

January 05, 2025 | 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 in the second floor room labelled "Artisan's Tent." 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

“Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise.” (Psalm 100:4)

Ringling of the Tower Bells and Lighting of the Altar Candles

“To the Glory of God, and for the Calling of the Faithful to Worship.” (Inscribed on the Bells)

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

“Just as I Am”

Scripture and Prayer of Invocation

Psalm 148:13-14 (pg. 623)

† Hymns of Praise

#64, “All Creatures of Our God and King”

#167, “O Sing a Song of Bethlehem”

† Passing the Peace of Christ

Children’s Message

Missionary Commissioning Service

Introduction, Scripture and Invitation

Missionary Testimony

Responsive Reading

Commissioning and Commissioning Prayer

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:13-23 (pg. 659)

† Sermon Hymn

#172, “Tell Me the Story of Jesus”

Sermon

“Escape and Return”

Prayer of Dedication and Sharing Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Buffy Riley

“Majesty (Here I Am)”

Sacrament of Communion

Words of Invitation, Call to Confession, Words of Assurance and The Lord’s Prayer

Words of Institution and Prayer

Sharing of the Elements and Communion Blessing

† Closing Hymn

insert, “Here I Am Lord”

† Spoken Benediction

† Benediction in Song

insert, chorus, “Here I Am Lord”

† Postlude

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalms 148:13-14 Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens. ¹⁴ He has raised up for his people a horn, the praise of all his saints, of Israel, the people close to his heart. Praise the Lord.

Matthew 2:13-23 When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." ¹⁴ So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, ¹⁵ where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son." ¹⁶ When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. ¹⁷ Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: ¹⁸ "A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more." ¹⁹ After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt ²⁰ and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead." ²¹ So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, ²³ and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets: "He will be called a Nazarene."

Congregational Prayer: Heavenly Father, I pray over the missionary we have commissioned for ministry in your kingdom. May she know your assurance and love for her in these final days of preparation, and may she be guided by your Holy Spirit as she travels and settles in to the place you are placing her. I pray for her family as they see her off once again, praying for their assurance and peace as well. I thank you, Lord, for the part SJCC has had in preparing and sending her in your Name. In Christ I pray. Amen.

DISCOVERY DAILY DEVOTIONAL Below is the list of daily readings for this week:

Jan 5 Trust Amid Tension-----	Psalms 120
Jan 6 Sin-Ripples -----	Genesis 4
Jan 7 In the Midst of Life...-----	Genesis 5
Jan 8 A Factory Reset-----	Genesis 6
Jan 9 A Righteous Remnant-----	Genesis 7
Jan 10 A God Who Remembers -----	Genesis 8
Jan 11 Take Two-----	Genesis 9

SERMON NOTES: "ESCAPE AND RETURN"

MISSION-A-MONTH - CWS EMERGENCY CLEANUP KITS

The Church World Service kit ministry program provides much needed supplies to people in their times of crisis. For every \$75 collected this month, CWS will fill a five-gallon bucket with items like sponges, cleaning towels, dish soap, house cleaners, dust masks, work and dish gloves, trash bags, insect repellants, and more. Through this special offering we will be able to provide many of the tangible items that are necessary for the physical needs of our sisters and brothers in crisis. But even more importantly, those tangible items provide a spiritual hope. And perhaps that is the most compelling definition of faithful stewardship- sharing hope with others. To give to our Mission-A-Month, simply write "MAM" or "CWS Kits" on Line 11 of your offering envelope, or select "Church World Service" in the "Give to" drop-down menu through Breeze's online giving platform.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ **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. For ALL ages of men, women and youth. It's making a square knot and if you are unsure how to do that someone will be there to teach you. We will have sit down and stand-up stations. Meal provided for donation. Come have fun providing warmth around the world with comforters. Any questions, contact Chris Wyse at 419-516-4164 or cwyseg@gmail.com.
- ◆ **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).
- ◆ **Third Thursday Senior Luncheon** - For Senior Citizens and Any and All! January's Third Thursday Lunch falls on **January 16th** beginning at 11:30AM in the chapel. Following an always delicious meal, those present will enjoy some special entertainment as we work our way from Epiphany to Ash Wednesday.
- ◆ **GIF Gals** - Happy New Year to all the GIF Gals. Our first 2025 get together will feature a Brown Bag Lunch at the Home Restaurant on **Jan 23rd, at 5PM**. After a fun fellowship meal, Judy Sears will be presenting a program about her years of being the owner of a Bed & Breakfast in Archbold. She is sure to have many interesting and funny stories. There is a sheet on the bulletin board to sign up and select your sandwich preference.
- ◆ **Widow/Widower Event - Thursday, Feb. 20th, 5PM-7:30PM** at Pettisville Missionary Church. Free dinner and program provided by Weeping Willow Florist. Must call Weeping Willow to register at 419-445-7773. Registration deadline is Feb. 10th.
- ◆ **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.**

WEEK OF JANUARY 5TH AT ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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)
Mon	7:00PM	Praise Team Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Tue	9:15AM	Bible Study (Fireside Room)
	5:00PM	Community Meal (SJCC) (Parish Hall)
Wed	6:00PM	LOGOS (Gym)/Confirmation (Confirmation Room)
	7:00PM	JYF (Fireside Room)/Life Planning (Chapel)
	7:00PM	Adult Small Group (Parlor)
	7:30PM	Adult Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
Sat	7:40AM	Men's Prayer Breakfast (Fireside Room)
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)
	11:45AM	Sunday Lunch with the Pastor (Fireside Room)
	6:00PM	Seekers

TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVANTS

Accompanist	(Both) Buffy Riley	
Song Leader	(Both) David Stuckey	
Lay Readers	(8:00) Joshua Reeb	(10:30) Avery Roth
Children's Message	(10:30) Jocelyn Walker	
Acolytes	(8:00) Luci Meyer	(10:30) Carson Baden
Easy Worship	(Both) Brian Roth	
Sound Tech	(8:00) Kelly Ducey	(10:30) James Grime
Live Stream	(10:30) Ryan Christman	
Nursery	(10:30) Corey & Jocelyn Walker	
8:00 Usher	Jim Grieser	
Head Usher	Greg Walker	
Ushers	(10:30) Tom & Laura Johnson, Keith & Kelli Kuntz	

PRAYER JOYS, CONCERNS, AND REQUESTS:

Please pray for...

- ◆ Ron McCurdy, Jim's brother, who continues dealing with serious health issues.
- ◆ Todd & Ruthann Buehrer, brother of Ben, as he continues through chemo treatments.
- ◆ 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

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