

December 3, 2023 | 8:00am & 10:30am

ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Church on the Corner whose Cornerstone is Christ



Come Hear the Reason we're Inspired to Serve Together

*We are a community of faith founded upon God's Holy Word,
preaching salvation through believing in Christ as our Savior.*

We seek to live in God's truth, being obedient to His Word and following in His ways.

Welcome! We are so glad you are here.

Welcome to SJCC! We are so glad you have chosen to join us as we worship the Lord together. We hope you feel God's love in a refreshing way. Please let one of our ushers know you're new (*they may have already noticed your new face!*) so they can give you a welcome bag filled with helpful information about our church. We also invite you to fill out a quick survey so we can get to know you a little better. Simply scan the QR code to the right with your phone's camera while you're waiting for worship to start!



Nursery Care/Mother's Room/Diaper Changing Stations



Nursery Care is offered during 10:30AM service for children ages four months through preschool across from the church office. Parents can register children for Nursery Care online at www.stjohnsarchbold.org/nursery or by scanning the QR code to the left before checking into the nursery for the first time. We also have a Mother's Room located outside of the sanctuary for nursing mothers and/or mothers with young infants and toddlers. Diaper changing stations are located in both the Mother's Room and the Nursery. An usher will gladly direct you if needed!

Children's Busy Bags are located in the sanctuary narthex for children ages one-year to third grade. Bags are marked by age (**Pink** = Ages 1-2; **Green** = Ages 3-5; **Yellow** = Grades K-3). Please be sure to return bags at the end of our service today. If you would like to mark a bag specifically for your child(ren) each week, please contact the church office.

Give & Take Board

Do you need a little peace in your day? Confidence? What about self-control? Are you in need of a spiritual pick-me-up? Could you use a quick bit of kindness after a long week? Or do you have these things to spare? Then stop by the Give and Take Board outside of the Preschool Room! Give what you can and take what you need. You just might feel or fill someone's heart with the love of God and make their week brighter!

Large Print Bulletins are available at a table in the sanctuary narthex.

Hearing Assistance is provided by our system for hearing aids with a "loop system" switch position.

Let's Connect!



WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP OF GOD!

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Ringing of the Tower Bells and Lighting of the Altar Candles

Welcome & Announcements

(8:00) Prelude

(10:30) Prelude

“Come to Us”

Scripture Reading and Prayer

Isaiah 64:4-9 (p. 742)

The Nativity Scene – The Manger

Carol Response

#141, verse 1, “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

†Call to Worship (L – leader, **P – people**)

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) Carols

#120, “The Advent of our God”

“To Us a Child of Hope is Born” (Pg. 11)

†(10:30) Songs

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

“Behold”

The Advent Wreath: God’s Promise

Carol Response

v. 1, “Christmas is Coming” (Pg. 10)

Children’s Message

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer (*debts/debtors*)

†(8:00) Carol

#124, “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Prayer of Dedication and Sharing our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 1:3-9 (p. 1128), Mark 13:24-37 (p. 1006)

Sermon

“On Guard and Alert”

Advent Communion Service

†(8:00) Carol

#128, “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

†(10:30) Song

“Away in a Manger”

†Spoken Benediction

†Benediction in Song

#127, v. 1, “Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne”

†Postlude

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 64:4-9 ⁴ Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. ⁵ You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved? ⁶ All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. ⁷ No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and made us waste away because of our sins. ⁸ Yet, O Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹ Do not be angry beyond measure, O Lord; do not remember our sins forever. Oh, look upon us, we pray, for we are all your people.

1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. ⁵ For in him you have been enriched in every way -- in all your speaking and in all your knowledge -- ⁶ because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. ⁷ Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁸ He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

Mark 13:24-37 "But in those days, following that distress, "the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; ²⁵ the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken." ²⁶ "At that time men will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens. ²⁸ "Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. ³⁰ I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. ³² "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. ³⁴ It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. ³⁵ "Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back -- whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. ³⁶ If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷ What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'

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. Guide me, Lord, through the wonders and lesson of this season. In Jesus' name. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ **Senior Citizen's Christmas Dinner** - The Fellowship Committee invites all senior citizens to the annual Senior Christmas Dinner on December 14th at 6:00PM in the Parish Hall. The meal will be catered by The Home Restaurant and a special Christmas carol program will be provided by members of the Archbold High School choir. Please sign up by today on the church office bulletin board.
- ◆ **Toledo Walleye Faith & Family Night** - The Toledo Walleye have invited us back for their annual Faith & Family Night, which is scheduled for February 4th, 2024! The game is scheduled to begin at 5:15PM that evening and will include a pre-game worship and Q&A with the players and team chaplain like last year. We'll have additional details about exact times and prices in the coming weeks, but we need to reserve our tickets soon. Please sign up on the office bulletin board no later than December 31st.
- ◆ **2024 Offering Envelopes** - If you have not yet picked up your offering envelopes, they are now located under the literature rack near the accessible entrance. Jocelyn will be contacting remaining households next week to arrange pick up or mailing options. As a kind reminder, please refrain from using your 2024 boxes until January, as there will be a slight change to the numbering system.
- ◆ **Community Invite** - For some, the holidays are not all cheery and bright. They can be reminders of loss, family dysfunction, or overwhelming pressure. If this is you, or someone you know, please join Pastor Gary Stuckey at Lockport Mennonite Church on Thursday, December 7th and January 4th to share together what you are facing and to support one another. We will be meeting in the south overflow area of the sanctuary at 6:30PM.

TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVANTS

Accompanist	(Both) Buffy Riley	
Song Leader	(Both) David Stuckey	(10:30) Praise Team
Lay Readers	(8:00) Joshua Reeb	(10:30) Avery Roth
Acolytes	(8:00) Camryn Stuckey	(10:30) Tucker Johnston
Easy Worship	(Both) Brian Roth	
Sound Tech	(8:00) Jenna Stuckey	(10:30) James Grime
Live Stream	(10:30) Ollie MacDonald	
Nursery Assistants	(10:30) Corey & Jocelyn Walker (12/10) Eric & Anna Yoder	
8:00 Usher	Doug & Nancy Rupp	
10:30 Head Usher	Brad Roth	
10:30 Ushers	Adam Swisher, Greg Walker, Steve & Kim Walker	

DISCOVERY DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Discover Daily Devotional Guides are available in the hallway literature rack in the narthex (suggested donation \$6 each). You can also access the guide online at <https://scriptureunion.org/discovery/>. Below is the list of daily readings for this week:

Dec 3 Everlasting -----Psalm 74
Dec 4 Not Just a Friend in Need ----- Jeremiah 37
Dec 5 Passive Power ----- Jeremiah 38
Dec 6 Relational Logic ----- Jeremiah 39
Dec 7 Yet I Will Hope -----Jeremiah 40:1-41:15
Dec 8 Go With God----- Jeremiah 41:16-43:13
Dec 9 Not What We Deserve -----Jeremiah 44, 45

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

Sun	8:00AM	Worship (Sanctuary)
	8:30AM	Pause for Praise (96.1 WMTR)
	9:15AM	Faith Village/Sunday School
	10:30AM	Worship (Sanctuary and YouTube Live)
	7:00PM	Evening Advent Service (Sanctuary)
Tue	9:15AM	Bible Study (Fireside Room)
	5:00PM	Community Meal - PEACE Mennonite Fellowship (Parish Hall)
	7:00PM	Mission Committee (Fireside Room)
Wed	10:00AM	Building Committee - Interior Design Team (Sanctuary)
	6:00PM	LOGOS (Parish Hall)/Confirmation (Confirmation Room)
	7:00PM	JYF (Fireside Room)/SYF (Youth Room)
	7:30PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Fri	8:30AM	Moms in Prayer (Fireside Room)
Sat	7:40AM	Men's Prayer Breakfast
Sun	8:00AM	Worship (Sanctuary)
	8:30AM	Pause for Praise (96.1 WMTR)
	9:15AM	Faith Village/Sunday School
	10:30AM	Sermon in Music (Sanctuary and YouTube Live)
	7:00PM	Evening Advent Service (Sanctuary)

DECEMBER MISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mission-a-Month: Crossroad Child & Family Services

Since 1883, Crossroad Child & Family Services in Fort Wayne, Indiana, has been dedicated to the mission of creating promising futures for children and families. Today, the family directed programs focus on providing behavioral health treatment, education programs, and support services tailored to client needs and strengths. The organization has worked with thousands of young people and families over the years to help them learn, change, and thrive. Crossroads thanks us for our prayers and generous financial support over the years that has truly helped in changing the futures of young people. You can indicate a gift to Crossroad this month by filling out line 5 of your weekly offering envelope or by selecting “Crossroad” in the Breeze Online Giving “Give to...” drop-down menu.

Kajiado Children’s Home 2024 Mission Trip

The Mission Committee is working with Gaye List of Hope4Kajiado to send a team to Kajiado Children’s Home in June of 2024. Potential dates are June 6 to 13; June 12 to 22 and June 21 to 30. Potential costs of the trip, all inclusive, would be \$2,200. Anyone with questions may contact Missy Warncke or Nancy Rupp, chair and vice-chair of the Mission Committee. Applications for the trip are due by February 16, 2024 and can be picked up in the church office beginning this weekend.

December 10th @ 10:30a

SERMON IN MUSIC

Sermon: “The Good News is Here!”

Scripture: Mark 1:1-8

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

at St. John's Christian Church
700 South Defiance Street



CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

December 17th
@ 10:30a

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

December 24th
@ 8:00a & 10:30a

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

December 24th
@ 7:00p

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

December 25th
@ 10:30a

Christmas Is Coming

Words and Music by
John L. Bell

C Dm/C G/C C Dm7 C/E G7 Am Em/G



"Christ - mas is com - ing." The Church is glad to sing and let the Ad - vent

Dm/F G C F/G C Am F⁷/A Em/G



can - dles bright - ly burn in a ring.

1. The first is for God's prom - ise to
2. The sec - ond for the proph - ets, who
3. The third is for the Bap - tist, who
4. The fourth is for the Vir - gin, who
5. At last we light the can - dle kept

F G/F C/E Dm7 C/E F Dm7



put the wrong things right, and bring to earth's dark - ness the hope of love and
said that Christ would come with good news for man - y and an - gry words for
cried: "Pre - pare the way. Be read - y for Je - sus, both this and ev - 'ry
moth - ered God's own son and sang how God's jus - tice was meant for ev - 'ry -
new for Christ - mas day. This shines bright for Je - sus, new - born, and here to

1, 2, 3, 4 | 5

G7sus G7 G7sus G7 C Dm/C G/C C Dm7 C/E G7 Am Em/G



light. stay. Christ is a - mong us. The can - dles in the ring re - mind us that our
some.
day."
one.

Dm/F G C F/G C



Sav - iour will light up ev - 'ry - thing.

125 TO US A CHILD OF HOPE IS BORN

ZERAH C.M.

Based on Isaiah 9: 6-7

John Morison in

Scottish Paraphrases, 1781

Lowell Mason, 1837

1 To us a Child of hope is born, To us
2 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, For ev -
3 His power, in - creas - ing, still shall spread; His reign

a Son is giv'n; Him shall the tribes of earth o - bey,
er - more a - dored, The Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or,
no end shall know; Jus - tice shall guard His throne a - bove,

Him all the hosts of heaven, Him shall the tribes
The great and might - y Lord, The Won - der - ful,
And peace a - bound be - low, Jus - tice shall guard

of earth o - bey, Him all the hosts of heaven,
the Coun - sel - or, The great and might - y Lord.
His throne a - bove, And peace a - bound be - low.

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

PRAYER JOYS, CONCERNS, AND REQUESTS:

Please pray for...

- ◆ Phyllis Swietzer, who is dealing with pain due to a compression fracture in her back.
- ◆ Finn Yoder, 8 year old son of Eric & Anna, recovering from outpatient hip surgery.
- ◆ Debbi Russell, as she recovers from surgery to repair a broken elbow due to a fall.
- ◆ Shiela Short, who is in therapy at Rupp Rehab.
- ◆ Monte Woolace, who continues to go through treatment for cancer.

Those serving in the Armed Forces...

- ◆ Brenden Bostelman, Oak Grove, KY (Army) (Grandson of Bill & Kathy)
- ◆ Kyle Ducey, San Antonio, TX (Navy) (Son of Kelly & Betsy)
- ◆ Brayden Hall, Newton Falls, OH, attending Kent State (OANG) (Son of Vond & Mary)
- ◆ MAJ Jared Kuntz, South Korea (Army) (Son of Keith & Kelli)
- ◆ Taylor Pitts, Dayton, OH (Air Force) (Granddaughter of Nan Neill)
- ◆ Shayne Pitts, Dayton, OH (Air Force) (Husband of Taylor)
- ◆ Steve Schink, Chesterfield, MI (Coast Guard) (Son-in-law of Ed and Julie Ruffer)

GIDEON CARD MINISTRY

As a way of encouraging, caring and supporting people, there are Gideon cards available in the sanctuary narthex. Card themes include: Thinking of you...Praying for You...Sympathy...In Recognition. Each card enables the sender to donate towards Gideon Bible distributions, too. As the Gideon's say, Give a Card, Send the Word, Change a Life!

ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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