



Sunday, July 5, 2026

8:00am & 10:30am

St. John's Christian Church

"The Church on the Corner whose Cornerstone is Christ"

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, and we hope you feel God's love in a refreshing way this morning. We invite you to learn a little more about our congregation and fill out a connect card while you're waiting for worship to start. Simply scan the QR code to the right with your phone's camera!



Nursery Care/Diaper Changing Stations

Nursery Care is offered during our 10:30AM service for children ages four months through pre-school. The Nursery - Preschool room is located on the first floor, in Room #125. Before checking into the nursery for the first time, parents can register children for Nursery Care online at



www.stjohnsarchbold.org/nursery or by scanning the QR code to the left. We also have a Mother's Room located outside of the Sanctuary in Room #138 for nursing mothers and/or mothers with young infants and toddlers. Diaper changing stations are located in the Mother's Room, the Nursery, and the family restrooms. An usher will gladly direct you if needed!

Children's Busy Bags are located in the 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.

Large Print Bulletins are available at a table in the narthex.

Hearing Assistance in the Sanctuary is available through Bluetooth connection to a person's hearing aids or via use of a hand-held amplifier and headphones. Please see an usher for further assistance.

Let's Connect!



WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP OF GOD!

Welcome & Announcements

Scripture and Prayer of Invocation

Ecclesiastes 3:1-14

Prelude

"I'll Fly Away"

†Hymns of Praise

#66, "To God Be the Glory"

#304, "Lift High the Cross"

†Sharing of the Peace of Christ

Children's Message

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Matthew 16:24-28, Philippians 2:1-11

Special Music

Joshua Reeb

"Let Freedom Ring"

Sermon

"Two Paths"

Sharing of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

"In My Heart There Rings a Melody"

†*The Doxology and Prayer of Dedication*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

†Closing Hymn

#105, "He Is Lord"

†Spoken Benediction

†Benediction in Song

#376, v. 1, "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Ecclesiastes 3:1-14 There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: ² a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, ³ a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, ⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, ⁵ a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain, ⁶ a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, ⁷ a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, ⁸ a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace. ⁹ What does the worker
(continued on pg. 4)

SCRIPTURE READINGS (CONT.)

gain from his toil? ¹⁰ I have seen the burden God has laid on men. ¹¹ He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end. ¹² I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live. ¹³ That everyone may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all his toil-- this is the gift of God. ¹⁴ I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it. God does it so that men will revere him.

Matthew 16:24-28 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. ²⁶ What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? ²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done. ²⁸ I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

Philippians 2:1-11 If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. ³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴ Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death -- even death on a cross! ⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

WORSHIP SERVANTS

Accompanist	Buffy Riley	10:30 Sound Tech	James Grime
Song Leader	David Stuckey	10:30 Easy Worship	Brian Roth
Worship Leader	David Stuckey	10:30 Live Stream	Cayla Swisher
8:00 Lay Reader	Molly Rutledge	10:30 Lay Reader	Avery Roth
8:00 Usher	Shawn Stuckey	Head Usher	Richard Spiess
10:30 Ushers	Keith & Kelli Kuntz, and Bill & Kathy Bostelman		
Nursery	Corey & Jocelyn Walker		

SERMON NOTES: "TWO PATHS"

Scripture – Matthew 16:24-28, Philippians 2:1-11

Today’s sermon stems from an email I received on September 23, 2025...

Two Paths...

The Path of the Cross

- ◆ Forgiveness
- ◆ Grace
- ◆ Love for one’s enemies

The Path of the Pattern of the Age

- ◆ Hatred for different viewpoints, hatred for opponents
- ◆ Earthly kingdoms
- ◆ Violence and vengeance

Jesus speaks of the narrow and wide gates in Matthew 7:13-14:

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. 14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”

Matthew 16

- ◆ V. 24 – deny self, take up a cross, follow Jesus
- ◆ V. 26 – world vs soul
- ◆ V. 27 – will reward...according to what each person has done

Philippians 2 – example and attitude of Jesus...

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

Jul 5 For a Royal Wedding -----	Psalm 45
Jul 6 Rule Interpreter -----	Mark 7:1-8
Jul 7 Perceptive Teacher-----	Mark 7:9-23
Jul 8 A Friend of Gentiles-----	Mark 7:24-30
Jul 9 Hoped-For Healer -----	Mark 7:31-37
Jul 10 Crowd Controller -----	Mark 8:1-13
Jul 11 Disappointed Mentor -----	Mark 8:14-21

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ **Time of Pastoral Transition** - With the May 31st calling of Elijah Layfield to be the next pastor of St. John's Christian Church, a Transition Committee has been formed to coordinate the various aspects involved. The committee met for the first time on Thursday, June 11th, and the committee will communicate with the congregation as plans unfold.

The following schedule has been set:

- ◆ July 12th - Erich will plan and lead a final worship service and preach his final sermon as Pastor of St. John's Christian Church. Services at 8AM and 10:30AM. Sunday school as normal. Potluck at 12PM.
- ◆ July 13th - First day for Elijah as Pastor of St. John's Christian Church
- ◆ July 19th - Service of "A Time of Passage - Farewell and Welcome"
 - ◇ Service will include a "Symbolic Passing of Leadership"
 - ◇ Elijah will plan and lead his first worship service and preach his first sermon as Pastor of St. John's Christian Church
 - ◇ Erich will be present as the retiring pastor
 - ◇ 9AM Fellowship time, followed by one service at 10:30AM only.
- ◆ **VBS Registration Deadline** - Registration will remain open through July until VBS kickoff night on July 26th.
- ◆ **VBS Craft Night** - Calling all crafters and junior crafters! We are looking for your help on July 8th from 6:00 to 8:00PM in the gym. We'll be assembling an assortment of rainforest foliage and landscaping that will be used as decorations throughout the church during VBS week. This is a great opportunity to help with VBS even if you can't be here the week of the event! All ages and abilities are welcome. Bring your hot glue gun, favorite pair of scissors, and a snack to share if willing!
- ◆ **La Porte County Habitat for Humanity, La Porte, Indiana** - Some of the participants in the summer mission trip are planning a day trip to La Porte on July 16th. Due to the weather delaying the pouring of the foundation for the new home, the exterior and interior walls of the new home were built off-site. La Porte HFH staff and volunteers are to have the beam and first floor deck framed in, so that on the 16th a crew from SJCC can be there to set the walls in place. We'll meet at the church at 6:30AM, climb aboard the church van and make the two hour trip to the worksite. The return to Archbold will depend upon the completion of setting the walls. Interested? Let Pastor Erich know!
- ◆ **November 2026 Back Bay Mission Trip** - The trip is November 15th - 21st. See the sign-up on the bulletin board outside of the Pastor's office for more information.

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

Sun	8:00AM	Worship (Chapel)
	8:30AM	Pause for Praise (96.1 WMTR)
	9:15AM	Sunday School
	10:30AM	Worship (Sanctuary and YouTube Live)
Mon	6:30PM	Fellowship Committee Meeting (Parlor)
Tue	9:15AM	Bible Study (Fireside Room)
	10:30AM	Staff Meeting (Part Time Staff Room)
	2:00PM	Bible Study for High School Girls (Tap Culture)
Wed	1:00PM	Bible Study for 4 th - 8 th Graders (Healthy Spot)
	6:00PM	VBS Crafting Night (Gym)
Thurs	8:30AM	Bible Study for High School Girls (Tap Culture)
Fri	6:00PM	Seekers (Keith & Kelli Kuntz's)
Sat	7:40PM	Men's Prayer Breakfast (Parlor)
Sun	8:00AM	Worship (Chapel)
	8:30AM	Pause for Praise (96.1 WMTR)
	9:15AM	Sunday School
	10:30AM	Worship (Sanctuary and YouTube Live)
	12:00PM	Church Potluck (Fellowship Hall)

JULY MISSION-A-MONTH: DEFIANCE AREA YOUTH FOR CHRIST

Archbold Area – Lead and Development Director, Eliot Nofziger – YFC is a movement that reaches young people everywhere with the hope of Christ. They work with the local church and other like-minded partners to raise up lifelong followers of Jesus who lead by their godliness in lifestyle, devotion to the Word of God and prayer, passion for sharing the love of Christ, and commitment to social involvement.

Juvenile Justice Ministry, Kari Gathany – a youth outreach program taking place in a variety of institutions (i.e. detention centers, correctional facilities, group homes, residential treatment centers, emergency shelters, etc.) Their mission is to help young people develop a way of living taught by Jesus Christ; balancing the physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual aspects of life. They build valued relationships that are sustained through ongoing involvement as they re-enter their communities. We ask that you prayerfully consider supporting this community ministry. You can give to YFC - Eliot Nofziger or Juvenile Justice - Kari Gathany by marking Line 11 or 12 of your offering envelope, or by going to the “Give to” drop-down menu in Breeze’s online giving feature.

PRAYER JOYS, CONCERNS, AND REQUESTS:

Please pray for...

- ◆ Ken Laub, who spent two nights at the hospital and had some procedures done, he is now home recuperating.
- ◆ Sandy Miller, continues to recover at home from surgery to relieve nerve pain in her head.
- ◆ Ralph and Bonnie Grieser, as Ralph is in room 163A at Fairlawn, receiving therapy.
- ◆ John Graber is enjoying his new apartment at Wyse Commons.
- ◆ Elijah, Shannon, Eli and Jack Layfield, as they follow God's call upon Elijah to be the pastor of SJCC, as they look to purchase a home in Archbold and go through the moving process.
- ◆ Chloe Merillat, who returns to Deerfield Beach, FL for further physical therapy after spending a week at home. The therapy is working, as she is now taking slow steps with the use of a walker! Praise the Lord!
- ◆ Toni & Chris Neuenschwander, as Toni has completed 12 weeks of cardio rehab and is feeling well!
- ◆ Rev. Jim Barnes, National Minister of the EA, as he undergoes cancer treatment.

Care Center Residents...

- ◆ Marilyn Baron, Fulton Manor, 725 S. Shoop Ave, Wauseon 43567
- ◆ Linda Hayes, 407 E Lutz Road, Room 401, Archbold, 43502
- ◆ Charlene LaFountaine, 407 E Lutz Road, Room 180, Archbold, 43502
- ◆ Mike Meyer, Fountain Park, 1391 N. Main St., Room 130, Bryan, 43506
- ◆ Dencel Miller, 407 E Lutz Road, Room 135, Archbold, 43502
- ◆ Alice Tedrow, 600 Haven Drive, Apt. 111, Archbold, 43502

And those serving in the Armed Forces...

- ◆ Kyle Ducey, San Antonio, TX (Navy) (Son of Kelly & Betsy)
- ◆ MAJ Jared Kuntz, Hawaii (Army) (Son of Keith & Kelli)
- ◆ Shayne Pitts, Dayton, OH (Air Force) (Grandson-in-law of Nan Neill)

ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

700 S. Defiance St., Archbold, Ohio 43502
419-446-2545 † 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 - Jenna Stuckey (office@stjohnsarchbold.org)