



Come Hear the Reason we're Inspired to Serve Together



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 Advent

Welcome, Announcements, Scripture and Prayer

Micah 5:2-5a (p. 922)

Prelude

“On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”

The Nativity Scene - The Stable

† Carol – #132

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Lighting of the Advent Wreath – The Candle of Joy

(8:00) Adam Kinsman & Caleb Wooley; (10:30) Leah Hall & Kelsey Wyse

Hymn Response

Hope, hope, hope, The light of Christ is hope.

In all our darkness Christ is shining, Leading upward, faith refining.

Hope, hope, hope, The light of Christ is hope.

Peace, peace, peace, The gift of Christ is peace.

We walk with God, our past forgiven. All in Him is life and heaven.

Peace, peace, peace, The gift of Christ is peace.

Joy, joy, joy, We praise You, Christ, with joy!

Our peace, our hope, our love and treasure, Highest calling, deepest pleasure!

Joy, joy, joy, We praise You, Christ, with joy!

Love, love, love, The heart of Christ is love.

On all who come He pours His presence, Life and love in holy essence.

Love, love, love, The heart of Christ is love.

Children’s Message

† Carol – #144

“How Great Our Joy!”

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

(10:30) Chancel Choir

“Christ Is Born, Nowell!”

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:39-45, 46-55 (p. 1013)

Sermon (notes on pg. 4)

“The Light of the World”

Unison Prayer of Dedication: *We praise you, Lord, for lighting our paths as we live on this earth. The light of your Word guides us in our giving, to give our first fruits to you. We are blessed by the giving of your Son, and we bring our gifts to you, honoring you as we are your beacons of light in the world today. In Jesus’ name. Amen.*

Sharing Our Tithes and Offerings of Gratitude

Offertory

(10:30) Avery Roth & Lynne Christman

“Silent Night”

Second Offering for our Imagine Your Faith Building Capital Campaign

Brent Winzeler

† Closing Hymn – #135

“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks”

† Benediction

† Benediction in Song – #138, refrain

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

† 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.

St. John's Christian Preschool

A learning, Christian ministry geared for children 3-5 years of age. 2018/2019 Preschool registration for our SJCC family begins on Sunday, January 7th at noon with an open house in the preschool room; and for the community on Monday, January 8th at 7PM in the preschool room. More information is available at www.stjohnsarchbold.org.

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 10:30 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.

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

Pre-K Class: We are continuing to learn more and more about the real reason for Christmas. What super cool thing happened during Christmas time?

Faith Village: We began a new unit today entitled "Journey to Bethlehem" which uses Luke 2:1-21 and Micah 5:2-5a as its references. People in Bible times waited with anticipation for the coming of the Savior. During Advent, we wait and prepare to celebrate the birth of the promised Savior, Jesus. What is your favorite part of the Christmas story?

Confirmation: Over the next two weeks the Confirmands are practicing parts to help bring the nativity scene to life for Faith Village. Put yourself in the sandals of Mary, or Joseph, or the Shepherds. What would you be feeling in light of the events and promises surrounding the nativity? What would help you continue to trust God as Joseph and Mary did?

Senior High Sunday School: As children, you get to follow along in the traditions your parents have set for the family. Hopefully your family has traditions that have helped you learn the meaning of the season and have enabled your family to glorify God together. What traditions does your family have that enables you to do this? Share with another teen or parent. Now, as teens, you may have the ability to help shape your family's traditions. What would you like to add to your family's routine to bring honor to Christ? Perhaps reading together as a family the story of the Nativity in the Gospel of Luke? Perhaps singing some Christmas hymns together around the family piano, or with youtube playing the songs in the background? This Christmas, find a way to honor Christ our King, our Lord, and our Love!

LOGOS/JYF: LOGOS and JYF will both resume on Wednesday, January 10, 2018.

SYF: This week we enjoyed a Christmas-themed game night, playing Christmas charades, Christmas trivia, and we had a Santa's beard contest, and sang Christmas songs too!

Sermon – “The Light of the World”
Scripture Text – Luke 1:39-45, 46-55 (p. 1013)

Matthew 18:3 And he said: “I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Come to the celebration of Christ’s birth as a child...

Ask a child what they think when they see a nativity scene.

What does a child do with a nativity scene?

What does the nativity scene represent?

Narrative. Story. Ritual. Visual. Touch. Repetition. Familiar.

Luke 1:39-45 – Mary’s Visit with Elizabeth

- What’s known?
 - o Birth of John the Baptist foretold
 - o Birth of Jesus foretold
 - o In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel
 - o Mary visited Elizabeth – relatives
 - o Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months
- Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit – enlightened by the Spirit
- Mother of my Lord – knowing Jesus would be her Lord
- Blessed – happy situation of those God favors – Mary’s response of faithfulness (v. 38)

Mary’s Song – The Magnificat

- Similar to/Drawn from – Hannah’s Prayer of 1 Samuel 2:1-10
 - Imagery speaks of Mary’s awareness of Old Testament scripture
1. (46-49) Praise God for what he has done for Mary
 - o Tell out, Enlarge – the Greatness of God; My soul glorifies the Lord
 - o God my Savior – only sinners need a Savior
 - o My spirit rejoices – sing praise, worship, glorify the Lord
 - o Mighty One – whose great power has been exercised in Mary’s life
 2. (49-50) Attributes of God – power, holiness, mercy
 - o His mercy extends to those who fear him – a pious reverence
 3. (51-53) God’s sovereign action in reversing social conditions
 - o He has filled the hungry
 - o Sent the rich away
 4. (54-55) God’s mercy in Israel

WEEK OF DEC 24TH AT ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Sun	8:00AM	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	9:15AM	Faith Village / Confirmation / Sunday School
	10:30AM	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	11:45AM	Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	7:00PM	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (Sanctuary)
Mon		Merry Christmas! (Office Closed)
	10:30AM	Christmas Day Worship (Sanctuary)
	12:00PM	Christmas Caroling (Fairlawn)
Tues	9:15AM	Bible Study – Isaiah 9 (Fireside Room)
	5:00PM	Community Meal – SJCC & AAMA (Parish Hall / Kitchen)
Wed	9:00AM	West Haven Bible Study (Fairlawn)
Thur	9:00AM	Mending (Fairlawn Activities Room)
Sun	8:00AM	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	9:15AM	Faith Village / Confirmation / Sunday School
	10:30AM	Worship Service (Sanctuary)

Next Sunday – December 31 - Memorial Sunday

Sermon – “In the Temple Courts” by Pastor Erich Christman; Scripture – Luke 2:41-52

Discovery Daily Devotional Guides – The Jan/Feb/Mar Discovery Daily Bible Guides are available in the literature rack outside the Associate Pastor’s office (suggested donation \$6 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:

December 25 - Rise and Shine!	Isaiah 9:1-7
December 26 - Return to Me	Isaiah 9:8-17
December 27 - Turn or Burn	Isaiah 9:18 – 10:4
December 28 - Chosen	Isaiah 10:20-27
December 29 - Sea of Faithfulness	Isaiah 11:1-16
December 30 - Sing!	Isaiah 12:1-6
December 31 - The New World	Isaiah 24:21 – 25:12

Dismantling of Advent Decorations – We will be taking down and storing Advent decorations on Saturday, January 6 beginning at 9AM. Many hands make light work!

2018 Offering Envelopes – Please note 2018 offering envelopes are available for pick up on a table in the sanctuary narthex (arranged alphabetically by last name). If you did not find a box with your name on it and you would like offering envelopes, please contact the church office and a box will be assigned to you.

Sunday Worship Service Volunteers Needed – Please check the bulletin board to sign up for 10:30 worship service head usher, ushers, and greeters for 2018. A list of duties / responsibilities for ushers and greeters is posted next to each sign up sheet (contact the church office if you would like a printed or digital copy to have). Thank you!

This Week's Congregational Prayer:

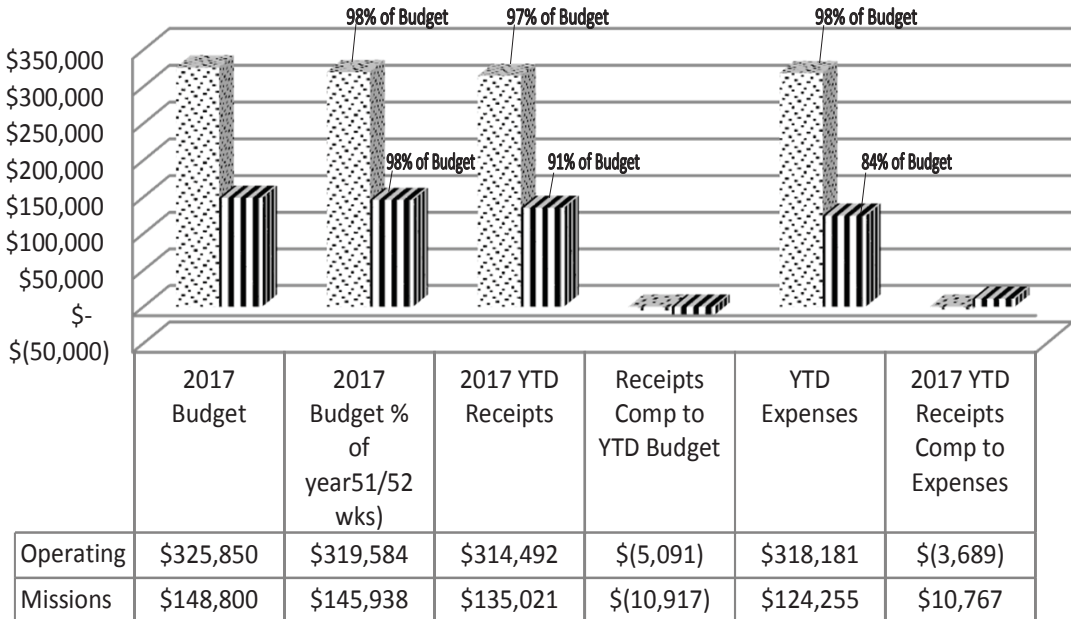
O Mighty One, how blessed I am in reading the expressions of Elizabeth and Mary once again. How blessed I am to know of their faithfulness; and your faithfulness in accomplishing all that you have proclaimed. Thank you for your revealed word of truth and light. Thank you for extending your mercy. Draw me ever closer, Lord, revealing to me more of my role in bringing glory to you and peace to your people. Amen.

December Mission-A-Month – Crossroad

Crossroad Child & Family Services was founded in 1883 as an orphanage by the German Reformed Church in the United States (one of the predecessor denominations to the UCC). They were founded as the Reformed Orphan's Home of Fort Wayne, Indiana to care for the “neediest of God’s children.” Ohio churches were very involved in the creation of the organization “way out in the Western Synod of the church” in Fort Wayne, Indiana! Crossroad has been supported by the predecessor churches to the UCC and the United Church of Christ throughout their nearly 133-year history.

Over the years their name changed and their services evolved as the needs of children changed. Today’s Mission: “Crossroad creates promising futures for children in difficult circumstances by providing therapy, education and family support services.” Crossroad is known throughout the Midwest as one of the largest providers of treatment for troubled children and their families.

2017 Operating & Missions Funds as of December 18, 2017



IYF Building Campaign Total Receipts as of December 18, 2017 - \$542,448.44

Missionaries Supported by Our Congregation and Their Current Prayer Requests:

- ✠ Africa – Tom & Megan – The Islands – pray their teaching continues to lead to deeper relationships and good conversations; pray for their team as programs expand, and that they would make wise choices about where to invest their time and ministry.
- ✠ Ann Arbor – Kyle Chase – Reliant Mission at University of Michigan – pray for the students as the fall semester winds down, that the challenges of campus life and academics are not overwhelming, and that Reliant continues to reach more and more students.
- ✠ Bowling Green – Robert & Jenni McMahan – Cru at BGSU – pray with them that the Lord would completely unite the BGSU Cru team He has chosen soon, miraculously, for the sake of the Gospel, and for glory to His Name.
- ✠ Brazil – Tony & Leila Frank – pray recent meetings with summer camp leaders are fruitful, as Tony & Leila have been asked to help train staff in the area of defending the Christian faith; pray for them as they interact with university students in nearby Sao Leopoldo.
- ✠ Chicago – Jon & Rachel Doriot – Pioneers – pray for them as they follow up on conversations they had with 28 people, 17 of whom were interested in getting involved in a Discovery Bible Study; pray for them as they finalize plans for their long term housing, and long term support.
- ✠ China – Cheryl Wyse – Agape Family Life House – pray for Cheryl’s new partnership with Habitat for Humanity as various repairs around her home get addressed; pray for the family as they approach Christmas for the first time without their husband and father.
- ✠ Columbus – Whitney Varnau – Reliant Mission at The Ohio State University – pray for Molly and Courtney as they are exploring belief in Christ as Lord and King; pray for more women from the Greek community of OSU to find a place in h2o; pray for wisdom in volunteering.
- ✠ Columbus – Matt & Paige Waanders – Cru at Ohio State – pray for freshmen who are involved with Cru, that they grow spiritually and relationally; pray for students struggling with loneliness, homesickness and academic challenges; pray for the development of their support team.
- ✠ Dominican Republic – Jason & Becky Suon – Freedom International Ministries – continued prayers for the on-going, short-term and long-term recovery efforts following the hurricane; offer prayers of thanksgiving that God is working through Freedom IM in these efforts.
- ✠ India – Dr. Shobha Arole & Mr. Ravi Arole – CRHP Jamkhed – pray for people with the HIV virus as they struggle with the personal and social complications of the virus, praying that they will receive necessary care and not be ostracized; pray for the staff of CRHP, that their loving witness of Christ’s love and compassion continues to overcome stigmas and tensions.
- ✠ Kenya – Larry & Linda Rupp – Kajiado Children’s Home – pray that the December 3rd “Friendraiser” event produces increased numbers of supporting churches and individuals; pray for two young adults of SJCC as they consider participating in the 2018 Summer trip to KCH.
- ✠ Toledo – Matt Pardi – Reliant Mission at University of Toledo – pray for the students as the fall semester winds down, that the challenges of campus life and academics are not overwhelming, and that Reliant continues to reach more and more students.

Prayer Joys, Concerns, Requests - Please Pray For:

- Jen Lindsay, who is recovering from foot surgery.
- Esther Rice, who is rehabbing from a stroke.
- Pauline Short, in hospice care at Fairlawn.
- Ruth Schmucker, in hospice care at Fairlawn.
- Dorothy Miller, as she continues to recover from her recent cancer treatment.
- Lynda Schnitkey, recovering from a broken leg and foot.
- Norma Fish, who completed cancer treatments last week.
- Susie Enderle, who completed cancer treatments at Cleveland Clinic last week.
- Brenden Bostelman, stationed in Afghanistan.
- Taylor Collins, stationed in Bolling, DC.
- Kyle Ducey, stationed at Fort Gordon, Georgia.
- Jared Kuntz, stationed in Guam.
- Eric Magg, stationed in Ketchikan, Alaska.
- Donny Richardson, stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.
- Steve Schink, stationed at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut.
- AJ Short, stationed in Japan.
- Kyle Stuckey, stationed in Korea.
- Kollin Woolace, stationed in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.
- All our home bound and care center residents, and all our students.

Today's Worship Servants

Acolytes	(8:00) Bryce Beltz	(10:30) Emma Nafziger
Ushers	(Head) Greg Walker	
	(8:00) Doug & Nancy Rupp	
	(10:30) Dave & Karen Walker, Michael Walker, Toby Walker	
Greeters	(10:30) Nancy Ries, Phyllis Swietzer	
Nursery Staff	(10:30) Chris & Amy Baden	(Dec 31) Travis & Mindy Gruenhagen
Sound Tech	(8:00) Angie Neuenschwander	(10:30) James Grime
Video Tech	(10:30) Dean Sauder	
Computer Tech	(Both) Kelly Ducey	
Worship Leader	(Both) JoAnn Short	
Song Leader	(Both) David Stuckey	
Accompanist	(Both) Lynne Christman	

ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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