



Isaac Meyer, Ollie MacDonald and Joshua Reeb

Come Hear the Reason we're Inspired to Serve Together



Children's Christmas Musical

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

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

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

Prelude

"Silent Night"

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

"Away in a Manger"

† Call to Worship

L: With joy we call Emmanuel down to meet with us this morning!

P: *Christ be with us!*

L: Through the birth of Christ, we know God's love for us.

P: *Thanks be to God!*

† Advent Carol – #144

"How Great Our Joy"

† Unison Prayer of Confession – *God of our salvation and author of hope, it's hard for us to see the blessings you have for us. We think that our plans are better, that the things and desires of the world are higher than your ways. You, Lord, are the great interrupter and sometimes we can feel inconvenienced by the calls you put on us to seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you. Remind us that this season that leads to Christmas wouldn't be here at all if it weren't for you loving this world that you made. Thank you for loving us, God. Amen.*

Lighting of the Advent Wreath – The Candle of Joy

L: As we wait for Emmanuel, God with us to arrive, we remember the fears of his earthly parents. We remember the commitment of Joseph, we remember the commitment of Mary. We remember that the Lord sent angels to comfort and to guide – with joy. In that spirit of joy, of expectation and hope, we light the Candle of Joy.

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 (debtors/debtors)

(10:30) Chancel Choir

"A Gallery Carol"

† Advent Carol – #151

"Good Christian Men, Rejoice"

Scripture Reading

Matthew 1:18-25 (p. 955)

Advent Message

"A Surprise Adoption"

Sharing Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

†The Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

†Closing Carol – #138

†Spoken Benediction

†Benediction in Song – #138, refrain

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

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 “loop system” switch position.

This Week’s Congregational Prayer:

Lord, thank you for being the God of restoration and hope. As I consider the joy that wells up within me through Jesus my Lord; and as I revel in the joy of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, I desire to heed your call of sharing the joy with others. Give me words of hope to share with people, that they would know a sense of your joy. 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.

Sunday Worship Service Volunteers Needed – Please check the bulletin board to sign up for 10:30 worship service head usher, ushers, and greeters for 2019. 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!

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.

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 23RD AT ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Sun	8:00AM	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	9:15AM	Confirmation / Faith Village / Sunday School
	10:30AM	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
Mon	11:30AM	Church Staff Christmas Party (Fireside Room)
	7:00PM	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (Sanctuary)
Tues		Merry Christmas! (Office Closed)
	10:30AM	Christmas Day Worship (Sanctuary)
	12:00PM	Caroling at Fairlawn
Wed	9:00AM	Bible Study at West Haven
Thurs	9:00AM	Mending @ Fairlawn
	6:00PM	6th Grade Basketball
Sat	12:30PM	Packing Supplies for DR Trip (Parish Hall)
Sun	8:00AM	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	9:15AM	Confirmation / Faith Village / Sunday School
	10:30AM	Worship Service

Next Sunday – December 30 - Memorial Sunday

Sermon – “We Are Family” by Pastor Alex Young

Scripture – Hebrews 2:1-9, 10-18

Pastor Erich and Lynne will be on vacation, December 26th through January 2nd. Pastor Alex will be available for pastoral care.

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.

December 24 - What's In A Name?	Matthew 1:18-25
December 25 - One For All	Matthew 2:1-12
December 26 - Battle Stations	Matthew 2:13-23
December 27 - No Easy Options.....	Matthew 3:1-12
December 28 - Starting Over	Matthew 3:13-17
December 29 - Don't Give In.....	Matthew 4:1-11
December 30 - Total Worship.....	Psalm 134

Dismantling of Advent Decorations – We will be taking down and storing Advent decorations on Saturday, January 5 beginning at 9AM. Many hands make light work!

Let's Talk About It - This Week in Our Children's and Youth Education: Senior High Sunday School: Our scripture today comes from Isaiah 9; revolving around the Prince of Peace, Jesus. He brought salvation to the world, and His peace is always worth the wait.



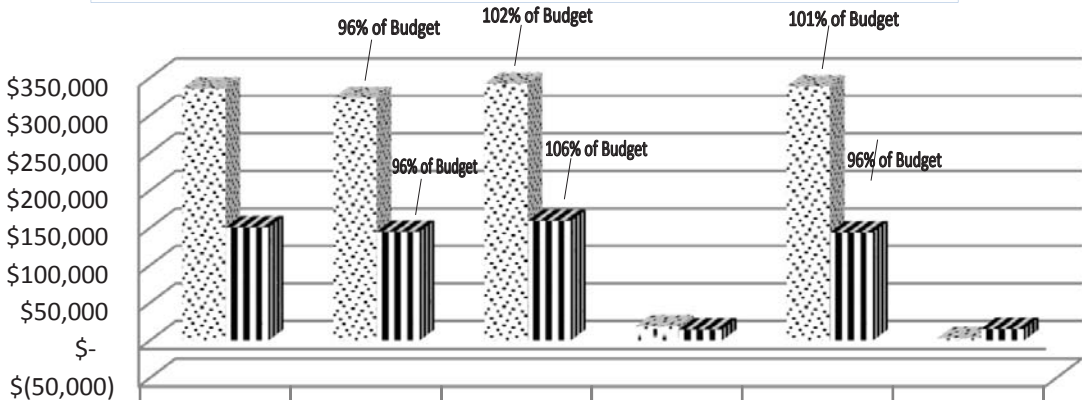
Preschool Registration

Registration for the 2019-2020 school year begins on January 1, 2019 at midnight. Go to www.stjohns.org and click on the "preschool" tab to register. Your child must turn 3 by August 1, 2019 and be potty trained by the time school starts in the fall.

Custodial Position Available

We are searching for someone to fill the open 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 December 17, 2018



	2018 Budget	2018 Budget % of year (50/52 wks)	2018 YTD Receipts	Receipts Comp to YTD Budget	YTD Expenses	2018 YTD Receipts Comp to Expenses
Operating	\$336,000	\$323,076.92	\$342,169.00	\$19,092	\$338,724.00	\$3,445
Missions	\$150,800	\$145,000.00	\$159,469	\$14,469	\$144,066	\$15,403

IYF Building Campaign Total Receipts as of December 17, 2018 - \$638,214.20

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 – 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:

- Richard and Cathy Spiess, and family, as Cathy is now under hospice care at Fairlawn.
- Bob Vos, who continues therapy at Rupp Rehab.
- Dottie Young, learned that the cancer in her colon was contained, and thus was fully removed through the surgery. She will have follow up tests in the future to keep an eye on things.
- 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	(8:00)	Rayne Kinsman	(10:30)	Cameron Yoder
Ushers	(Head)	Ryan Christman		
	(8:00)	Gary & Judy Sears		
Nursery Staff	(10:30)	Eric & Anna Yoder	(Dec. 30)	Rachel Kinsman
Sound Tech	(8:00)	Angie Neuenschwander	(10:30)	James Grime
Worship Leader	(Both)	JoAnn Short		
Song Leader	(Both)	David Stuckey		
Advent Wreath	(8:00)	Rod & Joyce Kinsman	(10:30)	Ben & Sue Buehrer
Video Tech	(10:30)	Dean Sauder		
Computer Tech	(Both)	Kelly Ducey		
Accompanist	(Both)	Buffy Riley		



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@rtexpress.net)

Preschool Administrator Sue MacDonald (macfamily5@roadrunner.com)

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