



December 8, 2024 | 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 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!
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

Mission-A-Month Moment

Crossroad Child & Family Services

Prelude

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

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

Scripture and Prayer of Invocation

Psalm 89:1-8 (pg. 587)

The Nativity Scene – The Sheep

Carol Response

insert, "The Friendly Beasts"

† Carols

#132, "Angels We Have Heard on High"

insert, "Christ is Born in Bethlehem"

The Advent Wreath – The Candle of Peace

Carol Response

Kyle, Katie, Kamy and Kassi Link

insert, verses 1 & 2, "The Advent Candles"

Special Music

Raegan Rutledge

"Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song)"

Children's Message

Special Music

Norm Fether

"Joseph's Song"

† Carol

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

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:46-55 (pg. 1013)

Sermon

"A Song of Hope"

Special Music

Molly Rutledge

"Messiah"

Sharing of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

"What Child Is This?"

† The Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

† Closing Carol

#125, vs. 1-3, "Joy to the World!"

† Spoken Benediction

† Benediction in Song

#125, v. 4, "Joy to the World!"

(Transition to Congregational Meeting)

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 89:1-8 I will sing of the Lord's great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations. ² I will declare that your love stands firm forever, that you established your faithfulness in heaven itself. ³ You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant, ⁴ 'I will establish your line forever and make your throne firm through all generations.'" ⁵ The heavens praise your wonders, O Lord, your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones. ⁶ For who in the skies above can compare with the Lord? Who is like the Lord among the heavenly beings? ⁷ In the council of the holy ones God is greatly feared; he is more awesome than all who surround him. ⁸ O Lord God Almighty, who is like you? You are mighty, O Lord, and your faithfulness surrounds you.

Luke 1:46-55 And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me-- holy is his name. ⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. ⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. ⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful ⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our fathers."

Congregational Prayer: O Lord God, may the wondrous sounds of our worship music bring glory and honor to Your Name, O Most High! May the lyrics of the songs and words of the Bible speak to my heart as I seek Your peace. Thank you, Lord, for drawing me to You, that I would be faithful in my worship and service shining Your light for the blessing of others, introducing them to the Savior, our Lord Jesus Christ. In His name, Amen.

The Friendly Beasts

Traditional

ENGLISH, Arr. M. F. Moody

Gently

Je- sus our broth- er kind and good Was hum- bly born in a sta- ble rude, And the

The first system of musical notation for 'The Friendly Beasts'. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains the melody, starting with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The bass staff provides harmonic support with chords. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

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friend- ly beasts a- round him stood Je- sus our broth- er kind and good.

The second system of musical notation, starting with a measure rest in the treble staff. The melody continues with quarter notes D5, E5, and F5. The bass staff continues with chords. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

I said the sheep with the curly horn
I gave Him my wool for His blanket warm
He wore my coat on Christmas morn
I said the sheep with the curly horn

The Advent Candles

(Tune: Away in the Manger)

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
A candle of Hope in December's dark night,
While angels sing blessings from heav'ns starry sky,
Our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.

A candle is burning, a candle of Peace,
A candle to signal that conflict must cease.
For Jesus is coming to show us the way,
A message of Peace humbly laid in the hay.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ **Today, December 8th**, is the last day to bring your Christmas Cheer Tree items to the church. Thank you for helping to touch the lives of people throughout all of Fulton County. Together we can do great things!
- ◆ **Siberian Solstice Concert - Tonight, Sunday, Dec. 8th**, at St. Caspar 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!
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **Senior Citizen’s Dinner** - The Fellowship Committee invites all senior citizens to the annual Senior Dinner on **Thursday, December 12th @ 5:30PM** in the Parish Hall. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.
- ◆ **Adult Small Group** - Wednesday Evenings - Commencing on **Wednesday, January 8th at 7PM**, Pastor Erich will lead an adult small group study on the subject of discipleship. This small group study will go until February 26th, the Wednesday before Ash Wednesday. The study will make use of a participant guide, “The Way: Discovering Christ’s Path of Discipleship.” Study sessions will be an hour in length. People interested in the study are asked to sign up on the hallway bulletin board so guides can be ordered and a suitable room can be reserved.
- ◆ **Sunday Lunch with the Pastor** - Want to know more about the theology and current ministries of St. John’s Christian Church? Then this time of lunch and conversation is for you! Pastor Erich and Lynne will host the lunch in the Fireside Room following the 10:30AM service on **Sunday, January 12th**. It will be an informal time of getting acquainted with each other and with the church. People interested in attending are asked to: 1) speak with Pastor Erich, 2) email (pastorerich@stjohnsarchbold.org), or 3) text (419-551-0401).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ **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.**
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **2025 Offering Envelopes** - Please check the table in the narthex even if you have not had boxes in the past. All active givers should have boxes assigned, unless you use the online option. If you don't see your name, please let Gloria in the church office know.
- ◆ **Fresh Coffee Available in the Kitchen** - Pots of coffee, both caffeinated and decaffeinated, are available on the kitchen counter for people to help themselves.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **Habitat for Humanity of Fulton County, Ohio (HFHFCO)** has scheduled work days for Dec. 13th, 14th, 20th, and 21st. Either visit <https://habitatfco.org/how-to-get-involved/volunteer.html> or contact Pastor Erich, who serves as HFHFCO's construction manager. Scheduled work includes vinyl siding, wall insulation, and drywall hanging!

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.

Christ is Born in Bethlehem

CHARLES WESLEY

Geo. C. Hugg

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing: Glo - ry to the new - born
 2. Christ by high - est heav'n a - dored; Christ the ev - er - last - ing
 3. Hall, the heav'n - born Prince of Peace, Hall, the Sun of Right - eous -

King; . . . Peace on earth and mer - cy mild,
 Lord; . . . Late in time he - hold him come,
 ness! . . . Light and life to all he brings,

God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled! Joy - ful all ye
 Off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the
 Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his

na - tions rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
 God - head see; Hail th' in - car - nate De - i - ty: . . .
 glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die: . . .

With th'an-gel - ie host pro - claim, Christ is born in Beth - le - hem.
 Pleased as Man with men to dwell; Je - sus our Em - man - u - el!
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.

REFRAIN.

O Beth - le - hem, dear Beth - le - hem, Hark how the glad notes ring!

Ho - sau - na in the high - est, Ex - alt the new - born King!

The an - gel through his praise pro - long, Glo - ry to God they sing,

While heav'n and earth pro - claim the birth of Christ, the new - born King!

Christ is Born in Bethlehem – Charles Wesley penned the words to “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” in 1897. You will recognize these familiar words set to an unfamiliar, but fun tune! Let’s proclaim His birth! “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

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.

DISCOVERY DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Below is the list of daily readings for this week:

Dec 8 A Guidebook for the Ages----- Psalm 119:97-112
Dec 9 The Greatest Privilege!-----1 John 1:1-4
Dec 10 God's Cleaning Project-----1 John 1:5-2:2
Dec 11 Living in the Light of Love-----1 John 2:3-11
Dec 12 You Cannot Love Both-----1 John 2:12-17
Dec 13 Real Super Christianity-----1 John 2:18-27
Dec 14 Confident and Unashamed-----1 John 2:28-3:10

WEEK OF DECEMBER 8TH AT ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Sun	Second Sunday of Advent	
	8:00AM	Worship (Chapel)
	8:30AM	Pause for Praise (96.1 WMTR)
	9:00AM	Congregational Meeting (Chapel)
	9:15AM	Faith Village/Sunday School
	10:30AM	Sermon in Music (Sanctuary and YouTube Live) Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)
Mon	6:30PM	Women's Movie Night - "Mary" (Chapel)
Tue	9:15AM	Bible Study (Fireside Room)
	5:00PM	Community Meal - (St. Martin's Lutheran) (Parish Hall)
	7:00PM	Property Committee (Fireside Room)
Wed	6:00PM	Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	7:30PM	Adult Bell Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
Thur	5:30PM	Senior Citizens Dinner (Parish Hall)
Fri	4:00PM	Nofziger Visitation (Chapel)
Sat	7:40AM	Men's Prayer Breakfast (Fireside Room)
	11:00AM	Nofziger Memorial Service (Sanctuary)
Sun	Third Sunday of Advent	
	8:00AM	Worship (Sanctuary)
	8:30AM	Pause for Praise (96.1 WMTR)
	9:15AM	Faith Village/Sunday School
	10:30AM	Children's Christmas Program (Sanctuary and YouTube Live)
	7:00PM	Advent Worship Service (Sanctuary)

Pastor Erich and Lynne are leaving after the second congregational meeting for an overnight stay at their daughter's. He is reachable by his cell phone as needed.

TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVANTS

Accompanist	Lynne Christman
Song Leader	Andrew Rohrs
Worship Leader	Jan Lindsay
Acolyte	Kamy Link
Ushers	Doug & Nancy Rupp

PRAYER JOYS, CONCERNS, AND REQUESTS:

Please pray for...

- ◆ Janice Nofziger and family upon the death of her husband, Burdell, who entered eternal life on December 4th at the age of 87. Visitation is Friday, from 4PM to 7PM, in the Chapel, with the Memorial Service on Saturday at 11AM in the Sanctuary, with a luncheon to follow in the Parish Hall.
- ◆ Dencel Miller, now at Fulton Manor for a time of rehab.
- ◆ Todd & Ruthann Buehrer, brother of Ben, who has started chemo treatment.
- ◆ Scott & JoAnn Short, as Scott has been diagnosed with cancer in his prostate.
- ◆ Melva Woolace, who is in rehab at Montpelier Hospital.
- ◆ 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

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Dir. of Youth & Young Adults - Jocelyn Walker (Cell: 419-575-4218)

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