



# St. John's Christian Church

*"The Church on the Corner Whose Cornerstone is Christ"*

## Getting to Know St. John's Christian Church: Visitor Brochure



Come **H**ear the **R**eason we're **I**nspired to **S**erve **T**ogether

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## Greetings in the Name of Jesus Christ!

We invite you to worship and fellowship with us, and also invite you to strengthen your relationship with God through our ministries. The following pages provide a brief overview of the ministries, theology, and history of St. John's Christian Church.

Further information is available on our website:  
[www.stjohnsarchbold.org](http://www.stjohnsarchbold.org).

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## St. John's Christian Church Mission Statement:

Come Hear the Reason we're Inspired to Serve Together

To see CHRIST shining through every aspect  
of the congregation's ministries and missions!

Come	"Inviting and welcoming people in Christ's love into our congregational family"
Hear the:	"Listening to God's Word of revelation, opening ourselves to God's leading"
Reason we're:	"Believing in Christ is the reason we are the church"
Inspired to:	"Praising God in worship,"
Serve:	"Sharing Christ's love near and far, through prayer, missions, and service"
Together:	"Gathering in Christ, united as a congregation as people of God"

### General Information

Sunday worship services are at 8:00AM & 10:30AM, with Sunday School for all ages at 9:15AM.

For those unable to make it to in-person worship, we offer the following distance worship options on Sunday mornings:

8:30AM: Pause for Praise radio service on 96.1 WMTR

10:30AM: YouTube Live stream of 10:30AM in-person service

The church office is open Monday - Friday, 8:00AM to 5:00PM.

Church Website: [www.stjohnsarchbold.org](http://www.stjohnsarchbold.org).

Facebook: [facebook.com/stjohnschurcharchbold](https://facebook.com/stjohnschurcharchbold)

Instagram: @stjohnsarchbold

YouTube Channel: St. John's Christian Church

## St. John's Staff

### Ministry Team:

Pastor: Erich Christman

Phone: 419-551-0401

Email: [pastorerich@stjohnsarchbold.org](mailto:pastorerich@stjohnsarchbold.org)



Bio: Pastor Erich was called as pastor here at St. John's in the spring of 2006. He served in various other intern and associate pastor roles since 1985, and was ordained in 2004. Erich's passions revolve around biblical preaching and hands-on missions. He enjoys the outdoors and spending time with his wife, Lynne. They have two adult children, Ryan and Amy.

### Support Staff:

† Administrative Assistant: Jocelyn Walker

Phone: 419-446-2545

Email: [office@stjohnsarchbold.org](mailto:office@stjohnsarchbold.org)

† Custodian: Dean Buckenmeyer

† Treasurer: Mary Zimmerman

† Security: Richard Spiess

## Worship Services: What to Expect

Our worship of God is unique to who we are as a congregation as we worship, seek unity, and enjoy Christian fellowship as a family of God. In our worship of God, we want to praise Him and inspire people. Our focus of worship is upwards towards the Lord as well as outwards to all people. We seek to follow God's plans and desires for our worship, relying upon the discernment, talents and wisdom of the pastors He has called to serve this congregation and the lay leaders He has lifted up to serve in cooperation with our pastors.

We reflect the Reformed and Evangelical heritage of our congregation, normally following a printed order of worship that includes Scripture, Preaching, Prayer, Music, Singing, Children's Message, Education, Inspiration and Stewardship. We praise God through music and song - both vocal and instrumental. Our music includes a blend of traditional hymns, praise choruses, and contemporary songs.

Periodically, our worship services will include various elements of worship to further form, strengthen, and inspire faith and trust in God as we praise and thank Him. Such elements may be personal testimonies, drama, special music, multi-media, video clips, puppetry, object lessons and guest speakers. We utilize both clergy and laity in leading our worship: worship leaders, song leaders, accompanists, greeters, ushers, and children's message leaders.

The 8:00AM service offers a more traditional style of worship, with few younger families present. This service provides a quieter atmosphere of worship, and averages sixty to eighty in attendance.

The 10:30AM service follows the same order of worship as the 8:00AM service but with a more contemporary feel and a wider range of ages present. This service is often accompanied by the SJCC Praise Band, Chancel Choir, special music performances, or youth choirs, and tends to average two-hundred or more in attendance.

Our music ministries include the Chancel Choir, Junior Choir, Praise Band, Adult Hand Bells, Children's Hand Bells, Children's Hand Chimes, and individual instrumentalists and vocalists offering special music throughout the year.

Our pastors wear robes on special occasions; otherwise they wear suits for a typical Sunday morning service. Those attending worship services are welcome to wear casual to more formal attire.

## Christian Education Ministries

### Adult Sunday School Classes:

- ◆ The **Forerunners Class** meets in the Fireside Room. The class consists of individuals and couples who range in age from fifty to ninety, and who study a mix of the David C. Cook quarterly materials and other contemporary studies.
- ◆ The **B.A.S.I.C. Class** (Brothers And Sisters In Christ) meets in the Parlor and focuses on sharing commonalities of the faith and biblical perspectives through Scripture Union's Discovery Guide. There are individuals and couples in this class, ranging in the forty to seventy age-range.
- ◆ A **Women's Class** meets in one of our Christian Education classrooms, discussing books of the faith written by Christian authors. This class is comprised of both single and married women, in the age range of twenty through eighty.
- ◆ **Connections** is a fellowship gathering that meets during the Sunday School hour in the Chapel. Each week, light breakfast food is enjoyed, and the class covers different discussion topics while forming connections with each other.

### Bible Studies:

- ◆ Tuesday Morning Bible Study, held each week from 9:15AM to 10:30AM in the Fireside Room. The pastors rotate the leadership of this study, and make use of Scripture Union's Daily Discovery Guide Lessons.
- ◆ West Haven Bible Study, held the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 9:00 to 10:00AM at Fairlawn's West Haven center.

### Small Groups:

The following are a part of our ministry at the present, with new groups forming occasionally:

- ◆ Seekers Small Group: Meets every other Sunday evening.
- ◆ Moms In Prayer: Prayer ministry each Wednesday morning.
- ◆ Men's Breakfast: Second Saturday morning of each month.

### Children and Youth Ministries:

- ◆ Preschool Sunday School Class: Children ages two through five meet in the Nursery room each Sunday.
- ◆ Nursery Care: Pre-kindergarten childcare during the 10:30 service.

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- ◆ Faith Village: A workshop rotation model Sunday school program for grades K through 6th, taught by a team of teachers and shepherds. Classes take place upstairs in The Well.
- ◆ LOGOS: Wednesday evening ministry for ages four through 8th grade. The program runs September through April and starts with a meal at 6:00PM.
- ◆ JYF: Wednesday evening fellowship, faith, and service activities for 6th through 8th graders. The program starts with the LOGOS meal at 6:00PM, and activities begin at 6:45PM during the school year.
- ◆ Confirmation: A two-year catechism program for 7th and 8th grade youth, with classes held on Sunday mornings at 9:15AM.
- ◆ Senior High Sunday School: Sunday School class for 9th through 12th graders, held in the upstairs Youth Room.
- ◆ SYF: Fellowship, faith, and service activities for 9th through 12th graders on Wednesday evenings at 7:00PM during the school year.
- ◆ Life Planning: A mentoring program for 9th through 12th graders, where youth are matched with adult members of the church for the four-year program.
- ◆ Vacation Bible School: A one-week summer vacation ministry for ages four through 6th grade.

## **Faith and Theology of St. John's Christian Church**

This church acknowledges as its sole Head, Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Savior of all people. It acknowledges as brothers and sisters in Christ all who share in the confession. It looks to the Word of God in the Scriptures, and to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, to prosper its creative and redemptive work in the world. It claims as its own the faith of the historic Church expressed in the ancient creeds and reclaimed in the basic insights of the Protestant Reformers. It affirms the responsibility of the Church in each generation to make this faith its own. In accordance with the teaching of our Lord and the practice prevailing among evangelical Christians, it recognizes two Sacraments: Baptism and Holy Communion. The credal belief statement of the congregation is The Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;  
and in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell; the third day he rose from the dead;

he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Christian Church; the Communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

We covenant one with another to seek and respond to the Word and the will of God. We purpose to walk together in the ways of the Lord made known to us. We hold it to be the mission of the Church to witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in all the world, while worshipping God, and striving for truth, justice, and peace. As did our ancestors, we depend on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us. We pray for the coming of the kingdom of God, and we look with faith toward the triumph of righteousness and eternal life.

In the Reformed Tradition of the Church, we find our roots in the theology of Ulrich Zwingli, the first reformer in Zurich, and John Calvin, of Geneva. We are Evangelical in nature, serving to proclaim the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ, to all. We confess:

1. Authority of one God – God exists and is ultimately in control of the universe (Romans 13:1).
2. Authority of the Scriptures – The Bible is the inspired, inerrant Word of God; the rule of faith and practice for Christians. (1 Thessalonians 2:13) (2 Timothy 3:16).
3. Doctrine of justification by faith – By grace through faith in Jesus Christ, believing Christians are pardoned of their sins and are reconciled to God. (Acts 4:6-7, 10:43) (Romans 3:21-24).
4. Priesthood of all believers – Those who through faith have been united to Christ, offering gratitude to God by living as spiritual sacrifices to Him. (1 Peter 2:5, 9) (Hebrews 13:15-16).

*(Scripture references cited are meant to help provide understanding to the confessed beliefs of faith, and are not meant to be sole points of understanding, but must be read in the entire context of the scriptures)*

Key beliefs of the congregation are: Jesus as Divine, Human, and Savior; the Sacraments of Baptism and Communion; Infant Baptism and Dedication; Local Church Autonomy; and the Importance of Women in Ministry. The congregation views as sin anything that breaks a person's relationship with God, knowing that all sin is sin in God's eyes.



## **Organization of St. John's Christian Church**

The officers of this congregation shall be the Pastor(s), President, 6 Elders, 9 Deacons/Deaconesses, Congregational Secretary, Treasurer, and Financial Secretary. One of the Elders will be designated as the Vice President, and in the absence of the President, shall perform the duties and be vested with the authority of the President.

It shall be the duty of the Elders to watch faithfully over the spiritual interests of the congregation, to aid in visiting the sick, and to contribute according to their ability to the ministry of all members. They shall also provide the elements for Holy Communion.

It shall be the duty of the Deacons and Deaconesses to cooperate with the other officers of the congregation to promote its general welfare, to show an active interest in the offerings for benevolent causes, and under the direction of the Consistory, to provide for the financial needs of the congregation.

The Elders and Deacons/Deaconesses shall constitute the Consistory which is the executive body of the congregation responsible for the government of the congregation and all its organizations. The Consistory shall have charge of the general affairs of the congregation, present the challenges of our Benevolent Mission Goals, provide for the audit of all financial records of the church and its organizations, and make due provision for the support of the Pastor(s). The members of the Consistory shall constitute the Board of Trustees, who shall have care and control of the property of the congregation as a sacred trust, whether real or personal, in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation.

The Pastor(s) and Elders shall constitute the Spiritual Council, whose duty it shall be to see that the ministry shall be Christ-centered, to admit members to full communion of the church, to examine believers seeking confirmation and the celebration of Holy Communion, to grant letters of transfer to other Christian churches, and to administer the Love Fund.

Every member of the congregation is entitled to vote at all elections for Pastor(s) and officers, and on any question submitted to the congregation for action.

## **The Church Congregation**

St. John's Reformed Church was first organized in 1852 by a colony of Reformed people from Schaffhausen, Switzerland. They brought with them the Bible, the Heidelberg Catechism and their Song Book. Seeking to formally establish a church based on their traditions, they contacted Wendel Wasnich, a farmer and preacher who lived near Pulaski and served Reformed people of that community, and he agreed to serve. A group met in the home of Alexander Miller to draw up the congregational charter. Signing the charter were the twenty-five voting members of the congregation. First services were conducted in the homes of members.

St. John's of Archbold, St. Jacob's of Evansport (Zion's Church), and St. Paul's Church formed the Brush Creek Charge and were served by the same pastor. St. Paul's was dissolved in 1901 with some members joining St. John's; and Zion's was dissolved in 1948 and united with St. John's.

Upon the merger of the Evangelical and Reformed Churches in 1934, the church's name was changed to St. John's Evangelical and Reformed Church. Then in 1957, upon the merger of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Church, the local congregation became St. John's United Church of Christ.

In 2006, the congregation voted to become an independent church with the name of St. John's Christian Church. This change resulted from continued differences of theology and practice with the denomination, and marked a new beginning seeking God's direction and will. Action was also taken to become a member church of the Evangelical Association of Reformed and Congregational Christian Churches.

St. John's possesses a strong sense of calling to ministries of mission and service. Since 1967 the congregation has supported the Arole's, missionaries in India, and helped to provide the means to build the Arole Health Care Center in Jamkhed, India. A close partnership also exists with the Kajiado Children's Home in Kenya. In addition, St. John's supports: Tony & Leila Frank, serving in Ivoti, Brazil; Tom & Megan, serving off the east coast of Africa; Jon & Rachel Doriot, serving with the Pioneers in Chicago; Reliant Ministries with David Hench at the University of Akron, Kyle Chase at the University of Michigan, and Matt Pardi at the University of Toledo; CRU ministries with Matt & Paige Waanders at Ohio State University and Robert & Jenni McMahon on the campus of BGSU; and Jason & Becki Suon and Daniel & Bethany

Schrock with Freedom International Ministries in the Dominican Republic. Support is given to some thirty ministry and mission partners and projects in Archbold, across Ohio, throughout the U.S., and around the world.

## **Orientation to SJCC**

We welcome people who are seeking the Lord, who have questions about the Lord and what it means to seek Him, or who just want to talk with someone about life's journeys.

We offer occasional orientation sessions for people to learn about SJCC throughout the year, which may lead to membership, realizing we minister to and with members and non-members with grace, love, and peace. For upcoming orientation dates, please contact the church office at 419-446-2545.

## **Our Hope and Fellowship**

Our hope is that this information has provided you with a basic level of understanding about our congregation and our ministries. Sharing in worship and joining in educational and fellowship activities on several occasions will surely further your understanding of who we are as guided and inspired by God. Our pastors always welcome conversation about the Christian faith and about our congregation, and they are always more than happy to meet with you in your home or at the church.





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