

December 10, 2023 | 8:00am

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!
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Ringing of the Tower Bells and Lighting of the Altar Candles

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

"Gesu Bambino"

Scripture Reading and Prayer

Isaiah 61:1-4 (p. 739)

The Nativity Scene – The Sheep

Carol Response

#137, v. 1, "What Child Is This?"

†Call to Worship (*L - Leader, P - People*)

L: We learn of God's will and way through the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies.

P: The prophecies speak of the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

L: Repentance and faithfulness are necessary aspects in this season of Advent.

P: Lord, grant us courage and confidence as we proclaim the Good News of Jesus.

†Carols

#119, "O Thou Joyful, O Thou Wonderful"

#144, "How Great Our Joy!"

Lighting of the Advent Wreath – Candle of the Prophets

Jon and Jan Lindsay

Carol Response

v. 1 & 2, "Christmas is Coming" (Insert)

Children's Message

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

†Carol

#145, "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Scripture Reading

Luke 4:14-21 (p. 1018)

Sermon

"The Good News is Here!"

Sharing Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

"Sweet Little Jesus Boy"

†The Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

†Carol

#132, "Angels We Have Heard on High"

†Spoken Benediction

†Benediction in Song

#127, v. 2, "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne"

†Postlude

All are invited to join us again at 10:30am for the annual Sermon in Music.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 61:1-4 The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, ² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, ³ and provide for those who grieve in Zion -- to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor. ⁴ They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.

Luke 4:14-21 Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. ¹⁵ He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. ¹⁶ He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. ¹⁷ The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: ¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." ²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, ²¹ and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Lord of Light and Faith, I praise you for the fulfilment of prophecy in Jesus the Messiah. It is a blessing to be reminded of your unfolding plan of salvation throughout history. I pray for greater knowledge of your Word that I am better equipped to honor and serve you. May your Spirit guide me in sharing the good news of Jesus. Amen.

TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVANTS

| | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| Accompanist | Lynne Christman |
| Song Leader | Andrew Rohrs |
| Acolyte | Jesse Meyer |
| Easy Worship | Mark Nofziger |
| Sound Tech | Kelly Ducey |
| 8:00 Ushers | Doug & Nancy Rupp |

DECEMBER 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ **Kajiado Children's Home 2024 Mission Trip with Corrected Cost Estimate** - The Mission Committee is working 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. *A correction from last week's bulletin:* Potential costs of the trip, all inclusive, would be about \$4,000. This estimate now includes the international flight cost. 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.
- ◆ **GIF Gals** - On November 27th, the GIF Gals met at Downtown Restaurant for our monthly get together. The room was full of laughter and fellowship. We all agreed the service and the meals were excellent. As we parted for our homes, hugs and well wishes were given to each other. With December being a very busy month, there are no plans for GIF Gals at this time. Please check the bulletin board for other activities the church has planned for this month. There will be a notice of upcoming gatherings posted in the new year. Until then, the Gals wish you all a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year!
- ◆ **Toledo Walleye Faith & Family Night** - Faith & Family Night with the Toledo Walleye is scheduled for February 4th, 2024! The game begins 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.
- ◆ **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.

NEXT SUNDAY - STELLAR CHRISTMAS!

Get ready for an out-of-this-world interactive children's Christmas program that builds on the themes learned during this summer's week of Stellar VBS! Join Captain Mickey, our Bible Buddies, and all of our little stars as they teach us a version of the Christmas story that reminds us to *SHINE JESUS' LIGHT* every day! The children's Christmas program will take place during our 10:30AM service of worship next Sunday, December 17th.

REHEARSALS - 1st-5th Graders are scheduled for a dress rehearsal on Wednesday, December 13th at 6:30PM in the Sanctuary. Pre-K - 5th Graders will rehearse as a full group on Sunday morning, December 17th at 9:15AM prior to our service of worship. 1st - 5th Graders should arrive by 9:00AM in the Youth Room. If you cannot be there, please contact Jocelyn. Thank you!

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 10 Dangerous Pride -----Psalm 75
Dec 11 Some Things Never change ----- Jeremiah 46, 47
Dec 12 Shared Anguish ----- Jeremiah 48:1-25
Dec 13 Divine Grief ----- Jeremiah 48:26-47
Dec 14 by the Same Measure----- Jeremiah 49
Dec 15 Light on the Horizon ----- Jeremiah 50:1-28
Dec 16 You and Whose Army? ----- Jeremiah 50:29-46

WEEK OF DEC. 10TH 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 | Sermon in Music (Sanctuary and YouTube Live) |
| | 7:00PM | Evening Advent Service (Sanctuary) |
| Tue | 9:15AM | Bible Study (Fireside Room) |
| | 5:00PM | Community Meal - Lockport Mennonite Church (Parish Hall) |
| | 7:00PM | Property Committee (Fireside Room) |
| Wed | 6:30PM | Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal - 1st-5th Graders (Sanctuary) |
| | 6:30PM | Life Planning Christmas Potluck (Parish Hall) |
| Thu | 6:30PM | Senior Citizen's Christmas Dinner (Parish Hall/Sanctuary) |
| Fri | 8:30AM | Moms in Prayer (Fireside Room) |
| Sun | 8:00AM | Worship (Sanctuary) |
| | 8:30AM | Pause for Praise (96.1 WMTR) |
| | 9:00AM | Final Rehearsal for Children's Christmas Program (Sanctuary) |
| | 9:15AM | Sunday School |
| | 10:30AM | Worship & Stellar Christmas Program (Sanctuary and YouTube Live) |
| | 2:00PM | Parish Hall Reserved |
| | 7:00PM | Evening Advent Service (Sanctuary) |

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

6 Dm/F G C F/G C Am F#°/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

11 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

16 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.

23 Dm/F G C F/G C

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

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

PRAYER JOYS, CONCERNS, AND REQUESTS:

Please pray for...

- ◆ Carol Robinson, upon the death of her sister, Isabelle Collins, on December 3rd
- ◆ Jodi Beltz, whose surgery was delayed a week, until this coming Thursday.
- ◆ Nancy Storrer, who was hospitalized last weekend and is back home.
- ◆ Phyllis Swietzer, who is dealing with pain due to a compression fracture in her back.
- ◆ Shiela Short, who is in therapy at Rupp Rehab.
- ◆ Monte Woolace, who completed his second stage of chemotherapy this week..

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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Administrative Assistant - Jocelyn Walker (office@stjohnsarchbold.org)