



Pastor Alex

**Come Hear the Reason we're Inspired to Serve Together**



*Dustin, Vicki, Jeff & Cathy  
Nofziger*

Welcome to



**ST. JOHN'S  
CHRISTIAN  
CHURCH**

**“The Church on  
the Corner Whose  
Cornerstone is Christ”**

*We are a community of faith founded upon God's Holy Word, preaching salvation through believing in Christ as Savior. We seek to live in God's truth, being obedient to His Word and following in His ways.*

# Welcome to our Worship of God! Fourth Sunday of Lent

Lighting of the Altar Candles and Ringing of the Tower Bells

Welcome, Scripture and Prayer

Psalm 23 (p. 544)

Prelude

“You’re Worthy of My Praise”

† Call to Worship (L–Leader; *P–People*)

L: We rejoice in the One who leads us beside still waters,

*P: and gives us refreshment of soul.*

L: Christ our Shepherd shows us the way we should go,

*P: so that the name of God will be glorified.*

L: Though all manner of evil befall us, we will not be afraid,

*P: for the Great Shepherd of our souls is with us.*

L: We are never away from the love and mercy of the Lord,

*P: and we shall be with him for ever and ever. Amen!*

† Hymn – #1

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

† Call to Reconciliation: God longs for us to sit by the still waters of peace, but we can be too busy stirring up trouble with our actions, with our words, with our inability to be God's children. Let us bring our prayers to the One who will restore us with goodness and mercy, as we pray together.

† Unison Prayer for Forgiveness: *Loving God, often times we sit in the ashes of our hopes, but you see us as your beloved children. We pay strict attention to all who break the rules, but ignore the grace which is poured out upon us. We try to box you in with boundaries we can manage, but you continue to burst forth to bring newness into the world. Have mercy on us, God of forgiveness, and open our eyes to your presence among us. As you look at our hearts, may we see others in a different way, not as enemies or strangers, but sisters and brothers of the same family, kin to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. In his name. Amen.*

† Assurance of Pardon

L: The Spirit of the Lord has come upon us, bringing hope and forgiveness for each person.

*P: We praise the Lord for hearing our confessions, forgiving us, and blessing us with hope.*

† Hymn Response – #436

“Whiter Than Snow”

† Passing the Peace of Christ

Children’s Message

(#580) “Jesus Loves the Little Children”

Scripture Reading

John 9:1-23 (p. 1061)

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer (debt/debtors)

(10:30) Chancel Choir

“Wonderful Magnificent God”

Scripture Reading

John 9:24-41 (p. 1061)

Sermon (notes on pg. 4)

“Skepticism and Doubt”

Sharing Our Tithes and Offerings of Gratitude

Offertory

“Savior, Like a Shepherd/Knowing You”

† Doxology (#625) and Unison Prayer of Dedication: ***God, we thank you for the abundance of your provision. Grant us wisdom to use these offerings to the glory of your Holy name. Strengthen us to give generously out of all that we are and all that you have entrusted to our care. We dedicate these offerings with thanksgiving. Amen.***

† Closing Hymn – #97

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

† Spoken Benediction

† Benediction in Song

“Go Now In Peace”

† Postlude

## Welcome . . .

### Guests and Visitors

Welcome to our worship of God! We hope you will find our service to be an uplifting and faithful time of worship and that you will worship with us again. Learn more about us by visiting our Welcome Table at the south end of our building or our website at [www.stjohnsarchbold.org](http://www.stjohnsarchbold.org).

### Membership Orientation

St. John’s Christian Church offers periodic orientation sessions to inform people about beliefs, ministries and the history of this local congregation. Orientation includes three group sessions and one home visit by one of the pastors. Please let Pastor Erich, Pastor Alex or Sue Grieser know if you would be interested in attending future sessions offered.

### Mother’s Room / Diaper Changing Station / Nursery Care

We have a Mother’s Room located near our sanctuary – just ask an usher for its location. A diaper changing station is in our nursery room just down the hallway from our sanctuary. Nursery Care is offered during our worship service for infants and pre-kindergarten children.

**Children’s and Large Print Bulletins** are available on a table in the sanctuary narthex.

**Hearing Assistance** is provided through our loop system for hearing aids with a “t” switch position.



**Easter Flowers & Memorials** – Sign up sheets are posted on the bulletin board for ordering Easter Flowers (*deadline is today*) and giving Easter Memorials (deadline April 5th). Flowers available for \$9 each are daffodils, lilies, hyacinths (blue, pink, and white), mums (pink, yellow, and white) and tulips (red, pink, purple and yellow). Memorials can be given in any amount. Memorial and flower sponsorships will be listed in Easter Sunday bulletins, and flowers will be available for pick up after the 10:30 service of worship on Easter Sunday.



**The Altar Flowers** are sponsored by Jay and Karla Pursel  
in loving memory of Kaitlyn.



Sermon – “Skepticism and Doubt”  
Scripture Text – John 9:1-41 (p. 1061) – Healing of a Man Born Blind

There is a widening rift between Jesus and the Pharisees/Jews

- John 6:66 – many turned back
- John 7:32 – to be arrested
- Jesus is under attack, he’s aware, and is bolder in his ministry
- John 8:12 – sets groundwork for the healing of John 9

John 9:1-12

- Disciples were being theological, not really concerned with the man
- Exodus 34:7 – punishment of sin
- Exodus 20:5 – punishment / love
- Jesus did not consider it a punishment, but an opportunity for God’s glory
- The healing – couldn’t see the clay, could feel it
- Trip to the pool – a venture of faith

John 9:13-34

- Man, Neighbors/Others, Pharisees, Parents
- Prophet – Agent of God – Elisha (2 Kings 2:19, 4:18, 5:1)
- Nicodemus – John 3:2
- Healing vs Law
- Pharisees couldn’t see, didn’t have an argument, so they attacked the man
- Incurable spiritual blindness

John 9:35-41

- Giving sight – an expected action of the Messiah – Isaiah 29:18, 35:5, 42:7
- Jesus went and found the man – Jesus seeks
- Earthly situations – can lead to spiritual pilgrimage
- True light of the world – enlightens

## Let's Talk About It - This Week in Our Children's and Youth Education:

**Pre-K Class:** We continue with our lesson on Jesus's miracle of walking on water. We have to keep our eyes on Jesus!

**Faith Village:** In the unit, "Symbols of Holy Week," we are learning about the events of Holy Week. We are using Matthew 21:1-17; 26-27; Mark 11:1-11; 14-15; Luke 19:28-40; 22-23; and John 12:12-19; 13-19. Praying Hands are one of the symbols of Holy Week. What part of the story of Holy Week do the Praying Hands remind you of?

**Confirmation:** This week we reviewed the events of Holy Week as a continuation of our Lenten Series. We're also continuing to memorize John 3:16-17. Ask a confirmand you know what John 3:17 means.

**Senior High Sunday School:** This week we reached the fourth lesson of our six-part small group series on HABITS that can fuel spiritual growth. This week's lesson centered on helping our teenagers understand God's desire for them to be involved in the ministries of our local church. Encourage teenagers you know by telling them the gifts you see in them. Teens, how can you put your gifts to service in the church?

**LOGOS: Third Grade:** The 3rd graders learned in 1 Samuel 9-15 that Saul, the 1st king of Israel, served God half-heartedly, making excuses when he didn't want to follow God's instructions. How well do we obey God's instructions?

**JYF:** This past week we began to study 1 John and we talked about what it means that there is no darkness in God at all (1 John 1:5). We also took time to draw our favorite Bible stories and shared our drawings with the class and what we liked about that particular Bible story.

**SYF:** This past week we looked together at the hymn, Dear Refuge of My Weary Soul, and talked about what the hymn means. We also had Jordyn Pursel come as a guest to share about her experiences in missions and what she's learned from these experiences. This week is Spring Break, and high school students still in town are welcome to join us for a night of fun!

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**Fairlawn Auxiliary Auction Donations Needed** – There is a sign up sheet posted on the bulletin board for monetary donations needed for pork and pies for the auction. Please sign up and drop off cash or checks (made payable to Elaine Winzeler) at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

**Discovery**<sup>®</sup> is a daily Bible reading guide that provides clear Bible explanation, prayers and relevant application questions. The Apr/May/June guides are available in the literature rack (suggested donation \$5.50 each). You can access this guide online at <http://www.scriptureunion.org/Bible%20Reading/Discovery>. Below is the list of daily readings for this week:

March 27 - Don't Give Up! ..... Hebrews 4:12-16  
March 28 - Perfect in Every Way ..... Hebrews 5:1-10  
March 29 - Time to Grow Up ..... Hebrews 5:11–6:3  
March 30 - No Room for Complacency ..... Hebrews 6:4-12  
March 31 - The Anchor for the Soul ..... Hebrews 3:7-19  
April 1 - In Two Days' Time ..... Mark 14:1-11  
April 2 - Under Attack! ..... Psalm 56

## WEEK OF MARCH 26TH AT ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Sun	8:00AM	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	9:15AM	Confirmation / Faith Village / Sunday School
	10:30AM	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	3:00PM	Ordination Service – Pastor Alex Young (Sanctuary) Reception to follow (Parish Hall)
Mon	1:00PM	Worship Planning (Nursery)
	2:00PM	Pastors Meeting (Pastor Erich's Office)
Tues	9:15AM	Bible Study – Hebrews 5 (Fireside Room)
	1:30PM	Bingo (Fairlawn Activities Room) – Need 5 or 6 Volunteers Contact Elaine Winzeler (419-446-2200)
	5:00PM	Community Meal – Archbold Evangelical Hosting (Parish Hall / Kitchen)
	8:00PM	Praise Band Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Wed	7:00PM	Lenten Service (Sanctuary)
	7:00PM	SYF (Youth Room)
	8:00PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Thur	9:00AM	Mending at Fairlawn (Activities Room)
Sat	10:00AM	High School Girls Bible Study (Youth Room)
	1:00PM	Private Party (Parish Hall / Kitchen)
Sun	8:00AM	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	9:15AM	Confirmation / Faith Village / Sunday School
	10:30AM	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	6:00PM	Seekers Small Group (Kuntz's, 733 W. Leggett Street, Wauseon)

### **Next Sunday – April 2 - Fifth Sunday of Lent**

Sermon – “It's a Real Relationship” by Pastor Erich Christman; Scripture – John 11:1-45

**Community Meal Ministry** – After Tuesday, community meals will be hosted at Zion Mennonite Church for the months of April, May and June. They will return here to St. John's for the months of July, August and September.

**Man Camp**– Steaks, bacon, hatchets, and fire. Need we say more? A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board for April 7th – 9th. The cost for this weekend at Miracle Camp is \$125 which includes lodging and meals. Check with Bruce Wooley if you have questions or visit [www.miraclecamp.com/mancamp](http://www.miraclecamp.com/mancamp). A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board – the earlier you sign-up, the better your accommodations might be!

**Vacation Bible School (VBS) 2017** – Directors of this year's VBS are Amy Baden, Mindy Gruenhagen and Carrie Nofziger. They are working on curriculum and theme selection! The week of VBS this year will be June 25th through 29th.

**Christian Resources International (CRI)** – CRI is an organization in Fowlerville, Michigan that sends containers filled with Bibles and Christian literature around the world and to prisons. Our church has taken material to them, and we believe this to be an excellent Christian activity. If you have any Christian literature (Bibles, devotionals, Sunday school papers or books) you no longer use, please donate them to this project. There is a box labeled to receive literature in the chapel narthex. Please contact Norma Fish (419-799-9172) or Gloria Lauber (419-445-7882) if you have a large amount of literature.

## **This Week's Congregational Prayer:**

(Read Psalm 23 each day) Lord, as my shepherd, I know you provide for me, and I thank you for teaching me what I truly should want – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. In these moments of prayer, in this time of quiet, I continue to pray for the restoration of my soul. Help me realize and follow your guiding hand. I praise you, Lord, for the overflowing blessings in my life, and I thank you for walking with me through the valleys and trials of life. Lead me onward, Lord. Amen.

- ✠ Africa – Tom & Megan – The Islands – pray for them as they make decisions about school for their children, for the right people for their team, for unity amongst members of their new team.
- ✠ Ann Arbor – Kyle Chase – Reliant Mission at Univ. of Michigan – pray for wisdom and stamina as he trains students to share the gospel and walk by faith, and their discipleship efforts.
- ✠ Brazil – Matt & Paige Waanders – Cru – Florianopolis – pray God continues to sustain them through daily difficulties of living in a different culture; pray for the students they met in the city of Pelotas; pray for Alberto, a new friend who has been helpful to them.
- ✠ Brazil – Tony & Leila Frank – pray the encouragement they received while in the states will continue to be a source of strength and blessing as they give effort to their teaching and leading.
- ✠ Chicago – Jon & Rachel Doriot – Pioneers – pray for the necessary arrangements for a home, for open doors to meeting new Muslim families that are willing to study Jesus, and that united believers in the Chicagoland area will truly exude a Micah 6:8 character toward Muslims and the lost: act justly, love kindness and walk humbly with our God!
- ✠ China – Cheryl Wyse – Agape Family Life House – pray for the family, for the home in China, for the U.S. leadership as they seek guidance and support in this new time.
- ✠ Columbus – Whitney Varnau – pray for wisdom and further support as she spends more time engaged with the anti-trafficking ministry.
- ✠ Dominican Republic – Jason & Becky Suon – Freedom International Ministries – now that they are in their second month, pray for health, family relationships and unity with staff.
- ✠ India – Dr. Shobha Arole & Mr. Ravi Arole – CRHP Jamkhed – pray for quality and consistent post-operative care following recent work by surgical teams, and pray for their ministerial work in areas of social justice and human health.
- ✠ Kenya – Larry & Linda Rupp – Kajiado Children's Home – pray their recent efforts to fund and construct a greenhouse are successful, and praise God for further partnerships in ministry.
- ✠ Toledo – Matt Pardi – Reliant Mission at Univ. of Toledo – pray for Matt in his efforts of teaching, leadership development, outreach, staff discipleship and fundraising.

**Prayer for Kyle Chase:** Lord, I thank you for raising up Kyle as a missionary and teacher engaged in campus ministry. May he continually seek your guidance in his teaching and in his interactions with students, and I pray your Spirit will encourage him and give him energy, knowledge and wisdom as he ministers in the unique setting of campus ministry. I pray for his own spirit, that he will not lose heart but will be bold and courageous in his efforts of evangelism and discipleship. Bless him with joy, Lord. I pray for Kyle, for his wife, Melissa, and for their sons, Jaden and Brennan; may their family enjoy time and faith and love together. In Jesus's name, I pray. Amen.

# *March Mission-A-Month*

## *Friendship House (Homeless Shelter in Archbold)*

### **Prayer Joys, Concerns, Requests - Please Pray For:**

- Wayne Spiess, in the Rupp Rehab Center at Fairlawn.
- Myrl Zimmerman, in CCU at FCHC for treatment of edema.
- Justin & Kelsey Pursel, on the death of Kelsey's father, Doug Weirauch, on Thursday.
- Joan Grieser, recovering from out-patient knee surgery in Columbus on Tuesday.
- Crissi Stuckey, having surgery tomorrow at Bryan Hospital to remove a lipoma on her shoulder.
- Dale Grime, recovering from shoulder surgery.
- John Lovejoy, Paul and Joan Lovejoy's son, undergoing chemo treatments.
- Gary Frazier, undergoing chemo treatments.
- Benjamin Chapman, who has returned from Qatar to the states. He is in Texas for a few weeks, and will then be reunited with his wife and 3 children and they will return to their home in Lynchburg, Virginia.
- Brenden Bostelman, stationed in Alaska.
- Taylor Collins, stationed in Bolling, DC.
- Kyle Ducey, stationed at Fort Gordon, Georgia.
- Jared Kuntz, stationed in South Korea.
- Donny Richardson, stationed in Okinawa, Japan.
- Steve Schink, stationed at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut.
- AJ Short, who is in 9 weeks of infantry training in North Carolina.
- Kollin Woolace, in basic training at Parris Island, South Carolina.
- Koltin Zimmerman, stationed at Fort Campbell, Oak Grove, Kentucky.
- All our home bound and care center residents.

### **Today's Worship Servants**

Acolytes	(8:00) Bryce Beltz	(10:30) Emily Walker
Ushers	(Head) Steve Walker	
	(8:00) Jim Grieser	
	(10:30) Jeremy & Jen Hurst, Kim & Adam Walker	
Greeters	(10:30) Bill & Kathy Bostelmen, Nancy Ries, Phyllis Swietzer	
Nursery Staff	(10:30) Lucas & Lindy Lantz	(Apr 2) Jan Martinez
Sound Tech	(8:00) Angie Neuenschwander	(10:30) James Grime
Video Tech	(10:30) Dean Sauder	
Computer Tech	(Both) Kelly Ducey	
Song Leader	(Both) Deb Schnitkey	
Accompanist	(Both) Lynne Christman	

### **ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

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