

Welcome Home!

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



The 2026 October Chimes

United Church of Christ

Prayer List

General Prayers: Charlie Bruah, Rev. Dr. Winfield Strout, Eli Taylor, Carl Kochendorfer, Trisha Boehmer, Delores Williams, Phyllis Lawyer & the family of Rosalie Johnson

Homebound and Nursing Facility Residents:

Jeanette Morris, Bonita Farmer, Patricia Gilbert, Paula Hatfield, Faith Kelly, Delores and Harold McDonald, Esther Gillham, Helen McGaughy, Mary Lou Hostetler, & Molly Sheets

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 stjohnsunity@windstream.net

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.



Member Update



Rosalie J. Johnson
Born: March 12, 1932
Died: May 4, 2026

A member of St. John's since 1997

Welcome New Members

On Sunday, September 27, Diane Van Hoose joined our church membership. Please give her a warm welcome!

A message from our Treasurer

"Thank you for all you do in the life of the church. As we look ahead to 2027, we ask you to consider your faith promise commitment for the new year. Your contributions allow St. John's to continue its work nationally, in the county and right here in our community. Your talents and treasures are the things that make St. John's a beacon in the community. Give, and it will be given to you."

- Brian Lensink

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. Thank you!

From the Pastor

Hello friends,

October brings us Pumpkin Spice lattes, Pumpkin flavored cakes, candies and even cereal. It also offers continued exciting events and opportunities to share our ministry to ever increasing audiences.

We begin the month with our Central Ohio Night of Inspiration Friday, October 2, at 7pm with Dr. Robert and Donna Schuller. Be sure to invite friends and family to this historic and exciting service.

As the month unfolds, we will continue with our Trunk or Treat event and so many other outreach programs. This is going to be a Life-changing, Faith-growing, Spirit-strengthening month.

In the Bible, October corresponds to the 10th month of the modern calendar. In Biblical numerology, the number 10 represents divine order, responsibility and completeness.

In addition, the agricultural cycle of the Middle East, autumn corresponds to a time of gathering the harvest, reflecting Spiritual fruitfulness and reaping what has been sown.

As we open ourselves up to the core spiritual truths of October, we find that they may equip us to navigate the new month:

***Divine order and completeness—prophetically October is seen as a time as completeness and fulfillment.

***The Harvest of the Soul—As days grow shorter, the boundary between the material world and the unseen realm feels closer, heightening intuition and reflection.

***Release and Transformation—Inspired by falling leaves, October is a natural time to let go of old habits and to prepare for spiritual renewal.

It is interesting to note that October corresponds and overlaps on the Hebrew calendar with many festivals including Sukkot known as the Feast of Tabernacles. These festivals symbolize God dwelling with His people.

October is often seen as a time of New Beginnings and fresh starts as well.

May this month be especially meaningful as we stay focused on God and being His representatives to the world around us.

I'll see you in Church and around the Pumpkin Patch. 🎃

Pastor Steve



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.

St. John's Little Free Pantry

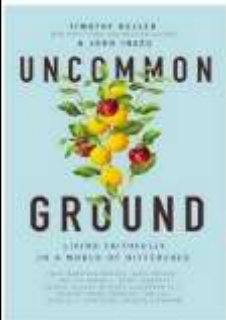
Take what you need. Give what you can.



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 11a.m. 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.

ELEVATOR FUND



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.

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

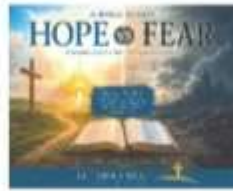


Rev. Dr. Stephen L. Swisher
Sr. Pastor at St. John's UCC

Bible Discovery Zone Sunday Classes

Starting September 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 September 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

News from Mission & Outreach

September and October have been busy months for Mission and Outreach. Church members have volunteered to assist the committee with assembly of Church World Service disaster response buckets and hygiene kits. Heartland Conference of the UCC (of which we are a part) has issued an urgent request due to the recent flooding in this part of Ohio which has depleted the supply. Our assembled kits and buckets (24 hygiene packs, 20 period packs, and 36 buckets) will be delivered at the fall meeting of the Central Southeast Ohio Association on October 24, 2026, at Highwater United Church of Christ. Praise God that we are able to help others in this way.

Neighbors in Need is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries and programs of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of these funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry and two-thirds benefit the UCC's justice and witness ministries through support for justice initiatives and advocacy efforts and direct service projects. A special envelope will be available on October 4, 2026. Please consider a donation to this mission project.

Trunk or Treat



St. John's United Church of Christ

October 25, 2026

4:00PM—5:30PM

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



Plan for about 250 kids.



Come in costume and/or decorate your car!



Prize for the best decorated car!



Candy donation can be dropped off in the Fellowship Room.



Meal prep starts at 2:00PM

Come, join in the fun and
welcome our friends and neighbors to St. John's.



St. John's Musicians' Potluck

Sunday, October 18,
after the 10:30 a.m. service
Please bring a covered dish
or dessert.

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





News from St John's United Church of Christ Church Council Meeting on September 21, 2026

Attending: Tim Powers, Ken Kroah, Greg Crowthers, April Kinser, Gary Kinser, Brian Lensink, Frances Hill, Jeff Conner, Terry Gano, Chuck Chirdon, Rev. Stephen Swisher, Kim Workman Office Assistant.

Pastor's Report - Reverend Swisher has been attending peer group ministerial meetings in the Columbus area. He has heard a lot of positive feedback on the Dolly Parton service done here at St. John's U.C.C. He shared an inspirational testimony he heard at the Canal Winchester facility. He expressed gratitude for all the help given to make the Night of Inspiration on October 2nd a success.

Treasurer's Report - Finances through the end of August show income of \$198,536.32 and expenses of \$209,620.57. The date for the Congregational Budget approval meeting is December 6, 2026. Faith promise cards will not be used this year, but a reminder will be in the Chimes newsletter. Bell tower repair is slow due to unfavorable weather. Elevator permit drawings have been returned from the city. Delivery of the elevator has been pushed back to the week after Thanksgiving. C. Chirdon has been inquiring about chair lift possibilities with no definite plans yet.

Diane Van Hoose wishes to become a new member. Plans are to accept her on Sunday, September 27, 2026.

LIFEWISE has once again asked to use our facility for the 2026 - 2027 school year. Use is needed on Tuesdays from 12 noon to 1:00pm and Thursdays from 12:30pm to 1:30pm. They will use Hermann Hall.

Due to Christmas, the December Council meeting will be held on December 14, 2026.

Christian Education - Fundraisers to help with the cost of next year's mission trip are being planned. A spaghetti dinner is in the works for February. The Prayer Walk at St. John's has been updated. Committee members represented our church at the Ben Franklin school community program on September 17, 2026. A nursery worker will not be hired this year, but Frances Hill and another volunteer will provide care if needed. There is no Confirmation class this year. If you wish to help with any Sunday School class, please see Julie Kroah. Plans are forming to offer a German Service again this year on December 13, 2026. Trunk or Treat will be held October 25, 2026, from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

April Kinser, Secretary Tim Powers, President

*The next Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 19, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.
All members of St. John's are always welcome to attend.*

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 Chafee
 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



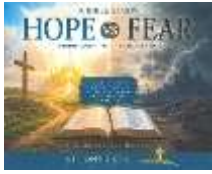
Peter Lemongello
 Recording artist
 Known for "Love '76"

Find us on your favorite digital audio and streaming platform



Look for new episodes coming soon!

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



The Adult Sunday class is currently studying “Hope vs Fear: A Study of Revelation”. The class meets at 9:00AM in the large meeting room.

The Youth class meets at 9:00AM in the small meeting room. They are currently studying “The Thread: Tracing the Thread of the Gospel Through the Big-Picture story of the Bible”.



Youth Group will meet Sunday, October 11, following the 10:30AM Service. We will plan to meet October 25 at 2pm to prepare meals for Trunk or Treat. Future meetings will be November 8, 22.

Trunk or Treat will be on October 25, 2026, from 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. We will begin preparing meals at 2:00PM. Everyone is welcome to come and lend a hand. Plan for about 250 kids.



We are also accepting donations of candy. Be creative and decorate you car, wear a costume and add to the fun. There will be a competition for the best decorated car/trunk. See you there!



Sunday School Classes

Adult class – Sundays at 9:00AM

Youth Class – Sundays at 9:00AM

Bible Discovery Zone – Sundays at 10:30AM

Cradle Roll – Available Sunday at 10:30AM service

October Worship Service Duties

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

Cradle Roll

4 Volunteer
11 Volunteer
18 Volunteer
25 Volunteer

Bible Discovery Zone

4 Brian Lensink/Pat Farley
11 Marla Crowthers/
Emmaleigh Crowthers
18 Rebecca Swartz/
Youth
25 Kayla Hill/Youth

Cantors

4 Diane Reef
11 Julie Davis
18 Charles Dudley
25 April Kinser

Sunday Sound Worship Team

4 Ken Kroah
11 Karson Ewing
18 Ken Kroah
25 Karson Ewing

Sunday Video Worship Team

4 Julie Kroah
11 Tom Lawyer
18 Julie Kroah
25 Tom Lawyer



OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 9:00am Adult Sunday School Class 9:00am Youth Sunday School Class 10:30am Bible Discovery Zone- Children's Church & Cradle Roll 10:30am Sanctuary Service - Choir Sings	28	29 12:00pm LifeWise Academy	30 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice	1 12:30pm LifeWise Academy	2 7:00pm A Night of Inspiration with Dr. Robert A. Schuller - Join Us!	3
4 Neighbors in Need World Communion Sunday 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 9:00am Adult Sunday School Class 9:00am Youth Sunday School Class 10:30am Bible Discovery Zone- Children's Church & Cradle Roll 10:30am Sanctuary Service	5	6 12:00pm LifeWise Academy	7 1:00pm The Afternoon Circle of the Women's Guild Meeting 6:00pm Mission & Outreach Committee Meeting 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice	8 12:30pm LifeWise Academy 7:15pm Choir Practice	9 Rev. Swisher Guest on AM Kevin Club Show	10
11 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 9:00am Adult Sunday School Class 9:00am Youth Sunday School Class 10:30am Bible Discovery Zone- Children's Church & Cradle Roll 10:30am Sanctuary Service - Choir Sings	12 Columbus Day Indigenous Peoples Day	13 12:00pm LifeWise Academy 7:00pm Finance & Stewardship Meeting	14 10:00am Christian Education Meeting 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice	15 12:30pm LifeWise Academy	16 5:30pm Music Committee Meeting	17
18 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 9:00am Adult Sunday School Class 9:00am Youth Sunday School Class 10:30am Bible Discovery Zone- Children's Church & Cradle Roll 10:30am Sanctuary Service	19 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	20 12:00pm LifeWise Academy	21 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice	22 12:30pm LifeWise Academy 7:15pm Choir Practice	23	24
25 Reformation Sunday 8:00am Outdoor Drive-In Service 9:00am Adult Sunday School Class 9:00am Youth Sunday School Class 10:30am Bible Discovery Zone- Children's Church & Cradle Roll 10:30am Sanctuary Service - Choir Sings	26	27 12:00pm LifeWise Academy	28 6:00pm Private Use- Chorus Practice	29 12:30pm LifeWise Academy	30	31 Reformation Day



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. Drive-in Service
10:30 a.m. – Sanctuary Service
Volume 26 Number 10

Address Service Requested



Main Office Phone

740-323-2407

www.stjohnsnewark.org

Rev. Dr. Stephen Swisher

Our Minister

Office 740-323-2854

stephenswisher10@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

St. John's Library



**STOP BY THE LIBRARY
AND SEE WHAT'S NEW!**

*BOOKS, MAGAZINES, STUDY DVD'S,
MOVIES, CHRISTIAN FICTION...
AND MORE!*

•Practice the Way

by John M. Comer

•Everything Is Never Enough

by Bobby Jamieson

•Checking In

by Michelle Williams

•Know Who You Are

by Tim Tebow