

November 24, 2024 | 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 our 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!

Enter to Worship God in the Fellowship of Others

Please offer a prayer for yourself, those around you and those leading worship.

Ringling of the Tower Bells and Lighting of the Altar Candles

The lighted candles symbolize God's presence and Christ, the Light of the World.

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

"How Great Is Our God"

A time to prepare for worship, focusing on the Lord, whom we've come to worship.

Scripture and Prayer of Invocation

Romans 13:11-14 (p. 1124)

†Hymns of Praise

insert (p. 8), "Glory to God on High"
#559, "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

†The Apostles' Creed (inside back cover of red hymnal)

†Passing the Peace of Christ

Children's Message

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

(10:30) Special Music

Chancel Choir

"Oh, Give Thanks Unto the Lord"

Scripture Reading

Revelation 3:1-6 (p. 1217)

†Sermon Hymn

insert (p.10), "Praise to God, Immortal Praise"

Sermon

"Sardis: Slumbering"

Prayer of Dedication and the Sharing of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

"We Are So Blessed"

Second Offering - Imagine Your Faith Building Capital Campaign

†Closing Hymn

#563, "Count Your Blessings"

†Spoken Benediction

†Benediction in Song

#562, v.1, "Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart"

†Postlude

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 13:11-14 And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. ¹⁴ Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

Revelation 3:1-6 "To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. ² Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God. ³ Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you. ⁴ Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. ⁵ He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels. ⁶ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

MISSION-A-MONTH - FULTON COUNTY CHRISTMAS CHEER

Did you notice the Christmas tree filled with paper ornament tags on your way into church today? There are many more trees just like it throughout Fulton County and each one will help to stock the shelves of the Grocery Store and Toy Store at Christmas Cheer.

The 2nd week of December the JR Fair building is transformed into a mini shopping center. The families that Christmas Cheer serves are given the opportunity to shop for many items, at no charge. These items range from groceries, laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, blankets, towels, and if they have children, toys. They shop for and pick out their own items and for most of these families the toys they choose for their kids will be the only gifts their children receive for Christmas.

We need your help to stock the shelves. As you leave church today pick up as many tags as you want. Shop for the things on the tags and drop them off in the Donation Center's bin in the chapel narthex **on or before Sunday, December 8th**. Financial donations can be given by writing "MAM" on line 11 of your weekly offering envelope. Thank you for helping to touch the lives of people throughout all of Fulton County. Together we can do great things!

SERMON NOTES - "SARDIS: SLUMBERING"

Revelation 3:1-6 – Letter to the Church in Sardis – “Slumbering”

- ◆ Each letter to one church was intended to be read by the other six churches, too.

Addressee – ¹“To the angel of the church in Sardis write:”

- ◆ A trade center, commercially prosperous and a militarily strategic city
- ◆ City of the acropolis, the temple to Artemis (never finished)
- ◆ City known for the nearby necropolis, a cemetery of a “thousand hills”
- ◆ The luxurious living of the Sardinians led to great moral decadence
- ◆ City was home to a flourishing wool industry

Speaker – “These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.”

- ◆ Seven spirits of God - Christ has the fullness of the Holy Spirit, to give to the churches
- ◆ Seven stars - Rev. 1:20 - the angels/messengers - representing the seven churches

Knowledge – “I know your deeds: you have a reputation of being alive,”

- ◆ Deeds – past and present; the church claims to be healthy

Verdict – “but you are dead”

- ◆ The condition of the Sardinian society affected the Christian church, living off past fame, their loyalty and service to Christ was in the past
- ◆ The cross of Jesus Christ was no longer offensive to the church (Galatians 5:11)

Corrective Command – ²“Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God. ³Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.”

- ◆ Wake up - watchful, be constantly alert, radical reversal of their attitudes
- ◆ Complacency had settled in, many had failed to hold to the Word of Christ
- ◆ Thief - take by surprise

Exhortation and Promise – ⁴“Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. ⁵He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels.”

- ◆ Faithful few; soiling of clothing symbolized mingling with pagans, defilement
- ◆ Focus was on outward appearance, not the inner purity and outward moral life
- ◆ Acknowledge - a strong word of confession - Matthew 10:32, Luke 12:8

Promise – ⁶“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ **The Fellowship Committee** is considering starting up group meals. This would be an opportunity for families/individuals at SJCC to be paired with other families/individuals they may not normally have the opportunity to fellowship with. This would be a great opportunity to branch out and get to know new people in your church family. The specific details will be worked out based on interest and will not officially start until January or February of next year. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board in the hallway to express interest.
- ◆ **God Winks Devotional: Christmas Collection** - There is a collection basket in the sanctuary narthex. We are collecting them between now and Christmas to distribute locally to medical waiting rooms, rehab facilities, dialysis centers, and cancer treatment centers.
- ◆ **JYF Poinsettia Sale** (Goal Almost Met!) - Thank you to everyone who has ordered poinsettias to support our Junior Youth Fellowship program so far! We are only 9 flowers away from reaching our goal for this year and will continue to take orders through next Sunday, December 1st. If you'd like to support this ministry, please pick up an order form on the bulletin board or contact Jocelyn Walker at 419-575-4218. On behalf of the youth, thank you again, and have a wonderful Advent season!
- ◆ **GIF Gals** - Keep **December 5th @ 11:15AM** open for our Christmas get-together at the Sauder Barn Restaurant. Hope to have a few surprise activities! There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office. Wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.
- ◆ **Siberian Solstice Concert** - Sunday, Dec. 8, at St. Casper Catholic Church. The Trans-Siberian Orchestra-inspired performance of "An Angel's Gift" will be presented at 7PM in the St. Caspar's Parish Life Center, 1205 North Shoop Avenue in Wauseon. The only cost is a freewill offering for the band. You are also invited to bring a non-perishable, unexpired item for the St. Vincent de Paul society's food pantry at St. Caspar. All are welcome!
- ◆ **Senior Citizen's Dinner** - The Fellowship Committee invites all senior citizens to the annual Senior Dinner on **Thursday, December 12 @ 5:30PM** in the Parish Hall. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board.
- ◆ **2025 Offering Envelopes** - Offering Envelopes are ready for pickup in the sanctuary narthex. Please check the table even if you have not had boxes in the past as all active givers should have boxes assigned, aside from online giving. If you don't see your name, please let Gloria in the church office know.
- ◆ **Coffee Machine** - The coffee machine located in the foyer area to the kitchen has not been working for several weeks now. Attempts to repair it have failed, though there is one more avenue for repair that is being pursued. In the meantime, pots of coffee, both caffeinated and de-caffeinated, are available on the kitchen counter for people to help themselves. The Building Committee is pursuing a new beverage area and set-up that may be located in the parlor after the new ceiling and flooring is complete.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ **Women’s Christmas Movie Night: “Mary”** - Women in the congregation are invited to join us at the church on **Monday, December 9th at 6:30pm** in the chapel for a special screening of the new Netflix original movie, “Mary.” *“Journey back in time to experience the story of the Nativity from a fresh perspective: through the eyes of Mary of Nazareth, the mother of Jesus Christ. Directed by D.J. Caruso and written by Timothy Michael Hayes, this uplifting biblical epic follows Mary, Joseph, and their newborn son, Jesus, as they flee the relentless pursuit of King Herod, portrayed by two-time Academy Award winner Anthony Hopkins”* (Netflix, 2024). “Mary” was crafted by the help of Biblical, religious and historical scholars and is said to be a coming-of-age biblical epic told through the eyes of the young mother. We ask that you please bring \$5 to offset the cost of pizza and salad for dinner. Sign up on the bulletin board or let Jocelyn Walker know that you’re coming by Friday, December 6th.
- ◆ **College Student Funding for Kajiado Children’s Home Mission Trip** - The Mission Committee has allocated \$5,000 in the 2025 Mission Budget to help send up to two college students on the upcoming mission trip to Kajiado Children’s Home from May 27 - June 6, 2025. These funds are pending approval of the Annual Congregational Meeting in January 2025. If two students are selected, the amount will be evenly divided at \$2,500 each. If one student is selected, the student will receive the full \$5,000. This funding is designed to provide college students with a global mission experience backed by the financial and prayer support of their home church. Interested applicants should email Jocelyn Walker at jwalker@stjohnsarchbold.org. Applications are due by January 17th, 2025.

Congregational Prayer – For Family Gatherings

From: Edward Hays, Prayers for the Domestic Church: A Handbook for Worship in the Home (Kansas: Forest of Peace Books, 1979, 122.)

Lord God, Our hearts are crowded with gratitude as we celebrate the feast of Thanksgiving. We have come to this our feasting table with great joy and eagerness, for we are truly grateful to you, our God, for all that we have been given. We pause now and, in silent prayer, do thank you for the great generosity of your gifts. We also thank one another for gifts - especially for the gifts of love and affection that we have freely shared. We are thankful for all who are present at this our feast as well as for all those who have labored in love in order to bring this dinner to our table. May you, our God, bless this Thanksgiving feast and all of us who shall share it in your holy name. Amen.

101 GLORY TO GOD ON HIGH

ITALIAN HYMN 6.6.4.6.6.6.4.

James Allen, 1761, and Others

Felice de Giardini, 1769

1 Glo - ry to God on high! Let heav'n and earth re - ply,
2 While they a - round the throne Cheer-ful - ly join in one,
3 Join, all ye ran - somed race, Our Lord and God to bless:
4 Soon must we change our place, Yet will we nev - er cease

"Praise ye His name!" His love and grace a - dore, Who all our
Prais - ing His name. Ye who have felt His blood Seal - ing your
Praise ye His name! In Him we will re - joice, And make a
Prais - ing His name: To Him our songs we bring; Hail Him our

sor - rows bore; Sing loud for - ev - er - more, "Wor - thy the Lamb!"
peace with God, Sound His dear name a - broad, "Wor - thy the Lamb!"
joy - ful noise, Shout - ing with heart and voice, "Wor - thy the Lamb!"
gra - cious King; And through all a - ges sing, "Wor - thy the Lamb!" A - men.

LEADERSHIP NOMINATIONS

As the congregational president, Linda Heer, shares the following information with the congregation, about the annual nomination process regarding Spiritual Council and Consistory leadership.

The Spiritual Council serves as the nominating committee of the church, and the council began discussion and discernment about nominations a few months earlier than usual, starting in August of this year.

The church constitution states that we are to have at least one nominee for the offices of congregational president and congregational secretary, as well as having two nominees for each office of elder and deacon/deaconess. That means we are to have four nominees for the office of elder, and six nominees for the office of deacon/deaconess. Of the four nominees for elder, two will be elected. Of the six nominees for deacon/deaconess, three will be elected. In addition, due to resignations by previously elected members of Consistory, we are in need of two additional nominees for an unexpired two year term of a deacon/deaconess, and the Consistory needs to appoint one person to fill a one year term on Consistory.

To date, we have one nominee for president, one nominee for congregational secretary, two nominees for elder, and three nominees for deacon/deaconess. There have been several different valid reasons people have given for not accepting a nomination this year.

The Spiritual Council continues to seek people willing to serve in these various offices, helping to set vision for the church and oversee the business side of the church. To be eligible to serve as a deacon or deaconess, a person must have been a member of St. John's for three years, and to be eligible to serve as an elder, a person must have been a member for six years. The Spiritual Council welcomes people to speak with them about being nominated for one of these offices.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - BUILDING PROJECT

Now that the Building Committee has received bids for the project, we are no longer working on opinions of probable cost, but have a set bid for the project. After hearing a presentation from Jeff Rutledge, chairperson of the Building Committee, the Consistory is calling a special congregational meeting for Sunday, December 8th. A meeting will be held following the 8:00am service of worship, then the meeting will be recessed until following the 10:30am service, at which time the meeting will be reconvened. The purpose of the meeting is to accept the recommendation from both the Building Committee and the Consistory to approve a final budget of the project.

PRAISE TO GOD, IMMORTAL PRAISE 524

PRAYER 7.7.7.7.

Anna L. Barbauld†, 1773

PART I

Asahel Abbot, c. 1852

1 Praise to God, im - mor - tal praise, For the love that crowns our days;
2 For the bless - ings of the field, For the stores the gar - dens yield,
3 Clouds that drop re - fresh - ing dews; Suns that gen - ial heat dif - fuse;
4 All that spring with boun - teous hand, Scat - ters o'er the smil - ing land;
5 These, great God, to Thee we owe, Source whence all our bless - ings flow;

Boun - teous source of ev - ery joy, Let Thy praise our tongues em - ploy.
For the joy which har - vests bring, Grate - ful prais - es now we sing.
Flocks that whit - en all the plain, Yel - low sheaves of rip - ened grain.
All that lib - 'ral au - tumn pours From her o - ver - flow - ing stores;
And for these our souls shall raise Grate - ful vows and sol - emn praise.

DISCOVERY DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Below is the list of daily readings for this week:

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- Nov 24 The Beauty of Law----- Psalm 119:49-72
 - Nov 25 Glimpses of Goodness -----Isaiah 30:1-18
 - Nov 26 The Urgency of God-----Isaiah 30:19-33
 - Nov 27 Trust and Obey-----Isaiah 31
 - Nov 28 I Love You, Tomorrow-----Isaiah 32
 - Nov 29 The Power of One-----Isaiah 33
 - Nov 30 The Whole Earth Groans-----Isaiah 34

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 24TH AT ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Sun	8:00AM	Worship (Sanctuary)
	8:30AM	Pause for Praise (96.1 WMTR)
	9:15AM	Sunday School / Faith Village
	10:30AM	Worship (Sanctuary and YouTube Live)
	1:00PM	Advent Decorating
	6:00PM	Seekers (Keith & Kelli's)
Mon	7:00PM	Praise Team Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Tue	9:15AM	Bible Study (Fireside Room)
	5:00PM	Community Meal - (SJCC) (Parish Hall)
	6:30PM	Men's Group Practice
	7:30PM	Adult Bell Choir Practice
Wed		Thanksgiving Break - No Wednesday night events
Thur		Thanksgiving Day (Church Office Closed)
Sun		First Sunday of Advent
	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)

TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVANTS

Accompanist	(Both) Lynne Christman	
Song Leader	(Both) Roger Zimmerman	
Worship Leader	(Both) Kim Walker	
Children's Message	(Both) Jocelyn Walker	
Acolytes	(8:00) Jude Rutledge	(10:30) Ethan Krukowski
Easy Worship	(Both) Kelly Ducey	
Sound Tech	(8:00) Jenna Stuckey	(10:30) James Grime
Live Stream	(10:30) Ryan Christman	
Nursery	(10:30) Bri Krukowski & Emma Krukowski	
8:00 Usher	Judy Sears	
Head Usher	Greg Walker	
Ushers	(10:30) Dave & Paige Miller, Adam Swisher, Toby Walker	

PRAYER JOYS, CONCERNS, AND REQUESTS:

Please pray for...

- ◆ Dencel Miller, who has been hospitalized this past week at FCHC.
- ◆ Todd & Ruthann Buehrer, brother of Ben, who has started chemo treatment.
- ◆ Norma Fish, who returned home on Thursday, following a brief time at Rupp Rehab.
- ◆ Scott & JoAnn Short, as Scott has been diagnosed with cancer in his prostate.
- ◆ Melva Woolace, who is in rehab at Montpelier Hospital.
- ◆ Bud & Tootie Beck, as they are now both in a new apartment, at 106 West Park Drive.
- ◆ Bryce Winzeler, recuperating at home from recent surgery.
- ◆ Jeff & Laura Bostelman, as radiation treatment of Jeff's cancer in the spine has ended, and chemo treatment should start in the next couple of weeks.
- ◆ Stuart & Rhonda Short, as Stuart's latest scan was a good one, with progress in his treatment.

Care Center Residents

- ◆ Josephine Short, Fairlawn Haven, Room #405
- ◆ Linda Hayes, Fairlawn Independent Living, Apartment #104
- ◆ Mike Meyer, Fountain Park, 1391 N. Main St., Bryan, 43506
- ◆ Louise Short, Hillside Country Living, 09876 County Road 16, Bryan, 43506
- ◆ Alice Tedrow, Fairlawn Independent Living, Apartment #111

Missions/Missionaries...

- ◆ Defiance Area Youth for Christ – asking for prayer each evening at 7:59pm

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) (Grandson-in-law of Nan Neill)
- ◆ Steve Schink, Chesterfield, MI (Coast Guard) (Son-in-law of Ed and Julie Ruffer)

ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

700 S. Defiance St., Archbold, Ohio 43502
419-446-2545 † www.stjohnsarchbold.org

Pastor - Rev. Erich Christman (Cell: 419-551-0401)
Dir. of Youth & Young Adults - Jocelyn Walker (Cell: 419-575-4218)
Interim Dir. of Music Ministry - Buffy Riley (Cell: 419-572-6880)
Administrative Assistant - Gloria Beck (office@stjohnsarchbold.org)