



Sunday, August 2, 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!

Call to Worship	Psalm 95:1-3
Prelude	"Power In the Blood"
Welcome & Announcements	
Mission Presentation	Jason & Becky Suon
†(8:00) Hymns of Praise	#334, "Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy" #521, "Redeemed"
†(10:30) Songs of Praise	"Your Love O Lord" "Here I Am to Worship"
Old Testament Reading	Isaiah 40:1-5
†Sharing the Peace of Christ	
Children's Message	
Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer (<i>debts/debtors</i>)	
<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>	
†(8:00) Sermon Hymn	#342, "Just As I Am"
†(10:30) Sermon Song	"You Are My All In All"
New Testament Reading	Mark 1:1-5
Sermon	"A Voice In the Wilderness"
Sharing of Our Tithes and Offerings	
Offertory	"The Unclouded Day"
† <i>The Doxology and Prayer of Dedication</i>	
<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>	
†(8:00) Closing Hymn	#376, "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"
†(10:30) Closing Praise	"Lord, I Need You"
†Spoken Benediction	
†8:00) Benediction in Song	#602, "God Be With You"
†(10:30) Benediction in Song	"My Life is In You Lord"

WORSHIP SERVANTS

Accompanist	Buffy Riley	Worship Leader	Carrie Yoder
Song Leader	David Stuckey	10:30 Audio Tech	James Grime
8:00 Lay Reader	Molly Rutledge	10:30 EW Tech	Brian Roth
10:30 Lay Reader	Avery Roth	10:30 Video Tech	Ryan Christman
8:00 Usher	Linda Heer	Nursery	Corey & Jocelyn Walker
10:30 Head Usher	Brad Roth		
Ushers	Curt & Kay Stamm, Evy & Avery Roth		

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 95:1-3 Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord ; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. ² Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. ³ For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods.

Isaiah 40:1-5 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord 's hand double for all her sins. ³ A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the Lord ; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. ⁵ And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

Mark 1:1-5 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.' " ⁴ And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

SERMON AND TRANSLATION NOTES: "A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS"

Mark 1:5 (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 (singular) way."³ The voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Prepare (you plural) the way of the Lord (I AM); make (you plural) his paths straight.'" ⁴ John appeared baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And all the country of Judea and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

What Was Written? Verse 2-3

- ♦ The verb "it is written" (γράφω) occurs 10 times in Mark (1:2, 7:6, 9:12-13, 10:4-5, 11:17, 12:19, 14:21, and 14:27).
- ♦ In verse 2, Mark is quoting Malachi 3:1 (written around 460 BC) and Isaiah 40:3 (written around 740 BC).
- ♦ There are two instances of "crying" (βοάω) in Mark. John the Baptist (1:3) Jesus (15:34) cried out. The word "wilderness" (ἐρημος) occurs 9 times in Mark (1:3-4, 1:12-13, 1:35, 1:45, 6:31-32, 35).
- ♦ "Straight" (εὐθύς) occurs 60 times in the New Testament, but 43 of those times are in Mark. In translations, you will see this translated as "immediately" or "at once."

Who Appeared? Verse 4

- ♦ In Mark, John the Baptist is referenced 14 times (1:4, 6, 9, 14; 6:14, 16-18, 20, 24-25, 8:28, 11:30, 32).
- ♦ "To baptize" (βαπτίζω) occurs in Mark 1:4-5, 8-9, 6:14, 24, 7:4, 10:38-39, 16:16 and "Baptism" (βάπτισμα) is referenced in 1:4, 10:38-39 and 11:30.
- ♦ "Preaching" (κηρύσσω) occurs 1:4, 7, 14, 38-39, 45, 3:14, 5:20, 6:12, 7:36, 13:10, 14:9, 16:15, and 20. This word carries the idea of "heralding" and "proclaiming."
- ♦ This verse is the only time that "repentance" (μετάνοια) is used. The verb "to repent" (μετανοέω) will show up in 1:16 and 6:12.
- ♦ "Forgiveness" (ἄφεσις) occurs in 1:4 and 3:29.
- ♦ "Sin" (ἁμαρτία) occurs in 1:4, 5, 2:5, 7, and 9-10.

Where Would You Go to Meet God? Verse 5

This is the only time "to confess" (ἐξομολογέω) shows up in Mark. In the rest of the New Testament, it's used in Matt 3:6, 11:25, Luke 10:21, 22:6, Acts 19:18, Rom 14:11, 15:9, Phil 2:11 and James 5:16.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ **Jason & Becky Suon** - Join them today in the Fellowship Hall, during the Sunday School hour to hear more in depth about their vision for the future in the Dominican Republic.
- ◆ **Baptism** - We will be celebrating the sacrament of baptism on August 16th. If you or your child is interested in being baptized, please contact the office at office@stjohnsarchbold.org or 419-446-2545.
- ◆ **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 today, 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.

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

Aug 2 God, Death, and Wealth-----	Psalm 49
Aug 3 Practical and Sublime-----	Romans 16:17-27
Aug 4 God Never Lets Go -----	Genesis 28:10-22
Aug 5 God in the Everyday-----	Genesis 29:1-14a
Aug 6 Unexpected Bride-----	Genesis 29:14b-30
Aug 7 Happy Families?-----	Genesis 29:31- 30:24
Aug 8 Consequences-----	Genesis 31:1-21

WEEK OF AUGUST 2ND AT ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Sun	8:00AM	Worship (Sanctuary)
	8:30AM	Pause for Praise (96.1 WMTR)
	9:15AM	Sunday School
		Jason & Becky Special Gathering (Fellowship Hall)
	10:30AM	Worship (Sanctuary and YouTube Live)
	3:00PM	Book Bag Bash (Fellowship Hall)
Mon	6:30PM	Fellowship Committee (Fireside Room)
Tue	9:15AM	Bible Study (Fireside Room)
	10:30AM	Staff Meeting (Fireside Room)
Sat	7:40AM	Men's Prayer Breakfast (Fireside Room)
Sun	8:00AM	Worship (Chapel)
	8:30AM	Pause for Praise (96.1 WMTR)
	9:15AM	Sunday School
	10:30AM	Worship (Sanctuary and YouTube Live)

JULY MISSION-A-MONTH: BACK BAY MISSION

“Back Bay Mission has a simple mission: to strengthen neighborhoods, seek justice, and transform lives,” (thebackbaymission.org, 2021). Back Bay serves communities on the Mississippi Gulf Coast through ministries like their education and empowerment programs and their housing rehabilitation program - all with a goal of transforming lives. You may give to Back Bay Mission by marking Line 2 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...

- ◆ Please keep Keith & Kelli Kuntz in your prayers as Kelli's mother Connie Wichman entered eternal life on Tuesday, July 28th.
- ◆ Mel Woolace, as she has been admitted to Bryan Hospital with breathing complications.
- ◆ 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 completed her specialized therapy in Deerfield Beach, FL on Friday. Please pray for continued strength and progress.
- ◆ 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)