Chorus Practice</p>	<p>9</p> <p>11:00am Thursday Book Study, THE JESUS I NEVER KNEW by Phillip Yancey at River Road Coffee on the Square</p>	10	11
<p>12</p> <p>8:00am Outdoor Drive-in Service</p>	13	<p>14</p> <p>7:00pm Finance & Stewardship Meeting</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:00pm Private Use-Chorus Practice</p>	<p>16</p> <p>11:00am Thursday Book Study, THE JESUS I NEVER KNEW by Phillip Yancey at River Road Coffee on the Square</p>	<p>17</p> <p>2:00pm Music Committee Meeting</p>	<p>18</p> <p>July 18, 1841 St. John's Anniversary</p>
<p>19</p> <p>8:00am Outdoor Drive-in Service</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:30pm Church Council Meeting</p>	21	<p>22</p> <p>6:00pm Private Use-Chorus Practice</p>	<p>23</p> <p>11:00am Thursday Book Study, THE JESUS I NEVER KNEW by Phillip Yancey at River Road Coffee on the Square</p>	24	25
<p>26</p> <p>Lammers Memorial Sunday 8:00am Outdoor Drive-in Service</p>	27	28	<p>29</p> <p>6:00pm Private Use-Chorus Practice</p>	<p>30</p> <p>11:00am Thursday Book Study, THE JESUS I NEVER KNEW by Phillip Yancey at River Road Coffee on the Square</p>	31	1



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*

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Worship Services!

8:00 a.m. Chapel Service
 10:30 a.m. – Sanctuary Service
 Volume 26 Number 7

Address Service Requested



<p>Main Office Phone 740-323-2407 www.stjohnsnewark.org</p>	<p>Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher Our Minister Office 740-323-2854 stjohns.pastorstephen@gmail.com</p>	<p>Todd Baldosser Organist/Choir Director scarlatti35@hotmail.com</p>
<p>Anita Chiridon/Office Administrator Kim Workman/Office Assistant stjohnsunited@windstream.net</p>	<p>Mike Dooley Church Sexton 740-398-5863</p>	<p>Julie Kroah Christian Education Director Direct Number 740-323-2408 stjohnsucc.ce@windstream.net</p>



September 13, 2026

Mark your calendar and plan to join us for
 Rally Day.

A celebration of completing reading the Bible
 together in a year, plus learning of new classes starting and all
 the excitement of a new Sunday school year!