

March 30, 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!

## Fourth Sunday of Lent

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

Scripture Reading and Prayer of Invocation

1 Kings 8:22-24 (p. 336)

Prelude

"Revelation Song/Praise to the Lord"

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

†Hymns of Praise

#516, "He's Everything to Me" \*\*

#435, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

†Passing the Peace of Christ

Children's Message

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

(10:30) Chancel Choir

Norm Fether, soloist

"Is He Worthy?"

Scripture Reading

Luke 23:40-43 (p. 1046)

Hymn Requests

Sermon

"A Newfound Friend"

Sharing of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

"Adonai"

† Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

†Closing Hymn

bulletin page #6, "Jesus, Remember Me"

†Spoken Benediction

†Benediction in Song

#422, v. 4, "No, Not One!"

*\*\*Jan Martinez first sang this song in her high school choir, and it has remained a favorite of hers ever since.*

## SCRIPTURE READING

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**1 Kings 8:22-24** Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in front of the whole assembly of Israel, spread out his hands toward heaven <sup>23</sup> and said: "O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below -- you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way. <sup>24</sup> You have kept your promise to your servant David my father; with your mouth you have promised and with your hand you have fulfilled it -- as it is today.

**Luke 23:40-43** But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? <sup>41</sup> We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." <sup>42</sup> Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." <sup>43</sup> Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

## MISSION-A-MONTH - FRIENDSHIP HOUSE

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This two-story home is designed to provide shelter and a fresh start in life for one or two individuals or family units 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.

A year long search for a house mom or a house couple continues to come up empty, but the board is still searching! The person(s) in this important role would interact with house guests and coordinate evening meals, with the guests helping with cooking and cleanup. The house parent(s) would be at the house from supper time until morning, with flexibility to enjoy area evening activities. Guests sleep in upstairs bedrooms and relax in the first floor living room and dining area. The house parent(s) would stay in a first floor room – a large bedroom, with room for a seating area, and a private bath.

Interested in learning more? Know someone that might be interested? Please contact Pastor Erich.

This is the month that we ask you to prayerfully consider supporting this community ministry that strives to care for those in need of a place to stay and have a fresh start in life. You can give to the Friendship House by marking Line 8 of your offering envelope or by selecting "Friendship House" in the "Give to" drop-down menu in Breeze's online giving feature.

## SERMON NOTES - "A NEWFOUND FRIEND"

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Three crosses, three men:

- ◆ Matthew 27:38 and Mark 15:27 – two robbers, one on his right, one on his left
- ◆ Luke 23:33 – criminals, one on his right, one on his left
- ◆ John 19:18 – two others, one on each side, Jesus in the middle

Two robbers/criminals/others, different accounts:

- ◆ Matthew 27:44 and Mark 15:32 – like the crowd, they also heaped insults on him
- ◆ Luke 23:39 – one criminal hurled insults at him, one did not
  - ◇ One criminal – insulted Jesus
    - Mocked and scorned Jesus, reasoned if Jesus were the Messiah, he should save himself, and those crucified with him
  - ◇ One criminal – rebuked the other criminal, called out to Jesus (change of heart?)
    - Feared God (respect)
    - All three under same sentence, two punished justly, deeds deserved
    - Knew his own sin
    - Knew Jesus had done nothing wrong
    - Said to Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom
      - \* Jesus got the criminal's attention, believed Jesus was who he said he was
      - \* Believed the promise of everlasting life
    - Response of Jesus – truth, today, paradise (with Jesus)
      - \* One criminal claimed salvation through Jesus
      - \* One "deathbed" conversion in the Bible – so no one would despair, but only one, so that no one would presume

Paradise:

- ◆ A Persian word, meaning garden or park; Genesis 2:8 (garden of Eden), Isaiah 51:3
- ◆ Not torment
- ◆ Glory to the grace of God, not human merit
- ◆ Criminal – thinking of the future, Jesus said today
- ◆ Criminal – to be remembered, Jesus said you will be with me
- ◆ Criminal – looked for a kingdom, Jesus promised paradise

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## Jesus, remember me

REMEMBER ME Irregular



Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.



Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.



Text: based on Luke 23:42

Music: Jacques Berthier, 1981

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# BULLETIN STEWARDSHIP REPORT UPDATED MARCH 27, 2025

## Operating Fund Year to Date Report

2025 Operating Budget	\$	437,965.00
Total Donations	\$	94,797.11
Total Expenses	\$	76,448.28
Net Operating Balance	\$	18,348.83

## Mission Fund Year to Date Report

2025 Mission Budget	\$	173,000.00
Total Donations	\$	48,444.99
Total Disbursements	\$	31,313.21
Net Mission Balance	\$	17,131.78

## Imagine Your Faith Building Capital Campaign

2025 Project Budget		\$ 2,757,000.00
Fund Balance (EGR)	\$	2,060,327.78
Buehrer Fund Current	\$	3,743.75
Fund Balance (F&M)	\$	119,722.03
Expenses to Date	\$	430,112.34
Total	\$	2,613,905.90
Funds Still to be Raised		\$ 143,094.10

## GIDEON CARD MINISTRY

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As a way of encouraging, caring and supporting people, there are Gideon cards available in the sanctuary narthex. Card themes include: Thinking of you...Praying for You...Sympathy...In Recognition. Each card enables the sender to donate towards Gideon Bible distributions, too. As the Gideon's say, Give a Card, Send the Word, Change a Life!

## **BUILDING PROJECT STATUS REPORT AS OF MARCH 27, 2025**

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- ◆ New Restrooms, Custodian Room, Elevator Shaft, Preschool Room
  - ◇ Masons blocked up an original doorway that will not be needed and filled in blocks around edges of two new doorways.
  - ◇ Water and drain line plumbing was to be tested and inspected on Friday.
  - ◇ Concrete floor around elevator shaft should be poured Monday or Tuesday.
  - ◇ Crews will be here this week to construct the bulkheads in the restroom ceilings to conceal pipe lines and exhaust lines.
- ◆ New Electric Service
  - ◇ Creighton Electric has the directional boring for underground conduit scheduled for this week.

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

- ◆ The work on the new restrooms is behind schedule and we haven't heard of a new schedule yet.
- ◆ The elevator shaft and elevator installation will be worked on through August.

The schedule of work for Phase Two – Sanctuary

- ◆ April 21<sup>st</sup> – Sanctuary pew removal.
- ◆ April 27<sup>th</sup> – Final worship services in the sanctuary until late July – for seating, we will use the 84 new chapel chairs, the 36 new sanctuary chairs, and the 36 unity pews that used to be in the chapel
- ◆ April 28<sup>th</sup> – Sanctuary asbestos removal.
- ◆ Sanctuary work is to be completed by July 28<sup>th</sup>.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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- ◆ **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 ([pastorerich@stjohnsarchbold.org](mailto:pastorerich@stjohnsarchbold.org)) and he will work to schedule future sessions.
- ◆ **Volunteers Needed** - In preparation for the work on the elevator shaft to the second floor, we are in need of some strong hands to move cabinets and shelf units from two second floor rooms - The Tower and the Confirmation Room. Items will be carried down the steps and hauled to the storage building. If you could help with this on **Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1PM**, please let the church office know. Thanks!
- ◆ **Basics of Understanding AI** (Artificial Intelligence) – **Tuesday, April 8**, Fellowship Hall, St. Martin's Lutheran Church, 4PM. A free presentation on the basics of AI. What is it anyway? What do we need to know? What should we be scared of? Presenter Cameron Thompson of St. Martin's who teaches technology will help us understand a bit of this new entry into our technological world.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **Pettisville Man Cave Ministries** - Master Teague III & Kamryn Babb at the Archbold Evan Church on **Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:30PM**. Doors open at 5:45PM. Free for men of all ages.
- ◆ **College Scholarship Application** - St. John's Christian Church offers College Scholarship's each year to active members who are either attending or planning to attend college in the coming year. The scholarship is available to all full-time traditional and non-traditional college students. The application can be found under the "Resources" tab on the church website ([www.stjohnsarchbold.org](http://www.stjohnsarchbold.org)), with **all components of the application due by April 15<sup>th</sup>**. If you have any questions, please contact Jocelyn Walker at [jwalker@stjohnsarchbold.org](mailto:jwalker@stjohnsarchbold.org).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

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- ◆ **Lock-In Chaperones Needed** - In preparation for Jocelyn's upcoming maternity leave in mid-May, we are seeking 2-3 individuals willing to chaperone lock-ins for both JYF and SYF on **May 30<sup>th</sup>**. JYF's Late Night Lock-In will be held at The Outback Youth Center from 7PM to midnight. SYF's full night lock-in will be held at St. Martin's Lutheran Church from 7PM – 7AM, with chaperones needed from 1:00AM to 7:00AM. If you are interested or willing to help with either of these evenings, please contact Jocelyn. Thank you for helping us make these nights possible for our youth!



## TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVANTS

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Accompanist	Lynne Christman	
Song Leader	Roger Zimmerman	
Children's Message	Matt Hines	
Hymn Requests	Buffy Riley	
Acolytes	(8:00) Jude Rutledge	(10:30) Tucker Johnston
Easy Worship	Jenna Stuckey	
Sound Tech	(8:00) Kelly Ducey	(10:30) James Grime
Live Stream	(10:30) Ollie MacDonald	
Nursery	(10:30) Eric & Anna Yoder	
Usher	(8:00) Shawn Stuckey	
Head Usher	Matt Hines	
Ushers	(10:30) Charlee Gearig, Kali Lantz, Dawsyn Martinez, Luci Meyer	

## WEEK OF MARCH 30TH AT ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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- Sun Fourth 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)  
11:40AM Consistory (Fireside Room)
- Mon 7:00PM Praise Team (Sanctuary)
- Tue 9:15AM Bible Study (Fireside Room)  
10:30AM Staff Meeting (Part-time Staff Office)  
5:00PM Community Meal (SJCC)  
6:45PM Mission Committee (Fireside Room)
- Wed 6:00PM LOGOS (Gym)/6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation (gym)  
6:00PM 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation (Confirmation Room)  
6:00PM Senior Dinner  
7:00PM JYF (Fireside Room)  
7:00PM Evening Lent Service (Chapel)  
8:00PM Adult Bell Choir (Sanctuary)
- Fri 7:10AM Rest & Restoration Bible Study (Rest & Restore Spa)
- Sun Fifth 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)

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

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- Mar 31 Children of God-----Galatians 3:23-4:7  
Apr 01 Slavery or Freedom?----- Galatians 4:8-20  
Apr 02 Child of Promise----- Galatians 4:21-31  
Apr 03 Freedom in Christ-----Galatians 5:1-12  
Apr 04 In Step With the Spirit-----Galatians 5:13-26  
Apr 05 A New Creation----- Galatians 6  
Apr 06 Brotherly Love-----Psalm 133



# VBS LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITY FOR MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOLERS

## True North Trailblazer Program

This year, St. John's is offering a new leadership experience for youth in Grades 6 - 12! The VBS Trailblazer Program allows for middle and high school students to develop their leadership skills in the church while working alongside our experienced adult volunteers. Trailblazers will play a critical role in this year's True North VBS program, giving younger children the ability to see our love for Jesus Christ through all generations of our faith community. Additionally, this program benefits teens wishing to build their resumes and skill sets early on.



Hey, 6th - 12th graders! Don't "moose" out on this one! Scan to apply today!



### Trailblazer Training Camp

Save the date for Wednesday, May 21st from 6-8pm during the usual Wednesday evening program time. We'll be holding a Trailblazer Training Camp where you'll learn the ropes of leading this year's True North VBS week!





# CALLING ALL EXPLORERS!

**True North VBS is coming to St. John's!** Join us June 8th - 12th as we learn what it means to trust Jesus in this wild world of ours! This year's VBS is designed for children in Pre-K (4yrs) through 5th grade and will run from 6 - 8:30pm nightly here at the church. Visit the VBS board outside of the chapel to register or scan the QR code below!

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

VBS would not be possible each year without the generous help of our volunteers! If you are feeling called to help this year, please visit the VBS bulletin board to sign up for an open slot.

# GET REGISTERED TODAY!



Register by May 1st to guarantee a t-shirt



## PRAYER JOYS, CONCERNS, AND REQUESTS:

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Please pray for...

- ◆ Chloe Merillat, granddaughter of Roger & Kay, scans confirmed earlier biopsies of the lesion in her back being cancer; still not able to gain any weight.
- ◆ Josie Grieser, daughter of Craig, diagnosed with MS, receiving treatments and doing well.
- ◆ Todd & Ruthann Buehrer, brother of Ben, treatments are done and went well; stem cells were harvested this past week; is now in isolation for two to three weeks prior to having a transplant.
- ◆ Stuart & Rhonda Short, as he continues through treatment.

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)
- ◆ 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)  
Director of Music Ministry - Buffy Riley (Cell: 419-572-6880)  
Administrative Assistant - Gloria Beck ([office@stjohnsarchbold.org](mailto:office@stjohnsarchbold.org))