

The Visitor

September 2020

TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

Volume 103 Issue 8

A publication of St. John's United Church of Christ

***A Message from the Designated Pulpit Supply Minister:
Rev. J. Martin (Marty) Westermeyer***

It is that time of the year when we usually want to get back into some kind of schedule: whether it is work, school, sports, social activities or the Church. As a norm, we all would have taken some time off during the summer to enjoy more time for family, for self, and hopefully with God. The past months have put us all into a different pattern or schedule – sometimes where we would not normally venture.

Personally, I like some scheduling in my life. It helps me to keep on track, to get things done, and to know what is expected of me. For me there is some comfort in that.

I also know that by keeping “too much” of a schedule does not allow flexibility in getting things done. And sometimes one may overlook something, or not allow a new experience to happen.

The same is true in our journey of faith. We have been required in the last months to be away from our regular schedule(s) of Worship, devotions and church activities. It is my hope that you were able to experience God in different ways than you were expecting during this time of separation from each other. It is also my prayer that your experience may have strengthened your relationship with God.

As we attempt to re-connect through our scheduling of meetings, social times, but most importantly, Worship, I hope that we will not get caught up in attempting to make our time together “regular” or “normal”. I pray that we will continue to see how God is moving in and out of our lives in unexpected ways. Meetings are done by social distancing and masked or

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via Zoom or by conference calls. Our Worship is done virtually through video and in-person with certain restrictions.

As we experience God in different ways, may we share that relationship with others who may need to hear the bit of Good News in their life!

Continue to share the faith - see you in church!
Pastor Marty

Designated Pulpit Supply Note

As some of you may or may not know, I have agreed to be the Designated Pulpit Supply for St. John's United Church of Christ. My time with you depends on the progress of the Search Committee. Currently, I have covenanted to be with you to the end of September and decision will be made month to month after that depending on the Search Committee. A letter went out the week of August 17th explaining what my presence and ministry among you would entail. I will be with you each Sunday sharing in the leadership of the in-person Worship in the sanctuary. On Wednesday's, I will be at the church making my part of the video for distribution on the St. John's UCC YouTube channel. On Wednesday's and throughout the week, I plan on reaching out to those who are homebound or who cannot attend Sunday morning in-person Worship with notes, emails, or phone calls. I look forward to being in ministry with you as we journey together.

Update From The Pastoral Search Team

The church profile has been posted with SONKA and we have already received some pastoral applicants. We are now reading through them and scheduling interviews. We will keep you updated. We want to thank you for your continued prayers and support, especially during this next phase of the process for the search for our next pastor.



A Prayer for our Pastoral Search Committee

Almighty and ever living God, look favorably upon us, the people of Holy Comforter, in this time of transition as we search for a new pastor. We pray for the life of our congregation, that we may continue to be guided by your love and strengthened in our mission to serve you through ministry, fellowship and worship.

We pray for the search committee, that their hearts and minds may be open to what your spirit is saying. We pray for the pastor whose name is yet known to you alone, that he or she be open to your call. Give us your grace to follow where you would lead us and grant us your peace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Update from the Prayer Ministry

“Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me and I will hear you.” Jeremiah 29:12

Just a short note to remind everyone that the Prayer Group is still actively praying everyday for each person on our list. We are praying each day in our own homes and also praying that we will be able to meet again very soon ,as a group, in the church parlor.

Please tell Kelli, in the office, or me if you or someone you know is in need of prayer. And, as always, the names will be made public on our list, unless you tell us otherwise. Also the reasons for needing prayer are held in the strictest of confidentiality.

Blessings,
Darlene Knepshield

“When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left and could say, “I used everything you gave me.”

Erma Bombeck

Next Visitor Deadline:
Thursday, September 24, 2020



If you would like to receive *The Visitor Monthly Newsletter* via email, please visit our website at www.StJohnsUCCNewport.org and visit the “News Section” on the website.

If you would like to submit an article for *The Visitor Monthly Newsletter*, please submit your article to stjohnsucc@stjohnsuccnewport.org.



The Story Of The Hymn “ Softly and Tenderly”

Will Thompson was a devout Christian, and while attending a Dwight L. Moody evangelistic meeting decided to devote himself to writing and promoting Christian music. He wrote "Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling" in 1880. It quickly became popular as a hymn of invitation in evangelistic meetings, and was soon incorporated into church hymnals as well. Thompson also wrote "Jesus is All the World to Me" in 1904, and it became quite popular as well. He was as successful with Christian music as he had been earlier with secular music. I have read that he sold two million books of quartet music.

Dwight L. Moody, the most famous evangelist of his day, used "Softly and Tenderly" as an invitation hymn in his crusades. Thompson visited Moody as the latter was dying, and Moody told him, "Will, I would rather have written 'Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling' than anything I have been able to do in my life" — quite a tribute from someone as accomplished as Moody.

Even though he became quite rich, Thompson continued to live a life of service. He supported various civic and religious activities generously. He was also aware of the fact that small town people had very little exposure to good music, so he loaded a piano on a horse-drawn wagon and went through small Ohio towns giving concerts of his music. I have always loved playing this hymn. I have played it all my life and I find it very beautiful and meaningful. I hope you love it too.

Michael

G $\frac{G}{B}$ $\frac{D7}{A}$ G C $\frac{C}{G}$ G

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 O for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

$\frac{A7}{E}$ D G $\frac{G}{B}$ $\frac{D7}{A}$ G C $\frac{C}{G}$ G

you and for me; see, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

$\frac{G}{B}$ C $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 G *Refrain* D7 G D G
 N.C.

watch - ing for you and for me. Come home, come home,
 mer - cies for you and for me? Come home, come home,
 par - don for you and for me. Come home, come home,

D $\frac{D}{F\sharp}$ E7 A7 D $\frac{A7}{E}$ $\frac{D7}{F\sharp}$ G $\frac{G}{B}$ $\frac{D7}{A}$ G

ye who are wea - ry, come home; ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

C $\frac{C}{G}$ G $\frac{G}{B}$ C $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 G

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, O sin - ner, come home!

Online Worship Update

Members & Friends of St. John's,

As you know, we started doing online church worship services with our sister churches St. John UCC Bellevue and Christ Church UCC Ft. Thomas at the beginning of the pandemic. We are grateful to have had the opportunity to partner with these groups; however, this is something that has lasted longer than we had originally intended.

With that being said, there will be changes in the format of the online services during the month of September.

- On Sunday, September 6, we will have our last traditional online worship service in the format that we have been watching since the start of the pandemic.
- On Sunday, September 13, all three churches will work together in a celebration service honoring the hard work, collaboration and Christian fellowship that we have experienced during this process.
- Sunday, September 20, we will see the start of the new St. John's UCC online worship service. These services will utilize the same material that will be available at the in-person worship presented in the online format.

There will be no changes in how the services may be accessed each Sunday. Just follow the same instructions as before or contact the church office with questions. The only difference is that the presentation will be from St. John's members and have a worship similar to the in-person service instead of a collaboration between the three churches.

I hope everyone is as excited as I am about these changes. If you have any questions or would like to help participate in these services, please reach out to me at kyle.taylor@stjohnsuccnewport.org

Have a Blessed Day!

Kyle Taylor
Director of Communication & Outreach

How to View St. John's Online Worship Services

Can't come to church? Below are the various ways that you can continue to stay connected to our worship life together. You will still

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be able to access the bulletin and order of worship for Sunday on our church website (www.stjohnsuccnewport.org). You will be able to access the worship services in several different ways:

Call in (audio only)

This method ONLY works starting at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays. To access this each Sunday, you can do the following:

- At 10:30 a.m. on Sundays, call either 929-205-6099 or 312-626-6799 (either number will work).

- You will then be (quickly and repeatedly) prompted to enter a meeting ID – that ID is 997-401- 6614.

- You will then be asked a participant ID. There is no need to enter a number. Simply hit # on your phone and you will be connected to the audio of the service.

That is it. You will be connected.

Video

You can access the video of the worship service starting at 10:30 a.m. ET each Sunday and it will be available any time after that as well. There are multiple ways to access the video of the worship service.

St. John's UCC website

<http://www.stjohnsuccnewport.org>

On the front page of the website will be a permanent link to the worship service. This will take you to a page where the video will be shown.

St. John's UCC Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsuccnewport>

You do not need to have a Facebook account to access this page (but Facebook will nag you about making an account, nothing we can do about that). The service will be posted here. If you have a Facebook account, you will be able to post comments, questions, thoughts about what you experience and how the Spirit speaks to you.

St. John's YouTube Channel

<https://tinyurl.com/y8jmgxq5>

This link will take you to the St. John's YouTube channel and the most recent worship service as well as other videos we are working on. If you have a "Smart TV" or something like a Roku, AppleTV, or other device you can also access this through your TV.

A Message from our Church Council President

To the Members and Friends of St. John's,

We have now been having Sunday services in church for the past seven weeks. In addition, we have had our sister churches of Christ Church, Ft. Thomas and St John, Bellevue assisting in online services each Sunday. Our thanks and appreciation go to each of the churches and we are humbled by their cooperation. However, after September 13th, all 3 churches will begin to offer separate online services. St. John's will continue our own service with readings, a pastoral message and music.

Kyle Taylor, Kelli Taylor, Michael Sullivan and Pastor Marty will produce our weekly online service which will be broadcast on our new website, FACEBOOK page and Zoom meeting call in line. Please be patient with us as we are venturing into uncharted waters and will need all the support we can get. If you have skills or experience which may assist, please contact Kelli and volunteer. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Everything else is going well. We have been having about 50 parishioners each week. We are taking all precautions necessary--temperatures checked, questions asked about health, social distancing practiced, and masks, gloves and hand sanitizer available if needed.

We encourage all of you to join us as soon as you feel comfortable. We will be waiting for you with open arms, but for now, we will only” fist or elbow bump.”

God bless you and please pray for our church. We love you all and look forward to the day when we can all worship together once more.

In Christ's Name,
Jan Knepshield, Church President

Updating the 2021 Church Directory

The church office will begin the process of updating the church directory for 2021. Over the past year we have been celebrating all of our members and friends birthdays and anniversaries in the Visitor each month. While we have some of these dates on file, we are still missing quite a few. If you could take a moment to fill out the form on page 9 and drop it in the offering plate on Sunday morning or mail it to the church office, we will take care of updating your information. We are asking for a little more information this year because we have been trying to update all of our members information in our PowerChurch database over this past year. If you do not know the dates for some of the information on the form, don't worry, you can just leave it blank. Thank you for all of your help in this endeavor.

Family Name & Children 17 years and under: _____

Adult 1 _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Mobile Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Birthday: We never reveal your age but PowerChurch requires us to enter your birthyear

Anniversary: _____

Date Joined: _____

Baptism Date: _____

Confirmation Date: _____

Adult 2 _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Mobile Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Birthday: We never reveal your age but PowerChurch requires us to enter your birthyear

Anniversary: _____

Date Joined: _____

Baptism Date: _____

Confirmation Date: _____

[Illumination Youth Ministries Updates](#)

[Upcoming Schedule](#)

Wednesday, September 2--6:00 -7:00 PM (Virtual Meeting--[MEETING LINK](#)): contact Melanie Sorrell for meeting link
Let's paint with Jesus! We will be painting small canvases. Wear clothes that are OK to get dirty and RSVP so that I can drop off supplies.

Wednesday, September 16-- 6:00 - 7:00 PM at United Church of Christ, Fort Thomas (15 S Fort Thomas Ave, Fort Thomas):
We are going to fill the parking lot with prayers. Please wear a mask. We will spread out and use sidewalk chalk to write prayers and/or names we want to lift up. Prayer looks different for all of us and prayer pictures are welcome, too!

Wednesday, October 7-- 6:00 - 7:00 PM (Virtual Meeting--[MEETING LINK](#)): contact Melanie Sorrell for meeting link
Tonight is dedicated to mindfulness. We will talk through mindfulness strategies and even go through a yoga flow. Please wear comfy clothes.

ADULTS:

We are in need of adults who want to hang out with us. We're a pretty fun (and energetic) bunch. We need interested adults to go through a background check. After that, you'll work with Melanie to schedule as many or as few dates as your availability allows.

Illumination Youth Ministry is a shared youth ministry of St. John UCC-Bellevue and Christ Church UCC-Fort Thomas. Middle School and High School Youth (Grades 6-12) are invited and encouraged to attend. Our regularly scheduled meetings are on the first and third Wednesday of each month. Friends are always welcome—we just ask that everyone sign in for meetings with appropriate emergency contact information.

For more information, please contact the Illumination Coordinator:
Melanie Sorrell Call or text: (859)468-8076 Email:
Melaniemcb@gmail.com

Only if we understand will we care. Only if we care will we help. Only if we help shall all be saved.

Jane Goodall

Puzzles for Kids and Kids at Heart!

The Good Shepherd

John 10:11-18 (NIV)



ACROSS

1. Wild animal that looks like a dog and hunts in packs
3. The period from birth to death
5. A strong feeling of affection
6. Goes faster than walking
9. What we use to speak
11. One who takes care of the sheep

DOWN

2. The male parent
3. To hear or pay attention to something
4. A group of sheep herded together
7. Woolly animals which are similar to goats
8. The opposite of bad
10. A small place where animals are kept

Words Used

| | | | |
|----------|-------|--------|--------|
| good | sheep | runs | listen |
| shepherd | wolf | father | pen |
| life | flock | voice | love |

September Birthdays and Anniversaries

September Birthdays

September 4th: Cole Coppage
September 8th: Jill Boyers & Camden Burns
September 10th: Roger Haas
September 12th: Tyler Albert & Kim Rash
September 19th: Darlene Dawson & Sally Walters
September 21st: Josephine Fussinger
September 22nd: Steve Dawson
September 24th: Matthew Morris
September 26th: Charles Crapser
September 27th: Troy Kramer
September 28th: Sheila Witte
September 30th: Wanda Quinn **Corrected Birthday*



September Anniversaries

September 9th: Keith & Lisa Daniels (31 years)
September 10th: Robert & Judy Slater (60 years)
September 18th: David & Nancy Brinkman (38 years)
September 18th: Shawn & Jenny Williams: (16 years)



St. John's would like to wish a happy birthday and happy anniversary to our friends and family celebrating during the month of September!

Thank You Dan & Flo Grey

The staff at St. John's want to say thank you to Dan and Flo Grey on the donation of a camcorder, tripod, memory card, and carrying case to the church. The church will be using the supplies to record the online church services and other future events. We are grateful that we will be able to continue to serve the needs of members and friends because of this donation. Again, thank you Dan and Flo for this generous donation.

- The Staff of St. John's

Thank You St. John's Members

I would like to thank you for the cards and prayers I received during my recent surgery. It was greatly appreciated.

- Ralph Schoulthies

In Loving Memory of, and In Honor of...

Food Pantry

In Loving Memory of Sue Wagner ~ Diane Wendeln
In Loving Memory of Janet Grant ~ Gary Wagner
In Loving Memory of Sue Wagner ~ Diane Wendeln
In Loving Memory of Joe Loy ~ Keith & Lisa Daniels
In Honor of Bonnie Hoffmann for 50 years of service to the children of St. John's ~ Keith & Lisa Daniels
In Loving Memory of Sue Wagner ~ Diane Wendeln

Joseph Haas Sr. Choral Scholarship Fund

In Loving Memory of Lori Hamilton ~ Donna Hoffman

General Fund

In Loving Memory of Joe Anderson ~ Betty Webster
In Loving Memory of Howard & Mark Hanson ~ Dr. Michael Hanson

Music Fund

In Loving Memory of Lori Hamilton ~ Bonnie Hoffmann
In Loving Memory of Lori Hamilton ~ Christine Schwalbach
In Loving Memory of Lori Hamilton ~ Linda Meier
In Loving Memory of Lori Hamilton ~ Shirley Rice
In Loving Memory of Lori Hamilton ~ Brenda & Michael Scharber
In Loving Memory of Lori Hamilton ~ Thomas Schoo
In Loving Memory of Lori Hamilton ~ John & Elizabeth Robson
In Loving Memory of Lori Hamilton ~ Fred & Mary Espenscheid
In Loving Memory of Lori Hamilton ~ Cynthia Hamann
In Loving Memory of Lori Hamilton ~ Janet & Neil Outer
In Loving Memory of Lori Hamilton ~ Pat Goins
In Loving Memory of Lori Hamilton ~ Jodi & Fred Otto
In Loving Memory of Lori Hamilton ~ Keith & Lisa Daniels
In Loving Memory of Janet Grant ~ Dr. Michael Hanson
In Loving Memory of Janet Grant ~ Flo & Dan Grey
In Loving Memory of Janet Grant ~ Barbara & William Rowekamp
In Loving Memory of Janet Grant ~ Nancy & Gerald Francis
In Loving Memory of Janet Grant ~ Ray & Charlene Schwab
In Loving Memory of Janet Grant ~ Fuller Ford
In Loving Memory of Janet Grant ~ Cecilia & Donald Bramley
In Loving Memory of Janet Grant ~ Keith & Lisa Daniels

Sacrament of Holy Communion for Homebound Members

Homebound Communion Update

Joan Berkemeyer and I have continued serving home communion to our homebound members during these COVID-19 times. While we are unable to have one-on-one visits, we are delivering the "communion" cups (the same ones being used at the monthly in church service) as well

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as providing a short communion service for the homebound members. We are very anxious and hopeful that soon “in person” visits will be possible. In the meantime please be encouraged by the following prayer: “God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to praise you. Fill us with your spirit that we may celebrate your glory and truly worship you. We pray that your spirit will be our strength, your words will be our guide, your love will be our comfort, and your promises will be our hope. We pray in the name of Jesus who gathers us together. Amen” and from Genesis 31:49 “The Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent from one another.”

Carol Haas & Joan Berkemeyer

Special Request: Homebound communion is a very much appreciated and needed part of St. John’s Church ministry. Hopefully more people will sign up to serve the church in this capacity. Currently only Joan and I have made this commitment and can only minister to a limited number of members. Please consider volunteering to this Homebound Communion Ministry. Please contact the church office if you are able to participate in this worthwhile mission. 859-431-1818

Upcoming Church Business Meetings

Leadership Team Meeting: Saturday, September 12, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Everyone must wear a face mask and social distancing measures will apply.

Upcoming Church Events

Friday, September 4th: Church office closed-calls will be answered off-site
Monday, September 7th: Labor Day (Church Office Closed)

St. John’s Prayer Ministry September 2020

Prayers for Members

Don Berkemeyer

Judy Eads

Dan Grey

Flo Grey

Phil Hamilton

Marilyn Hanson

Chuck Hawkins

Vickie Grey Kennedy

Martha Malone

Pam Maloney

Carol Marksberry

Jo Orth

Tom Twehues

Ed Von Strohe

Bonnie Walter

Janet Wendel



Prayers for Homebound Members

Anna Bythewood

Bruce Stormer

Betty Webster

Gwyneth Ziegler

Those Bereaved

Family of Janet Grant

Prayers for Members in Assisted Living and Nursing Homes

ATRIA HIGHLAND CROSSING

Walt Dauzenberg
Orlin Krentz

BARRINGTON

Katherine Daley
Henry & Carol Marksberry
Barbara Runge

CARMEL MANOR

Marjorie Fuldner
Dorothy Gabbard

EMERALD TRACE, ELSMERE

Marcia Schmidt

SUNRISE OF DUBLIN, DUBLIN, OH

Bette Kendrick

PARKSIDE MANOR, CYNTHIANA, KY

Pam Maloney

COLD SPRING TRANSITIONAL CARE

Beverly Bill

VILLAGE AT ERLANGER, MUNRO HOUSE

Judy Adams
Norma Biery

PRAYERS FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Matthew Alexander per J.
Knepshield
Family of Joe Anderson
Karlie Berkemeyer per J. Berkemeyer
Bill Breyer per L. Haas
Dave Brinkman per B. Tuerpe
Bruce per J. Eads
Adam Clary per D. Hamilton
Lynn Deaton per B. Walter
Brandon Dragoo per M. Boshears
Wade Eads per J. Eads
Sally Franzen per M. Malone
Stephanie Gifford per P. Maloney
Kenneth Hammons per M. Heeg
Don Hatfield per J. Eads
Hong Kong-Andrew Hon
Shirley Hudson per C. Fickenscher
Betty Kiddy per J. Eads
Marlene Knecht per J. Berkemeyer
Angela Kremer per J. Ginter
Tom Lawrence per K. Kiefer
Delores Lovell per M. Malone

Lucy Mayse per H. Rolf
Karen Menefee per H. Rolf
Ruby Niehaus per J. Eads
Bruce Poinsett, Sr. per C. Garriott
Mary Pratt per D. Knepshield
Nick Prigge per J. Slater
Angie Roseberry per C. Fickenscher
Christine Sexton & baby Olivia per B.
Walter
Ryan Soder per M. Hanson
Rebecca Stamm per D. Stamm
Scott Taylor per D. Knepshield
Neil Van Outer per D. Hamilton
Donald Westerkamp per D.
Westerkamp
Beth Yutze per B. Webster
Ricky Yutze per B. Webster

Prayers for St. John's

God's grace and guidance as our church looks onward and upward to the future.

Our Designated Pulpit Supply Minister, Rev. J. Martin (Marty) Westermeyer
Our church staff and lay leaders.

Strengthening our church ministries, Christian education, and grief support programs.

Stronger involvement in youth and young adult programming.

The Pastoral Search Committee: Tim Barber, Pat Goins, Laura Haas, David Stamm & Kyle Taylor

Our Members and Friends in the Military

Melanie & Jake Adams

Susie Adams

C.J. Allen

South Korea

Jeremy Allen

Brandon Bailey

Josef Bazhaw

Middle Eastern Countries/Army Natl Guard

Gevin Helf

Brian Huffmann

Afghanistan

Randy Johnson

Andrew Jones

Micah LeMoine

Jason Lewis

Andy Powell

Ron Rice

Ashley Roberts

Nicholas Schierberg

Chris Spurrier

Michael Sullivan

Afghanistan

Cody Taylor

Griffin Thompson

Army

Brian Trinkle

Afghanistan

Rob Wickelhaus

Spec. Service

Bernie Zmurk

Families of those killed in service and members of the military who have returned home physically wounded or suffering PTSD.

If there is someone in the Armed Forces you would like us to pray for, please call the office at 431-1818.