

Welcome Home!

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



The 2026 November Chimes

Prayer List

General Prayers: Charlie Bruah, Rev. Dr. Winfield Strout, Eli Taylor, Carl Kochendorfer, Trisha Boehmer, Delores Williams & the family of Phyllis Lawyer and Rachel Ilardi

Homebound and Nursing Facility Residents: Jeanette Morris, Bonita Farmer, Patricia Gilbert, Paula Hatfield, 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 stjohnsunitied@windstream.net

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!

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.



Member Update

Phyllis Lawyer

Born: January 15, 1938

Died: September 28, 2026

A member of St. John's since 1982



Rachel H. Ilardi

Born: December 12, 1949

Died: October 18, 2026

A member of St. John's since 2014



Lydia Elaine Flint

Born: September 26, 2026

Parents: Zach and Meghan(Tulloss) Flint
Grandparents: Dick and Pamela Tulloss



"Thank you for all you do in the life of the church. As we look ahead to 2027, we ask you to consider your faith promise commitment for the new year. Your contributions allow St Johns to continue its work nationally, in the county and right here in our community. Your talents and treasure are the thing that makes St. John's a beacon in the community. Give, and it will be given to you."

From the Pastor

As the autumn leaves fall, we change our clocks and we step into November our thoughts naturally turn toward Thanksgiving. One of my new favorite quotes on this time of year goes like this, "Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more." That seems to express the significance of the holiday we are about to experience.

It is easy to feel rushed by the busy pace of life or overwhelmed by the challenges around us. Yet, the Apostle Paul reminds us in *1 Thessalonians 5:18* to "*give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*"

Gratitude is more than a seasonal tradition—it is a spiritual commitment. When we choose to look for God's faithfulness in both the quiet moments and the storms, our perspective shifts. This month, I encourage you to pause each day and name one specific way God has shown His grace and blessing, favor and provision in your life.

In fact, why not take a moment now to jot down some of the people, opportunities and blessings for which you are most thankful:

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)

Thank you for your continued prayers, partnership, service and love for one another, our ministry team and the entire Central Ohio region. As my family gathers for our Thanksgiving meal, know that each of you will be on my special Thanksgiving list of blessings.

Poet Henry Van Dyke puts it this way, "Gratitude is the inward feeling of kindness received. Thankfulness is the natural impulse to express that feeling. Thanksgiving is the following of that impulse."

Happy and Blessed November, friends.

Pastor Steve





INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
for the PERSECUTED CHURCH

November 1, 2026

More than 388 million (360 million in 2025)
Christians face high levels of persecution and
discrimination for their faith in Jesus.

**WE ENTER THROUGH OUR FRONT DOOR
BECAUSE WE CAN!**

To observe the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church where many have to hide their Christian faith in fear of persecution, we here at St. John's are encouraging everyone to enter through the front door. Enjoy the beauty of the sanctuary as you walk up the front steps while remembering and praying for those who cannot worship in freedom as we can.

AFTERNOON CIRCLE -

- will meet this month on Wednesday, November 4, at 1:00 p.m. in the Large Meeting Room of the education building. Hostesses for the day are Mrs. Vicky Davis and Mrs. Janet Snider. Our Bite Size Bible Study will be on the Widow of Zarephath.

Our program will be the gathering service of our Thank Offering jars, and the decision of where to give the offering this year.

We will also gather and finish assembling our "Thanksgiving Dinner for 2" for distribution through our Little Pantry. Ingredients to include in the bag are:

1 box of turkey stuffing,

1 small packet of mashed potato mix

2 small cans of turkey or chicken

1 can of corn.

1 packet of Pioneer turkey gravy mix
(2 cups)

All ingredients will fit in one-gallon zip-lock bag. We will include instructions for making the meal.

Our business meeting will also include making plans for our December meeting (December 2, 2026).

All women of St. John's are always invited to attend our meetings for food, fellowship and study.

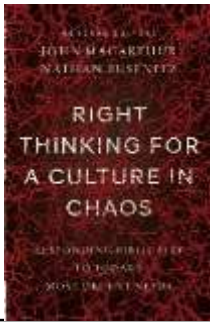


St. John's Little Free Pantry

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 on Thursday, November 5, 12 and 19 at 11am as usual. There will be no meeting on the last Thursday of the month due to the Thanksgiving holiday. We meet at the River Road Coffee House on the north side of the square in downtown Newark. The current book is Right Thinking for a Culture in Chaos, Responding Biblically to Today's Most Urgent Needs by John MacArthur and Nathan Busenitz. Come join the discussion and fellowship.



ELEVATOR FUND

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.

Mission and Outreach for November

As we approach the Thanksgiving season, thankful for the many ways God has blessed us this year, we look for ways to share our blessings with others. One that we did last year was especially appreciated. We would like to continue this year collecting boxes of cereal for the St. Vincent Men's Haven. There will be a collection container in the Fellowship Room for boxes of cereal. All kinds are appreciated. Thanks for giving.



Bible Discovery Zone Sunday Classes 9:00AM

Adult Class



Join us for
Revelation: Hope vs Fear
by Carl Kochendorfer
Led by Carl Kochendorfer
Meet in the large meeting room

Youth Class



Join us for
"The Thread"
By YM360
Led by Elaine Gard
Meet in the small meeting room

Classes at 10:30AM

Bible Discovery Zone Children's Church

Ages 5 - 12: Join us for Bible lessons, crafts and games

Meets in the Bible Discovery Zone classroom

Ages 0—5 Nursery care is available

Christine Caine • Lisa Harper

The Marvel and Miracle of Advent

Recapturing the Wonder of Jesus Living with Us

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Advent Study

Recapturing the Wonder of Jesus Living with Us!
Join us November 29, December 6, 13, 20, 2026,
at 9:00AM in the Large Meeting Room



This Christmas, we will again beautify our sanctuary with an array of Poinsettias, which will be purchased from a local nursery. If you would like to participate in this celebration of Christmas, please fill out the form below or contact the church office.

6.5" pot \$ **12.00/each** 1 plant - 4 to 7 blooms (Red in color)

Please order early. The DEADLINE for placing orders is Sunday, November 29, 2026.

Please pick up plants after the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, December 20, or after the Christmas Eve Services on December 24.

_____ I desire the office to purchase a poinsettia for me to keep.

_____ I desire the office to purchase a poinsettia to be donated to a shut-in.

For Poinsettias and Memorials: Be sure to complete the following to be printed in the bulletin: (i.e.: In honor of or in memory of..... by or from.....)

You may also choose (**please check the box below**) to remember a loved one with a gift to the Abiding Memorial Fund ☐ or the Foundation Fund ☐ (if one is established). All such gifts noted and received **BY DECEMBER 6** will be listed in the bulletin on **Sunday, December 13, Sunday, December 21 and Christmas Eve**. Fill out the information above. Abiding Memorial and Foundation Fund Cards and envelopes are also available in the literature rack in the Narthex or in the office, or mark your envelope with the information.

Thank you!



News from St John's United Church of Christ Church Council Meeting - October 19, 2026

Attending: Chuck Chirdon, Rebecca Swartz, Ken Kroah, Greg Crowthers, Terry Gano, Frances Hill, Gary Kinser, April Kinser, Julie Davis, Jeff Conner and Office Assistant Kim Workman and Mike Dooley.

K. Kroah provided the September Treasurer's Report which showed income of \$220,534.53 and expenses of \$233,943.97 with a resulting net deficit of \$13,409.44.

Communications: A letter has been received asking for changes to the food pantry protocol. A. Kinser will discuss this with Nancy and Bill McInturf and Julie Kroah and will bring forward recommendations at November council meeting.

K. Kroah will be doing snow removal this year.

LifeWise requested to borrow tables for a yearend meeting but the request was declined. R. Swartz indicated she has other providers who may be able to assist them and will contact.

A request from the family for facility use for a birthday party for Alan Crowthers on November 7 and 8, 2026. Motion approved.

Christian Education Committee: Exploring ideas about starting a Young Adult Christian Education Class (for those over 18). Planning is continuing for the German worship service on December 13, 2026, at 3 pm. Cookie donations will be needed as well as usher support. The cost of the mission trip to Kentucky this year will be \$279 per person. They hope to do a spaghetti dinner in February, work with local restaurants such as Chipotle or Panda Express or others for a percentage of meal provided, and have a car wash in the spring to finance the trip. The motion was approved for C. E. to move forward on planning these fundraising events. C.E. committee is also interested in exploring interest in doing the Portrayal and Bethlehem Marketplace in future. Council recommended not both in one year, perhaps Portrayal in 2027 and Marketplace in 2028.

J. Davis will be moving to Texas and will be going off Council at the end of January. This will leave another opening to be filled. (A 2-year unexpired term.) G. Kinser has also decided to go off Council but will continue to check candles, tidy pews after worship and maintain St. John's Little Free Pantry. Also A. Kinser and J. Conner are off Council at end of term this year.

C. Chirdon reports a power wheelchair will be available for use by those who need assistance with transport when the elevator is down. Teardown of elevator to begin the week of October 18, 2026. When in use, the chair and occupant must be accompanied by a walking companion.

Council approved opening a Foundation Fund for Tom and Phyllis Lawyer.

Respectfully submitted,

April Kinser, Secretary

Tim Powers, President

The next Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 16, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

All members of St. John's are always welcome to attend.

St. John's United Church of Christ
Positive Living
 Podcast



Hosted by
Rev. Dr. Stephen L. Swisher
 St. John's UCC Senior Pastor

St. John's
 UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

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Special Guests Include



Shawn Barker
 Johnny Cash
 Tribute Artist



Clint Holmes &
 Kelly Clinton Holmes
 Entertainer
 Inspirational Speaker



Karen Hester
 Dolly Parton
 Tribute Artist



Donna Chafee
 Author of
 "First Great Sorrow:
 My Years with RFK"



Dr. Robert A. &
 Donna Schuller
 Crystal Cathedral
 Ministries



Rev. Adam Hamilton
 Sr. Pastor and Author



Dwight Icenhower
 World Renowned
 Elvis Tribute artist



Justin Ezra Sullivan
 Kenny Rogers
 Tribute artist



E'Casanova Evans
 Official Michael Jackson
 Body Double

Special Guests Include



Steve March-Torme
 Musician/Radio Host
 Son of Mel Torme



Butch Patrick
 Child star Best known
 as Eddie Munster



Brandon Cruz
 Child star Best known
 as Eddie in
 The Courtship of Eddie's Father



Ty Herndon
 Country Music Star
 "What Mattered Most"



James William Anderson III
 Singer, Song writer & TV Host
 Member of the Grand Old Opry



Tom Stevens
 Tony Bennett Tribute Artist



Dion DiMucci
 Of Dion and the Belmonts
 Rock & Roll HOF Inductee



Graham Nash
 of Crosby, Stills & Nash
 and The Hollies



Dion Pride
 Recording artist
 & son of Charley Pride



Keith Thibodeaux
 Child star Best known
 as Little Ricky



Peter Lemongello
 Recording artist
 Known for "Love '76"

Find us on your favorite digital audio and streaming platform



Look for new episodes coming soon!

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Penguins Discover Christmas



December 13, 2026
at the
10:30AM service



NEW!

Adults ages 18 to 30

December 16, 2026 @ 6:30PM

Bring a friend and join
other young adults for our
NEW group.



Finances for the Month and Year to Date

<u>General Fund Income</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Year to date</u>	
Congregation giving (Faith Promise)	6,246.32	76,435.48	
Income from Foundation Fund	11,500.00	103,500.00	
Monthly Income from Emerson Miller Fund	3,758.33	33,824.97	
Month & YTD Total Income	21,998.21	220,534.53	
General Fund Expenses	24,343.40	233,943.97	
Over/Under Month & YTD	(2,345.19)	(13,409.44)	() = Negative





We will be finishing up “Hope vs Fear: Study of Revelation. We will begin two studies in preparation for the start of the Advent study The Marvel and Miracle of Advent by Christine Caine. This class meets at 9:00AM in the Large Meeting Room.

The Youth class meets at 9:00AM in the small meeting room. They are currently studying “The Thread: Tracing the thread of the Gospel through the big-picture story of the Bible.”



Youth Group will meet Sundays, November 8 & 22 following the 10:30AM Service. Future meetings will be on December 13 & 27.

Thank you to everyone who helped make Trunk or Treat a success. Greeting our neighbors, assembling meals, passing out candy and creative costumes all made for a fun afternoon and the weather cooperated too.



On December 13 come and enjoy the Children’s Christmas Program “Penguins Discover Christmas” during the 10:30 am service. Practice will be during the 10:30am Sunday school classes.



Sunday School Classes

Adult class – Sundays at 9:00AM

Youth Class – – Sundays at 9:00AM

Bible Discovery Zone – – Sundays at 10:30AM

Cradle Roll – Available Sunday at 10:30AM service

November

Worship Service Duties

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

Cradle Roll	Bible Discovery Zone	Cantors	Sunday Sound Worship Team	Sunday Video Worship Team
1 Volunteer	1 Brian Lensink/Youth	1 Todd Baldosser	1 Ken Kroah	1 Julie Kroah
8 Volunteer	8 Marla Crowthers/ Emmaleigh Crowthers	11 Diane Reef	8 Karson Ewing	8 Tom Lawyer
15 Volunteer	15 Rebecca Swartz/ Youth	18 Julie Davis	15 Ken Kroah	15 Julie Kroah
25 Volunteer	22 Kayla Hill/Pat Farley	25 Charles Dudley	22 Karson Ewing	22 Tom Lawyer
29 Volunteer	29 Frances Hill/Youth	29 April Kinser	29 Ken Kroah	29 Julie Kroah

NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 All Saints Day Communion Sunday Daylight-Saving Time Ends International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church 8:00am Indoor Chapel Service 9:00am Adult Sunday School Class 9:00am Youth Sunday School Class 10:30am Bible Discovery Zone- Children's Church & Cradle Roll 10:30am Sanctuary Service - Choir Sings	2	3 12:00pm Lifewise Academy	4 1:00pm The Afternoon Circle of the Women's Guild Meeting- Thank Offering Service 6:00pm Mission & Outreach Committee Meeting 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice	5 12:30pm Lifewise Academy	6	7
8 Veteran Day Sunday 8:00am Indoor Chapel Service 9:00am Adult Sunday School Class 9:00am Youth Sunday School Class 10:30am Bible Discovery Zone- Children's Church & Cradle Roll 10:30am Sanctuary Service 11:30am Youth Group Meeting	9	10 12:00pm Lifewise Academy 7:00pm Finance & Stewardship Meeting	11 Veterans Day 10:00am Christian Education Meeting 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice	12 12:30pm Lifewise Academy 7:15pm Choir Practice	13 2:30pm Music Committee Meeting	14
15 8:00am Indoor Chapel Service 9:00am Adult Sunday School Class 9:00am Youth Sunday School Class 10:30am Bible Discovery Zone- Children's Church & Cradle Roll 10:30am Sanctuary Service - Choir Sings	16 6:30pm Church Council Meeting - Budget approved	17 12:00pm Lifewise Academy	18 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice	19 12:30pm Lifewise Academy	20	21
22 8:00am Indoor Chapel Service 9:00am Adult Sunday School Class 9:00am Youth Sunday School Class 10:30am Bible Discovery Zone- Children's Church & Cradle Roll 10:30am Sanctuary Service 11:30am Youth Group Meeting	23	24 12:00pm Lifewise Academy	25 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice	26 Office Closed Thanksgiving Day	27 Office Closed	28
29 First Sunday of Advent 8:00am Indoor Chapel Service 9:00am Adult Sunday School Class 9:00am Youth Sunday School Class 10:30am Bible Discovery Zone- Children's Church & Cradle Roll 10:30am Sanctuary Service - Choir Sings	30	1 12:00pm Lifewise Academy	2 12:00pm The Afternoon Circle of the Women's Guild Meeting- Christmas Luncheon 6:00pm Mission & Outreach Committee Meeting 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice	3 12:30pm Lifewise Academy	4	5



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*

Worship Services!

8:00 a.m. Chapel Service

10:30 a.m. – Sanctuary Service

Volume 26 Number 11

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St. John's Library



**STOP BY THE LIBRARY
AND SEE WHAT'S NEW!**

•Travel the Highways of Advent

by Stan Purdum

•Practice the Way

by John M. Comer

•Everything Is Never Enough

by Bobby Jamieson

Advent starts November 29!
See our collection of Advent and Christmas
books, movies and Bible Studies.