



December 15, 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!
THIRD 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

Prelude

“Angel Medley”

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

Scripture and Prayer of Invocation

Micah 5:2 (pg. 922)

The Nativity Scene – The Angel and the Shepherd

Carol Response

insert, “The Friendly Beasts”

† Carols

insert, “Shepherds, Shake Off Your Drowsy Sleep”

#133, “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

The Advent Wreath – The Candle of Joy

The Rutledge Family

Carol Response

insert, vs. 1-3, “The Advent Candles”

† Passing the Peace of Christ

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

† Carol

#136, “The First Noel”

Scripture Reading

Matthew 1:1-17 (pg. 955)

Sermon

“The Genealogy of the Savior”

Sharing of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

“What Child is This?”

† The Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

† Closing Song

#144, vs. 1-3, “How Great Our Joy!”

† Spoken Benediction

† Benediction in Song

#144, v. 4, “How Great Our Joy!”

† Postlude

SCRIPTURE READING

Micah 5:2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

Matthew 1:1-17 A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham: ² Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³ Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, ⁴ Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, ⁵ Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶ and Jesse the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife, ⁷ Solomon the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa, ⁸ Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram, Jehoram the father of Uzziah, ⁹ Uzziah the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, ¹⁰ Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, Amon the father of Josiah, ¹¹ and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon. ¹² After the exile to Babylon: Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, ¹³ Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, Abiud the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor, ¹⁴ Azor the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Akim, Akim the father of Eliud, ¹⁵ Eliud the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, ¹⁶ and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ. ¹⁷ Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Christ.

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.

Congregational Prayer: Lord, we are in a season in which your peace is manifested through the birth of Jesus! A peace of calm and humbleness, a peace of assurance and trust. Through all the challenges, concerns and trials of life, your peace is such a blessing. Thank you, dear Lord. May I do what Jesus often did, stepping back from the day's activity to spend time in prayer. I pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, that your peace will keep me fixed on Jesus as Christmas approaches. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **Third Thursday Senior Luncheon** - Seniors are invited to gather in the Chapel for an Advent time of food and fellowship - **December 19th at 11:30AM**. We will enjoy a light lunch together and then a program will be shared on the theme of Advent Preparations.
- ◆ **Habitat for Humanity of Fulton County, Ohio (HFHFCO)** has scheduled work days for their home build in Swanton. **Friday, Dec 20th and Saturday, Dec. 21st**, starting any time after 8AM and going until 3PM or 4PM. 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!
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **MCC Comforter Bash** – Wednesday **January 8th, 3PM-8PM** at Zion Mennonite Church, 300 Short Buehrer Road, Archbold. All are welcome. Youth groups encouraged to attend. Come have fun providing warmth around the world with comforters.
- ◆ **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 him (pastorerich@stjohnsarchbold.org), or 3) text him (419-551-0401).
- ◆ **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.**

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.
 - ◆ **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. 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.
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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.

A candle is burning, a candle of Joy,
A candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy,
Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow,
As Joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.

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

9
friend- ly beasts a- round him stood Je- sus our broth- er kind and good.

I said the dove from the rafters high
I cooed Him to sleep that He would not cry
We cooed Him to sleep my mate and I
I said the dove from the rafters high

Shepherds, Shake Off Your Drowsy Sleep – Likely from the 17th century, this song was set to the tune from a traditional French carol called “BESANCON.” Another song called “People, Look East” shares the same tune. Gaining popularity in the last forty years, it reminds us that shepherds sought after the Good News of Christ’s birth, while “People, Look East” reminds us that we are to watch and wait for the return of our Messiah, Jesus Christ.

No 11. Shepherds, Shake Off Your Drowsy Sleep

Traditional

Besançon Carol
Harmonized by G. P.

Brightly

mf

1. Shep - herds, shake off your drow - sy sleep, Rise and
 2. Hark! E - ven now the bells ring 'round, Lis - ten
 3. See how the flow'rs all burst a - new, Think - ing
 4. Com - eth at length the age of peace, Strife and
 5. Shep - herds, then up and quick a - way, Seek the

mf

leave your sil - ly sheep; An - gels from heav'n a - round loud
 to their mer - ry sound; Hark how the birds new songs are
 snow is sum - mer dew; See how the stars a - fresh are
 sor - row now - shall cease; Proph - ets fore - told the won - drous
 Babe ere break - of day; He is the hope of ev - 'ry

Refrain

sing - ing, ti - dings of - great joy - are bring - ing.
 mak - ing As - if win - ter's chains were break - ing.
 glow - ing, All - their bright - est beams be - stow - ing. Shep - herds, the
 sto - ry Of - this heav'n - born Prince of Glo - ry.
 na - tion, All - in Him - shall find - sal - va - tion.

cho - rus come and swell Sing No - ël, O sing - No - ël!

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 15 Mixed Messages-----	Psalm 119:113-128
Dec 16 Loving When Unloved -----	1 John 3:11-24
Dec 17 True Spirit, True Love-----	1 John 4:1-12
Dec 18 Heavenly Love-----	1 John 4:13-21
Dec 19 Christianity Needs Jesus-----	1 John 5:1-12
Dec 20 Knowing and Living-----	1 John 5:13-21
Dec 21 Ministry of Truth and Love-----	2 John

WEEK OF DECEMBER 15TH AT ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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	Worship (Sanctuary and YouTube Live)
	7:00PM	Advent Worship Service (Sanctuary)
Mon	6:00PM	Ladies Ensemble (Sanctuary)
	6:15PM	Spiritual Council (Fireside Room)
	7:15PM	Consistory (Fireside Room)
Tue	9:15AM	Bible Study (Fireside Room)
	5:00PM	Community Meal - (Lockport Mennonite) (Parish Hall)
Wed	5:30PM	Adult Bell Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
	6:30PM	Life Planning (Fellowship Hall & Kitchen)
	7:30PM	Adult Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
Thur	11:30AM	Third Thursday Senior Luncheon (Chapel)
	6:00PM	Girl Scouts (Fireside Room)
Fri	7:00AM	Rest & Restoration Bible Study (Rest & Restore)
Sun	Fourth 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)
	7:00PM	Advent Worship Service (Sanctuary)

TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVANTS

Accompanist	Buffy Riley
Song Leader	Andrew Rohrs
Worship Leader	Andrew Rohrs
Lay Reader	Molly Rutledge
Easy Worship	Tom Hines
Sound	Kelly Ducey
Acolyte	Jude Rutledge
Ushers	Doug & Nancy Rupp

PRAYER JOYS, CONCERNS, AND REQUESTS:

Please pray for...

- ◆ Susie Enderle, who has started another series of chemo treatments.
- ◆ Norma Fish, who spent Tuesday night at the Bryan Hospital
- ◆ Louise Short, who is in Hospice Care at Hillside Country Living
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ 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...

- ◆ Dencel Miller, Fairlawn Haven Care Center, Room #169
- ◆ Josephine Short, Fairlawn Haven Care Center, 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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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)