



Dean & Darlene Sauder

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



Preschool Christmas Parade

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! Third 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

Scripture and Prayer of Invocation

Zephaniah 3:14-20 (p. 935)

Prelude

"He Is Born, the Holy Child"

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

"Away in a Manger"

†Call to Worship

L: Together, let us be a people unafraid to hope.

P: *Christ comes in the unexpected!*

L: Let us keep the faith together – that Christ will come again.

P: *Lord, keep us on the straight and narrow path that leads to you!*

†Advent Hymn

"Watching, Waiting, Longing"

†Unison Prayer of Confession – ***Our Lord and Our Hope, we know that we often fail you. We forget to watch. We forget to wait. We make the holiday season more about ourselves than sharing the hope that only you can bring. We get so caught up in what we're supposed to get this season, we forget what we're called to give. Help us to remember that this season is about the message and ministry of your son, Jesus Christ, the one who came to heal, liberate, and share the good news of your faithful love. Call us to be faithful only to you this season. Amen.***

Lighting of the Advent Wreath – The Candle of Hope

L: Even John the Baptist asked Jesus, "Are you the one we've been waiting for?" All of his hopes and dreams of God's children were wrapped up in that question. And the answer was, yes, the Hope of the nations was there, and is here. This morning we light the Candle of Hope.

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.*

Processional Carol – #145, verses 1 & 3

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Children's Christmas Program

"Simply Christmas"

Preschool and Kindergarten Classes

"Incredible Christmas"

Scene One – Setting the Stage

Carol – "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

Scene Two – Mary & Elizabeth

Carol – “What Child is This?”

Scene Three – The Shepherds and Angels

Carol – “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Scene Four – The Three Kings

Carol – “He Made A Way In A Manger”

Soloists – Ava Genter, Klaire Kern, Raegan Rutledge

Scene Five – Mary, Joseph & Jesus at the Stable

The Looker-Outer – Joshua Reeb

Tim – Isaac Meyer

Mary – Raegan Rutledge

Elizabeth – Leah Nafziger

Bud – Shepherd – Avery Roth

Len – Shepherd – Zander Johnston

Angel – Ava Genter

Joseph – Ollie MacDonald

Shepherds – Kaenan Helberg, Tucker Johnston, Ethan Krukowski, Kane Overmier,
Jude Rutledge

Angels – Adison Kinsman, Emma Krukowski, Evynn Roth, Bri Grime, Cagnee Grime,
Kennedy Hurst, Molly Rutledge, Ella Yoder, Klaire Kern, Ali Genter, Kali Lantz,
Luci Meyer, Charlotte Meyer, Courtney Stuckey, Camryn Stuckey, Taylor
Wachtmann

The Three Kings – Jace Bernath, Jesse Meyer, Harrison Rohrs

Congregational Carol – #125, verses 1 & 4

“Joy to the World!”

Scripture Reading

Matthew 11:2-11 (p .965)

Advent Message

“Hope in the King”

Sharing Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

“One Small Child”

†Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

†Closing Carol

“He Made a Way in a Manger”

†Spoken Benediction

†Postlude

This Week’s Congregational Prayer:

Dear Father, the Apostle Paul wrote that our present sufferings are not worth comparing to the glories that will be revealed in us. Let the hope of these words fill every nook and every cranny of our hearts, that we might be able to live our lives now in the light of the glory you will bestow upon us. Fill us with hope, Lord, that our lives might be filled with joy, and that our praise might always be directed toward you. Amen.

2019 Offering Envelopes

Be sure to pick up your box of offering envelopes for next year on a table in the sanctuary narthex (arranged alphabetically by last name). Should you not find a box with your name on it and would like one, please contact the church office.

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

St. John's Christian Preschool

A learning, Christian ministry geared for children 3-5 years of age. Four sessions offered: Tues./Thurs. mornings and afternoons, and Mon./Wed./Fri. mornings and afternoons; and run from September through May. More info is available 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.

December Mission-A-Month – Crossroad

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 combining 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.

WEEK OF DEC 16th AT ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Sun	8:00AM	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	9:15AM	Confirmation / Faith Village / Sunday School
	10:30AM	Worship Service/Children's Christmas Musical
Mon	8:30AM	Stephen Leaders Meeting
	11:00AM	Staff Meeting (Office Closed)
	6:15PM	Spiritual Council (Fireside Room)
Tues	7:30PM	Consistory (Fireside Room)
	9:15AM	Bible Study (Fireside Room)
	5:00PM	Community Meal @ Zion Mennonite (AAMA - Pastor Erich)
Wed	8:30AM	Moms in Prayer (Classroom Upstairs)
	7:00PM	SYF (Young's Home - 108 St. Anne St.)
	7:30PM	Chancel Choir Practice
Thurs	9:00AM	Mending @ Fairlawn
	10:00AM	Preschool Christmas Party – T-Th AM Class (Parish Hall)
	2:00PM	Preschool Christmas Party – T-Th PM Class (Parish Hall)
	6:00PM	6th Grade Basketball (Parish Hall)
Fri	7:00PM	Christian Education Team (Fireside Room)
	10:00AM	Preschool Christmas Party – M-W-F AM Class (Parish Hall)
	2:00PM	Preschool Christmas Party – M-W-F PM Class (Parish Hall)
Sun	8:00AM	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	9:15AM	Confirmation / Faith Village / Sunday School
	10:30AM	Worship Service

Next Sunday – December 23, Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sermon – “A Surprise Adoption” by Erich Christman

Scripture – Matthew 1:18-25

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 17 - Don't Be Complacent.....	Zephaniah 1:1-13
December 18 - Hints of Hope.....	Zephaniah 1:14-2:3
December 19 - Remnant Restored.....	Zephaniah 2:4-15
December 20 - Same God, Same Plan.....	Zephaniah 3:1-13
December 21 - Celebrate!.....	Zephaniah 3:14-20
December 22 - Who Do You Think You Are?.....	Matthew 1:1-17
December 23 - Seeking Peace in a Time of War.....	Psalm 133

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

Senior High Sunday School: Our lesson comes from Genesis 42-50; focusing on how God brings good out of evil circumstances. Whatever the source of our suffering, we know God is good and brings lasting comfort we need for difficult times.

2018 Advent Booklet

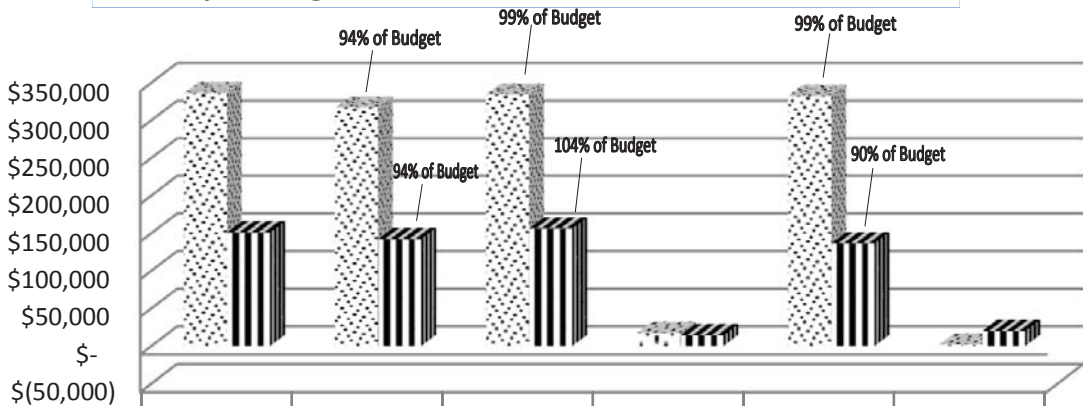
Copies are available on a table in the sanctuary narthex. A digital copy of the booklet is posted on the home page of our web site, under the "Upcoming Events" section.

Mending at Fairlawn

December is our month to help with the mending needs of residents at Fairlawn (Thursdays from 9AM to noon in the Activities Room). Please contact Elaine Winzeler at 419-446-2200 if you have questions on this matter. The residents of Fairlawn greatly need and appreciate our efforts on this matter. Thank you!



2018 Operating & Missions Funds as of December 10, 2018



	2018 Budget	2018 Budget % of year (49/52 wks)	2018 YTD Receipts	Receipts Comp to YTD Budget	YTD Expenses	2018 YTD Receipts Comp to Expenses
Operating	\$336,000	\$316,615.38	\$334,095.00	\$17,480	\$332,432.00	\$1,663
Missions	\$150,800	\$142,100.00	\$156,194	\$14,094	\$136,455	\$19,739

IYF Building Campaign Total Receipts as of December 10, 2018 - \$636,697.20

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 – 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 – for her students who are believers to be strengthened and empowered to live out their identities as children of God; for those who are not believers, that their hearts would be softened and their eyes open to the Gospel; and for the staff that they would be empowered by the Spirit with wisdom and strength to love and lead the students in way that brings glory to God. Pray for Kinsey who will be staying in Thailand for the holidays, far from family.
- ✚ 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:

- Bob Vos, who continues therapy at Rupp Rehab.
- Dottie Young, mother of Pastor Alex, recently diagnosed with colon cancer, recovers at home from recent surgery and awaits a follow up appointment this week.
- Callie Ruffer, born July 26, 2018, daughter of Cameron & Kristen, granddaughter of Ed & Julie, will have pretesting on January 2nd, for her heart surgery on January 7th.
- Jeremy Neuenschwander, awaits another biopsy on December 26.
- 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	(10:30)	Jack Hurst
Ushers	(Head)	Ryan Christman
	(10:30)	Emily Hines, Emma Nafziger, Adam Walker, Emily Walker
Nursery Staff	(10:30)	Keith & Kelli Kuntz (Dec. 23) Eric & Anna Yoder
Sound Tech	(10:30)	James Grime
Video Tech	(10:30)	Dean Sauder
Song & Worship Leader	(Both)	Ed Ruffer
Computer Tech	(Both)	Tom Hines
Accompanist	(Both)	Lynne Christman
Praise Band	(10:30)	Chris Baden, Lynne Christman, Norm Fether, Emma Nafziger, Sarah Nafziger, Todd Nafziger
Advent Wreath	(10:30)	Dale & Ann Grime

ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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

Administrative Assistant Kelly Stahl (office@stjohnsarchbold.org)

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

Preschool Administrator Sue MacDonald (macfamily5@roadrunner.com)

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