



Sunday, July 26, 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		
Mission Presentation		Tom & Megan
Scripture and Prayer of Invocation		Malachi 3:1
Prelude		"The Lord's Prayer"
†Songs of Praise		"As the Deer"
		"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High/Because He Lives"
†Sharing the Peace of Christ		
Children's Message		
Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer		
	<i>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.</i>	
Special Music	Jim McCurdy & Mike McRobbie	"Holy Song"
Scripture Reading		Mark 1:1-3
Sermon		"Beginnings Already Begun"
Sharing of Our Tithes and Offerings		
Offertory		"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"
†The Doxology and Prayer of Dedication		
	<i>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.</i>	
†Closing Song		"Shine, Jesus Shine"
†Spoken Benediction		
†Benediction in Song		chorus, "Shine, Jesus Shine"

WORSHIP SERVANTS

Accompanist	Buffy Riley	Worship Leader	Kim S. Walker
Song Leader	Roger Zimmerman	Children's Message	Jocelyn Walker
8:00 Audio Tech	Jenna Stuckey	10:30 Audio Tech	James Grime
EW Tech	Kelly Ducey	10:30 Video Tech	Ollie MacDonald
8:00 Usher	Shawn Stuckey	Nursery	Jen & Brie Grime
10:30 Head Usher	Greg Walker		
Ushers	Kelly & Betsy Ducey, Jim McCurdy & Karleen Holland		

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Malachi 3:1 "See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the Lord Almighty.

Mark 1:1-3 The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ² It is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way" - ³ "a voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.' "

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ **VBS Kickoff** - Tonight we will begin an adventure into exploring the nature of God. It is not too late to bring a friend!
- ◆ **Tom & Megan** - Special gathering today in the Fellowship Hall, during Sunday School hour.
- ◆ **Jason & Becky Suon** - Will be visiting next Sunday, August 2nd, to speak more in depth about their vision in the Dominican Republic. A gathering during the Sunday School hour will be held in the Fellowship Hall, in addition to a brief message during both services.
- ◆ **November 2026 Back Bay Mission Trip** - The trip is November 15th - 21st. Serving with Back Bay Mission (BBM) enables participants to learn the realities of living in poverty and homelessness, as BBM provides a food pantry, soup kitchen and day center as key aspects of their ministry. Each of these ministries enables participants to spend time talking with and learning from staff and clients. In addition, BBM oversees a vital housing rehabilitation program, too. The work projects for the week could be any type of home repair or renovation, with projects matched to the skill level of volunteers. Whatever skills a person has or doesn't have, each participant will find there is a wide variety of work so everyone can share in a teamwork approach to the week. The Consistory has granted special approval for Pastor Erich to lead this final scheduled trip to Biloxi as it falls within the year he is to separate from the congregation. He will assume leadership once in Biloxi, as Betsy Ducey and Kim M. Walker will coordinate arrangements for the trip. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board outside the pastor's office.
- ◆ **Book Bag Bash 2026** - The Evangelism Committee will be hosting St. John's Annual Book Bag Bash at the church on Sunday, August 2nd from 3-5PM. Students K-12 who are in need of school supplies for the upcoming school year are invited to come and fill up a backpack of their choosing with all of their school necessities. Please let Emily K. Walker or David Stuckey know if you have interest in helping with this event!

SERMON & TRANSLATION NOTES - "BEGINNINGS ALREADY BEGUN"

Mark 1:1-3 (Elijah's Translation) "The beginning of the gospel (good news) of Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God; ² As it has been written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way. ³ The voice of one crying in the wilderness, '(You all) Prepare the way of the Lord, (you all) make his paths straight."

- ♦ "Gospel" occurs 8 times in Mark (1:1, 1:15, 8:35, 10:29, 13:10, 14:9, and 16:15).
- ♦ "Christ" occurs 7 times in Mark (1:1, 8:29, 9:41, 12:35; 13:21, 14:61, and 15:32).
- ♦ In verse 2, Mark is quoting Malachi 3:1 (written around 460 BC) and Isaiah 40:3 (written around 740 BC).

What's So Special About Jesus?

- ♦ Matthew 1:21 "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

What Do People Say About Jesus?

- ♦ Mark 8:27–29 " [Jesus] asked them, "Who do people say I am?" ²⁸ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." ²⁹ "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Christ.""
- ♦ Mark 12:35 "While Jesus was teaching in the temple courts, he asked, "How is it that the teachers of the law say that the Christ is the son of David?"
- ♦ Mark 13:21 "At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or, 'Look, there he is!' do not believe it."

What Does God Say About Jesus?

- ♦ Mark 1:11 "And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.""
- ♦ Mark 9:7 "Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!""

Why Does It Matter What You Say About Jesus?

- ♦ Mark 1:1 "The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God"

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 may give to YFC - Eliot Nofziger, or 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.



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

Jul 26 City View -----	Psalm 48
Jul 27 Mountains and Molehills -----	Romans 14:13-23
Jul 28 Give Way! -----	Romans 15:1-6
Jul 29 For the Many Not the Few -----	Romans 15:7-13
Jul 30 Gospel Imperatives -----	Romans 15:14-22
Jul 31 People Pray -----	Romans 15:23-33
Aug 1 Not Just Meet, But Greet -----	Romans 16:1-16

WEEK OF JULY 26TH AT ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Sun	8:00AM	Worship (Sanctuary)
	8:30AM	Pause for Praise (96.1 WMTR)
	9:15AM	Sunday School
		Tom & Megan Special Gathering (Fellowship Hall)
	10:30AM	Worship (Sanctuary and YouTube Live)
	3:00PM	VBS Volunteer Training & Fellowship
	5:30PM	VBS Kickoff Night 1
Mon	5:30PM	VBS Night 2
Tue	9:15AM	Bible Study (Fireside Room)
	10:30AM	Staff Meeting (Fireside Room)
	4:15PM	Budget & Stewardship (Fireside Room)
	5:30PM	VBS Night 3
Wed	1:00PM	Bible Study for 4 th - 8 th Graders (Healthy Spot)
	5:30PM	VBS Night 4
Thur	5:30PM	VBS Night 5
Fri	6:30PM	Dads & Sons Camping Night (Grieser Property)
Sun	8:00AM	Worship (Chapel)
	8:30AM	Pause for Praise (96.1 WMTR)
	9:15AM	Sunday School
		Jason & Becky Suon Special Gathering (Fellowship Hall)
	10:30AM	Worship (Sanctuary and YouTube Live)
	3:00PM	Book Bag Bash (Gym)

FOR PRESCHOOL - 5TH GRADE!



VBS - JULY 26TH - 30TH



PRAYER JOYS, CONCERNS, AND REQUESTS:

Please pray for...

- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Chloe Merillat, who continues to improve and will complete her specialized therapy in Deerfield Beach, FL on July 31st. Please pray for direction on her next steps towards rehab & for the continued gain of strength in her legs.
- ◆ An update from the Rev. Jim Barnes, National Minister of the EA: “About three months ago I received concerning scan results suggesting a possible recurrence of cancer following my battle with that disease in 2021. Following several more scans and tests in recent weeks, it was confirmed a few days ago that I do indeed have cancer once again and will now be on a path of determining what kind of treatment options might be most helpful. Please continue to keep me on your prayer lists as I face this new health battle. Given the circumstances, I also want to share with you that I will be retiring from my role as the National Minister of the Evangelical Association in September. The members of the EA board of directors have been aware of this decision for the last several months and have been planning for the transition so that the EA can continue to function smoothly once I have stepped down.”

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 - Elijah Layfield (Cell: 419-612-1239)

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)