



**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

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

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Chapel Pianist

Jane Shoemaker

Children's Bell Choir

Emmaleigh Crowthers

Adult Bell Choir

Jerry Goodman

Signer

Debi Snow

Librarian

Catherine Lim

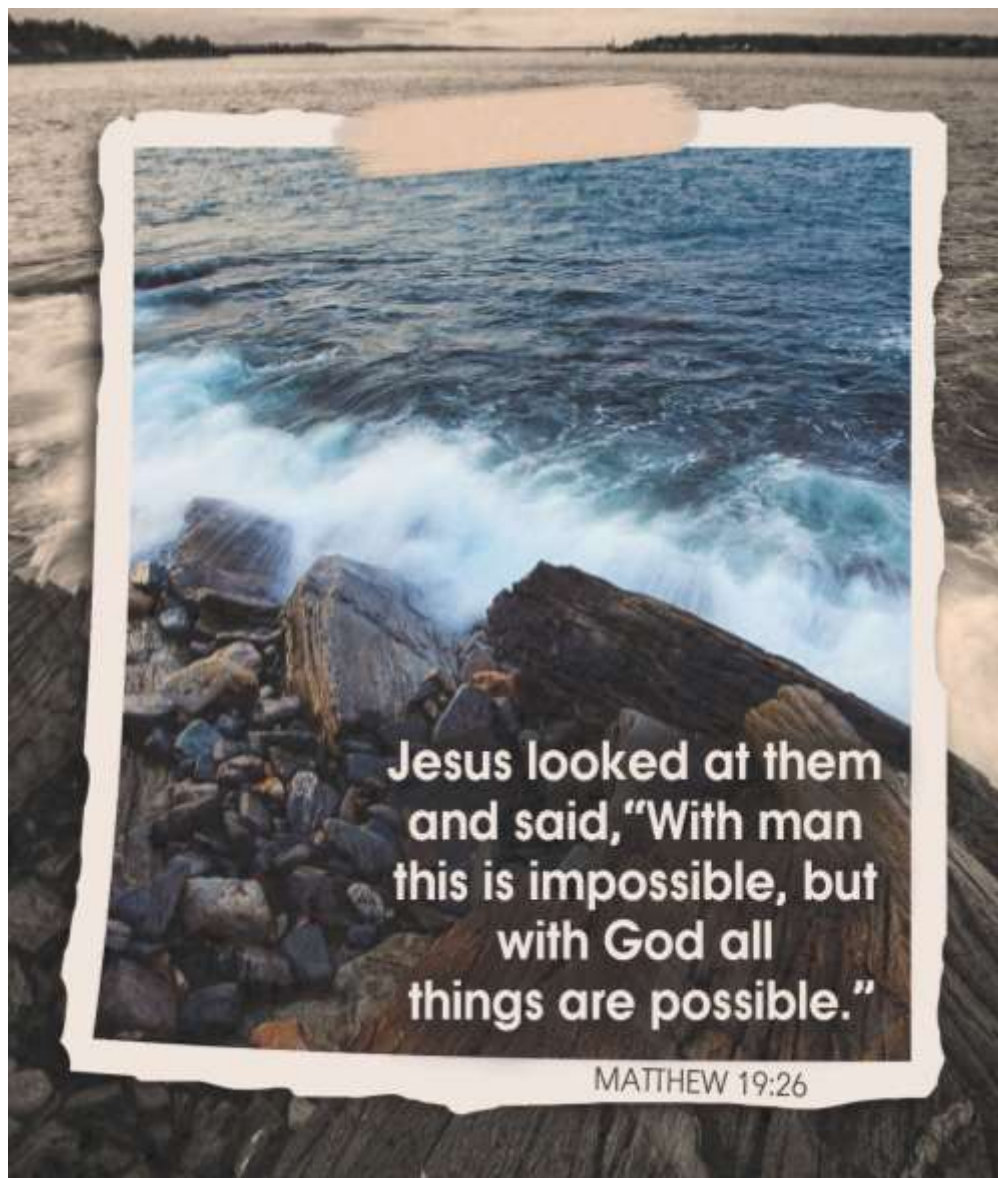
Prayer List

raswartz1231@aol.com &

stjohnsunited@windstream.net



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



**Jesus looked at them
and said, "With man
this is impossible, but
with God all
things are possible."**

MATTHEW 19:26

***October 4, 2026
Communion Sunday
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Outdoor Drive-in Service: 8:00 a.m.
Sanctuary Service: 10:30 a.m.***

8:00 am

10:30 am

Todd Baldosser

No. 90

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

- 1) Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ we bring: Alleluia! Amen!
Let all with heart and voice,
before his throne rejoice;
praise we with grateful choice: Alleluia! Amen!**
- 2) Come lift your hearts on high: Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky: Alleluia! Amen!
Christ is our Guide and Friend
on whom we can depend;
his love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!**
- 3) Praise yet our Christ again: Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain: Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore
his goodness we'll adore,
singing forevermore: Alleluia! Amen!**

*Call to Worship

Leader: How shall we sing the Lord's song in a world of struggle and strife?

All: We shall sing of courage, hope and the strength of the Lord

Leader: We place our trust in God's abiding and peaceful Presence

All: Come let us tune our hearts and voices to the praise of God

Leader: Join in and let us give Thanks

All: Let us Worship God together

***Please stand if you are able**

***Prayer of Invocation**

All: Loving and Gracious God, Holy One, tender to all who call upon Your Name with repentant and believing hearts: bless us, we pray with Your Presence this day. Teach each of us who have gathered to learn Your ways, inspire those who seek Your wisdom, energize those who are exhausted, comfort those who grieve, and strengthen those who are weak. Fill all of our hearts with Your praise and lead us in holiness and righteousness in this hour and in the hours to come as we pray the words You taught;

****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.**

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.**

Scripture Reading

Mark 10:27

Jeff Conner

Scripture Reading

Matthew 19:26

Sermon

“Life's Greatest Possibility”

Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

Hymn

“He Touched Me”

No. 564

1)

**Shackled by a heavy burden,
‘neath a load of guilt and shame,
then the hand of Jesus touched me,
and now I am no longer the same.**

Refrain

*He touched me, O he touched me,
and O the joy that floods my soul!
Something happened, and now I know,
he touched me and made me whole.*

2)

**Since I met this blessed Savior,
since he cleansed and made me whole,
I will never cease to praise him;
I'll shout it while eternity rolls.**

Refrain

Service of Holy Communion

Words of Invitation:

Pastor: This table continues to draw us to the place of adoration, confession, thanksgiving and breakthrough. All are Welcome to both Celebrate and Participate in this Holy Sacrament.

Prayer of Confession:

All: Return to the Lord for He is merciful. Dear God we pause with our hearts open to You that there may be things we have not confessed with our whole hearts. We release those things now in Jesus' Name and ask for Your cleansing and forgiveness.

Declaration of Renewal:

Pastor: Hear the Good News of the Lord; "I have swept away your offenses like a cloud and your sins like the morning mist, I have forgiven your mistakes and guided you into my loving Presence." (Isaiah 44:22)

The Giving of the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation

Invitation for Faithful Giving

Offertory

"In Christ Alone" Getty/Townend

Todd Baldosser

***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: Faithful Shepherd and Loving God, whoever calls us forward to who we are becoming in You. As we lay these tithes and offerings before You, turn our eyes to the future You are unfolding. Let our giving press us deeper into mercy, widen our circle of belonging, and shape us into people who embody Your Grace. Keep us moving, keep us growing, keep us following. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

No. 517

(8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 4)

- 1) Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown;
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.
- 2) Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit, into every troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit, let us find thy promised rest;
take away our love of sinning; alpha and omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.
- 4) Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise

***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

“Celtic Alleluia” Walker

Todd Baldosser

Pastor Steve's Quote of the Week

“If opportunity doesn't knock. Build a door.”

Shari Fitzpatrick

Founder, Shari's Berries Gourmet Strawberries

Dr. Swisher's message next week:

Sunday, October 11, 2026

“Great Faithfulness”

Joel 2:23-32

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!



Phyllis Lawyer

Born: January 15, 1938

Died: September 28, 2026

A member of St. John's since 1982

A Memorial Service will be on Saturday, October 24, at 2:30 p.m. in our Sanctuary. Brucker & Kishler Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Neighbors in Need is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion across the United States. This offering will be collected today. One third of the offering supports the Council for American Indian Ministry and two thirds of the offering supports advocacy, direct service projects and grants for local churches engaged in justice work. Special envelopes are included in the bulletin or mark your check or envelope. Please consider giving to this vital mission project. With thanks from your Mission and Outreach Committee

AFTERNOON CIRCLE -

- will meet this month on Wednesday, October 7, at 1:00 P.M. in the Large Meeting Room of the church. The hostesses will be Mrs. Jane Shoemaker and Mrs. Anita Chirdon. Our Bite-Size Bible Study will be on "The Woman Who Ate Her Son." Our program will be "Every Great Creator Leaves His Mark." And the business meeting will include discussion of our Thank Offering gift.

We invite all women of our St. John's Family to join us at this and every meeting for food, fellowship, and faith-sharing.



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.

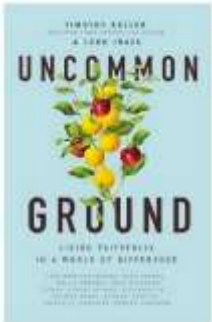
St. John's Little Free Pantry

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/>

Book Club



The book club will meet each Thursday at 11 AM, October 8, 15, 22 and 29 at the River Road Coffee House in downtown Newark. We just have a few more weeks with our current selection and will be starting a new book about midway through the month of October. Our next selection is Right Thinking for a Culture in Chaos, Responding Biblically to Today's Most Urgent Needs by John MacArthur and Nathan Busenitz. Come join us in conversation and fellowship as we enjoy exploring these books.



St. John's Musicians' Potluck

Sunday, October 18, after the 10:30 a.m. service

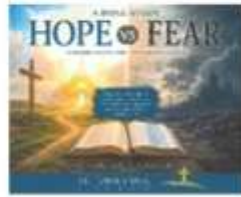
Please bring a covered dish or dessert.

See you there!

Bible Discovery Zone Sunday Classes

Starting Sept. 20

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

Starting Sept 13 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

**Trunk
or
Treat**



St. John's United Church of Christ

October 25, 2026

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 - Planning to pass out candy, plan on 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.

Prize for the best decorated car!

DONATIONS OF CANDY ARE WELCOMED AND APPRECIATED

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

285 W. National Dr • stjohsnewark.org • 740-323-2407

Special Guests Include



Shawn Barker
 Johnny Cash
 Tribute Artist



Clint Holmes &
 Kelly Clinton Holmes
 Entertainer
 Inspirational Speaker



Karen Hester
 Dolly Parton
 Tribute Artist



Donna Chaffee
 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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★ JOIN US ★

THE
**AM KEVIN
CLUB**
Show

WITH
DR. STEVE SWISHER

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

★ **LIVE FROM NASHVILLE** ★



11:00 AM LIVE



General Prayers: Charlie Bruah,
Rev. Dr. Winfield Strout, Eli Taylor, Carl
Kochendorfer, Trisha Boehmer, Delores Williams,
Jerry Goodman & the family of Phyllis Lawyer
**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. Diane Reef

Ushers:

Frank Davis, Terry Gano,

Barry Dooley, Gary Kinser

Cradle Roll:

Volunteer

Bible Discovery Zone:

Brian Lensink/Pat Farley

Media Worship Team:

Sound & Video:

8:00 am: Mike Dooley

10:30 am: Ken Kroah/Julie Kroah

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!

THIS WEEK AT GLANCE



Sunday: October 4, 2026
World Communion Sunday
Neighbors in Need
Nineteenth Sunday
after Pentecost

8:00 am Outdoor Drive-In Service
9:00 am Youth & Adult Sunday School
Classes
10:30 am Sanctuary Service
10:30 am BDZ Children's Church &
Cradle Roll

Tuesday:

12-1:00 pm

LifeWise Academy

Wednesday:

1:00 pm

Afternoon Circle Meeting

6:00 pm

Mission & Outreach Committee

6:00 pm

Crystal City Chorus

Thursday:

11:00 am

Thursday Book Study,
UNCOMMON GROUND,
Living Faithfully in a World of
Difference by Timothy Keller
and John Inazu at River Road
Coffee on the Square

12:30-1:30 pm

LifeWise Academy

7:15 pm

Choir Practice

Sunday:

October 11, 2026

Twentieth Sunday

after Pentecost

8:00 am

Outdoor Drive-In Service

9:00 am

Youth & Adult Sunday School

Classes

10:30 am

Sanctuary Service - Choir Sings

10:30 am

BDZ Children's Church &

Cradle Roll

Attendance Report for Sunday, September 27, 2026

8:00 a.m. - 23

10:30 a.m. - 49

Sunday, September 27 Live Stream Views - 125

Finances for the Month and Year to Date

General Fund Income (Incomplete)

	September	Year to date
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	24,310.25	233,930.82
Over/Under Month & YTD	(2,312.04)	(13,396.29)

() = Negative

