

The Church on the Corner whose Cornerstone is Christ



St. John's Christian Church



700 S. Defiance St.
Archbold, Ohio 43502
www.stjohnsarchbold.org

Welcome to St. John's!

We hope and pray that during your time with us, you are able to feel God's love in a new, refreshing way. Through our services of worship, weekly ministries, and countless fun opportunities to fellowship with other believers, we strive to deepen everyone's personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and to better understand our collective call to discipleship.

We are so happy you are here!



SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00a Worship in the Sanctuary

8:30a Pause for Praise Radio
Broadcast on 96.1 WMTR

9:15a Sunday School Hour

10:30a Worship in the Sanctuary

10:30a YouTube Livestream of in-person worship

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

September - May

5:50p LOGOS/JYF Meal

6:45p LOGOS/JYF

7:00p SYF/Life Planning
Life Planning every 2nd Wednesday

Chancel Choir, Praise Team, and other special service times will be scheduled by group leaders.

CONTACT US!

700 South Defiance Street
Archbold, Ohio 43502
www.stjohnsarchbold.org

Office: 419-446-2545
office@stjohnsarchbold.org

Church Office Hours:
Monday - Friday, 8:00a - 5:00p

Let's Connect!

facebook.com/stjohnschurcharchbold
[@stjohnsarchbold](https://instagram.com/stjohnsarchbold)



Our Mission Statement

To see CHRIST shining through every aspect of the congregation's ministries and missions!

Come Inviting and welcoming people in Christ's love into our congregational family

Hear the Listening to God's Word of revelation, opening ourselves to God's leading

Reason we're Believing in Christ is the reason we are the church

Inspired to Praising God in worship

Serve Sharing Christ's love near and far, through prayer, missions, and service

Together Gathering in Christ, united as a congregation as a people of God

Key beliefs of the congregation are: Jesus as Divine, Human, and Savior; the Sacraments of Baptism and Communion; Infant Baptism and Dedication; Local Church Autonomy; and the Importance of Women in Ministry. The congregation views as sin anything that breaks a person's relationship with God, knowing that all sin is sin in God's eyes.

Ministry Team & Staff



Rev. Erich Christman

Senior Pastor

pastorerich@stjohnsarchbold.org | 419-551-0401

Pastor Erich was called as pastor of St. John's in the spring of 2006 after serving the church in other roles, such as Associate Pastor, Student Pastor, and Director of Christian Education. Erich is a mission-minded servant seeking to live out the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats (Matthew 25). He enjoys the outdoors, and is actively involved in serving on the Board for Habitat for Humanity of Fulton County, Ohio. He is blessed to be married to his wife, Lynne, and father to two children, Ryan (married to Keira) and Amy.



Rev. Ryan Volkman

Pastor of Music & Worship

pastorryan@stjohnsarchbold.org | 325-213-0671

St. John's welcomed Pastor Ryan to its ministry team in May 2022. Prior to St. John's, Ryan served as the Pastor of Youth and Families at Wall Brethren Church in Wall, TX for eight years. He also served as a missionary in Slovakia and the Czech Republic for four years. He loves to study and teach the Word, and to share the Word in a variety of ways, especially through music. He is married to Stanka and has two boys: Daniel and Filip. In his freetime, he likes to play piano, go on nature walks, and read a good story.



Jocelyn Walker

Administrative Assistant

office@stjohnsarchbold.org | 419-446-2545

Jocelyn is the blessed mother of two daughters, Allie and Evy, and wife of Corey. She is an active vocalist in the congregation and assists with live streaming. In her free time, she enjoys gardening and cooking.

Part - Time
Support Staff



Dean Buckenmeyer, Custodian
Mary Zimmerman, Treasurer
Richard Spiess, Church Security

The History of St. John's



CHURCH CONGREGATION

St. John's Reformed Church was first organized in 1852 by a colony of Reformed people from Schaffhausen, Switzerland. They brought with them the Bible, the Heidelberg Catechism and their Song Book. Seeking to formally establish a church based on their traditions, they contacted Wendel Wasnich, a farmer and preacher who lived near Pulaski and served Reformed people of that community, and he agreed to serve. A group met in the home of Alexander Miller to draw the congregational charter

Signing the charter were the twenty-five voting members of the congregation. First services were conducted in the homes of members.

St. John's Archbold, St. Jacob's of Evansport (Zion's Church), and St. Paul's Church formed the Brush Creek Charge and were served by the same pastor. St. Paul's was dissolved in 1901 with some members joining St. John's; and Zion's was dissolved in 1948 and united with St. John's.

Upon the merger of the Evangelical and Reformed Churches of 1934, the church's name was changed to St. John's Evangelical and Reformed Church. Then in 1957, upon the merger of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Church, the local congregation became St. John's United Church of Christ.

In 2006, the congregation voted to become an independent church with the name of St. John's Christian Church. This change resulted from the continued differences of theology and practice with the denomination, and marked a new beginning seeking God's direction and will. Action was also taken to become a member of the Evangelical Association of Reformed and Congregational Christian Churches.

St. John's possesses a strong sense of calling to ministries of mission and service, supporting mission partners across the globe.

Sundays: What to Expect

Our worship of God is unique to who we are as a congregation as we seek unity and enjoy Christian fellowship as a family of God. We desire to praise Him and inspire both believers and those who may have a broken relationship with God. We seek to follow God's plans and desires for our worship, relying upon the discernment, talents and wisdom of the pastors He has called to serve this congregation as well as the lay leaders He has lifted up to serve in cooperation with our pastors.

We reflect the Reformed and Evangelical heritage of our congregation, normally following a printed order of worship that includes Scripture, preaching, prayer (including The Lord's Prayer), songs and hymns, children's messages, education, inspiration, and stewardship.

We praise God through music and song - both vocally and instrumentally. Our music includes a blend of traditional hymns, praise choruses, and contemporary songs. Our music ministries include the Chancel Choir, Junior Choir, Praise Band, Adult Hand Bells, Children's Hand Bells, Children's Hand Chimes, and individual instrumentalists and vocalists offering special music throughout the year.

Periodically, our worship services will include various elements of worship to further form, strengthen, and inspire faith and trust in God as we praise and thank Him. Such elements may be personal testimonies, drama, special

music, multi-media, video clips, puppetry, object lessons, and guest speakers. We utilize both clergy and laity in leading our worship: worship leaders, song leaders, accompanists, greeters, ushers, and children's message leaders.

Our pastors wear robes on special occasions; otherwise they wear business casual attire for a typical Sunday morning service. Those attending worship services are welcome to wear casual to more formal attire. Come as you are - however you feel comfortable!

The **8:00** service offers a more traditional style of worship. This service provides a quieter atmosphere of worship, and averages sixty to eighty in attendance.

The **10:30** service follows the same order of worship as the 8:00 service but has a more contemporary feel. This service is often accompanied by the SJCC Praise Team, Chancel Choir, special music performances, or youth choirs, and tends to average one-hundred and fifty or more in attendance.



Faith & Theology

Our church acknowledges as its sole Head, **Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Savior** of all people. It acknowledges as brothers and sisters in Christ all who share in the **confession**. It looks to the Word of God in the Scriptures, and to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, to prosper its creative and redemptive work in the world. It claims, as its own, the faith of the historic Church expressed in the ancient creeds and reclaimed in the basic insights of the Protestant Reformers. It affirms the responsibility of the Church in each generation to make this faith its own.

In accordance with the teaching of our Lord and the prevailing practice among evangelical Christians, two defining Sacraments are recognized: **Baptism** and **Holy Communion**. The creedal belief statement of the congregation is The Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Christian Church; the Communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

We covenant one with another to seek and respond to the Word and the will of God. We purpose to walk together in the ways the Lord made known to us. We hold it to be the mission of the Church to witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in all the world, while worshipping God, and striving for truth, justice, and peace. As did our ancestors, we depend on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us. We pray for the coming of the kingdom of God, and we look with faith toward the triumph of righteousness and eternal life.

In the Reformed Tradition of the Church, we find our roots in the theology of Ulrich Zwingli, the first reformer in Zurich, and John Calvin, of Geneva. We serve to proclaim the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ, to all. We confess:

1. Authority of one God: God exists and is ultimately in control of the universe (*Romans 13:1*).
2. Authority of the Scriptures: The Bible is the inspired, inerrant Word of God; the rule of faith and practice for Christians. (*1 Thessalonians 2:13*) (*2 Timothy 3:16*).
3. Doctrine of Justification by Faith: By grace through faith in Jesus Christ, believing Christians are pardoned of their sins and are reconciled to God. (*Acts 4:6-7, 10:43*) (*Romans 3:21-24*).
4. Priesthood of all believers: Those who through faith have been united to Christ, offering gratitude to God by living as spiritual sacrifices to Him. (*1 Peter 2:5, 9*) (*Hebrews 13:15-16*).

(Scripture references cited are meant to help provide understanding to the confessed beliefs of faith, and are not meant to be sole points of understanding, but must be read in the entire context of the scriptures)

Organization of St. John's

The officers of this congregation consist of the following individuals, serving as the church's Consistory:

- **Pastors**
- **Congregational President**
- **6 Elders**
- **9 Deacons/Deaconesses**
- **Congregational Secretary**
- **Treasurer**
- **Financial Secretary**

One of the six Elders is designated as the congregation's Vice President, and in the absence of the President, performs the duties and be vested with the authority of the President.



It is the duty of the **Elders** to watch faithfully over the spiritual interests of the congregation, to aid in visiting the sick, and to contribute according to their ability to the ministry of all members. They also provide the elements for Holy Communion.

It is the duty of the **Deacons** and **Deaconesses** to cooperate with the other officers of the congregation to promote its general welfare, to show an active interest in the offerings for benevolent causes, and under the direction of the Consistory, to pro-

vide for the financial needs of the congregation.

St. John's Elders and Deacons/Deaconesses constitute the church's **Consistory**, which is the executive body of the congregation responsible for the government of the congregation and all its organizations. The Consistory holds charge of the general affairs of the congregation, presents the challenges of our Benevolent Mission Goals, provides for the audit of all financial records of the church and its organizations, and makes due provision for the support of the Pastoral staff. The members of the Consistory constitute the Board of Trustees, who shall have care and control of the property of the congregation as a sacred trust, whether real or personal, in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation.

The Pastors and Elders constitute the **Spiritual Council**, whose duty is to see that the ministry of St. John's is Christ-centered, to admit members to full communion of the church, to examine believers seeking confirmation and the celebration of Holy Communion, to grant letters of transfer to other Christian churches, and to administer the Love Fund.

Every member of the St. John's congregation is entitled to vote at all elections for Pastor(s) and officers, and on any question submitted to the congregation for action.

Children & Youth Ministries

Preschool SS

Sundays @ 9:15a
4YR - 5YR

A time of fun and exiting Christian-based activities such as songs, crafts, and games. Snack and free play in the newly updated Preschool Room are enjoyed each week.

Faith Village

Sundays @ 9:15a
K - 6th Grade

A workshop rotation model Sunday School program that teaches children about the Bible through fun and hands-on activities. Classes take place upstairs in The Well: one of our Biblically-themed classrooms.

LOGOS*

Wednesdays @ 5:50p
4YR - 5th Grade

A dynamic ministry of which the goal is to nurture children into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and how to live as his disciples. Each evening contains a family-style meal, creative Bible study lessons, and Worship Skills rehearsals.

Confirmation

Sundays @ 9:15a
7th & 8th Grade

A two-year program that guides youth in exploring the Bible, the Christian Church, and the Christian faith. Goals of the program include equipping youth to live a Christian life, to prepare youth to confirm the baptismal vows made by their parents or themselves, and to prepare youth to become active members of St. John's Christian Church.

JYF*

Wednesdays @ 6:45p
6th - 8th Grade

Designed for middle-schoolers to embrace their personal relationships with Jesus Christ while learning the importance of Christian fellowship. Program includes an interactive lesson, fun game, and/or activity, and snacks! JYF participants are invited to join the LOGOS meal at 5:50p or join right at 6:45p for the start of JYF programming.

Senior High SS

Sundays @ 9:15a
9th - 12th Grade

This Sunday School class provides a time for youth to study the truths of the Bible for application in their daily lives guided by RightNow Media video lessons and/or book studies. Light breakfast snacks and beverages are typically provided!

SYF**

Wednesdays @ 7:00p
9th - 12th Grade

A time for our high school youth to gather for games, activities, and faith-based conversations about school, relationships, and what it means to be living out our Christian upbringing. Fellowship outings and service projects are on the calendar throughout the year.

Life Planning**

Wednesday @ 7:00p
9th - 12th Grade

Held every second Wednesday of the month in place of SYF. LP is a mentorship program that pairs high school youth with an adult member of the congregation. Mentors and youth gather together for fun activities and games, service projects, devotional time, and life conversations once a month. In addition to the monthly gatherings, mentors and students are encouraged to spend time together outside of church, with mentors praying regularly with and for the youth.

**Denotes a program that runs from September through April*
***Denotes a program that runs from September through May*



Adult Christian Education



B.A.S.I.C.

Brothers And Sisters In Christ meet on Sunday mornings at 9:15a in the Parlor. The class focuses on sharing commonalities of faith and Biblical perspectives through Scripture Union's Daily Discovery Guide. All ages are welcome!

Women's Class

Women of all ages meet at 9:15a on Sunday mornings in the Women's Classroom located along the main first-floor hallway. The class reads and discusses trending books of faith written by Christian authors.



Connections

A fellowship gathering that meets in the Chapel on Sunday mornings at 9:15a. Each week, light breakfast food is enjoyed and the class covers different discussion topics while forming connections with one another. All ages welcome!

Tuesday Bible Study

The perfect class for adults seeking a structured Bible study group! The class meets every Tuesday morning at 9:15a in the Fireside Room, located on the east side of the Parish Hall. The pastors rotate the leadership of lessons and make use of Scripture Union's Daily Discovery Guide devotional booklet.



Music at St. John's



MUSIC HISTORY OF ST. JOHN'S

Praising God in music and song has been a focal point in the congregation's worship of the Lord since the 1970's, when God blessed the church with a pastor who could both sing and play musical instruments. The calling of a Pastor of Music and Worship to our church staff undergirds the congregation's continued desire to worship God with joyful song!

Realizing worship music speaks to all church-goers differently, we strive to incorporate many different styles and voices into our services of worship.

We are always seeking new musicians who wish to share their talents for serving our Lord in worship!

Chancel Choir

A traditional SATB choir that performs once a month during 10:30 worship. The group also participates in the annual Sermon in Music. Rehearsals are typically held once or twice a month on Wednesday evenings in the Sanctuary.

Praise Team

A rotating group of musicians who prepare and lead the congregation in contemporary songs of praise during 10:30 worship every other week.

Junior Choir

Comprised of children in kindergarten through 5th grade. Rehearsals are held during LOGOS and children perform during 10:30 worship several times per year.

Handbells/Handchimes Choirs

Children in kindergarten through 5th grade make up our Junior Handbells and Handchimes Choirs and rehearse during the Worship Skills section of the LOGOS program. Children perform during our 10:30 service several times per year.

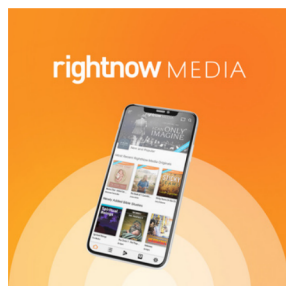
Special Music

Musicians within the congregation are often moved by the Spirit to share special pieces of music during our time of worship. These performances are arranged with the pastoral staff throughout the worship year.

rightnow MEDIA

St. John's has provided everyone with the free gift of RightNow Media - a digital library of over 20,000 Bible study resources and videos.

Watch on your own or with a group to experience the mission Jesus gave to his people - making disciples of all nations.



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