

Welcome Home!

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



The 2026 June 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 C. David Carpenter

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, Lois Meyers & 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!

To Our Friends at St. John's:
We are so grateful for your continued support of Fostering Further. Your generosity over the years has made a meaningful difference in the lives of many of the individuals and families we serve. We are especially grateful for the recent donation of graduation cards and gift cards as we celebrate 50 grads this year! Your kindness helps us recognize their achievements in a tangible and meaningful way. With much appreciation,
Shelby Conley, Executive Director

Thank you for the kind words and cards. Daddy is singing with the angels and playing his trumpet loud and clear.
You brighten my life. Thank you!
Wendy Millett & Brice Millett

In Loving Memory

C. David Carpenter

Born: July 17, 1935

Died: May 19, 2026

A member of St. John's since 1962

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

June is often called the Gateway to Summer. Just thinking about it brings images of blue skies, bright sunshine, glistening swimming pools, outdoor barbecues with smells of hamburgers and hot dogs sizzling on the grill. These thoughts can bring peaceful, rejuvenating images to our brains and rest to our hearts.

Sports commentator Al Bernstein put it this way, "Knowing Spring would be a hard act to follow, God created June." I like that idea, don't you?

We have a lot to look forward to at our Church in June including our Youth Mission team ministry report, Celebrating Father's Day and a special Patriotic Concert featuring Gospel Recording Artist and TV host Kevin Shorey, leading up to the 250th Anniversary of our Nation.

In addition, we have begun two additional Sunday worship services two times a month. The 2nd Sunday we are at the Embassy of Winchester in Canal Winchester and the 4th Sunday we are at Laurels of Walden Park in Columbus both at 2pm.

Summer promises to be an exciting and renewing time for each of us as we serve God, our greater community and one another.

The 90- year old Theologian Janet Chittister said, "June is the time for being in the world in a new way. Throwing off the cold and dark spots of life."

Join me in trying on a new way of being this Summer, reconnecting and recommitting to all God is doing in and through us.

May God richly bless you as this new season unfolds.

I'll see you soon in Church and around the community.

Your friend,

Pastor Steve

Congregational Meeting - June 14, 2026

The purpose of this Congregational Meeting is to vote on funds, (finalized numbers and scope will be available in the June 7 & June 14 bulletins) to support engineering and installation of a new elevator, to be held in the sanctuary directly after the 10:30AM Service. Church Council is calling a congregational vote to request that the congregation authorize expenditures and enter into a contract for the construction and installation of a new elevator. Our existing elevator does not meet the needs of our congregation. While the elevator meets local codes, the double gate system is outdated. This has caused issues with our members during operation. This has been a meeting topic for Council for some time, and we feel this is the best time to pursue this upgrade to our Church Facilities. Brian Lensink will present a budget and options that were investigated.



Notes from Church Council Meeting of May 18, 2026 at St. John's UCC

Attending: Tim Powers, Ken Kroah, Julie Davis, Terry Gano, Greg Crowthers, Gary Kinser, April Kinser, Jeff Conner, Brian Lensink, Reverend Stephen Swisher, Kim Workman, Office Assistant.

Meeting was called to order by President T. Powers. Greg Crowthers provided the devotional message for the meeting based on Matthew 7: 13-20 and Second Corinthians 11: 13-14. The scriptures he shared with us point out the narrow or the wide gate that we can choose and to be aware of false prophets who are really wolves in sheep's clothing but will be known by their fruits as the Bible states in Matthew 7:16.

Treasurer report provided by B. Lensink. As of the end of April, income (rounded) was \$103,300 with expenses (rounded) of \$101,800 which meant we are "in the black" about \$1500 (rounded). He pointed out how different this was from last year and expressed thanks to the congregation and those present.

Committee reports: Christian Education will be going on the Mission trip to Kentucky from 5/31 to 6/6 with sixteen participants (youth and adult). Vacation Bible School will be from 6/22 to 6/26 with the topic of Adventure Through Acts Volume 1. Snack donations are appreciated as well as volunteers. Youth will be engaged in local mission outreach this summer as well as participating in a summer reading program.

Music committee: on May 17, twenty-six people were recognized for their volunteer service to the music program at St John's for the past year.

Mission and Outreach: May 17, 2026, was designated as Mental Health Sunday within the UCC and positive message scripture cards were provided to the congregation as a way to share the awareness slogan of Mental Health America, "More Good Days—Together". Mission Outreach in May centered on mental health needs locally and for veteran population.

Evangelism and Outreach: Many more people are watching online now.

Minister's report: Rev. Swisher will be going to nursing homes to provide worship service on Sunday afternoons. The Laurels at Walden Park in Columbus will be the last Sunday of each month. Also, Embassy at Winchester in Canal Winchester the 2nd Sunday of the month. Keep the date of Friday, October 2, 2026, at 7pm open. Rev. Steve is planning a special Night of Inspiration for St John's and the Newark area with a special guest anticipated. Rev. Swisher will be taking some vacation in June with Rev. Walker covering for June 7, 2026. Also on June 28, 2026, in the evening hopes to have a special gospel and patriotic concert with special guest Kevin Shorey. Memorial services for Don Boldt on 5/23 and Sally Penrose on 5/31, 2026, both long-time members of the congregation and church choir.

Home repair ministry: K. Kroah reports several clients have requested his services

Old Business: B. Lensink discussed the need to start ASAP on needed elevator replacement due to the length of time involved for the project and not wanting to work in winter weather. He provided a preliminary draft for proposal. Council felt we need a complete proposal to take to the congregation ASAP. Also that we need to have a congregational meeting to vote on the proposal. G. Crowthers made a motion, with 2nd by J. Conner that we get a full proposal immediately to forward to a congregational meeting to be held for a vote on the proposal. Messaging will go out to notify the congregation as per our Church Constitution. Motion was approved. Also, sealing and stripping the parking lot has been approved and will take place sometime in the fall. Phillips Restoration has been approved to start stone restoration on the bell tower.

The meeting ended as all stood, joined hands and said the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
April Kinser, Secretary Tim Powers, President

The next Council meeting will be on June 15, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. All members of St. John's are always welcome to attend.

The Afternoon Circle

will meet on Wednesday, June 3, at 1:00 p.m. in the Large Meeting Room of the church. Hostesses will be Sandy Hummel and April Kinser. Since June is traditionally the month of brides, all are asked to bring their wedding pictures, pictures of parent's, grandparent's or children's weddings, as well. Our program will be "Chosen and Cherished; The Bride of Christ."

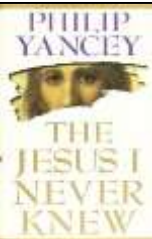
Our 154th Anniversary last month was a fun meeting, looking back at the ways our Circle has been of service to our church and our community. And, our salad smorgasbord was delicious - our ladies are awesome cooks!

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/>



The book study group continues to meet each Thursday at the River Road Coffee House on the north side of the square in downtown Newark. We will get together at 11am on June 4, 11, 18, and 25 to enjoy food, fellowship and learning together as we discuss "The Jesus I Never Knew" by Phillip Yancey. The book is available online. Come join us, we'll have a place at the table for you.

Finances for the Month and Year to Date

<u>General Fund Income - Incomplete</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Congregation giving (Faith Promise)	3,999.00	42,180.33
Income from Foundation Fund	11,500.00	57,500.00
Monthly Income from Emerson Miller Fund	3,758.33	18,791.65
Month & YTD Income	19,534.33	122,849.70
General Fund Expenses (estimated)	25,052.73	126,863.92
<u>& YTD - Incomplete</u>	(\$ 5,518.40)	(4,014.22)



Over/Under Month
() = Negative



GRADUATION SUNDAY was on May 17, 2026

Congratulations!

High School Graduates

Aidan Riley Blaney – Graduating from Northridge High School
Degree – Diploma

Parent and sibling: Andrea Blaney and Alisha Blaney-Sines
Aidan is still deciding his future

Mom and sister are SO very proud of him and all that he's accomplished.

Carter Hahn – Graduating from Newark Catholic High School
Degree – Diploma

Parents: Chris and Leslie Hahn

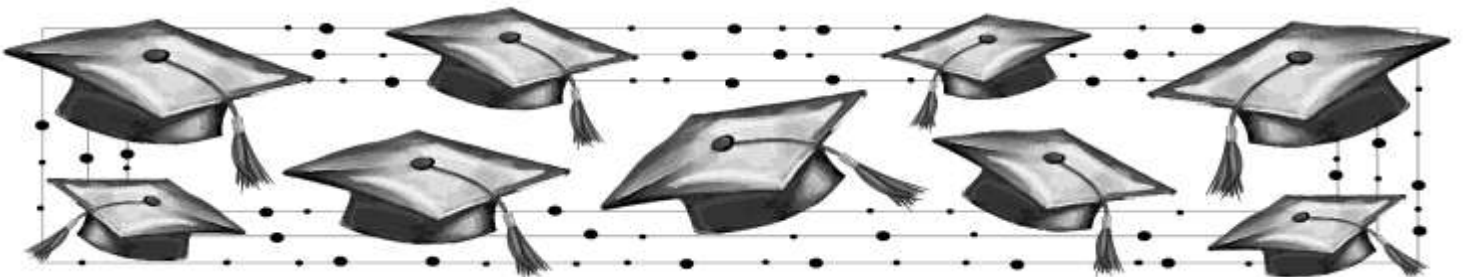
Carter will be attending Ohio Wesleyan University majoring in Business
and will be a member of the Ohio Wesleyan University Men's Golf Team

Casey Jacob Swartz – Graduating from Utica High School
Degree – Diploma

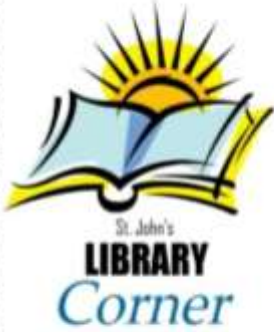
Mother: Brandy Swartz

Grandmother: Rebecca Swartz

Casey plans on welding in the future



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.

Please fill out the Stay Connected form below to add your name to continue to receive Bea's Blessings! if you are not already on the list. This prayer list is for prayer concerns for anyone, like friends, neighbors, etc.

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





Save the Date! VBS is June 22 – 26. Our theme is Adventure Through Acts 1. Come along as we trace the exciting, explosive spread of the Gospel during the early days of the church! Ages Pre-K through 6th grade welcome for stories, crafts, STEM, games and snacks.



The Youth will have a few special mission events, a car wash and a fun day planned, dates TBD.



Read the Bible in a Year: Our Journey Together. We're starting *month 10* of our year-long journey together. We plan to finish and celebrate on Rally Day in September

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



June Worship Service Duties

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

Cradle Roll

7 Volunteer
14 Volunteer
17 Volunteer
21 Volunteer
28 Volunteer

Cantors

7 April Kinser
14 Todd Baldosser
21 Diane Reef
28 Julie Davis

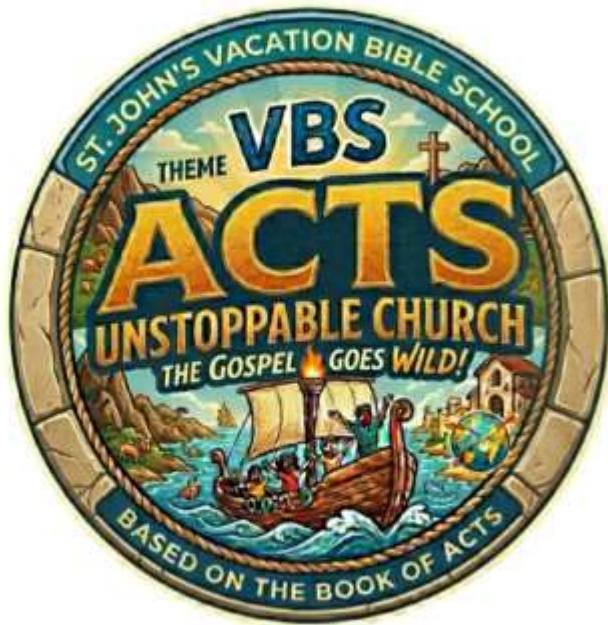
**Sunday Sound
Worship Team**

7 Ken Kroah
14 Karson Ewing
21 Ken Kroah
28 Karson Ewing

**Sunday Video
Worship Team**

7 Julie Kroah
14 Tom Lawyer
21 Julie Kroah
28 Tom Lawyer

St. John's United Church of Christ



Vacation Bible School

June 22 - 26

9:00AM—11:30-AM

Ages Pre-K through 6th grade

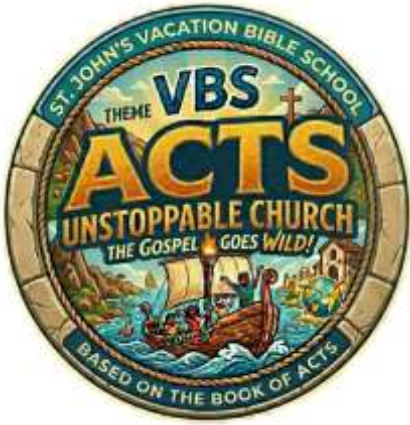
This year we will follow the leaders of the early church through their wild adventures and unbelievable challenges!

Join us for a week filled with Bible stories, crafts, science, games, and FUN!

Donations of vanilla pudding cups, pretzel rods, coco puffs, oyster crackers, fruit roll-ups, goldfish crackers, red and blue Hawaiian punch are appreciated

285 W. National Drive, Newark

740-323-2407 www.stjohnsnewark.org



ST. JOHN'S UCC
285 W. National Dr.
Newark, OH 43055
740-323-2407

Preschool through Sixth Grade
June 22 - 26, 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Child's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____

Home telephone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Home e-mail address: _____

Child's age: _____ Last school grade completed: _____

In case of emergency (when the parent/guardian cannot be reached), please contact:

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Relationship to child: _____

Please list any allergies (including food allergies) the VBS staff should be aware of: _____

Person responsible for picking up this child at the end of each VBS day:

Name: _____ Phone # _____

Signature of parent/guardian: _____

Photographs (Please sign only to disallow photo use)

I Do Not allow photographs and/or video representations of me or my child to be taken for the express purpose of telling stories about the church VBS experience and/ or promoting church activities in the future.

Signature _____ Date _____

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 3) by Melissa Kruger

The word of God is able to: **Help You Fight Temptation**

We all struggle with sin. The Bible offers stories imperfect people: liars, adulterers, murderers, and idolaters. We are told that these stories were written for our benefit: "Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did" ([1 Cor. 10:1-13](#)).

The Bible illuminates our propensity towards sin, as well as prepares us to fight it. The word of God acts as a sword against the attacks of the devil ([Eph. 6:17](#)). The psalmist tells us, "I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you" ([Psalm 119:11](#)). Being in the word on a daily basis strengthens our minds; fortifying and preparing our

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

We are in weeks 39 to 43 of Reading the Bible Together

We get started with Amos chapter 7 and 5 visions he is given by God.

Then on to the other minor prophets through Malachi. The minor prophets will offer messages of God's justice, mercy and restoration.

Then we finally get to move into the New testament and read our way through the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and start on Luke.

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.



Patriotic and Gospel Concert

at St. John's UCC Newark
featuring Kevin Shorey

June 28 at 6:00PM



with a preview at 10:30AM during Sunday morning worship.



Kevin has recorded 12 Studio albums and several of his songs have been featured on Christian radio Top 40 lists. His latest recording, Valley Walker, has become popular across a variety of venues and transcends age.

Kevin's international ministry has taken him across America, Great Britain, Romania, Spain, the Bahamas and Africa.



He has been featured on every major Christian television network including TBN, CTV, CBN, INSP and LeSEA. For ten years he was the Musical Director and Co-host of the Jim Bakker Show and now hosts his own show the AM Kevin Club. He is the founder of Kevin Shorey Ministries, Inc. based in Nashville, Tennessee. Kevin is the son-in-law of Country music legend and Hall of Fame member Mel Tillis and brother-in-law of popular recording artist Pam Tillis.



Kevin has been friends with Pastor Steve Swisher for nearly twenty years. They have appeared on television numerous times together through the years, and Pastor Steve was a recent interview guest on the AM Kevin Club broadcast seen on Light the World Network, Journey Network, Family Friendly TV as well as FB and YouTube.



Continue the celebration at the
Ice Cream Social following the 6PM Concert



St. John's

UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

285 W. National Dr. • 740-323-2407

www.stjohnsnewark.org



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 MISSION TRIP TEAM AT BIG CREEK MISSIONS Trinity Sunday 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 10:30am Bible Discovery Zone Children's Church 10:30am Sanctuary Service	1 MISSION TRIP TEAM AT BIG CREEK MISSIONS	2 MISSION TRIP TEAM AT BIG CREEK MISSIONS	3 MISSION TRIP TEAM AT BIG CREEK MISSIONS 1:00pm The Afternoon Circle of the Women's Guild Meeting 6:00pm Mission & Outreach Committee Meeting 6:00pm Private Use-Chorus Practice	4 MISSION TRIP TEAM AT BIG CREEK MISSIONS	5 MISSION TRIP TEAM AT BIG CREEK MISSIONS	6 MISSION TRIP TEAM AT BIG CREEK MISSIONS
7 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 10:30am Sanctuary Service - Mission Trip Testimonies	8	9 7:00pm Finance & Stewardship Meeting	10 10:00am Christian Education Meeting 6:00pm Private Use-Chorus Practice	11	12 2:00pm Music Committee Meeting	13
14 Flag Day 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 10:30am Sanctuary Service 11:30am Special Congregational Meeting	15 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	16	17 6:00pm Private Use-Chorus Practice	18	19 Juneteenth	20
21 Father's Day First Day of Summer 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 10:30am Sanctuary Service	22 9:00am Vacation Bible School - Adventure Through Acts 1	23 9:00am Vacation Bible School - Adventure Through Acts 1	24 9:00am Vacation Bible School - Adventure Through Acts 1 6:00pm Private Use-Chorus Practice	25 9:00am Vacation Bible School - Adventure Through Acts 1	26 9:00am Vacation Bible School - Adventure Through Acts 1	27 Private Use
28 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	29	30	1 1:00pm The Afternoon Circle of the Women's Guild Meeting 6:00pm Mission & Outreach Committee Meeting 6:00pm Private Use-Chorus Practice	2	3	4 Independence Day



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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 Permit No. 103


Worship Services!

8:00 a.m. Chapel Service
 10:30 a.m. – Sanctuary Service
 Volume 26 Number 6

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 Chirdon/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>



MISSION TRIP FOCUS

On May 31 St. John's Mission Team of 16 people will be headed to Big Creek Missions in Bear Branch, Kentucky, and will return June 6. During the week they will be part of the Construction, Community or Children's Ministries in two of the poorest counties in the country.

At the mission site there is a sign that reads:

"Although we strive to meet the physical needs of our neighbors, our ultimate goal is to see lives changed by the transforming power of Jesus. That is our greatest need!"