St. John's
United Church of Christ
285 W. National Drive
Newark OH
43055-5298
Main: 740-323-2407
Church Website
www.stjohnsnewark.org

Our Church Staff

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Rooted in the Evangelical and Reformed Traditions
We are Sowing Seeds of Hope in a Time of Chaos
So We May All Be One



November 22, 2026

Chapel Service: 8:00 a.m.
Sanctuary Service: 10:30 a.m.

November 22, 2026 *Chapel Service* *8:00 am*
Sanctuary Service *10:30 am*

Announcements & Greetings

Prelude "We Gather Together" arr. by Nix Jane Shoemaker

Opening Hymn **"Crown Him with Many Crowns"** **No. 234**
(8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 4)

1) Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne;
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

2) Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed over the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save:
his glories now we sing who died, and rose on high,
who died, eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

4) Crown Him the Lord of love; behold His hands and side,
those wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified:
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me;
thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord for He is good
All: His steadfast love endures forever
Leader: Give thanks to the God of gods
All: His steadfast faithfulness ensures throughout all generations
Leader: Give thanks to Him who alone does great wonders
All: His steadfast strength helps us overcome
Leader Give thanks to the God of Heaven and earth
All: His steadfast grace always welcomes us home

***Please stand if you are able**

***Prayer of Invocation**

All: Dear God, Thank You for Your love that endures forever. In Your Spirit, we give thanks every day. But one week a year and one specific day in that week, we gather to celebrate your provision on the day of Thanksgiving. We pause in the midst of a busy season to acknowledge that every good and perfect gift comes from You, and that we have so much for which we are thankful. Above all, thank you for the gift of Salvation through Jesus Christ, from whom we receive forgiveness of our sins and life everlasting. As we pray the ultimate prayer of thankfulness…

******The Lord's Prayer* **– Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

***Gloria Patri No. 35**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

***Affirmation of Faith - The Apostles' Creed** *(Traditional Version)*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the universal Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Response "Hear Our Prayer, O Lord" No. 306

Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord, incline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace. Amen.

Special Music (8:00 a.m.) "Give Thanks" arr. by Wolaver Jane Shoemaker

Scripture Reading Colossians 3:14-16 Jeff Conner

Scripture Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Sermon "The Life Changing Power of Thanksgiving" Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

Hymn **"We Gather Together"** (8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 3) **No. 276**

1) We gather together to ask for God's blessing,
to turn to a wisdom surpassing our own;
the pow'rs that oppress us now cease to distress us.
O God, be present with us, and make your will known.

2) Beside us to guide us, O God, we perceive you
ordaining, maintaining the power of life.
Yes, yours be the glory; let all tell the story.
Our God, be ever with us, in gladness and strife.

3) May all sing your praises, Redeemer triumphant,
defend us, befriend us, whatever may be.
May your congregation escape tribulation.
Your name be praised forever, O God, make us free!

Invitation for Faithful Giving

Offertory (10:30 a.m.) "Give Thanks" arr. by Wolaver Jane Shoemaker

***Doxology** **No. 46**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly hosts:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Thanksgiving over the Offering**

All: God of the Harvest, author of thankfulness and the day of Thanksgiving, We have counted our blessings this week and lost count. We intentionally bring this morning a portion of those blessings in a return offering to You. Continue to strengthen each of us to be a people, a mission station, a Church where abundance builds and flows outward and onward to share Your blessings, shine Your light and build Your Kingdom. In Jesus' name. Amen

***Closing Hymn "Now Thank We All Our God" No. 715**

(8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 3)

**1) Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom the world rejoices,
who, from our mothers' arms, has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.**

**2) O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us full of grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.**

**3) All praise and thanks to God our Father and our Mother,
to Christ and to the One who binds us to each other,
the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore,
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.**

***Benediction**

***Please join us in the singing of the Congregational Benediction**

Go Now In Peace/Never be afraid/God will go with you/Each hour of ev'ry Day/Go now in Faith/Steadfast, strong and true/Know He will guide you in all you do. Go now in Love/And show you believe/Reach out to others/So all the world can see/God will be there/Watching from above/Go now in Peace/In Faith and in Love. Amen/Amen/Amen. CL#2548454

Postlude "Let All Things Now Living" arr. by Leatherman Jane Shoemaker

Pastor Steve's Quote of the Week

"Gratitude is the inward feeling of kindness received.
Thankfulness is the natural impulse to express that feeling."
Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933)
Pastor, Author, United States Ambassador to the Netherlands

Dr. Swisher's message next week:

Sunday, November 29, 2026
"Staying Centered on God"
Colossians 1: 16-17

Sermon Notes

To our members, dear friends and visitors:
You are an important part of the worship and ministry that goes on here, and we are thankful for your presence. Please sign the attendance pads on the tables. Thank you!

Afternoon Circle -

-will have the annual Christmas Luncheon on Wednesday, December 2, at Noon. Please make your reservation for lunch by Sunday, November 22, with Vicky Davis. The meal is being prepared by Creative Catering (chicken/noodles, green beans, mashed potatoes, roll/butter), and will cost $12 per person.

We will have our $5 gift exchange, and the program will be "The 3 Women of Christmas". All women of St. John's are always welcome to attend. Just please make a reservation for this meeting.





Positive Living Podcast

Available Tuesday, November 24, 2026, at 10:00 AM

Merrill Osmond

Singer, Songwriter and Author

Merrill Osmond, the lead singer of The Osmonds, will be a guest with Pastor Steve on Positive Living.

Merrill wrote five songs that hit the Billboard charts, including *Crazy Horses* and the worldwide #1 hit *One Bad Apple*. He also earned 27 gold albums. He is the author of several books, including *Let the Reason Be Love* and his 2026 autobiography, *Black Bear: My Life Story*. A new Broadway musical about the Osmond family, *The Osmonds: A New Musical*, has also reached the stage.

Tune in to this exciting episode of Positive Living.



Please Mark Your Calendar for December 6, 2026

Please plan on attending the Congregational Budget Meeting following the 10:30 a.m. Service on December 6, 2026, to vote on the 2027 Budget and an authorization to transfer an additional $20,000 in interest earnings from the Foundation Fund to offset unforeseen conditions. We appreciate your vote. Copies of the budget are available in the Fellowship Room. Please see one of the Finance & Stewardship Committee members for questions. Members are Brian Lensink-Treasurer, Ken Kroah-Assistant Treasurer, Jeff Conner, Greg Crowthers & Bill McInturf.



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.

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/

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.



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Advent Study

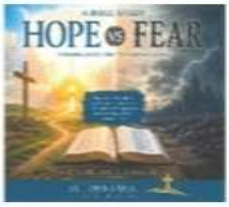
Recapturing the Wonder of Jesus Living with Us!

at 9:00AM in the Large Meeting Room

November 29—Christmas Crafts
December 6—Christmas Crafts
December 13 Advent Study
December 20 Advent Study
December 27—No Class

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



The Ladies Afternoon Circle is Hosting a

Hat, Glove, & Sock

DRIVE

THROUGH DECEMBER

To benefit Ben Franklin Elementary School.

Donations can be dropped off in the Fellowship Room.



Share what you are thankful for this Advent season.

Share what you're thankful for this Advent season. Pick up a paper ornament in the sanctuary or chapel, write what you are thankful for this year, and place it in the basket or collection plate. Ornaments will hang on the ***Thankful Advent Tree*** in the window at the bottom of the ramp.

Thank you for sharing your thankful heart!



St. John's Youth willl present

THE LIVING NATIVITY

December 13, 2026

2:00PM to 3:00PM

Before the German Language Service

Penguins Discover Christmas



December 13, 2026

During the

10:30AM service





German Language Christmas Service

Celebrate Our Heritage

December 13 at 3:00pm

Join us for a special bilingual service in German and English!

- English translations will be available
- Music by Todd Baldosser and also The Newark Maennerchor.
- Children's Moment included.

Stay for Fellowship!
More fun follows the service
Traditional German goodies will be served.

NEW!

St. John's Young Adult Life Group

Adults ages 18 to 30

December 16, 2026 @ 6:30PM
in St. John's Fellowship Room

Make friends, Build a Community, Grow in Faith

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



Join us for Christmas Eve Service

Rev. Stephen L. Swisher will share his inspirational Christmas message

"Becoming Jesus"

3:00PM and 7:30PM with special music starting at 7:00PM

Communion and Candlelight at both services

Thursday, December 24

at 3:00PM & 7:30PM

Special music at 7:00PM

St. John's United Church of Christ
285 W. National Drive Newark, Ohio 43055 www.stjohnsnewark.org

Poinsettia ORDERS

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 <u>Sunday, November 29, 2026.</u>
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 **<u>BY DECEMBER 6</u>** 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!





General Prayers: Charlie Bruah, Rev. Dr. Winfield Strout, Eli Taylor, Carl Kochendorfer, Trisha Boehmer, Delores Williams, & Jerry Goodman

Church Members Homebound and Nursing Facility Residents: Bonita Farmer, Patricia Gilbert, Paula Hatfield, Faith Kelly, Dolores McDonald, Esther Gillham, Helen McGaughy, Mary Lou Hostetler, Molly Sheets, Debi Snow

We Appreciate Those Serving Today!

Liturgist:
Jeff Conner
Cantor:
10:30 a.m. Charles Dudley
Ushers:
Frank Davis, Terry Gano,
Barry Dooley, Gary Kinser
Cradle Roll:
Volunteer
Bible Discovery Zone:
Kayla Hill/Pat Farley
Media Worship Team:
Sound & Video:
10:30 am: Karson Ewing/Tom Lawyer



Sunday:	**November 22, 2026**
	Reign of Christ
8:00 am	Indoor Chapel Service
9:00 am	Youth & Adult Sunday School Classes
10:30 am	Sanctuary Service
10:30 am	BDZ Children's Church & Cradle Roll
11:30 am	Youth Group Meeting
11:45 am	"Hanging of the Greens" Please stay and help decorate the church
Tuesday:	
12-1:00 pm	LifeWise Academy
Wednesday:	
6:00 pm	Crystal City Chorus
Thursday:	**Happy Thanksgiving**
	Office Closed
Friday:	**Office Closed**
Sunday:	**November 29, 2026**
	First Sunday of Advent
8:00 am	Indoor Chapel Service
9:00 am	Youth & Adult Sunday School Classes
10:30 am	Sanctuary Service
10:30 am	BDZ Children's Church & Cradle Roll

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: 9am –12 pm. Please call the office 740-323-2407 and leave a message to make any additional appointments. Thank you!

Attendance Report for Sunday, November 15, 2026
8:00 a.m. - 17 10:30 a.m. – 60
Sunday, November 15 Live Stream Views – 147

Finances for the Month and Year to Date

General Fund Income	October	Year to date
Congregation giving (Faith Promise)	8,242.82	84,678.30
Income from Foundation Fund	16,000.00	119,500.00
Monthly Income from Emerson Miller Fund	3,758.33	37,583.30
Month & YTD Total Income	29,479.06	250,013.59
General Fund Expenses	24,732.82	258,676.79
Over/Under Month & YTD	**$4,746.24**	**($8,663.20)**



( ) = Negative