



December 29, 2024 | 8:00AM & 10:30PM

# ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Church on the Corner whose Cornerstone is Christ

**Come Hear the Reason we're Inspired to Serve Together**

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*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.*

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# Welcome! We are so glad you are here.

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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](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!**  
**First Sunday after Christmas**  
**Memorial Sunday**

- Ringing of the Tower Bells and Lighting of the Altar Candles
- Welcome & Announcements
- Prelude "Go Tell It on the Mountain"
- Scripture Reading and Prayer Isaiah 60:1-6 (p. 738)
- † 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.***
- † Hymns insert, "Beautiful Star of Bethlehem"  
#166, "We Three Kings"
- † 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)
- 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, vs. 1 & 2 - "My Faith Has Found a Resting Place"
- Scripture Reading Matthew 2:1-12 (pg. 956)
- Special Music Norm Fether & Bruce Wooley "How Many Kings"
- Sermon "Epiphany"
- Sharing our Tithes and Offerings
- Offertory "Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne"
- †The Doxology and Prayer of Dedication
- † Hymn #163, vs. 1-3, "As with Gladness Men of Old"
- † Spoken Benediction
- † Benediction in Song #163, v. 4, "As with Gladness Men of Old"
- † Postlude

## SCRIPTURE READING

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**Isaiah 60:1-6** "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. <sup>2</sup> See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. <sup>3</sup> Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. <sup>4</sup> "Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the arm. <sup>5</sup> Then you will look and be radiant, your heart will throb and swell with joy; the wealth on the seas will be brought to you, to you the riches of the nations will come. <sup>6</sup> Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the Lord.

**Matthew 2:1-12** After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup> "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: <sup>6</sup> "'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.'" <sup>7</sup> Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." <sup>9</sup> After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup> On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

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## 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.

## SERMON NOTES: "EPIPHANY"

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**Beautiful Star of Bethlehem** – In 1938, a religious farmer and deacon from Tennessee, Robert Fisher, wrote the lyrics to this song while sitting on a milking stool in his dairy barn. His daughter helped him write the music. The Star of Bethlehem gave its light to the wise men, guiding them to the place of the Savior. As we sing about this beautiful star of light, may we remember the true light of the world, Jesus Christ, born to save us all.

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**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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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- ◆ **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 4<sup>th</sup>**, 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 to.
- ◆ **Adult Small Group** - Wednesday Evenings - Commencing on **Wednesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 7PM**, Pastor Erich will lead an adult small group study on the subject of discipleship. This small group study will go until February 26<sup>th</sup>, 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 8<sup>th</sup>**, 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 12<sup>th</sup>**. 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](mailto:pastorerich@stjohnsarchbold.org)), or 3) text (419-551-0401).
- ◆ **Third Thursday Senior Luncheon** - Seniors are invited to gather in the Chapel for a time of food and fellowship - **January 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:30AM**. We will enjoy a light lunch together followed by a short devotional time.
- ◆ **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](mailto:jwalker@stjohnsarchbold.org). **Applications are due by January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025.**

## WEEK OF DECEMBER 29TH AT ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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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)
Thur	10:00AM	Mission Committee (Fireside Room)
	5:30PM	JYF Advisor Meeting (Casa)
Sat	9:00AM	Taking Down Decorations (Sanctuary)
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

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Accompanist	(Both) Lynne Christman	
Song Leader	(Both) Roger Zimmerman	
Children's Message	(10:30) Madison Bowers	
Acolytes	(8:00) Dawson Martz	(10:30) Carson Baden
Easy Worship	(Both) Jenna Stuckey	
Sound Tech	(8:00) Kelly Ducey	(10:30) James Grime
Live Stream	(10:30) Ryan Christman	
Nursery	(10:30) Karen Walker & Molly Rutledge	
8:00 Usher	Doug & Nancy Rupp	
Head Usher	Brad Roth	
Ushers	(10:30) Evynn Roth, Avery Roth, Brian & Trena Huffman	

## DISCOVERY DAILY DEVOTIONAL

Below is the list of daily readings for this week:

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Dec 29	Depending on Him-----	Psalm 119:153-176
Dec 30	More and More Glory -----	Habukkuk 2
Dec 31	Again, Lord!-----	Habukkuk 3
Jan 1	How Great Thou Art!-----	Genesis 1
Jan 2	Boundaried Blessings-----	Genesis 2
Jan 3	Anatomy of Temptation -----	Genesis 3:1-13
Jan 4	Harmony to Hostility -----	Genesis 3:14-24

## PRAYER JOYS, CONCERNS, AND REQUESTS:

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Please pray for...

- ◆ Ron McCurdy, Jim's brother, who is dealing with serious health issues.
- ◆ Monte Woolace, son of Larry & Mel, who had reversal surgery on 12/20, 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 results of Scott's scans showed no cancer outside the prostate, and as he awaits surgery on January 7th.
- ◆ Melva Woolace, continues in rehab at Montpelier Hospital, and goes through 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, Room #130
- ◆ 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](http://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](mailto:office@stjohnsarchbold.org))