

Welcome Home!

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



The 2025 June Chimes

United Church of Christ



Prayer List

Prayers: Bill Carr, Charlie Bruah, Debbie Snow, Larry Crane, Rev. Dr. Winfield Strout, Lois "Lyn Cayton" Montgomery &, Molly Sheets

Homebound and Nursing Facility Residents: Mel Cunningham, Jeanette Morris, Bonita Farmer, Patricia Gilbert, Paula Hatfield, Rosalie Johnson, Faith Kelly, Delores and Harold McDonald, Esther Gillham, Helen McGaughy, Mary Lou Hostetler, Charles & Lois Meyers, Molly Sheets, Lois Swonger

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



The book study group will continue to meet during the summer. In June, we will meet each Thursday (5, 12, 19, 26) at the River Road Coffee House on the square in downtown Newark at 11am. Sometime this month, we will finish the current book and move to another. We find our discussions welcoming and affirming as we share ideas and discussions about growing as Christians. This summer, we will be discussing love, grief, politics and community, sometimes difficult topics to cover. Come and enjoy excellent coffee and meaningful discussions as we grow together in faith.

Financial Update

Monthly Faith Promise goal	\$	8,419.25
Income as of May 25, 2025		<u>6,052.00</u>
Month to Date Balance	(\$	2,367.25)
Boiler Cost	\$	99,260.00
Boiler loan amount	\$	26,654.19
Boiler Donations received	\$	25,438.20
Donations still needed	\$	1,215.99



June Sunday Worship Hours

8:00 a.m. Outdoor Drive-in Service
10:30 a.m. Traditional Sanctuary

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 or call/text Anita at 740-973-8218. Thank you!



Pastor Steve has been Arrested!

The Licking County Jail Ministry needs your donations.

Come Bail Pastor Steve Out!

Thursday, June 5th, 2025 • 10am - 5pm

Pastor Steve is scheduled to be "arrested" at 10AM

Canal Market District

Open-air Pavilion in Newark Ohio
(located between S. 2nd and S. 3rd Streets)



From the Pastor

Hello friends,

Summertime is here! At least the unofficial start to Summer with Memorial Day past and June unfolding before us. And the official start of Summer is just around the corner.

So much excitement is happening in us and among us as we look with anticipation to all June, July and August hold in store at St. John's UCC!

We are looking forward to Confirmation Sunday the first week of June as we welcome several new members to our Church and confirm the faith of Christ in each and every participant. This is a special and meaningful time and I hope you will plan to attend and invite friends and family as well.

Also, we are already planning and working on Vacation Bible School with the topic of "Putting on the Whole Armor of God." This is going to be a fun and impactful week learning about God, enjoying crafts and activities and of course, snacks!! We would love for you to join the volunteer team as we launch VBS 2025!!

This Summer will be Fun-filled, Power-packed and Faith-infused. Get ready for a wonderful Season ahead.

I ran across this poem the other day by James Russell Lowell written over 130 years ago. See if you might like it as much as I do. It's called "What Is So Rare As A Day In June?" Here is an excerpt:

"Now is the high-tide of the year, And whatever of life has ebbed away, Comes flooding back with a ripple cheer. Into every bare inlet and creek and bay;

Now the heart is so full that a single drop overfills it. We are happy now because God wills it. No matter how barren the past may have been, 'Tis enough for us now that the leaves are green. We sit in the warm shade and feel right well.

We may shut our eyes but we cannot help knowing that the skies are clear and the grass is growing. The breeze comes whispering in our ear, that dandelions are blossoming near. That the river is bluer than the sky.

Joy comes, grief goes, we know not how. Everything is Happy now. Everything is upward striving. 'Tis so easy for the heart to be true, as for the grass to be green or the skies to be blue. It is the natural way of living."

What a beautiful depiction, right? A great poem for this time of year!!

Whatever you do this Summer, remember you and those you love are in our prayers for safety, blessings and enjoyment. If you go on vacation locally or elsewhere, keep in mind you can take us with you and worship with us virtually on the road or wherever you might be.

Let's make a special commitment to stay closely connected during these months of Summer.

Many blessings to you!

Pastor Steve



GRADUATION SUNDAY
was celebrated on
May 18, 2025

Congratulations!

Elementary Graduate

Rayce Kamron Lee Hill - Graduating from Fifth Grade

Rayce will be moving up to Middle School

Parents: Jeremy & Kayla Hill Sibling: Paxton Hill

Middle School Graduate

Emily Jean Ann Swisher – Graduating from Eighth Grade

Emily will be moving up to High School

Parent: Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

College Graduates

Hailey Corey - Graduating from Mount Vernon Nazarene University

Degree- Bachelor in General Ministry and Psychology

Fiancé: Tobias Ware

Hailey plans on attending Graduate School

Colleen K. Kroah – Graduating from the University of Akron College of Engineering
and Polymer Science

Degree – Bachelor in Biomedical Engineering

Parents: Ken & Julie Kroah Siblings: Nathaniel & Matthew Kroah

Colleen plans to work in the prosthetics and orthotics industry

Mission Focus for June

The Mission Team will be leaving on June 29, 2025, for Big Creek Missions in Kentucky. This will be the 10th year that St John's has been involved with this mission. We continue to collect 13-gallon size garbage bags and 33-gallon size trash bags (new boxes of each) as our special gift to the mission. Please place your donation in the baskets in the fellowship room prior to June 29, 2025. All bags donated will be sent to Big Creek Missions in Bear Branch, Kentucky, along with our missionaries. Thanks for helping to make this a special year for our team.

Mission and Outreach Committee

Afternoon Circle -

will meet on Wednesday, June 4, at 1:00 p.m. in the Large Meeting Room. Our Bite Size Bible Study will be on Isaiah's Wife. Mrs. Beth Lee will be the hostess. Our program will be "Suit Up: Wearing the Whole Armor of God for Daily Victory", so that we can be Prayer Warriors for Vacation Bible School this month. We will also be working on some service projects this month.

We had a wonderful 153rd Anniversary Meeting last month with 15 ladies and the pastor present. Delicious salads were shared, as well as a carrot anniversary cake. We remembered our past, but we also dreamt about the future, which we will work into future plans. Our special \$1.53 Anniversary Offering was given to Fostering Further. Thanks to April Kinser for the delicate little bouquets for each of us; to Charlotte Kinser for the pretty quilt pads; to Vicky Davis for the flower seed packet table favors; and to all the ladies for bringing parts of the table settings. We had such a good time together. We had a hard time saying goodbye that afternoon.

We invite all the women of our St. John's church family to join us at the Afternoon Circle on the first Wednesday of each month, usually at 1:00 p.m., usually in the Large Meeting Room. Other times and places are announced in advance.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY - JUNE 1, 2025 - 10:30 SERVICE

Our six Confirmands will be Confirmed in the Faith and Received into Full Membership of St. John's Church on Sunday, June 1, during the 10:30 a.m. worship.



Emmaleigh Crowthers
Rebekkah Crowthers
Remington Crowthers

Karson Ewing
Kayden Ewing
Paxton Hill

These fine young people have been studying for the past year under the leadership of Mrs. Elaine Gard covering the Bible, who are God and Jesus and the Holy Spirit, church history, church government, what it means to be a disciple, and more. They have completed all that has been required of them. Each one wrote and read a personal Statement of Faith before Church Council President, Jeff Conner. Each one is looking forward to taking their place as a member in full standing of St. John's United Church of Christ.

Please plan to be with our congregation as these young people confirm the vows of their baptism and take on for themselves the vows of membership in the One Holy Universal Christian Church. Being the first Sunday of the month, we will also participate together in Holy Communion.



Church Council Meeting, Monday, May 19, 2025

Attending: Jeff Conner, Frank Davis, Frances Hill, Julie Davis, Greg Crowthers, Gary Kinser, April Kinser, Chuck Chirdon, Brian Lensink, Mike Dooley, and Office Administrator, Anita Chirdon.

The meeting started with a presentation from a guest speaker, Addie Tice, who is the Program Director for Newark City for Lifewise, a Bible Education Program for public school students during school hours. This program receives support through local churches and St. John's has been involved in the effort to start in the Newark area. Some members of St John's serve on the Board for Lifewise and Council has approved that our facility may be used as a meeting place for students from Ben Franklin school. Plans are for the program to start this coming September. Mrs. Tice will be speaking to the congregation sometime this summer. Lifewise will be in charge of the program with St. John's only providing the site.

April Kinser provided a devotional message centered round Mental Health Month and recognizing our need for Jesus as the Great Physician and the medicine of life.

Approval was granted to open a Foundation Fund for the Afternoon Circle in memory of departed members.

Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

April Kinser, Secretary Jeff Conner, President

The next meeting is on Monday, June 16, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. All members of St. John's are always welcome to attend.



VBS Work night!! June 5th 6pm to 8pm.

We'll be painting signs and banners, decorating and other set up details. No artistic skills required.

VBS Donations Needed

We are in need of **cardboard** large enough to fit the inside of a T-shirt and **cookies** of all kinds.



From the St. John's E&O Committee

I Am A Light

Dan Jongsma

May 21, 2025, todaydevotional.com

“You are the light of the world. . . . Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:14-16

When Jesus, by his Spirit, comes into our lives through faith, we undergo a transformation. Our spiritual life is changed as we become new creatures in Christ. As new creations, we transition from being self-serving to being self-giving. We radiate the light and life of Jesus wherever we go.

In Matthew 5, Jesus uses two simple yet profound metaphors—light and salt—to illustrate this personal transformation and the new role we take on in our daily living. Light is life-giving. It brings warmth, energy, and clarity to any situation. When Jesus' power flows through us, we become a catalyst for positive change in our surroundings.

This doesn't mean we are like the sun—generating light on our own. We are more like the moon, reflecting the light of Jesus so that others don't have to stumble in the darkness of this world.

However, if we hide our light under a bowl, if we try to keep Jesus to ourselves, we make ourselves ineffective. And, worse, people will remain stuck in darkness, blinded by sin. For the sake of the world that Jesus came to save, we need to break out of our holy huddles and shine brightly for Jesus.

Lord and Savior, thank you for shining your radiant light into our hearts and warming us with your love. Help us never to underestimate the impact we can have when we allow you to shine through us. Amen.

St. John's United Church of Christ



Vacation Bible School June 23 - 27

Join us for music, stories, science, games, snacks and more!

9:00am – 11:30am

Ages pre-school through 6th grade.

285 W. National Drive, Newark

740-323-2407 www.stjohnsnewark.org



ST. JOHN'S UCC VBS REGISTRATION FORM

285 W. National Dr. Newark, OH 740-323-2407

Preschool through Sixth Grade

June 23 - 27, 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:

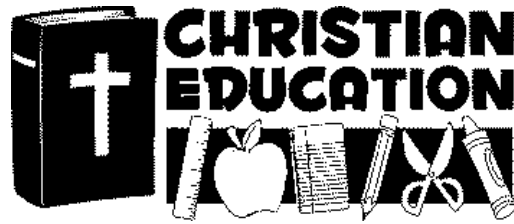
Name: _____ Phone # _____

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 _____



VBS Work night!! June 5th 6pm to 8pm. We'll be painting signs and banners, hanging signs and other set up details. No artistic skills required.

Save the Date and be sure to register! VBS is June 23 – 27. Join us each morning from 9:00am to 11:30am and let's "Put on the Full Armor of God." Ages Pre-K through 6th grade come, learn about the spiritual readiness that Paul taught, how to stand strong in faith with games, crafts, science, stories and, more. Bring a friend or tell a neighbor. Everyone is welcome! **Online registration is available on our website at www.stjohnsnewark.org.**



The Mission Team will be leaving June 29 at 9:00am from the church parking lot. Join us for a prayer filled send-off following the 8:00am service.



Sunday School Classes

Adult class – will return in the fall

Bible Discovery Zone – will return in the fall

Cradle Roll – Available during the 10:30AM service.

June Worship Service Duties

Ushers: Frank Davis, Jeff Conner, Larry Jones, Terry Gano, Mike Dooley, Barry Dooley

Cradle Roll

1 Avery Nagel/Volunteer
8 Avery Nagel/Volunteer
15 Avery Nagel/Volunteer
22 Avery Nagel/Volunteer
29 Avery Nagel/Volunteer

Cantors

1 April Kinser
18 Diane Reef
15 Todd Baldosser
22 Julie Davis
29 Charles Dudley



Sunday Sound Worship Team

1 Mike Dooley
8 Ken Kroah
15 Mike Dooley
22 Ken Kroah
29 Mike Dooley

Sunday Video Worship Team

1 Tom Lawyer
8 Julie Kroah
15 Tom Lawyer
22 Julie Kroah
29 Tom Lawyer



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Confirmation Sunday 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 8:00am Confirmation Class 10:30am Sanctuary Service Includes Confirmation	2	3	4 1:00pm The Afternoon Circle of the Women's Guild Meeting 8:00pm Private Use-Chorus Practice	5 11:00am Thursday Book Study Group - "Original Blessing, Putting Sin in its Rightful Place" Shroyer - at River Road Coffee on the Square 8:00pm VBS WORK NIGHT	6	7
8 Pentecost 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 10:30am Sanctuary Service	9	10 7:00pm Finance & Stewardship Meeting	11 10:00am Christian Education Meeting 8:00pm Private Use-Chorus Practice	12 11:00am Thursday Book Study Group - "Original Blessing, Putting Sin in its Rightful Place" Shroyer - at River Road Coffee on the Square	13 2:45pm Music Committee Meeting	14 Flag Day
15 Father's Day Trinity Sunday 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 10:30am Sanctuary Service	16	17	18 8:00pm Private Use-Chorus Practice	19 Juneteenth 11:00am Thursday Book Study Group - "Original Blessing, Putting Sin in its Rightful Place" Shroyer - at River Road Coffee on the Square	20 First Day of Summer	21
22 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 10:30am Sanctuary Service	23 8:00am VBS - Put On The Full Armor of God	24 8:00am VBS - Put On The Full Armor of God	25 8:00am VBS - Put On The Full Armor of God 8:00pm Private Use-Chorus Practice	26 8:00am VBS - Put On The Full Armor of God 11:00am Thursday Book Study Group - "Original Blessing, Putting Sin in its Rightful Place" Shroyer - at River Road Coffee on the Square	27 8:00am VBS - Put On The Full Armor of God	28
29 Mission Trip Begins 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 10:30am Sanctuary Service	30 Big Creek Mission Trip	1 Big Creek Mission Trip	2 Big Creek Mission Trip 1:00pm The Afternoon Circle of the Women's Guild Meeting 8:00pm Private Use-Chorus Practice	3 Big Creek Mission Trip	4 Big Creek Mission Trip Independence Day	5 Mission Trip Ends



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. Outdoor Drive-in Service
10:30 a.m. – Sanctuary Service
Volume 25 Number 6

Address Service Requested



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www.stjohnsnewark.org

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Organist/Choir Director

scarlatti35@hotmail.com

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Charles Bruah

Church Sexton

740-975-2699

Julie Kroah

Christian Education Director

Direct Number 740-323-2408

stjohnsucc.ce@windstream.net



LIBRARY FOCUS FOR JUNE

Not a Fan : Becoming a completely committed follower of Jesus by Kyle Idleman. Are you a fan or a follower? Idleman challenges you to consider what it really means to be a follower of Christ.

Bible Study Taste and See DVD. By Margaret Feinberg Discovering God among butchers, bakers and fresh food makers.

For Children

Lydia from Young Readers Christian Library. Lydia meets Paul, hears about Jesus and realizes what her life could really be like.

*** These featured books and DVD's can always be found in the church library on the short shelves in the center on the room***