



Stacy & Jeff Rutledge

Come Hear the Reason we're Inspired to Serve Together



Welcome to



**“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! First Sunday of Advent

Enter to Worship God in the Fellowship of Others

Please offer a prayer for yourself, those around you, and those leading worship.

Lighting of the Altar Candles and Ringing of the Tower Bells

The lighted candles symbolize God's presence, and Christ, the Light of the World.

Welcome and Announcements

Mission Moment – Crossroad Child and Family Services

Kyle Zanker

Scripture and Prayer of Invocation

Jeremiah 33:14-16 (p. 787)

Prelude

“You Are Emmanuel”

The Nativity Scene – The Stable – #157, verse 1

“Away in a Manger”

†Call to Worship

L: We gather this morning as a people waiting for the Lord.

P: *The one who died, rose, and will come again.*

L: Yes, this is the truth, and the great mystery of our faith!

P: *Yes! Lord Jesus, come into our hearts again this Advent Season!*

†(8:00) Advent Carol – #120

“The Advent of Our God”

†(10:30) Advent Song

“You Are Emmanuel”

Lighting of the Advent Wreath – The Candle of Expectation

L: It was Jesus Christ himself that told us to be ready at any time. So, today we remember that call. The call to look for God in unexpected places, at unexpected times. And even though we wait, we can expect Our Savior to show. This morning, we light the Candle of Expectation.

P: *Let this flame remind us that while we wait for the Lord, truly the Lord is already here. Hope is here. Love is here. Family is here.*

Children’s Message

(#82, verse 1) “O Come, Let Us Adore Him”

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

(10:30) Service of Infant Dedication – Cullen Frederick Yoder

Opening Sentences and The Apostles’ Creed

Scripture – “Discipline your son, and he will give you peace; he will bring delight to your soul.” Proverbs 29:17

Promises of the Parents and Congregational Pledge:

You are dedicating your child, Cullen, to the powerful and loving providence of God.

We pledge to share in the Christian nurture of Cullen and we will support, by our

example and love, your efforts to provide a loving and caring home, where trust in

God grows and Christ’s way is chosen. Our prayers will be with you and for you. May

our shared life and witness help make your task both joyful and fruitful, to the glory of

Almighty God.

Dedication and Prayer
(10:30) Chancel Choir
Prayer of Dedication and Sharing Our Tithes and Offerings
Offertory
Scripture Reading
Advent Message
Advent Communion Service
†(8:00) Closing Hymn – #117
†(10:30) Closing Song
†Spoken Benediction
†(8:00) Benediction in Song – #112
†(10:30) Benediction in Song (refrain)
†Postlude

“Waiting for a King”
“As Lately We Watched”
Matthew 24:36-44 (p. 982)
“Managing Un-Expectations”
“We Come O Christ to You”
“Advent Hymn”
“Jesus, Name Above All Names”
“Advent Hymn”

We Practice Open Communion . . .

- All adults and older youth who profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are invited to commune
- Grape juice is served in the trays of the cup
- At 8:00 worship, communicants will be invited to come forward in groups
- At 10:30 worship, communicants will be served in the pews, partaking at one time



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 outside of the chapel or at www.stjohnsarchbold.org.

Mother's Room / Diaper Changing Station / Nursery Care

We have a Mother's Room near our sanctuary – 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 by our system for hearing aids with a “t” switch position.

Today we celebrate the dedication of Cullen Frederick Yoder, son of Eric and Anna Yoder, born December 14, 2017. Cullen's older brothers are Finn and Liam. Grandparents include: John and Linda Gulick, Dale and Sharon VonDeylen, Doug Yoder and Arda Raatz. Great-grandparents include: Marlin and Velda Short and Doris Yoder. Cullen's sponsors are Aaron and Bri Jenkins.

2018 Advent Booklet – Copies are available on a table in the sanctuary narthex. A digital copy of the booklet is posted on the home page of our web site, under the "Upcoming Events" section.

This Week's Congregational Prayer:

Most gracious God, I admit that it is difficult to be silent and to focus, for I find myself wanting too much and wanting to do too much, or longing to do what I used to be able to do. Yet, even as I confess this, I celebrate Advent, a season of preparation and anticipation. Thank you for Jesus, the Messiah, the light of the world, who shines through the darkness, giving us hope and peace. Here my prayer, Lord, as I offer up thanksgiving and petitions... Amen.

The Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is created out of evergreens, symbolizing everlasting life in the midst of winter and death. The circle reminds us of God's unending love and the eternal life He makes possible. Advent candles are nestled in the evergreen wreath. There are varying traditions about the meanings of the Advent candles. In some churches, four purple candles, one for each week in Advent, are used with one white candle in the middle as the Christ candle. Other churches prefer three purple or blue candles with one candle being rose or pink, to represent joy. During each Sunday of the Advent season, the focus may be on one of the four virtues Jesus brings: hope, love, joy and peace. Others consider the lighting of the first candle to symbolize expectation, while the second symbolizes hope, the third joy and the fourth purity. The Christ candle is lit on Christmas Eve reminding Christians that Jesus is the light of the world. The order and exact wording vary among churches, but the wreath continually reminds us of whom we are called to be as followers of Jesus.

Traditionally at St. John's, the candles have symbolized the four virtues of Jesus – hope, love, joy and peace. This year, we are combing a few of the traditions stemming from a new resource used to guide our Advent worship. The four candles will be the candle of expectation, the candle of prophecy, the candle of hope, and the candle of joy.

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!

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.

There is a current list of needed items for Crossroad on the mission bulletin board just outside the church office and on the wall above the white mission box in the chapel narthex. Or monetary donations can be given through your regular offering envelopes or dropped off in the church office.

WEEK OF DEC 3RD AT ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Sun	8:00AM	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	9:15AM	Confirmation / Faith Village / Sunday School
	10:30AM	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	12:00PM	Private Party (Parish Hall)
	12:00PM	Private Party (Chapel)
	5:00PM	Small Couples Group Christmas Dinner & Party
Mon	11:00AM	Staff Meeting (Office Closed)
	7:30PM	SYF Leader's Meeting
Tues	9:15AM	Bible Study (Fireside Room)
	5:00PM	Community Meal @ Zion Mennonite (Archbold Schools Hosting)
	7:00PM	Capital Campaign Committee (Fireside Room)
Wed		<i>No LOGOS for the Month of December</i>
	8:30AM	Moms in Prayer (Classroom Upstairs)
	6:30PM	1st - 6th Grade Children for Christmas Program Practice (Sanctuary)
	7:00PM	SYF
	7:30PM	Chancel Choir
Thurs	9:00AM	Mending @ Fairlawn
	6:00PM	6th Grade Basketball
	7:00PM	Mission Committee (Fireside Room)
Sat	7:40AM	Men's Prayer Breakfast
Sun	8:00AM	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	9:15AM	Confirmation / Faith Village / Sunday School
	10:30AM	Worship Service/Sermon in Music (Sanctuary)
	6:00PM	Seekers

Next Sunday – December 9, Second Sunday of Advent

Sermon – “We Work While We Wait” by Pastor Erich Christman

Scripture – Matthew 24:36-44

Discovery® is a daily Bible reading guide that provides clear Bible explanation, prayers and relevant application questions. You can access the guide online at <http://www.scriptureunion.org/Bible%20Reading/Discovery>. Below is the list of daily readings for this week:

December 3 - Rescue Me!.....	Colossians 1:1-14
December 4 - Half Empty, Half full?.....	Colossians 1:15-23
December 5 - A Mystery Made Known.....	Colossians 1:24-25
December 6 - Kidnapped!.....	Colossians 2:6-15
December 7 - Christ is All!.....	Colossians 2:16-23
December 8 - Heavenly Minded, Earthly Use.....	Colossians 3:1-11
December 9 - A Settled Soul.....	Psalm 131

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

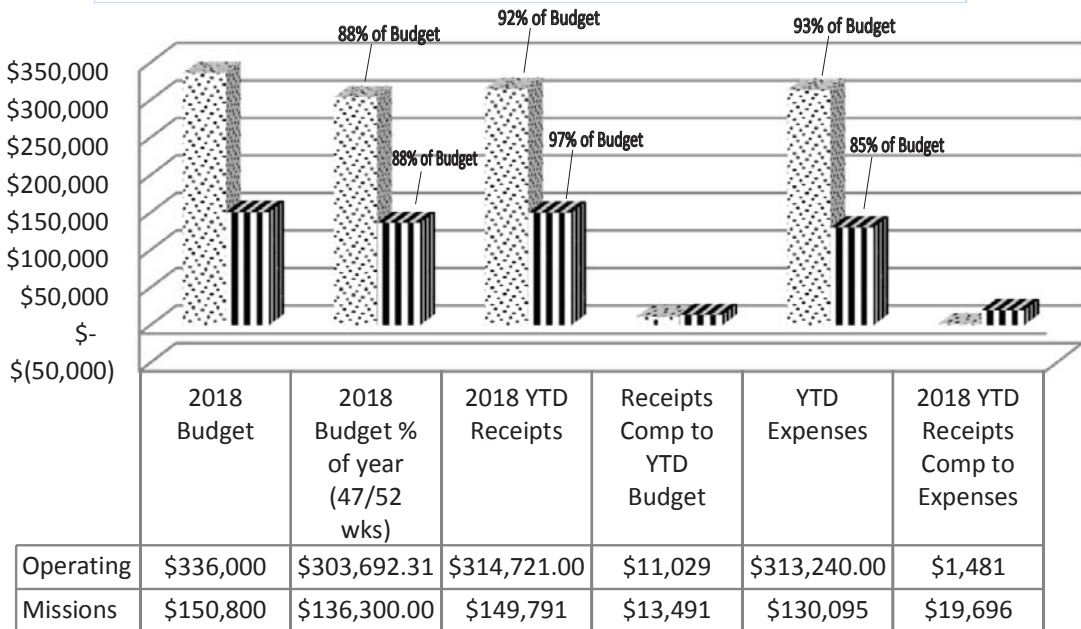
LOGOS: 1st & 5th Grades: We combined together to make cards for our church family shut in's, talked about the holidays and what it was like on the night of Jesus birth. **3rd Grade:** We celebrated the birth of Christ reviewing Luke 1 & 2. We also discussed how Jesus is the center of our time being born approximately 2018 years ago. Jesus is the center of time all creation. Jesus is the best gift of all! **4th grade:** This week our focus of worship was on Advent. We talked about what Advent is and how people prepare for it. We also looked at scriptures to learn more about the dreams and plans God has for His people - the hope we have in the Advent season.

Senior High Sunday School: Our lesson comes from Genesis 32:24-32, where we focus on how God is working to change our hearts and give us new identities. We see our old, sinful selves passing away and the new, redeemed self alive and progressing, becoming more and more like Christ.

Senior Citizens Annual Christmas Dinner – Senior citizens, mark your calendars for Thurs., Dec. 13th at 5:30PM for the annual Christmas Dinner! Please sign up on the bulletin board across from the church office by December 9th. A free will offering will be collected at the door.

Due to Nick's resignation we are in need of someone to fill the custodian position 12 hours per week. Days and times have some flexibility. Please submit your interest in this position with a resume to the church office and it will be forwarded to the Personnel Committee.

2018 Operating & Missions Funds as of November 30, 2018



IYF Building Campaign Total Receipts as of November 30, 2018 - \$633,251.70

Missionaries Supported by Our Congregation

- ✚ Africa – Tom & Megan – The Islands – pray for justice and peace as issues with civil unrest linger; pray for further opportunities to share the gospel and go deeper; pray for commitment, desire and courage for islanders to study the Bible together; pray for additional team members.
- ✚ Akron – David Hench – Reliant at Akron U – thank the Lord for David’s time with us on November 11th, and pray that David continues to be supported through prayer and funding so can continue to focus on meeting and ministering to students on campus.
- ✚ Ann Arbor – Kyle Chase – Reliant Mission at U of Michigan – thank the Lord for Kyle’s time with us on November 11th, and pray for his strength as Kyle continues to be wise and courageous in preaching the gospel and coordinating the campus church
- ✚ Bowling Green – Robert & Jenni McMahan – Cru at BGSU – thank the Lord for Robert & Jenni’s time with us on November 11th, and pray that the encouragement they received undergirds their efforts in closing out their first semester of full-time campus ministry.
- ✚ Brazil – Tony & Leila Frank – pray for them as they’re on home assignment now, that their travels and time with their supporters are blessed times of refreshment and renewal, and that the Lord blesses them with further stamina and wisdom as they prepare to return to Brazil.
- ✚ Chicago – Jon & Rachel Doriot – Pioneers
- ✚ China – Cheryl Wyse – Agape Family Life House (AFLH)
- ✚ Columbus – Whitney Varnau – She Has A Name (SHAN) – thank the Lord for our mutual partnership with Whitney as she served students on campus, and pray for her well-being as she ends her time with Reliant at OSU and becomes fully funded by SHAN.
- ✚ Columbus – Matt & Paige Waanders – Cru at Ohio State – continue to pray for their encouragement in the many ways they are ministering to students at OSU and Columbus State University, and for Matt’s continued involvement with Cru’s work in Brazil.
- ✚ Dominican Republic – Jason & Becky Suon – Freedom International – pray for Jason & Becky, and pray for a new family, the Schrock’s, who are now raising support so they may join Jason & Becky in their efforts in the DR. Pray for their encouragement and perseverance.
- ✚ India – Dr. Shobha Arole & Mr. Ravi Arole – CRHP Jamkhed – pray for the CRHP staff as they mourn the loss of Lois Heer, who, with her husband, Richard, was instrumental in furthering our strong partnership. CRHP will have a service in memory of Lois during December.
- ✚ Kenya – Larry & Linda Rupp – Kajiado Children’s Home – pray the Lord opens doors and provides direction as they seek to meet important goals – rescuing 20 additional orphans, building a greenhouse, creating a tutoring program, and installing indoor toilets in the dorms.
- ✚ Thailand – Kinsey Smith – CRU at Grace International School - pray for her continued encouragement, focus and energy as she teaches and witnesses each and every day.
- ✚ Toledo – Matt Pardi – Reliant Mission at U of Toledo – thank the Lord that Matt was able to be with us on November 11th, and pray that his leadership in the campus network continues to bring blessing and fruitfulness to the staff and students he is engaged with.

Prayer Joys, Concerns, Requests - Please Pray For:

- Velma Overmier, who had a heart cath on Thursday at St. Luke's Hospital.
- Nancy Ries, who had a procedure done at UTMC on Monday and spent a few days there, and is back at Fairlawn for a period of rehab.
- Sandy Newland, home from several days at Toledo Hospital, recovering from complications stemming from the chemo treatments.
- Callie Ruffer, born July 26, 2018, daughter of Cameron & Kristen, granddaughter of Ed & Julie, continues in medical care due to a heart syndrome that affects the flow of blood through the heart.
- Tatum Short, born September 9, 2017, daughter of Ollie & Lauren, granddaughter of Scott & JoAnn, as she will have palate surgery on December 5th.
- Sue Kinsman, who had hip replacement surgery on November 12th.
- Jeremy Neuenschwander, undergoing a new round of chemo treatments.
- Brenden Bostelman, in Alaska (Army) (Grandson of Bill & Kathy).
- Kyle Ducey, at Fort Gordon, Georgia (Navy) (Son of Kelly & Betsy).
- Jared Kuntz, at Guam (Army) (Son of Keith & Kelli).
- Eric Magg, at Ketchikan, Alaska (Coast Guard) (Son of Joe & Sheryl Short).
- Shayne & Taylor Pitts, at Bolling AFB, DC (Air Force) (Granddaughter of Nan Neill).
- David Richardson, enlisted in the Marines, reports to boot camp on 2/25 (Son of Shannon & Yesi)
- Donny Richardson, in the Marines (Son of Shannon & Yesi).
- Joshua Richardson, in the Marines (Son of Shannon & Yesi)
- Steve Schink, at Port Angeles, WA (Coast Guard) (Son-in-Law of Ed & Julie Ruffer).
- AJ Short, at 29 Palms, California (Marines) (Son of Joe & Sheryl Short).
- Kyle Stuckey, at Killeen, Texas (Army) (Grandson of Nan Neill).
- Kollin Woolace, at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina (Marines) (Grandson of Larry & Melva).
- All our home bound and care center residents.

Today's Worship Servants

Acolytes	(8:00) Rayne Kinsman	(10:30) Krayton Kern
Ushers	(Head) Ryan Christman	
	(8:00) Gary & Judy Sears	
Nursery Staff	(10:30) Jeremy & Sarah Kinsman	(Dec. 9) Bo & Bri Krukowski
Sound Tech	(8:00) Angie Neuenschwander	(10:30) James Grime
Video Tech	(10:30) Dean Sauder	
Worship Leader	(Both) Jan Lindsay	
Song Leader	(Both) Elaine Winzeler	
Computer Tech	(Both) Brian Roth	
Accompanist	(Both) Lynne Christman	

ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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Pastor Rev. Erich Christman (Cell 419-551-0401)

Associate Pastor Rev. Alex Young (Cell 330-206-8762)

Administrative Assistant Kelly Stahl (office@stjohnsarchbold.org)

LOGOS Director Kim M. Walker (gkwalker@rtceexpress.net)

Preschool Administrator Sue MacDonald (macfamily5@roadrunner.com)

Director of Music Ministry Andrew Rohrs (andrew.rohrs@gmail.com)