



**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

stjohns.pastorstephen@gmail.com

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Anita Chirdon

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stjohnsunitied@windstream.net

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Sexton

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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

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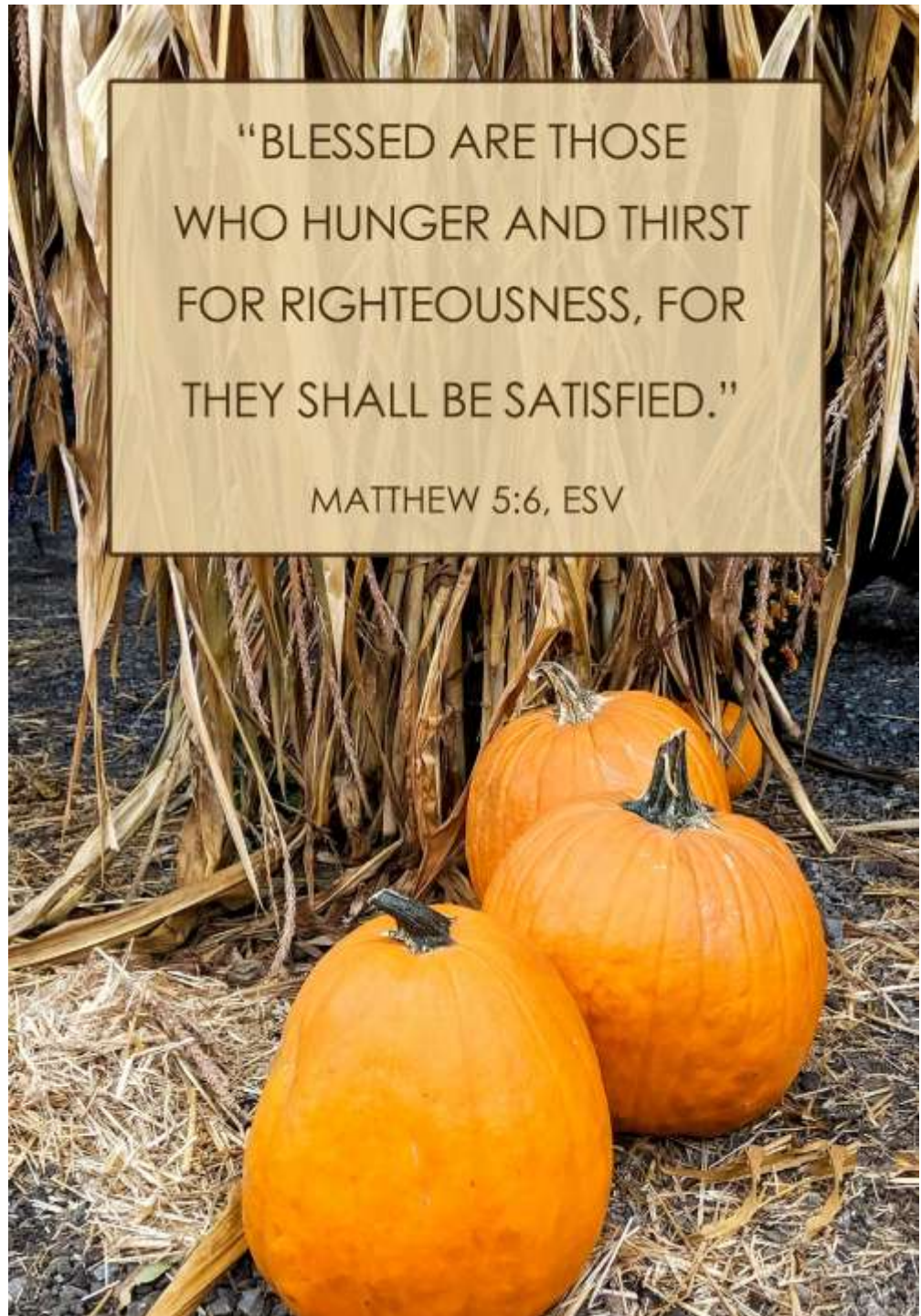
stjohnsunitied@windstream.net

Rooted in the Evangelical

and Reformed Traditions

We are Sowing Seeds of Hope

in a Time of Chaos



September 27, 2026
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Outdoor Drive-in Service: 8:00 a.m.
Sanctuary Service: 10:30 a.m.

September 27, 2026

Tune your FM Radio to 107.5

8:00 am

Sanctuary Service

10:30 am

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Announcements & Greetings

Prelude “Prelude in C Major” BWV 846 J.S. Bach Todd Baldosser

***Opening Hymn** “Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!” **No. 4**
(8:00 a.m. Verses 1 & 4)

- 1) **Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!**
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!
- 2) **Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore thee;**
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
God everliving, through eternity.
- 4) **Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!**
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea;
holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty;
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

***Call to Worship**

Leader: To You, O God, we lift up our souls. We trust You

All: You make Your ways known to us and Teach us Your truths

Leader: To You, O God, we lift up our souls. We follow You

All: Lead us in Your ways. Your path liberates and saves

Leader: To You, O God, we lift up our souls. We worship You!

All: Guide us along the path of life and eternity

Leader: We come now to Worship You and to declare that You are with us

All: And we are with You

***Prayer of Invocation**

All: Holy One, We come today to remember that Your love never fails.
Forgive us when we stray from Your path or doubt Your Presence.
Lead us in Your truth, teach us Your ways and guide us in Your
wisdom. May this interlude of Worship fill our hearts with Your
goodness so that we may walk boldly in love and grace as we pray
the powerful words that came directly from Your heart, ...

***Please stand if you are able**

****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 - Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada**

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the church:

to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God. 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.

Choir Anthem (10:30 a.m.)

“I See God” Shelton

Reception of New Members

Scripture Reading

Luke 6:20-26

Jeff Conner

Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:1-12

Sermon

“The Best Sermon Ever Spoken”

Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

Hymn

“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

No. 261

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
there are sweet expressions on each face,
and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.
Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,
stay right here with us, filling us with your love;
and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived
when we shall leave this place.

Invitation for Faithful Giving

Offertory

“The Servant Song” Gillard

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: Dear God, We pray that our offerings today are an expression of our growing faith in You. Help us in these moments to trust You more deeply, to continue to step out in faith and to follow where You lead us. Bless these offering to further Your Kingdom of love and light and transformation. And bless each of us as cheerful givers. In Jesus' Name. Amen

- 1) **Alleluia! Sing to Jesus, risen now to reign in love.
Alleluia! Praise the Savior; with the multitudes above.
There the songs of saints and martyrs thunder like a mighty flood,
“Jesus out of every nation has redeemed us by his blood.”**
- 2) **Alleluia! not as orphans we are left in sorrow now.
Alleluia! Christ is near us, faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received him when the forty days were o’er,
shall our hearts forget the promise, “I am with you evermore”?**
- 3) **Alleluia! Bread of Heaven, be on earth our food and stay.
Alleluia! here the sinful flee to you from day to day.
Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth’s redeemer, plead for me,
where the songs of all the sinless sweep across the crystal sea.**

***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.**

CCL#2548454

Postlude

“Meekness and Majesty” Kendrick

Todd Baldosser

Pastor Steve’s Quote of the Week

“Do not fear mistakes. There are none.”

Miles Davis

1926-1991

Jazz Trumpeter, Composer, Bandleader

Dr. Swisher’s message next week:

Sunday, October 4, 2026

“Life’s Greatest Possibility”

Matthew 19:26

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!

Welcome

We welcome Diane Van Hoose into St. John's membership today at the 10:30 a.m. service. Please give her a warm welcome and join her in the Fellowship Room after the service for refreshments

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/>

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.

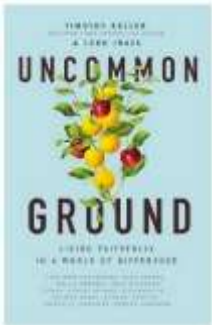
We invite all women of our St. John's Family to join us at this and every meeting for food, fellowship, and faith-sharing.



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.

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 on October 4, 2026. 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 will be included in the bulletin. Please consider giving to this vital mission project. With thanks from your Mission and Outreach Committee.

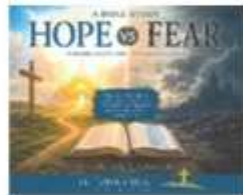


Book Club

The book club will meet each Thursday at 11 AM, October 1, 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.

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 Musicians' Potluck

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

Please bring a covered dish or dessert.

See you there!

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 • stjohnewark.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!

St. John's UCC • www.stjohnewark.org • 740-323-2407

NIGHT of Inspiration

with Dr. Robert A. Schuller

October 2, 2026

7:00PM

at

St. John's UCC

285 W. National Drive, Newark

The evening's keynote speaker and a friend of Rev. Swisher's for almost 30 years, Dr. Robert A. Schuller, is the former Senior Pastor of the Crystal Cathedral, New York Times Best-selling author and current Pastor in Newport Beach, Ca. He is also the President and CEO of Comstar Media.

Be ready for a faith-filled, grace-filled night of worship, bringing people together from all over the region.



Dr. Robert A. Schuller
Sr. Pastor Newport Beach, CA



Dr. Robert A. and Donna
Schuller



Rev. Dr. Stephen L. Swisher
Sr. Pastor at St. John's UCC

★ 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 & 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. Todd Baldosser

Ushers:

Frank Davis, Terry Gano,

Barry Dooley, Gary Kinser

Cradle Roll:

Volunteer

Bible Discovery Zone:

Jeremy and Kayla Hill & Youth

Media Worship Team:

Sound & Video:

8:00 am: Mike Dooley

10:30 am: Karson Ewing/Tom Lawyer

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'S GLANCE



Sunday: September 27, 2026

**Eighteenth 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

Tuesday:

12-1:00 pm LifeWise Academy

Wednesday:

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

Friday:

7:00 pm

Sunday:

**Night of Inspiration with Dr.
Robert A. Schuller**

October 4, 2026

**Nineteenth Sunday
after Pentecost**

**World Communion Sunday
Neighbors in Need**

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

Attendance Report for Sunday, September 20, 2026

8:00 a.m. - 22 10:30 a.m. - 47

Sunday, September 20 Live Stream Views - 187

Finances for the Month and Year to Date

General Fund Income

	<u>August</u>	<u>Year to date</u>	
Congregation giving (Faith Promise)	8,857.94	70,189.16	
Income from Foundation Fund	11,500.00	92,000.00	
Monthly Income from Emerson Miller Fund	3,758.33	30,066.64	
Month & YTD Total Income	24,948.80	198,536.32	
General Fund Expenses	30,402.46	209,620.57	
Over/Under Month & YTD	(5,453.66)	(11,084.25)	() = Negative

