

Welcome Home!

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



The 2025 October Chimes

United Church of Christ



Prayer List

General Prayers: Bill Carr, Charlie Bruah, Larry Crane, Rev. Dr. Winfield Strout, Molly Sheets, Mike Dunn, Marla Crowthers, and Rev. Gunnar Cerda & family

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 and 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 meet each Thursday in October (2, 9, 16, 23, 30) at 11am at the River Road Coffee House in downtown Newark on the north side of the square. Join us as we continue our discussion of the book "A Bigger Table- Building Messy, Authentic and Hopeful

Spiritual Community" by John Pavlovitz. The book is available online and there is space at the table for you to join us for discussion and fellowship.



October Sunday Worship Hours

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

Thank you!

Dear St. John's United Church of Christ,
Thank you for the generous donation of school supplies for the Ben Franklin Staff and students. Your kindness and thoughtfulness are appreciated.
Sincerely, Dena Cable & Ben Franklin Staff

Financial Update

Monthly Faith Promise goal	\$ 8,419.25
Income as of September 21, 2025	4,875.50
Month to Date Balance	(\$ 3,543.75)

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



From the Pastor

When You Get Scared...Do This

We have made it to the Holiday Season. The last three months of the year which bring the significant celebrations of Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. All three have their own Peanuts TV Specials and an untold number of Hallmark and Great American Family movies surrounding them.

The celebration of All Saints Day which the world knows as All Hallows Eve or Halloween didn't begin as a scary holiday. People didn't dress up in costumes and try to "scare" people into giving them candy. It began as a time to remember and honor Saints who have gone before us. Three words encompassed this holiday Remembering...Honoring...Celebrating. We remember their legacy, honor their service and commemorate their living faith.

Somewhere along the line some enterprising people turned it into a commercial holiday to dress up, get candy and host themed parties. Americans are expected to spend more than 11.6 Billion dollars on the holiday this year. Here are just some of the big ticket items: Candy 3.8 billion and Costumes 3.9 Billion.

But we don't have to dress up for life to be scary do we? The reality of concern, in some cases dread and often fear seems to be around every corner and on every channel.

The Bible reminds us as Believers we don't have a spirit of fear but rather strength and faith and sound minds.

Here are a few Scriptures to memorize and hold close in our arsenal of faith:

****Isaiah 41:10 "Do not fear for I am with you."**

****Joshua 1:9 "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."**

****Psalm 27:1 "Of whom shall I fear? The Lord is my light and my salvation. The Lord is the stronghold of my life. Of whom shall I be afraid?"**

****1 John 4:18 "There is no fear in love. Perfect love casts out fear."**

We are encompassed by a great cloud of witness, protected by angelic hosts and strengthened by the King of Kings.

No fear for us. Only faith and action.

Enjoy this special time of year as the Holidays unfold.

See you in Church and around the community,

Pastor Steve



Church Council Meeting September 15, 2025 at 6:30pm

Attending: Rev. Swisher, Jeff Conner, Tim Powers, Frank Davis, Terry Gano, Greg Crowthers, Frances Hill, Gary Kinser, April Kinser, Julie Davis, Brian Lensink, Ken Kroah and Office Assistant, Kim Workman.

To open our meeting, Tim Powers shared a thoughtful devotional message, copyright 1988 Carol Wimmer.

When I say I am a Christian

When I say, "I am a Christian"
I'm not shouting, "I've been saved!"
I'm whispering, "I get lost sometimes"
That's why I chose this way"

When I say, "I am a Christian"
I don't think I know it all
I submit to my confusion
asking humbly to be taught

When I say, "I am a Christian"
I don't speak with human pride
I'm confessing that I stumble –
needing God to be my guide

When I say, "I am a Christian"
I'm not claiming to be perfect
My flaws are far too visible
but God believes I'm worth it

When I say, "I am a Christian"
I'm not trying to be strong
I'm professing that I'm weak
and pray for strength to carry on

When I say, "I am a Christian"
I still feel the sting of pain
I have my share of heartache
which is why I seek God's name

When I say, "I am a Christian"
I'm not bragging of success
I'm admitting that I've failed
and cannot ever pay the debt

When I say, "I am a Christian"
I do not wish to judge
I have no authority
I only know I'm loved

Pastor's report: Reverend Swisher has had contact with a group of Christians from east Columbus affiliated with a Disciples of Christ (our partners in faith) Church, looking for a building. Interest has been expressed about coming to St. John's. Council was very receptive to the idea. Rev. Swisher will be off on October 12, 2025, for a long vacation weekend with plans for Rev. Walker to substitute. Rev. Swisher has been meeting and getting to know other local pastors. He also recently met the Reverend Joel King (a relative of Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King) and would like to invite him to speak on Martin Luther King Sunday. Council was enthusiastic at the opportunity.

Discussion continues on the bell tower's needed repairs. A loose handrail at the patio has been repaired.

Our "Faith Promise" Sunday and stewardship process will be a little different this year. We will have a "Stewardship Sunday" instead and details are still being developed

New business: Council voted to rescind the current handgun policy and form a safety committee to formulate appropriate safety protocols and procedures which meet existing laws and professional guidelines. Safety of the congregation, youth, staff and visitors in the church is of primary importance.

Our next meeting will be on October 20, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. All members of St. John's are always welcome to attend.

Respectfully submitted,
April Kinser, Secretary

Jeff Conner, President

The Afternoon Circle –

will meet on Wednesday, October 1, 2025, at 1:00 p.m., in the Large Meeting Room at the church. Anita Chirdon and Pat Farley will be hostesses. Our Bite-Size Bible Study will be on Gomer (yes, she's an Old Testament woman). The program will have a fall theme.

Last month we were interested to learn about the 100th anniversary of the Crash of the USS Shenandoah, a dirigible, fifty miles from here in Ava, Ohio. And we enjoyed a "Happy Apple Days" treat by Charlotte Kinser (Apple Crisp and an apple hot mat).

All ladies of our St. John's Church Family are always invited to and welcome at any of our Afternoon Circle meetings.

Mission and Outreach Focus for October

Church World Service was founded in 1966 to create a hands-on opportunity to share love for our neighbors in a tangible way. Churches and other organizations provide donated supplies to make feminine hygiene kits, welcome backpacks, school kits, hygiene kits, and clean-up buckets for those in need around the world. Previously we have donated feminine hygiene packs. This year, the Afternoon Circle has generously donated \$300.00 which has been used to purchase supplies for 4 "Clean-up Buckets." Purchased supplies included 4 buckets which are now filled with pump spray air freshener, 5 scouring pads, 7 sponges, 1 scrub brush, 18 reusable dry cleaning towels, 1 bottle of laundry detergent, 1 bottle of dish soap, 1 bottle of household cleaner, 1 pack of clothespins, 1 clothesline, 5 N95 dust masks, 2 pair dishwashing gloves, 1 pair work gloves, 24 construction-type trash bags, 1 bottle of insect repellent. These kits are used in times of flooding or other disasters, and the U.C.C. has a long-standing partnership with Church World Service. The buckets will be our donation to the truck they will be loading at the Central Southeast Association Meeting (U.C.C). in Canal Winchester on October 25, 2025.

Thanks to the Afternoon Circle for helping us to share love and compassion around the world.

Mission and Outreach Committee



Our Servant-God

by Kevin DeRaaf

September 16, 2025 todaydevotional.com

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve"... Mark 10:45

Last year I took a course with mission leaders from around the world. On the first day, we were asked this question: How would you describe the central, gospel message of the Bible? I spoke up with an answer that reflects my church tradition. A few others chimed in with their answers.

After several people had spoken, a classmate from Ethiopia gave an answer that many of us did not expect. She said, "I think the story of the Bible centers on the story of God as a servant."

That got our attention. She went on to explain, "The Bible opens with God creating the world and caring for Adam and Eve. The rest of the Bible is the story of how God put into place a plan to serve the world through his Son, Jesus." And then she pointed out this beautiful detail: "The Bible ends with a picture of the new Jerusalem, which we are told will not need the sun or moon because God provides the light" ([Revelation 21:23](#)). From the beginning into eternity, God serves the world and all who are in it. I had never heard the good news framed in that way, reflecting a different perspective and cultural context.

If Jesus came not to be served but to serve, how does that affect the way we live each day? How should it affect the way we live?

Servant God, I am humbled by your willingness to do whatever was necessary to rescue me. Help me in my life to be a reflection of your self-giving heart. Amen.

Journey Together: Our Year of Bible Discovery

Reading the Bible in a Year as a Congregation

Fruitful Vines: 7 Reasons to Read the Bible in a Year (Excerpt 2) **by Melissa Kruger**

Reading the Bible through in a year helps you:

See the Big Picture of Redemptive History

Standing up close to an impressionist painting gives you one view of the master's work – the intricacies of design, the vibrant colors, and the individual brush marks. However, backing away from the painting allows you to see the picture in its entirety. Just as we need both perspectives to be able to appreciate a painting to its fullest, we need both types of views as we read our Bibles.

Taking a year to read the Bible in its entirety allows us the opportunity to back up and observe the full picture. We see the larger story of Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Consummation in the midst of all the individual stories. All scripture contains the same DNA – Jesus is on every page, present in every story. The Gospel is repeated in shadows-like accounts, preparing us for the ultimate rescue. Reading the Bible through in a shorter amount of time also allows us a better opportunity to connect what we learned in Deuteronomy with the message of Galatians. You will glean insights that you might have missed (or forgotten) if you read it over a longer timespan.

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

ASK THE
Pastor

If you have questions as you read the Bible this year, submit your questions to Rev. Swisher and he will answer them as time allows. You can submit your questions in the box in the Fellowship room or you can submit by email at www.stjohnsucc.ce@windstream.net.



Read the Bible in a Year: Our Journey Together. We're starting month two of our year-long journey together. There are reading plans available in the Fellowship room and on the website. If you get stumped on a particular section, drop a note in the "Ask the Pastor" question box found in the Fellowship Room or send an email.

Forged Youth Group for ages 12 and up meets the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. Devotions, games and local mission planning.



The Chosen Season 5 discussion group will meet October 1, 8 from 6:30PM to 8:00PM. Join us for fun, lively fellowship. It is helpful to have watched the TV series for discussion, but it is not necessary to have the book. If you need a ride, please let Julie Kroah know and we can find ride-share arrangements.

Trunk or Treat will be October 19, 2025, 4:00PM -5:30PM. Everyone is invited to come and pass out candy from the trunk of their car to the neighborhood kids. We will also be providing a meal to all who attend. Be creative and decorate your car, wear a costume and add to the fun. Please plan for about 250 kids. **We are also accepting donations of candy.** There will also be a competition for the best decorated car/trunk. See you there!



Bible Discovery Zone Sunday School Classes

Adult class – at 9:00AM

Youth Class – at 9:00AM

Elementary Class – at 9:00AM

BDZ Extended (for elementary ages) – at 10:30AM

Cradle Roll – Nursery care available during the 10:30AM service.

October Worship Service Duties

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

Cradle Roll

5 Avery Nagel/Volunteer
12 Avery Nagel/Volunteer
19 Avery Nagel/Volunteer
26 Avery Nagel/Volunteer

Cantors

5 Diane Reef
12 Todd Baldosser
19 Julie Davis
26 Charles Dudley

Bible Discovery Zone

5 Brian Lensink & Pat Farley
12 Marla Crowthers & Youth if needed
19 Elaine Gard & Youth if needed
26 Frances Hill & Youth if needed

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



SEASON 5



The CHOSEN

Invite a friend and join us for fun, lively discussion on season 5 of the series.

October 1 discussion of episodes 5, 6

October 8 discussion of episodes 7, 8

6:30PM in the Fellowship Room



Books are available to purchase online or at Memory Petals & Christian Gift Shop in Heath, or if you like, the church will purchase the book for you. *It is not necessary to have the book for the discussion group. The season 5 DVD is available in the church library.*

Rides are available. Please see Julie Kroah, Frances Hill or Elaine Gard if you need a ride.

St. John's Little Free Pantry

Take what you need. Give what you can.



Our little food pantry needs your help. Many of our members along with people from the community have been adding items on a regular basis. However, the need is so great that their efforts need to be supplemented. We are asking that those that can, bring food items to church on Sundays and place them in the donation bins provided: One at the top of the stairs between the Fellowship room and the sanctuary or the one inside the side entrance door that leads to the rear of the sanctuary. We hope to collect enough food that we can resupply the little food pantry throughout the week.

Thank You, Bill and Nancy McInturf

<https://www.littlefreepantry.org>

Trunk or Treat



St. John's United Church of Christ

October 19, 2025

4pm—5:30pm

Family Fun! Come in costume, enjoy candy, hotdogs and more.

Trunk or Treat starts at 4. For more information about this community event, call the Christian Education office at 740-323-2408.

St. John's members and friends - If you are going to pass out candy, please plan on supplying 250 pieces. Come in costume and/or decorate your car! Come, join in the fun and welcome our friends and neighbors to St. John's.

DONATIONS OF CANDY ARE WELCOME AND APPRECIATED

FREE Harp Concert

I would LOVE your help in spreading the word. Please invite anyone – family, friends, coworkers, women's club members, and anyone else you would like! This is going to be a refreshing and inspiring afternoon filled with music, laughter, and amazing stories of God's leadership!

I hope to see you there!

With many thanks, Olivia





OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 9:00am Adult Sunday School 9:00am Bible Discovery Zone Elementary Class in BDZ Classroom 9:00am Youth Class 10:30am Bible Discovery Zone Children's Church 10:30am Sanctuary Service 11:30am Youth Group Meeting	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 6:30pm The Chosen Season 5 in the Fellowship Room	2 11:00am Thursday Book Study Group - "A Bigger Table- Building Messy, Authentic, and Hopeful Spiritual Community" by John Pavlovitz- at River Road Coffee on the Square 7:15pm Choir Practice		4
5 World Communion Sunday 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 9:00am Adult Sunday School 9:00am Bible Discovery Zone Elementary Class in BDZ Classroom 9:00am Youth Class 10:30am Bible Discovery Zone Children's Church 10:30am Sanctuary Service - Choir Sings	6	7	8 10:00am Christian Education Meeting 6:00pm Private Use-Chorus Practice 6:30pm The Chosen Season 5 in the Fellowship Room	9 11:00am Thursday Book Study Group - "A Bigger Table- Building Messy, Authentic, and Hopeful Spiritual Community" by John Pavlovitz- at River Road Coffee on the Square	10	11
12 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 9:00am Adult Sunday School 9:00am Bible Discovery Zone Elementary Class in BDZ Classroom 9:00am Youth Class 10:30am Bible Discovery Zone Children's Church 10:30am Sanctuary Service 11:30am Youth Group Meeting	13 Columbus Day Indigenous Peoples Day	14 7:00pm Finance & Stewardship Meeting	15 3:00pm Music Committee Meeting 6:00pm Private Use-Chorus Practice	16 11:00am Thursday Book Study Group - "A Bigger Table- Building Messy, Authentic, and Hopeful Spiritual Community" by John Pavlovitz- at River Road Coffee on the Square 7:15pm Choir Practice	17	18
19 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 9:00am Adult Sunday School 9:00am Bible Discovery Zone Elementary Class in BDZ Classroom 9:00am Youth Class 10:30am Bible Discovery Zone Children's Church 10:30am Sanctuary Service - Choir Sings 4:00pm Trunk or Treat	20 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	21	22 6:00pm Private Use-Chorus Practice	23 11:00am Thursday Book Study Group - "A Bigger Table- Building Messy, Authentic, and Hopeful Spiritual Community" by John Pavlovitz- at River Road Coffee on the Square	24	25
26 Reformation Sunday 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 9:00am Adult Sunday School 9:00am Bible Discovery Zone Elementary Class in BDZ Classroom 9:00am Youth Class 10:30am Bible Discovery Zone Children's Church 10:30am Sanctuary Service 11:30am Youth Group Meeting	27	28 10:15am Chimes Assembly	29 6:00pm Private Use-Chorus Practice	30 11:00am Thursday Book Study Group - "A Bigger Table- Building Messy, Authentic, and Hopeful Spiritual Community" by John Pavlovitz- at River Road Coffee on the Square 7:15pm Choir Practice	31 Reformation Day	1 All Saints Day Change your clocks tonight!



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*

U.S. Postage
PAID
Non-Profit Org.
Newark, Ohio
Permit No. 103

Worship Services!

8:00 a.m. Outdoor Drive-in Service
10:30 a.m. – Sanctuary Service
Volume 25 Number 10

Address Service Requested



Main Office Phone

740-323-2407

www.stjohnsnewark.org

Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

Our Minister

Office 740-323-2854

stjohns.pastorstephen@gmail.com

Todd Baldosser

Organist/Choir Director

scarlatti35@hotmail.com

Anita Chirdon/Office Administrator

Kim Workman/Office Assistant

stjohnsunitd@windstream.net

Mike Dooley

Church Sexton

740-398-5863

Julie Kroah

Christian Education Director

Direct Number 740-323-2408

stjohnsucc.ce@windstream.net



LIBRARY FOCUS FOR OCTOBER

***Christ Chronological* by Holman Bible Publisher.** Experience the life of Christ in chronological order with each Gospel writer's account of events side-by-side.

The Torchlighters: Heroes of the Faith DVD. A fascinating examination of an ancient wonder.

For Children

***Daniel: Young Readers Christian Library* by Ellen Caughey.** From the palace to the lion's den, a non-stop story of faith and courage.

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