



December 22, 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!
FOURTH 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

Scripture and Prayer of Invocation

Psalm 80:17-19 (pg. 582)

† Call to Worship

insert, "Come on Ring Those Bells"

The Nativity Scene – Mary & Joseph

Carol Response

insert, "The Friendly Beasts"

† Carols

insert, "Jesus Christ"

#145, "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

The Advent Wreath – The Candle of Love

(8:00) Scott, Pam & Joshua Reeb; (10:30) Ben & Sue Buehrer

Carol Response

insert, vs. 1-4, "The Advent Candles"

Children's Message

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

(10:30) Chancel Choir

"Three Carols for Christmas"

Scripture Reading

Matthew 1:18-25 (pg. 955)

† Carol

#151, "Good Christian Men, Rejoice"

Sermon

"Joseph: An Example of Salvation"

Prayer of Dedication and Sharing of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

"Oh Little Town of Bethlehem"

Second Offering - Imagine Your Faith Building Campaign

† Closing Carol

#138, refrain, v. 3, refrain, "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

† Spoken Benediction

† Benediction in Song

#162, v. 1, "The Birthday of a King"

† Postlude

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 80:17-19 Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand, the son of man you have raised up for yourself. ¹⁸ Then we will not turn away from you; revive us, and we will call on your name. ¹⁹ Restore us, O Lord God Almighty; make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.

Matthew 1:18-25 This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"-- which means, "God with us." ²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

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 on your offering envelope a gift to Crossroad this month or by selecting "Crossroad" in the Breeze Online Giving "Give to..." drop-down menu.

SERMON NOTES - "JOSEPH: AN EXAMPLE OF SALVATION"

Congregational Prayer: Loving God, as the day of Christmas draws very near, I pray for moments, even minutes, of time to sit in awe and wonder of Your amazing love. Your love is so faithful, Your love knows no limits, it is unending! What wondrous love You have. I pray that I would be a person who lives and exudes and shares Your love in all aspects of my life. May You be glorified in our celebrations of Christmas, that Your love would infuse us all as we worship Jesus, the newborn King. In His name we pray. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ **God Winks Devotional: Christmas Collection** - There is a collection basket in the sanctuary narthex. We are collecting them until Christmas to distribute locally to medical waiting rooms, rehab facilities, dialysis centers, and cancer treatment centers.
- ◆ **The Un-Hanging of the Greens** - It would be a wonderful blessing if we had 14 to 18 volunteers able to be present on Saturday morning, January 4th, starting at 9AM, to help take down the decorations. Planning is already underway for next year's decorating for Advent and Christmas, as we look forward to the completion of the scheduled renovations throughout much of the building. So as decorations are taken down this year, there will be some sorting as to what to store in the attic and what needs to be replaced or added too.
- ◆ **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. Meal provided for donation. Come have fun providing warmth around the world with comforters. Contact Chris Wyse at 419-516-4164 if you have questions.
- ◆ **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

- ◆ **2025 Offering Envelopes** - If you have not picked up your envelopes yet, Gloria will have them in the church office.
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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.

A candle is burning, a candle of Love,
A candle to point us to heaven above,
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,
For Jesus is bringing God's Love to our Earth

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.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'The Friendly Beasts'. It consists of two systems of music. The first system starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (Bb), and a 3/4 time signature. The tempo/mood is marked 'Gently'. The lyrics are: 'Je- sus our broth- er kind and good Was hum- bly born in a sta- ble rude, And the'. The second system starts with a measure rest (9) and continues with the lyrics: 'friend- ly beasts a- round him stood Je- sus our broth- er kind and good.' The music is arranged for voice and piano accompaniment.

I said the donkey shaggy and brown
I carried his mother up hill and down
I carried her safely to Bethlehem town
I said the donkey shaggy and brown

Come on Ring Those Bells - written by Andrew Culverwell in 1976, this song was recorded by Christian artist Evelyn Tornquist Karlsson or "Evie" in the following year. The song was nominated for a Grammy but did not win. This song reminds us that we celebrate many different things, but the greatest celebration of them all is Jesus, the King who was born for you and me!

Come On Ring Those Bells

Words and Music by
Andrew Culverwell

VERSE

F Gm C9 C7 F

1. Ev 'ry - bod - y likes to take a hol - i - day; Ev - 'ry - bod - y likes to take a rest.
2. Cel e - bra - tions come be - cause of some - thing good, cel - e - bra - tions we love to re - call.

Gm C9 C C9 F

5 Spend - ing time to - geth - er with the fam - i - ly, shar - ing lots of love and hap - pi - ness.
Mar - y had a ba - by boy in Beth - le - hem, the great - est cel - e - bra - tion of them all.

CHORUS

F Fmaj7 Gm7 C7 Gm C F Bb/C F

Come on, ring those bells; Light the Christ - mas tree. Je - sus is the King born for you and me.

Fmaj7 Gm7 C7 Gm/F F

13 Come on, ring those bells; Ev - 'ry - bod - y say, "Je - sus, we re - mem - ber this Your birth - day."

Jesus Christ

107

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM. 7. 6. 7. 6. D.

JOSEPH S. COOK, 1859-1933
In unison

A Spring Carol, c. 14th century
Arr. by ERNEST MACMILLAN, 1893-

1. Gen - tle Ma - ry laid her Child Low - ly in a man - ger;
2. An - gels sang a - bout His birth; Wise men sought and found Him;
3. Gen - tle Ma - ry laid her Child Low - ly in a man - ger;

There He lay, the un - de - filed, To the world a Stran - ger.
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth - Glo - ry all a - round Him.
He is still the un - de - filed, But no more a Stran - ger.

Such a Babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - iour?
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;
Son of God, of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;

Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.
Praise His Name in all the earth, Hail the King of glo - ry! A-MEN.

Words used by permission of Alta Lind Cook
Music used by permission of Ernest MacMillan

WEEK OF DECEMBER 22ND AT ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

- 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)
- Tue **Christmas Eve**
7:00PM Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)
- Wed **Christmas Day**
10:30AM Christmas Day Worship (Chapel)
- Sun 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	Lynne Christman
Song Leader	Roger Zimmerman
Worship Leader	Roger Zimmerman
Acolytes	(8:00) Luci Meyer (10:30) Charlee Gearig
Easy Worship	Kelly Ducey
Sound	(8:00) Jenna Stuckey (10:30) James Grime
Live Stream	Cayla Swisher
Nursery Assistants	(10:30) Eric & Anna Yoder
8:00 Ushers	Doug & Nancy Rupp
Head Usher	Brad Roth
10:30 Ushers	Evynn Roth, Avery Roth, Brian & Trena Huffman

DISCOVERY DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Below is the list of daily readings for this week:

- Dec 22 Obeying God's Word----- Psalm 119:129-152
Dec 23 Reputation and Imitation -----3 John
Dec 24 Blessing-----Matthew 1:1-17
Dec 25 Safe With God-----Matthew 1:18-25
Dec 26 Eternal-----Matthew 2:1-12
Dec 27 Irrepressible-----Matthew 2:13-23
Dec 28 Fish Caught in a Net-----Habakkuk 1

PRAYER JOYS, CONCERNS, AND REQUESTS:

Please pray for...

- ◆ Ron McCurdy, Jim's brother, who has been hospitalized with serious health issues.
- ◆ Susie Enderle, who has started another series of chemo treatments.
- ◆ Monte Woolace, son of Larry & Mel, who had reversal surgery on Friday, as follow up to his previous, and successful, cancer treatments.
- ◆ 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, continues in rehab at Montpelier Hospital, with a procedure scheduled for tomorrow for wound treatment.
- ◆ 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...

- ◆ Linda Hayes, Fairlawn Independent Living, Apartment #104
- ◆ Charlene LaFontaine, Fairlawn Independent Living, Apartment #108
- ◆ Mike Meyer, Fountain Park, 1391 N. Main St., Bryan, 43506
- ◆ Dencel Miller, Fairlawn Haven Care Center, Room #169
- ◆ Josephine Short, Fairlawn Haven, Room #405
- ◆ 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)