

December 31, 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](http://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!

Ringing of the Tower Bells and Lighting of the Altar Candles

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

“O How Joyfully”

Scripture Reading and Prayer

Isaiah 61:10-11 (p. 739)

†Call to Worship (*L – Leader, P – People*) (From 2 Corinthians 5:17-21)

*L: If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;*

**P: The old has gone, the new has come!**

*L: God made him who had no sin to be sin for us,*

**P: So that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**

†Hymn

#521, “Redeemed”

†Unison Prayer: **Gracious Lord God, we are grateful for having been clothed with salvation and righteousness, garments of the faith we have in Jesus Christ. What an amazing blessing to be one of your children in having received Jesus, believing in his mighty and glorious name. We pray that our worship will be pleasing to you as we pour out our praise and thanksgiving by the power of the Holy Spirit. In Christ we pray. Amen.**

†The Gloria Patri (#623)

†Passing the Peace of Christ

Children’s Message

Service of Remembrance for Memorial Sunday

Words of Introduction and Lighting of Memorial Candles

Words of Remembrance

Memorial Prayer

Hymn of Faith – #405, verses 1 & 2

“My Faith Has Found a Resting Place”

Scripture Reading

John 1:1-18 (p. 1048), Galatians 3:23-25 (p. 1153)

Sermon

“The Word Had Become Flesh”

Sharing our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

“Welcome To Our World”

†The Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

†Hymn

#354, “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

†Spoken Benediction

†Benediction in Song

#610, “Go Now and Live for the Savior”

†Postlude

## SCRIPTURE READING

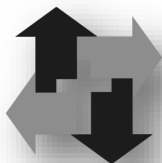
---

**Isaiah 61:10 - 62:1** I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup> For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

**John 1:1-18** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. <sup>6</sup> There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- <sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. <sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'" <sup>16</sup> From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. <sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.

**Galatians 3:23-25** Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, locked up until faith should be revealed. <sup>24</sup> So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup> Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law.

DECEMBER MISSION-A-MONTH:



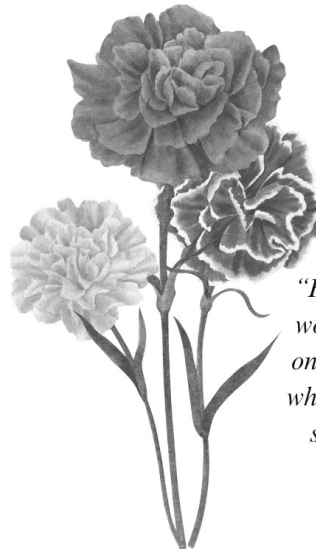
**CROSSROAD**  
Child & Family Services

## MEMORIAL SUNDAY OBSERVANCE

---

The Service of Remembrance is a long-standing tradition of St. John's and many other churches. The service calls to mind people of our congregation or associated with our congregation who have entered into eternal rest. We pray for everyone who has experienced the death of a family member or friend who is not named this morning. Knowing that such remembrances cause us to reflect on family members and friends who have died prior to this year, we pray for the peace of God to be on each person's heart in our time of worship and remembrance. In our service this year, we remember members of the congregation, people whose memorial service was held here at St. John's, or those in which Pastor Erich participated in the services:

- ◆ Rosemarie Schmidt - February 13th
- ◆ Mary Jane Silcox - February 21
- ◆ Phyllis Miller - February 25th
- ◆ Marvin Dean Beck - April 20th
- ◆ Velma Overmier - June 7th
- ◆ Mary Elizabeth "Bette" Calvert - June 7th
- ◆ Warren Prince - June 20th
- ◆ Bettie Rychener Perry - June 21st
- ◆ Lois Keith - July 27th
- ◆ Stanley Robert Buehrer - September 25th
- ◆ Bob Gavert - September 27th
- ◆ Jim Nicolen - October 5th
- ◆ Wayne Shinaberry - November 27th
- ◆ Audrey Smith - December 19th
- ◆ Phyllis Swietzer - December 26th



*“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*  
*John 3:16*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

---

- ◆ **Christmas “Un-Decorating”** - We will need a handful of volunteers to help take down and store Christmas decorations on Saturday, January 6th beginning at 9:00AM. There will be some heavy lifting involved; however, there will be tasks for all ages and abilities! Please let Pastor Erich or Jocelyn know if you’re available to help.
- ◆ **2024 Annual Congregational Meeting** - The 2024 annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 21st. As in previous years, we will follow a modified schedule that morning, with Sunday school at 9:00AM, one service of worship at 10:00AM, and the meeting at 11:10AM. We will have a congregational meal in the Parish Hall following the meeting. Zoom login information will be emailed out later this week for those who are unable to attend in person.
- ◆ **Kajiado Children’s Home 2024 Mission Trip** - 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. Potential costs of the trip, all inclusive, would be about \$4,000. This estimate 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.
- ◆ **Sign Up Today! 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 by today.

## TODAY’S WORSHIP SERVANTS

---

Accompanist	(Both) Lynne Christman	
Song Leader	(Both) Roger Zimmerman	
Children’s Message	(Both) Nancy Rupp	
Acolyte	(8:00) Camryn Stuckey	
Easy Worship	(Both) Jenna Stuckey	
Sound Tech	(8:00) Kelly Ducey	(10:30) James Grime
Live Stream	(10:30) Ollie MacDonald	
Nursery Assistants	(10:30) Eric & Anna Yoder	
8:00 Ushers	Doug & Nancy Rupp	
10:30 Head Usher	Brad Roth	
10:30 Ushers	Dave & Paige Miller, Aimee Roth, Richard Spiess	

## 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 31 Giving and Receiving ----- Philipians 4:10-23  
Jan 1 Judge Not... ----- Luke 14:1-14  
Jan 2 Excuses, Excuses----- Luke 14:15-24  
Jan 3 It Was Never Going to Be Easy! ---- Luke 14:25-35  
Jan 4 The Lord is My Shepherd----- Luke 15:1-10  
Jan 5 A Very Familiar Story----- Luke 15:11-32  
Jan 6 A Heavenly Perspective----- Luke 16:1-18

## WEEK OF DEC. 31ST AT ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

---

Sun	8:00AM	Worship (Sanctuary)
	8:30AM	Pause for Praise (96.1 WMTR)
	9:15AM	Adult Sunday School Classes
	10:30AM	Worship (Sanctuary and YouTube Live)
Mon	<i>New Year's Day - Church Office Closed</i>	
Tue	9:15AM	Bible Study (Fireside Room)
	5:00PM	Community Meal - SJCC (Parish Hall)
Wed	7:30PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Fri	8:30AM	Moms in Prayer (Chapel)
	8:30AM	Building Committee (Fireside Room)
Sat	9:00AM	Christmas "Un-Decorating"
Sun	8:00AM	Worship & New Year's Sacrament of Communion (Sanctuary)
	8:30AM	Pause for Praise (96.1 WMTR)
	9:15AM	Faith Village/Sunday School
	10:30AM	Worship & New Year's Sacrament of Communion (Sanctuary & YouTube)

## CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

---

God of this very day, God of eternity, we have received the Christmas gift of your presence. Help us through the turning of time to proclaim that presence with our actions. May this coming year truly be for us a year of our Lord. Grant us the resolve to be faithful. Enable us to be makers of peace, comforters of those in trouble and bearers of joy to the world. In the name of Jesus Christ I pray. Amen.

## PRAYER JOYS, CONCERNS, AND REQUESTS:

---

Please pray for...

- ◆ The family of Phyllis Swietzer, who peacefully entered eternal life on 12/26. There will be no services, per her wishes.
- ◆ Regina Beck, recovering from having a lesion surgically removed from the lower back of her skull.
- ◆ Tom Short, son of Stuart and Rhonda, recovering from RSV and emergency surgery on Christmas. Surgery found no evidence of the indicated diagnosis from three doctors, which the Short's attribute to the power of prayer and a miracle! Praise God!
- ◆ Jodi Beltz, recovering at home from recent extensive leg surgery.
- ◆ Jocelyn Walker, who had outpatient surgery on 12/22.
- ◆ 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**

700 S. Defiance St., Archbold, Ohio 43502  
419-446-2545 † [www.stjohnsarchbold.org](http://www.stjohnsarchbold.org)

Pastor - Rev. Erich Christman (Cell: 419-551-0401)

Administrative Assistant - Jocelyn Walker ([office@stjohnsarchbold.org](mailto:office@stjohnsarchbold.org))