



Sunday, October 25, 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, located at the South Entrance. 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 on a shelf 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.

First Aid Kits are located and hung on the walls of the Gym (Room #106), and Second Floor Hallway next to the Elevator. In the Northeast Foyer (Room #134) a first aid kit, AED & Emergency First Aid can be found on the wall. Please see an usher if there is an emergency, or if medical assistance is needed.

Let's Connect!



WELCOME TO OUR WORSHIP OF GOD!

Call to Worship

Isaiah 12:2-6 (page 687)

(8:00) Prelude

“Until Then”

(10:30) Call to Invitation

“Trust In You”

Welcome & Announcements

†(8:00) Hymns of Praise

#427, “I Need Thee Every Hour”

#198, “Wonderful Grace of Jesus”

†(10:30) Opening Praise

“Lord I Need You”

“Forever”

†Sharing the Peace of Christ

(10:30) Children’s Message

At this time Junior Church may be dismissed to the Chapel

Congregational 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.

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 33:8-9 (page 786)

Special Music

Norm Fether

“Jesus Loves Me Medley”

New Testament Reading

Mark 2:1-5 (page 991)

Sermon

“Is Forgiveness Enough?”

Gloria Patri

Glory to God in the Highest! Glory to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever, world without end. Amen.

Sharing of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

“Freely, Freely”

†*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.

†(8:00) Closing Hymn

#202, “Amazing Grace”

†(10:30) Closing Song

“It Really Is Amazing Grace”

†Spoken Benediction

†(8:00) Benediction in Song

#420, “Only Believe”

†(10:30) Benediction in Song

Chorus, “It Really Is Amazing Grace”

WORSHIP SERVANTS

Accompanist	Buffy Riley	10:30 Audio Tech	James Grime
Worship Leader	David Stuckey	10:30 Easy Worship	Kelly Ducey
8:00 Song Leader	Roger Zimmerman	10:30 Visual Tech	Cayla Swisher
8:00 Usher	Linda Heer	10:30 Head Usher	Dave Walker
10:30 Ushers	Ben & Sue Buehrer, Dave & Paige Miller		
Junior Church	Emily K. Walker		
10:30 Nursery	Bri, Eyan & Ethan Krukowski		
10:30 Praise Team	Chris Baden, Mike Manko, Bryson Martinez, Buffy Riley, Jocelyn Walker		

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 12:2-6 Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord , the Lord , is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation." ³ With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴ In that day you will say: "Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted. ⁵ Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world. ⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you."

Jeremiah 33:8-9 "'I will cleanse them from all the sin they have committed against me and will forgive all their sins of rebellion against me. ⁹ Then this city will bring me renown, joy, praise and honor before all nations on earth that hear of all the good things I do for it; and they will be in awe and will tremble at the abundant prosperity and peace I provide for it.'"

Mark 2:1-5 A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. ² So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. ³ Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them. ⁴ Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on. ⁵ When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

SERMON AND TRANSLATION NOTES: "IS FORGIVENESS ENOUGH?"

Mark 2:1-12 (Elijah’s translation), When he had entered Capernaum again after days, it was heard, "He's home." ² And many were gathered together so that there was no more room, not even near the door, and he was speaking the word to them. ³ And they come bringing to him a paralyzed man, being carried by four men. ⁴ And being unable to bring [the paralyzed man] to

SERMON AND TRANSLATION NOTES: "IS FORGIVENESS ENOUGH?" (CONT.)

him because of the crowd, they removed the roof where he was. When they had made an opening, they lower the mat where he was laying. ⁵ And seeing their faith, Jesus says to the paralyzed man, "Child, your sins are forgiven." ⁶ But some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, ⁷ "Why does this man speak that way? He blasphemes! Who can forgive sins if not one, God?" ⁸ And **straightaway** Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were reasoning that way within themselves. He says to them, "Why are you reasoning these things in your hearts?" ⁹ Which is easier, to say to the paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise. Pick up your mat. Walk?' ¹⁰ But so that you all may know the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on earth," he says to the paralyzed man, ¹¹ "I say to you, 'Rise. Take up your mat. Go home.'" ¹² And he rose and **straightaway** picked up the mat. He went out in the sight of everyone, so that all were astonished and glorified God saying, "We've never seen that before!"

The Faith of Five (2:1-5)

The Sin of Some (2:6-12)

- ◆ **Verse 6**, The scribes (γραμματεῖς) were teachers of the law. They were Jewish scholars who were responsible for studying, interpreting, teaching, and applying the law found in the first five books of the Bible, the Torah. We first heard of them in Mark 1:22, "The people were amazed at his (Jesus') teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law." They will question why Jesus is eating with "sinners" (Mark 2:16), accuse Jesus of driving out demons by the power of demons (Mark 3:22), and be responsible for killing Jesus (Mark 8:31; 10:33; 11:18; 14:1, 14:43; 15:1, 31). Jesus warned his disciples about them (Mark 12:38).
- ◆ **Verse 7**, The word blasphemy (βλασφημέω) occurs in Mark 2:7, 3:28-29, and 15:29. Blasphemy can be abusive speech, slander, reviling, or defaming a person. But, in the Bible it often means speaking against God or what's sacred. It is to dishonor, insult, slander, or falsely accuse God, especially by treating God's character, name, works, or authority with contempt. It can also include claiming for oneself an authority or status that belongs properly to God.

In the Old Testament, blasphemy was punishable by death. "Anyone who blasphemes the name of the Lord must be put to death. The entire assembly must stone him. Whether an alien or native-born, when he blasphemes the Name, he must be put to death" (Leviticus 24:16). The law in the Old Testament wasn't just how Israel worshiped. It was the covenant that they had made with God to order all of public life around the Lord's presence, name, and law. Blaspheming God was seen as rejecting the very authority that established and sustained Israel as a community.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ♦ **SJCC Silent Auction** – The auction has ended. Winning bidders will be contacted this week, and payments may be made in the office before pickup. Please pick up items by Sunday, November 8th.
- ♦ **SJCC Talent Show** - Due to lack of interest, the show will *not* go on. We will explore this again in the future!
- ♦ **Veteran's Breakfast** - Veterans, we would like to honor your service with a breakfast on November 8th, at 9:15AM in the Fellowship Hall. Following the breakfast, all are welcome for the special Veteran's Day presentation.
- ♦ **Christmas Decorating Committee** - Love to deck the halls? We are searching for 1-2 people to join the Christmas Decorating Committee! The goal is to make SJCC a beautiful, joyous place for all who enter during the Christmas Season and to make decorating day efficient & fun. Individuals will be in charge of helping & overseeing a very seasoned and capable decorating team on the big day, which takes place the Sunday before Advent begins. After Christmas, you will assist the team in un-decorating. Other responsibilities include updating décor as needed, and keeping Christmas items safely stored in an orderly fashion. It is a fun & rewarding way to get involved behind the scenes. Contact the Church Office if interested.
- ♦ **SJCC Deck the Halls 2026** - Please save the date! On Sunday, November 22nd, we need YOU to help us decorate St. John's Christian Church for the Christmas Season! This is an important task, and many hands make light work! It only takes a couple of hours, and is a great way to kick off the Christmas Season with laughter, Christmas songs & cookies! We are thrilled to welcome the SJCC elevator as the newest member of the team, tasked with teleporting items between the 1st & 2nd floors! St. John's Christian Church is our home away from home, help us make it extra special for all who enter this Christmas Season! Please sign up on the bulletin outside of Pastor Elijah's Study!
- ♦ **Sermon in Music** – Can you believe Sermon in Music is 6 weeks away! It is truly a memorable Sunday with a variety of individuals taking part in the service and bringing songs of the season to share with the congregation. If you are interested in being a part of the service this year or maybe you can encourage someone to participate, please sign up on the bulletin board outside Pastor Elijah's Study during the month of October. What a beautiful time it is to share in the season of Christ's advent and birth. If you have any questions, please reach out to Buffy Riley.

WEEK OF OCTOBER 25TH AT ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Sun	8:00AM	Worship (Sanctuary)
	8:30AM	Pause for Praise (96.1 WMTR)
	9:15AM	Sunday School
	10:30AM	Worship (Sanctuary and YouTube Live)
	11:00AM	Junior Church (Chapel)
Mon	7:00PM	Praise Team Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Tue	9:00AM	Bible Study (Fireside Room)
	10:30AM	Staff Meeting (Fireside Room)
	4:15PM	Budget & Stewardship Committee Meeting (Fireside Room)
	5:00PM	Community Meal (Fellowship Hall)
Wed	6:00PM	JYF Fall Party (Craig & Jenny Grieser's Home)
	6:00PM	LOGOS (Wear Orange)
	7:00PM	SYF (Senior High Youth Room)
	7:30PM	Adult Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
Fri	5:30PM	Livestream Tech Meeting (Balcony)
Sun	8:00AM	Worship (Chapel)
	8:30AM	Pause for Praise (96.1 WMTR)
	9:15AM	Sunday School
	10:30AM	Worship (Sanctuary and YouTube Live)

OCTOBER MISSION-A-MONTH: LIFEWISE ACADEMY- ARCHBOLD

LifeWise is entering its fourth year of ministry, with 310 students, and the enrollment for their newly added 6th grade continuing to grow. They are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to share the truth of the Gospel with so many students in our community during their school day. Each lesson includes a key Bible passage and a character quality, with the goal of helping students see how every part of Scripture points back to Jesus. LifeWise is incredibly grateful for church partners like St. John's Christian Church who care so deeply about reaching our local community through ministries like LifeWise. You can give to LifeWise by writing in "LifeWise" on line 12 or 13 of your offering envelope, or by selecting "LifeWise" in the "Give to" drop-down menu in Breeze's online giving feature.

PRAYER JOYS, CONCERNS, AND REQUESTS:

Please pray for...

- ◆ Denny Caryer, who was hospitalized after a serious fall on Saturday October 20th. Please pray for healing and relief from the pain of multiple fractures in his back and ribs.
- ◆ Jim Grieser, is at home recovering from an open-heart surgery on October 6th.
- ◆ Ella Yoder, Justin & Carrie's daughter, who is home recovering from issues with blood clots, and a surgery on September 23rd to remove significant clotting in her leg. Please continue to pray for healing & answers from testing.
- ◆ Chloe Merillat, please continue to pray as further evaluation is needed after latest biopsy results. Pray for wisdom and discernment over the medical team and peace, strength, and healing for Chloe & her family.
- ◆ Mel Woolace, who is dealing with breathing complications.

Care Center Residents...

- ◆ Marilyn Baron, Fulton Manor, 725 S. Shoop Ave, Wauseon 43567
- ◆ John Graber, 550 Haven Drive, Apt. 309, Archbold, 43502
- ◆ Ralph Grieser, 407 E Lutz Road, Room 401, Archbold, Ohio 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

Senior 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)