

December 17, 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!
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Ringing of the Tower Bells and Lighting of the Altar Candles

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

“Three Carols”

Scripture Reading and Prayer

Isaiah 40:3-5 (p. 714)

The Nativity Scene – The Angel and the Shepherd
Carol Response

#157, v. 1, “Away in a Manger”

†Carols

#131, “Angels, from the Realm of Glory”
#136, “The First Noel”

The Advent Wreath – The Candle of John the Baptist
Carol Response

Kyle, Katie, Kamy, & Kassi Link
v. 1-3, “Christmas is Coming” (Pg. 5)

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

Scripture Reading

John 1:6-8, 19-28 (p. 1049)

Sermon

“Who Was He?”

Sharing Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

†The Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

†Carol

#133, “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

†Spoken Benediction

†Benediction in Song

#127, v. 4, “Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne”

†Postlude

All are welcome to join us again at 10:30AM for this year’s Children’s Christmas Program.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 40:3-5 A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. ⁵ And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

John 1:6-8 There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

John 1:19-28 Now this was John's testimony when the Jews of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. ²⁰ He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Christ." ²¹ They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." ²² Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³ John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the desert, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'" ²⁴ Now some Pharisees who had been sent ²⁵ questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" ²⁶ "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. ²⁷ He is the one who comes after me, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸ This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

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.

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 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

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.

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.
- ◆ **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 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	Buffy Riley
Song Leader	Andrew Rohrs
Acolyte	Kamy Link
Easy Worship	Tom Hines
Sound Tech	Kelly Ducey
Ushers	Doug & Nancy Rupp

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

God of Advent, we who trust in you live in the promise that you will fulfill your will for all the earth. As there is much chaos and turmoil in the world today, we pray for your will to be accomplished, for your peace to reign! As we remain faithful in watching for the return of Christ, we trust you will lead us through the chaos by the presence of your Holy Spirit. Unite us in the peace and hope of Christ as we serve together in sharing the saving grace of Jesus. In the name of the One who is to come, we pray. Amen.

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 17 Status Check ----- Psalm 76
Dec 18 Irredeemable ----- Jeremiah 51:1-32
Dec 19 The (Much) Bigger Picture ----- Jeremiah 51:33-64
Dec 20 His Word, His Bond----- Jeremiah 52
Dec 21 Yearning for You ----- Philippians 1:1-11
Dec 22 What Matters Most ----- Philippians 1:12-18a
Dec 23 That Bucket List! ----- Philippians 11b-26

WEEK OF DEC. 17TH AT ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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)
Mon	6:15PM	Spiritual Council (Fireside Room)
	7:15PM	Consistory (Fireside Room)
Tue	9:15AM	Bible Study (Fireside Room)
	5:00PM	Community Meal - Archbold Evangelical Church (Parish Hall)
Wed	7:00PM	SYF (Youth Room)
	7:30PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Thu	11:30AM	Third Thursday Senior Luncheon (Chapel)
	6:00PM	Girl Scouts (Parish Hall)
Fri	<i>Church Office Closed</i>	
	8:30AM	Moms in Prayer (Fireside Room)
Sun	8:00AM	Christmas Eve Worship (Sanctuary)
	8:30AM	Pause for Praise (96.1 WMTR)
	9:15AM	Adult Sunday School Classes
	10:30AM	Christmas Eve Worship (Sanctuary and YouTube Live)
	7:00PM	Candlelight Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary and YouTube Live)

PRAYER JOYS, CONCERNS, AND REQUESTS:

Please pray for...

- ◆ Jodi Beltz, recovering at home from recent extensive leg surgery.
- ◆ 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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