

CONTACTS

Phone 859-431-1818
 Email stjohnsucc@stjohnsuccnewport.org
 Website www.stjohnsuccnewport.org
 Facebook St. John's United Church of Christ–Newport, KY

PROGRAM

PROGRAM	LOCATION	TIME
Coffee Fellowship Time	Fellowship Hall (L.L.)	9:00 a.m.
Worship	Sanctuary	10:00 a.m.
Infant, Toddler, Preschool & School Age Child Care	South Hallway	9:30 a.m.

CHURCH STAFF

POSITION	PERSON	CONTACT
Settled Pastor	Barry Bordenkircher	Revbarryb@stjohnsuccnewport.org
Pastor of Visitation	John Robson	Jmarrobson@gmail.com
Director Of Music/Organist	Michael Sullivan	Michael.Sullivan@stjohnsuccnewport.org
Associate Director of Music	Dobin Park	Pianist0587@gmail.com
Office Administrator	Kelli Taylor	Kelli.Taylor@stjohnsuccnewport.org
Director of Communication & Outreach	Kyle Taylor	Kyle.Taylor@stjohnsuccnewport.org
Financial Administrator	Chris Baker	Financialadmin@stjohnsuccnewport.org


CHURCH LEADERS

PERSON	POSITION	CONTACT
Jan Knepshield	Church President	(H) 859-261-2567 (C) 859-912-2563
Carol Fickenscher	Church Vice President	(H) 859-635-4638
Carolyn Garriott	Church Secretary	(C) 859-801-0067
Chuck Hawkins	Church Treasurer	Hawkins@NKU.EDU


Church Office Hours

Monday	9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Thursday	Closed
Friday	9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Calls will be answered off-site on days when the office is closed.



May 14, 2023
10:00 a.m.
Sixth Sunday of Easter



Thoughts of Preparation

As Paul preached to the Athenians, he believed that God "made the world and everything in it," and that every single person was "God's off-spring." In his mind, there is no person or sphere of influence outside of God's care and concern. All of so-called "secular" life, and not just "sacred" realms, are spheres of God's loving presence, or at least potentially so — law, literature, medicine, education, the arts, business, government, science, quite literally anything and everything. And so Paul viewed the venerable Areopagus as just another place where the Lord of all creation had gone before him and was already present; indeed, said Paul to the Athenians, "He is not far from each one of us." – Daniel B. Clendenin, *Journey With Jesus*

*All who are able are welcome to stand

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude *“For The Beauty Of The Earth” (Gordon Young)*

Tower Bell

***Call to Worship**

How can we ever understand the mystery of Your love, O God?

ALL: How can we ever estimate the value of Your compassion and mercy?

In our weaknesses and brokenness, in our strengths and wholeness,

ALL: we find the touch of Your support and creative energy.

In our fears and suffering, in our joys and pleasures,

ALL: we find the moistness of Your tears and the sound of Your laughter.

In our failures and despair, in our successes and dreams,

ALL: we find the comfort of Your forgiveness and the inspiration of Your Spirit.

These are gifts beyond measure, and we can only respond with joyful praise.

ALL: You are the home we long for, the family where we discover that we truly belong the hearth where we are warmed and renewed

And so, as we come to worship today, we vow anew:

ALL: to worship and to serve You with our whole being, wonderful and loving God.

Amen.

***Processional Hymn #40**

“For The Beauty Of The Earth”

(Dix)

***Prayer of Adoration & Confession**

The image you have shaped within us, mysteriously, incredibly, a reflection of your own Being, is best seen in the multiple refractions, of our variegated humanity; in the prismatic kaleidoscopes of our shared life, our interconnectedness, our being with each other.

ALL: We seek you, God, we long for you and, thankfully, you are not far off not hidden; we need only remember that you are most easily found when we look honestly within ourselves, when we find you together, and when we are humble enough to look even in the faces we find most strange and unfamiliar. Forgive us when we forget that...or reject any of these paths to YOU!

***Silent Prayer – Assurance of Pardon**

***Gloria Patri**

(Gretorex)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

Children’s Chat

Scripture Lesson – From the Canonical Apocrypha – Wisdom 7:22-23

(Common English Bible)

...for Wisdom, the designer of everything that is, has taught me. Her spirit is insightful, holy, unique, diverse, refined, kinetic, pure, spotless, transparent, harmless, delighting in what is good, sharp, unstoppable, overflowing with kindness, delighting in humans, steadfast, secure, not anxious, all-powerful, and all-seeing. Her spirit can be found in every spirit that is perceptive, pure, and refined. Wisdom is more mobile than anything that moves. She pervades and embraces everything because she is so pure. Wisdom is the warm breath of God’s power. She pours forth from the all-powerful one’s pure glory. Therefore, nothing impure can enter her. She’s the brightness that shines forth from eternal light. She’s a mirror that flawlessly reflects God’s activity. She’s the perfect image of God’s goodness. She can do anything, since she’s one and undivided. She never changes, and yet she makes everything new. Generation after generation, she enters souls and shapes them into God’s friends and prophets. God doesn’t love anything as much as people who make their home with Wisdom. She’s more splendid than the sun and more wonderful than the arrangement of the stars. She’s even brighter than sunlight, for night follows day, but evil can never overcome Wisdom.

Welcoming and Leading Us This Morning

Preaching Today: Rev. Barry Bordenkircher

Liturgist: Kyle Taylor

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Choral Director: Dobin Park

Sound Technician: Robert Pettus

Greeters: Laura Haas & Tom Williams

Ushers: Steve Twehues, Ralph Schoulthies & Mike Hanson

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This Week

- Sunday, May 14:** 10:00 a.m. Worship Service/Mother’s Day
- Monday, May 15:** 7:00 p.m. AA & Al-Anon Meeting
- Tuesday, May 16:** 6:30 p.m. East Row Garden Club
7:00 p.m. NA Meeting
- Wednesday, May 17:** 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Northern Kentucky Safety Net Alliance
- Thursday, May 18:** 7:00 p.m.– 8:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- Saturday, May 20:** 9:00 a.m. AA Meeting
10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. The Chosen Series
- Sunday, May 21:** 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Hearing Assistance

We have wireless receivers for the hearing impaired which you may obtain from an usher.

Pastoral Care Notice

If a pastoral care need arises, please contact the church office at (859) 431-1818 and we will get a message to Pastor Barry or John Robson to contact you. You can also call, text or email Barry at:
Revbarryb@stjohnsuccnewport.org
Cell Phone: (513) 317-8146

In Our Prayers

Norma Biery, Judy Eads, Flo Grey, Betty Jo Haas, Donna & Phil Hamilton, Marilyn Hanson, Melvin Hanson, Mark Hater, Chuck Hawkins, Family of Bette Kendrick, Carol & Henry Marksberry, Kirstie Rice, Shirley Rice, Char Scholl, Bill Seibert, Bruce Shay, Ed Von Strohe, Bonnie Walter, Wendy Watts, John & Peggy Westlund

Continued Prayerful Support

Homebound members.
Those in assisted living and nursing homes.
Rev. Barry Bordenkircher
Church Leadership Team, Ministry Teams, and all our church leaders.

Homebound Member of the Week

Our homebound member of the week is Bonnie Walter. Bonnie's birthday is Wednesday, May 17th. Take a moment this week to send her a card or give her a call as we celebrate Bonnie as our member of the week!

Her address is:
Bonnie Walter
100 Carmel Manor Drive
Ft. Thomas, KY 41075

Infant, Toddler, Preschool and School Age Child Care is Available on Sunday Mornings

We have childcare workers available for our infants, toddlers, preschoolers and school age children. Children can be dropped off starting at 9:30 a.m. downstairs in the Youth Room. You can ask any usher for assistance or information about this program.

Children's Activity Bags

Activity bags for the children are located at each entrance of the church. Feel free to pick up a bag for your child (children) to work on during the worship service. When the service is done just drop the bags off at each exit so that we may replenish the bags for the following week.

Audio Recordings of Our Sunday Services

Did you miss a Sunday service or would like to hear one over again? You can get a CD audio recording of any service each week down on the table located at the North Lobby entrance. The recordings are separated by date so just look for the service you want to hear and take it home.

Anthem

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

(John Rutter)

For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies,
Lord of all, to thee we raise
This our joyful hymn of praise.

For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower,
Sun and moon and stars of light.

For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above
For all gentle thoughts and mild.

For each perfect gift of thine
To our race so freely given
Graces human and divine,
Flowers of earth and buds of heaven.

Scripture Lesson – From The New Testament – Acts 17:22-31 (Common English Bible)

Paul stood up in the middle of the council on Mars Hill and said, "People of Athens, I see that you are very religious in every way. As I was walking through town and carefully observing your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: 'To an unknown God.' What you worship as unknown, I now proclaim to you. God, who made the world and everything in it, is Lord of heaven and earth. He doesn't live in temples made with human hands. Nor is God served by human hands, as though he needed something, since he is the one who gives life, breath, and everything else. From one person God created every human nation to live on the whole earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their lands. God made the nations so they would seek him, perhaps even reach out to him and find him. In fact, God isn't far away from any of us. In God we live, move, and exist. As some of your own poets said, 'We are his offspring.' "Therefore, as God's offspring, we have no need to imagine that the divine being is like a gold, silver, or stone image made by human skill and thought. God overlooks ignorance of these things in times past, but now directs everyone everywhere to change their hearts and lives. This is because God has set a day when he intends to judge the world justly by a man he has appointed. God has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."

Gathering Together in Prayer

Joys & Concerns – Silent Prayer – Pastoral Prayer 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Response

**And God will raise you up on eagle’s wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of God’s hand.**

“The Chosen” — Update

Scripture Text – John 14:15-21 (NRSV)

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

Today’s Message

“Your Own Personal Areopagus” Rev. Barry Bordenkircher

Offertory Invitation

We come in thanksgiving for God’s great faithfulness and abiding presence. We come responding with generosity for kin-dom building and to be avenues of God’s provisions.

Offertory

“A Jubilant Song”

(Allen Pote)

Sing to the Lord a jubilant song.
Rejoice and sing, and let the earth be glad,
Let the heavens be filled with joy, and a jubilant song.
Sing alleluia to the Lord, Alleluia!
Tell of His salvation from day to day.
Shout His marvelous works among the people,
For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised!
Lord you have been our refuge from one generation to another.
Before the mountains were made, or the land and the sea were born,
From age to age You are God, and we pray for the coming of Your kingdom.
We shall rejoice, we shall be glad all the days of our lives.

***Doxology**

(Lasst Uns Erfreuen)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up-lifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

***Unison Prayer of Dedication**

May these gifts be our testimony of our faithfulness to You, Abiding God, even as we offer to You all that we are and all that we have for Your glory, honor, and praise. May what we give, and even more how we LIVE, be constant testimonies to Your Love and Grace at work all around us! Amen.

***Closing Hymn #607**

“Happy the Home When God Is There”

(St. Agnes)

***Benediction**

***Choral Response**

Postlude

“Trumpet Voluntary”

(Gordon Young)



GO IN PEACE, SERVE THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Welcome!

Welcome to this house of prayer and worship!

We pray that your experience of worship will deepen your faith and prepare you for the week ahead. We believe God’s Spirit is present in our listening to the Word and our response of discipleship. In our greeting of one another we sense the presence of Christ.

May you know His grace and peace today!

Please sign the guest register when it comes to your seat.



Flowers in church today are provided by the Sanctuary Flower Fund. If you or anyone you know would benefit from the beauty and joy of the arrangement, please feel free to take them.

Open flower dates are May 21st, June 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th
To reserve your special date, please call the church office.