

March 2, 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**

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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 in the second floor room labelled "Artisan's Tent." 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!

Enter to Worship God in the Fellowship of Others

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

Ringing 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

Mission-A-Month – Friendship House

Cecily Rohrs

Succession Team

Linda Heer

Scripture and Prayer of Invocation

Psalm 66:16-20 (p. 570)

(8:00) Prelude

“Mansion Over the Hilltop”

(10:30) Call to Worship

“Come to the Cross”

*“A time of centering our thoughts on our worship of God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit”*

†(8:00) Hymns of Praise

insert, “Follow All the Way”  
#453, “I Gave My Life for Thee”

†(10:30) Songs of Praise

“Forever”  
“Hear the Call of the Kingdom”

†Passing the Peace of Christ

(10:30) Logos Chime Choir

“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty”

Children’s Message

(10:30) Logos Bell Choir

“Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine/I’ve Got Peace Like a River”

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

Scripture Reading

Luke 14:25-35 (p. 1034)

†(8:00) Sermon Hymn

#366, “I Surrender All”

Sermon

“Discipleship God’s Way”

Sharing of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

“Give Me Jesus”

\*The Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

†(8:00) Closing Hymn

#379, vs. 1-5, “Take My Life and Let it Be”

†(10:30) Closing Song

“Come Unto Jesus”

†Spoken Benediction

†(8:00) Benediction in Song

#379, v. 6, “Take My Life and Let it Be”

†(10:30) Benediction in Song

chorus, “Come Unto Jesus”<sub>3</sub>

## SCRIPTURE READING

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**Psalm 66:16-20:** Come and listen, all you who fear God; let me tell you what he has done for me. <sup>17</sup> I cried out to him with my mouth; his praise was on my tongue. <sup>18</sup> If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened; <sup>19</sup> but God has surely listened and heard my voice in prayer. <sup>20</sup> Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me!

**Luke 14:25-35:** Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: <sup>26</sup> "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters-- yes, even his own life-- he cannot be my disciple. <sup>27</sup> And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. <sup>28</sup> "Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? <sup>29</sup> For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, <sup>30</sup> saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' <sup>31</sup> "Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? <sup>32</sup> If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. <sup>33</sup> In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple. <sup>34</sup> "Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? <sup>35</sup> It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out. "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

## MISSION-A-MONTH - FRIENDSHIP HOUSE

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This two-story home located near downtown Archbold is designed to provide shelter for one or two individuals or family units at a time until they are able to become self-sufficient. The Friendship House is endorsed by the Archbold Area Ministerial Association and is coordinated by a volunteer board.

## DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY POSITION

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The Consistory has determined to move forward with making the Director of Music Ministry position permanent from "interim" as suggested at the Annual Meeting in January. Buffy Riley has served as the Interim Director of Music Ministry for the past 1 ½ years. She will be applying for the Director of Music Ministry position. Past practice of the church has been that when a permanent position becomes available, it is posted within the congregation. Anyone interested in applying for this position should contact Laura Johnson, chair of the Personnel Committee, at [lajohnson@gmail.com](mailto:lajohnson@gmail.com). A copy of the job description of the position that Buffy has been filling will be forwarded to the interested applicant. All applicants need to **apply by March 15<sup>th</sup>**.

## SERMON NOTES: "DISCIPLESHIP GOD'S WAY"

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Ask yourself: Do I ever wonder about what God expects of me as a disciple?

Ask yourself: Am I living and thinking like a Christian?

Life Illustration – "Grizzly Adams"

Is it true that in some ways, a person can look like a Christian?

What is your faith self-perception?

In Luke 14:25-35, Jesus makes what it means to be a Christian very clear

What is a disciple?

A true follower of Jesus

In today's world, Disciple and Christian are synonymous

Verse 27

Jesus speaks to the people who are traveling with him

Casual followers or Committed followers

Casual – depending upon the cost not being too much

Committed – accepting the cost

Ask yourself: Which am I?

Really? Hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters?

Hate – figurative use – like the saying, "I slept like a log."

In this use, hate means to love something less than something else.

To love something less than we love Jesus. To love Jesus more than anything else.

"Carrying his cross"

The travelers and followers were familiar with this reference

The cross was a cruel form of punishment used by the Romans

The criminal was forced to carry his cross to the place of execution

The people knew that the person was saying "goodbye to everything"

No turning or coming back

Consider the cost involved – giving up everything – to be a Committed Christian

In our hearts, Jesus must come before our loved ones, self-interest, possessions, careers, hobbies, life goals, and even our very lives.

It can mean our physical self

It can mean our personal desires, interests and needs

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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- ◆ **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, March 9<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) text him (419-551-0401), 3) email (pastorerich@stjohnsarchbold.org).
- ◆ **Becoming a Member of SJCC** - Introduction and Orientation Sessions - SJCC invites people interested in becoming a member of the congregation to gather with Pastor Erich to explore the faith beliefs, history and ministries of the church, as well as the expectations of membership at SJCC. Sessions include three group gatherings and an individual gathering with each person, couple or family. Anyone interested in attending a gathering is asked to email Pastor Erich and he will work to schedule future sessions. (pastorerich@stjohnsarchbold.org)
- ◆ **2025 Easter Flowers** - Flowers will again decorate the base of our Easter cross and are donated in memory or honor of those we love with those names listed in our Easter bulletins. Anyone is welcome to order. The Easter Flower order form is posted on the wandering bulletin board. Flower selections include daffodils, lilies, and a variety of colors of hyacinths, tulips, and mums. The cost is \$12 each. **Deadline to order is Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup>**.
- ◆ **Third Thursday Senior Luncheon** - For Senior Citizens and Any and All! March's Third Thursday Lunch falls on **March 20<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 11:30AM** in the chapel. Following an always delicious meal and some blessed table fellowship, we will consider aspects of Lent.
- ◆ **Women's Retreat 2025** - Join us for an encouraging weekend at Miracle Camp, located in Lawton, Michigan. It is a beautiful place to step away from your routine and spend time with God. Enjoy worshiping with other women, Biblical teachings, great food and a variety of activities. We will be staying at the (hotel style) Lodge the weekend of **April 11-13<sup>th</sup>**. The cost is \$210 and includes meals Saturday through Sunday morning and snacks. There will be a sign-up sheet outside of the office. For more information talk with Sarah Kinsman or Carrie Wooley.

## DISCOVERY DAILY DEVOTIONAL

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Below is the list of daily readings for this week:

Mar 3 Seeking the Lord-----Zephaniah 1:1-13  
Mar 4 Facing the Consequences-----Zephaniah 1:14-2:3  
Mar 5 Righting the Wrongs-----Zephaniah 2:4-11  
Mar 6 Taking the Throne----- Zephaniah 2:12-15  
Mar 7 Heed the Warning-----Zephaniah 3:1-13  
Mar 8 Seeing the Savior----- Zephaniah 3:14-20  
Mar 9 Together on the Road-----Psalm 129

## WEEK OF MARCH 2ND 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)
- Mon 6:30PM Fellowship Committee (Fireside Room)
- Tue 9:15AM Bible Study (Fireside Room)  
10:30AM Staff Meeting (Part-time Staff Office)  
4:00PM VBS Directors Meeting  
5:00PM Community Meal (Archbold Area Schools)  
6:45PM Mission Committee (Fireside Room)  
7:00PM Property Committee (Fireside Room)
- Wed Ash Wednesday  
6:00PM JYF Area Youth Group Rollercade Party (Wauseon Rollercade)  
7:00PM Ash Wednesday Night Service (Sanctuary)
- Sun First Sunday of Lent  
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 Lunch with the Pastor (Fireside Room)  
5:00PM Walleye Faith & Family Game  
6:00PM Seekers

## TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVANTS

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Accompanist	Buffy Riley
Song Leader	(8:00) David Stuckey (10:30) Praise Team
Lay Leaders	(8:00) Joshua Reeb (10:30) Avery Roth
Acolytes	(8:00) Kamy Link (10:30) Tucker Johnston
Easy Worship	Brian Roth
Sound Tech	(8:00) Kelly Ducey (10:30) James Grime
Live Stream	(10:30) Cayla Swisher
Nursery	(10:30) Brooke Lerma & Emily Hines
Usher	(8:00) Shawn Stuckey
Head Usher	Matt Hines
Ushers	(10:30) Charlee Gearig, Dawsyn Martinez, Carson Baden, Kaden Pierson
Praise Team	Lynne Christman, Buffy Riley, Jocelyn Walker, Bruce Wooley

# Follow All the Way

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ELISHA A. HOFFMAN

Arr. by IRA ORWIG HOFFMAN

## TRIO



1. I can hear my Sav-ior call-ing, In the ten-d'rest ac-cents call-ing;
2. Tho' the way be dark and drear-y, Tho' my feet be worn and wea-ry,
3. Je-sus, ev-er go be-fore me, Shin-ing heav-en's sun-light o'er me,
4. Thro' the val-ley safe-ly lead me, Heav'n-ly man-na dai-ly feed me;
5. In Thy heart's af-fec-tion hold me, In Thy arms of love en-fold me,



On my ear these words are fall-ing, "Take thy cross and dai-ly fol-low Me."  
 Yet my heart keeps bright and cheery, As I fol-low, fol-low all the way.  
 And when weak by grace re-store me, As I fol-low, fol-low all the way.  
 Ev-'ry hour, dear Lord, I need Thee As I fol-low, fol-low all the way.  
 And with Thine own grace up-hold me, As I fol-low, fol-low all the way.



## CHORUS



I will take my cross and fol-low, My dear Sav-ior I will fol-low;



Where He leads me I will fol-low, I'll go with Him, with Him all the way.





## BUILDING PROJECT STATUS REPORT AS OF FEBRUARY 27, 2025

- ◆ Those coins found in the organ console were worth some money – about \$4 worth!
- ◆ The Mel Lanzer crew is scheduled to pour concrete for the elevator shaft footings and floor tomorrow, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Then once they set the forms, they will pour the side walls. Once the foundation of the shaft is set, then the crew will open up the necessary hole in the floor of the second floor for the shaft. The metal framework for the shaft has been delivered.

The schedule of work for Phase One – New Restrooms and Elevator:

- ◇ The new restrooms should be ready for use by the end of March – we haven't heard of a new schedule yet, but much has to happen before then.
- ◇ The elevator shaft and elevator installation will be worked on through August

The schedule of work for Phase Two – Sanctuary

- ◇ Waiting to see if the pews will be removed the week of April 21 (Easter is April 20)
- ◇ Asbestos abatement to take place as soon as pews and carpet are removed
- ◇ Sanctuary work is to be completed by July 28

## BULLETIN STEWARDSHIP REPORT UPDATED FEBRUARY 27, 2025

Operating Fund Year to Date Report – YTD – As of February 27<sup>th</sup>

Total Income	\$58,304.65
Total Expenses	\$46,015.93
Net Operating Income	\$12,288.72

(\*A wrong date was used for last week's report)

Mission Fund Year to Date Report – As of February 27<sup>th</sup>

Mission Income	\$24,619.19
Mission Disbursements	\$11,517.49
Net Mission Income	\$13,101.70

Imagine Your Faith Building Capital Campaign – As of February 27<sup>th</sup>

2025 Project Budget	\$2,757,000.00
Building Fund Balance with EGR	\$2,152,732.48
Building Funds with F&M Bank	\$87,664.28
Building Project Expenses to Date	<u>\$349,039.85</u>
Total	<u>\$2,589,436.61</u>
Funds to be Raised to Meet Budget	\$167,563.39

## PRAYER JOYS, CONCERNS, AND REQUESTS:

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Please pray for...

- ◆ Marilyn Buehrer, who returned home on February 27<sup>th</sup> with the help of some home health care.
- ◆ Chloe Merillat, granddaughter of Roger & Kay, who continues to struggle with weight loss, and is going through new testing regarding an infection. Pray for wisdom, peace and endurance in this race.
- ◆ Josie Grieser, daughter of Craig, diagnosed with MS and receiving treatments.
- ◆ Todd & Ruthann Buehrer, brother of Ben, as he continues through chemo treatments.
- ◆ Stuart & Rhonda Short, as his January 30<sup>th</sup> PET scan came back good!

Care Center Residents...

- ◆ Linda Hayes, 500 Haven Drive., Apt. 104, Archbold, 43502
- ◆ Charlene LaFontaine, 500 Haven Drive, Apt. 108, Archbold, 43502
- ◆ Mike Meyer, Fountain Park, 1391 N. Main St., Room 130, Bryan, 43506
- ◆ Dencel Miller, 407 E Lutz Road, Room 166, Archbold, 43502
- ◆ Josephine Short, 407 E. Lutz Road, Room 152B, Archbold, 43502
- ◆ Alice Tedrow, 600 Haven Drive, Apt. 111, Archbold, 43502

Missions/Missionaries...

- ◆ M. – pray for a new ministry with a youth girls club; pray in March for the culture’s time of fasting, praying for people to earnestly seek God; pray for building good relationships with school teachers; pray for her ongoing language learning.
- ◆ Eliot Nofziger (YFC) – pray for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students forming small groups in Archbold, students mental health, for the Holy Spirit’s wisdom in guiding leaders in loving difficult youth, for Eliot as he steps into an added role – development director.

Those serving in the Armed Forces...

- ◆ 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))