

CONTACTS

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

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
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.



September 17, 2023
 10:00 a.m.
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost



*All who are able are welcome to stand

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude *“In Thee Lord Have I Put My Trust”* (J.C. Bach)

Tower Bell

Introit

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,
 I can feel His mighty power and His grace.
 I can feel the brush of angel wings,
 I see glory on each face,
 Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

***Responsive Call to Worship**

God is waiting to speak with all of us; do not fear to listen for God's word.

We are waiting and listening for wisdom from God; the law of God is not a threat, but a guide.

God is here to embrace and enlist us; do not be afraid to respond to God's love.

Our hearts rejoice in God's acceptance of us; God's mercy inspires us to be merciful.

God is welcoming us into the realm of heaven; do not hesitate to enter this time of praise.

We are here to be enlightened and empowered; may our thoughts and words honor the Christ.

***Hymn #2** *“O Worship the King”* (Lyons)

***Prayer of Adoration & Confession**

O God, whose ways are not our ways, we confess that we have discounted or ignored your commandments. We have chosen our own standards instead of seeking ultimate good. We have substituted our illusions for your truth. Our words and actions have hurt others and diminished us. We have become so comfortable with our own sin that we find it hard to recognize. We have been so unforgiving of others' sin that they cannot discern the Christ in us. Please, God, will you forgive us again?

[Silence is kept]

***Words of Assurance (Responsive)**

If you forgive others from your heart, you are open to receive God's forgiveness of you. If you cannot forgive those from whom you are estranged, even God cannot mend all the brokenness. Let us rejoice that the worst we have done does not cut us off from God's love.

God's forgiveness is real to us when we forgive. Let us live as a forgiven and forgiving people.

***Gloria Patri**

(Creatorex)

**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.**

New Testament Reading - Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

Welcoming and Leading Us This Morning

Preaching Today: Vickie Grey Kennedy

Liturgist: Kyle Taylor

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Choral Director: Dobin Park

Sound Technician: Robert Pettus

Greeters: Darlene Knepshield & Bertie Jo Tuerpe

Ushers: Steve Twehues, Ralph Schoulthies & Mike Hanson

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This Week

Sunday, September 17: 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Monday, September 18: 7:00 p.m. AA & Al-Anon Meeting

Tuesday, September 19: 6:30 p.m. East Row Garden Club Meeting
7:00 p.m. NA Meeting

Wednesday, September 20: 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. NKSNA

Thursday, September 21: 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, September 23: 9:00 a.m. AA Meeting

Sunday, September 24: 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 John Robson to contact you.

In Our Prayers

Joan Berkemeyer, Norma Biery, Family of Kathrine Daley, Flo Grey, Betty Jo Haas, Family of Roger Haas, Donna & Phil Hamilton, Marilyn Hanson, Melvin Hanson, Family of Edna Haverkamp, Carol & Henry Marksberry, Char Scholl, Bill Seibert, Bruce Shay, Ed Von Strohe, Bonnie Walter, & Wendy Watts

Continued Prayerful Support

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

Homebound Member of the Week

Our homebound member of the week is Robert Hasse. Take a moment this week to send him a card or give him a call as we celebrate Robert as our member of the week!

His address is:

Robert Hasse
500 Lakeview Drive #103
Wilder, KY 41071

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

"If You Love Me"

(Joel Raney)

My peace I give you, my peace I leave with you,
and I will comfort you in times of trouble.
And if you love me, if you love me,
If you love me keep my commands.

Though I may leave you, I will return for you,
I'll go prepare for you, a place beside me.
And if you love me, if you love me,
If you love me keep my commands.

Because I live, you too shall live.
I bring you peace that the world cannot give.

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

Sing Twice

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly.
Con-fi-te-mi-ni Do-mi-no quo-ni-am bo-nus.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace, Al-le-lu-ia!
Con-fi-te-mi-ni Do-mi-no, Al-le-lu-ia!

Gospel Lesson - Matthew 18: 21-35

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Today's Message "Exorbitant Debt. Unlimited Forgiveness." Vickie Grey Kennedy

***Hymn #416** "God! When Human Bonds Are Broken" (Merton)

Offertory Invitation

Through our offerings, we are invited to put God first in our lives, to show our gratitude and our commitment. We owe everything to God: our lives, our health, people who love us, meaningful work and activities. Let us respond in proportion to our gratitude.

Offertory "Jesus Loves Me" (Sung - il Park)

Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong, they are weak but he is strong.
Jesus loves me he who died, heaven's gate to open wide.
He will wash away my sin, let his little child come in.

O Lord my Lord who loves me, listen to the sound of my pleading.
Let all my true hopes be according to your own heart.
In the dark I cry out this prayer. O Lord you see and hear me
and you make me realize the true love that saves me.

I praise the Lord, you are my Lord forever and ever.
You are my everything.

*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!**

*Prayer of Dedication [Unison]

God of our Ancestors, whose laws are timeless and whose ways empower the church, we bring to you the results of our labors. We would recognize all our moments and days as precious gifts from you. We dedicate ourselves anew to fulfilling your purposes through all you entrust to us, not just through the portion we here return. Bless all that the church seeks to accomplish in Christ's name. Amen.

***Hymn #109** "O, How I Love Jesus" (O, How I Love Jesus)

*Benediction

We have remembered together that today is holy; observe every day as a way to honor God.

We will honor God's name in awe and wonder; we will answer God's love with loyal devotion.

We have examined ourselves in light of God's commands; seek to live by God's design day by day.

We will affirm life and loyalty and honesty; the well-being of others is our continuing concern.

We have offered our praise and thanksgiving; meditate daily on God's word, and speak God's truth.

Our souls are revived and our eyes enlightened; God is our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

*Choral Response

Postlude "Deo Gracias" (Gordon Young)

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GO IN PEACE, SERVE THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD!