

**CONTACTS**

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

**PROGRAM**

	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>TIME</b>
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**

<b>PERSON</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>
Designated Pastor	J. Martin Westermeyer Shaman4@zoomtown.com
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**

<b>PERSON</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>
Jan Knepshild	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.



October 1, 2023  
 10:00 a.m.  
**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**World Communion Sunday**



**Time of Centering**

Please use this time to make the transition between “getting here” and “being here”. Take these few moments during the Prelude to get in touch with the calm places, the still deep places within you; the spirit. Relax your body; quiet the inner dialogue of your mind. Focus on feeling, on being. Be aware of being with others. Feel the spirit of the community.

\*All who are able are welcome to stand

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude** *“Break Thou the Bread of Life”* (Albin Whitworth)

**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**

Our God calls us to Worship.  
**We are here, God, we are here.**  
 We have made a choice to be here today.  
**We are here, God, we are here.**  
 It is a joy to gather in sacred community, to sing our praises together.  
**We are here, God, we are here.**  
 Come, let us Worship our God!

**\*Hymn #71** *“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”* (Lobe Den Herren)

**\*Prayer of Adoration & Confession**

O God, we open ourselves to your work amongst us and through each of us. Show us your glory and grant us to partake of your goodness. When you address us, O God, keep us from turning away. When we make commitments, help us to follow through. When our actions condemn us, recall us to yourself and grant us a new heart and a new spirit. Lord, God, sometimes we are like the sons in Jesus' parable; sometimes you call, and we refuse at first; sometimes we agree at first. Sometimes we change our mind. Usually, though, we are religious people, proud of our piety and self-righteousness. Our respectability means nothing to you, Lord, God, who sees through broken promises. Forgive our non-repentant attitudes. Open the Kingdom to us. Spark belief and contrition within us; through our Savior and Redeemer, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

**\*Words of Assurance (Responsive)**

Hear the Good News! All who turn away from wickedness and do what is right shall be saved. I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God, so turn and live. God is at work in you, both to will and work for God's good pleasure. Dearly Beloved, believe the Good News!

**\*Gloria Patri**

**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.**

*(Creatorex)*

**Scripture Lesson - From the Letters of Paul: Philippians 2:1-13**

If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness. And being found in appearance as a human, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death— even death on a cross.

Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name, so that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

**Welcoming and Leading Us This Morning**

Preaching Today: Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

Liturgist: Vickie Kennedy

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Choral Director: Dobin Park

Sound Technician: Robert Pettus

Greeters: David Stamm & Bertie Jo Tuerpe

Ushers: Steve Twehues, Ralph Schoulthies & Mike Hanson

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**This Week**

**Sunday, October 1:** 10:00 a.m. Worship Service/World Communion  
Sunday

**Monday, October 2:** 7:00 p.m. AA & Al-Anon Meeting

**Tuesday, October 3:** 6:30 p.m. East Row Historic Foundation Meeting  
7:00 p.m. NA Meeting

**Thursday, October 5:** 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

**Saturday, October 7:** 9:00 a.m. AA Meeting  
9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Church De-Clutter Day

**Sunday, October 8:** 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 Marty or 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.  
Designated Pastor Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer  
Pastor of Visitation John Robson

### **Homebound Member of the Week**

Our homebound member of the week is Peggy Westlund. Peggy's birthday is Wednesday, October 4th. Take a moment this week to send her a card or give her a call as we celebrate Peggy as our member of the week!

Her address is:  
Peggy Westlund  
Emerald Trace on Turkeyfoot  
3802 Turkeyfoot Road  
Elsmere, KY 41018

### **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**

*“Look at the World”*

*(John Rutter)*

Look at the world, everything all around us;  
Look at the world, and marvel every day.  
Look at the world: so many joys and wonders,  
So many miracles along our way.

Praise to thee, O Lord, for all creation,  
Give us thankful hearts, that we may see:  
All the gifts we share, and every blessing,  
All things come of thee.

Look at the earth bringing forth fruit and flower;  
Look at the sky, the sunshine and the rain;  
Look at the hills, look at the trees and mountains,  
Valley and flowing river, field and plain;

Think of the spring, think of the warmth of summer  
Bringing the harvest before the winter's cold.  
Everything grows, everything has a season,  
Till it is gathered to the Father's fold:

Every good gift, all that we need and cherish  
Comes from the Lord in token of his love;  
We are his hands, stewards of all his bounty;  
His is the earth, and his the heavens above.

### **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!

## Scripture Lesson - From the Gospels: Matthew 21:23-32

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.

## Sermon

*"Actions Speak Louder than Words"* Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

## \*Hymn #480

*"Open My Eyes, That I May See"* (Open My Eyes)

## Offertory Invitation

We would not steal for ourselves what God has entrusted to us for the benefit of our world neighbors. We would not claim as our own what God has loaned to us for our management in this lifetime. Therefore, we bring our offerings in joyful trust and obedient service.

## Park Outing

Sunday, October 1, 5:30-7:30

Highland Hills Park, Mayfield Ave., Fort Thomas, Shelter 2

Illumination Northern Kentucky Youth ministry is hitting the road for our first gathering in October. Join us at Highland Hills Park, Shelter 2 on October 1st from 5:30-7:30 for an evening cookout, games

## Church De-Clutter Day

Church De-Clutter Day

Saturday October 7th —9:00 am-11:00 am

All help is needed and appreciated!

Sign up at church or call the church office to get on the helper list.

## Lunch Bunch Oktoberfest

Wednesday, October 11th at 12 Noon

**"Welcome All"**

You are invited to join the Lunch Bunch in celebrating Oktoberfest with Mets, brats, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes and/or cottage ham and green beans with layered salad, bread, dessert and drinks.  
**RSVP to church office by Friday, October 6th.**

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, October 29th

11:15 a.m. - Following morning worship

## Presbyterian Youth Council Game Night

October 8, 5:00-7:30

Madeira-Silverwood Presbyterian Church

Join Illumination Northern Kentucky Youth group and the Presbytery of Cincinnati for a special game night! Youth from around the area will gather at Madeira Silverwood for a special game night. We will also be partnering with Soles4Souls for a special mission project! Bring gently used shoes that can be donated to people in need.

## Book Club

Saturday November 4th, 1:00 – 2:30pm, church parlor

Sensible Shoes by Sharon Garlough Brown

## 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 in honor of Pastor Marty's first Sunday with us as our Designated Pastor.

Open flower dates are October 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th  
To reserve your special date, please call the church office.

## WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

World Communion Sunday offers congregations a distinctive opportunity to experience Holy Communion in the context of the global community of faith. Today is when Christians in every culture break bread and pour the cup to remember and affirm Christ as the Head of the Church. On that day, we recognize that we are part of the whole body of believers. Join us on October 1st as we celebrate World Communion Sunday.

## NEIGHBORS IN NEED SPECIAL MISSION OFFERING

In 2023, the Neighbors in Need "BEHOLD!" theme continues. This year's focus is on environmental justice. Plastics, electronics, and other non-compostable wastes are being shipped across, and even tossed into, our waterways, launched into space, as well as buried in landfills. As people of faith, we believe these egregious acts are sinful and unholy. We must be better stewards of our planet!

As you may recall, one-third of the offering supports Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds are used by Justice and Witness Ministries to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations as well as supporting a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

St. John's will collect this offering today as part of World Communion Sunday. We thank you for your support and generosity.

## Offertory

*"Come Into God's Embrace"*

*(Mary McDonald)*

The table of love, prepared for you; come to the feast of grace.  
Come, eat the bread; come, drink the wine; come into God's embrace.  
Lamb of God, Lamb of love, You took away our sin.  
Here we remember Your sacrifice, God's plan for all: forgive!  
His body, His blood are given for you; come to the feast of grace.  
Come, taste the bread; come, taste the wine; come into God's embrace.

## \*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]

**Almighty God, call us to work in your vineyard today and so fill us with your Spirit that we will answer, "YES," and go, excited to be chosen. Accept these gifts: our monies and our lives to be used in sharing the Good News and for the honor and glory of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## \*Hymn #702

*"We Come as Guests Invited"* (Wie lieblich 1st Der Maien)  
(vs. 1 & 3)

## Celebrating God's Word in Sacrament

Communion is Open to ALL: saint and sinner, lost and found, believer and seeker.  
We partake of the bread together to symbolize our unity & community as God's people.  
We shall partake of the cup individually to symbolize our solitariness  
as we each stand alone before our God

## \*Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:  
And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord: who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the one holy universal Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

**\*Invitation**

This table is for all of us, near and far, high and low, east and west and north and south.  
This table is for all of us, but it is not our table. It's not a United Church of Christ table.  
It's not an American table. It's God's table, for all of us, and it's a table of grace. So come  
and take your place at the table. You are welcome, you are invited, you are called: come,  
let us share this meal together.

**Eucharistic Prayer**

P: The Lord be with you.  
**M: And also with you.**  
P: Lift up your hearts.  
**M: We lift them up unto the Lord.**  
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**M: It is meet and right so to do.**  
P: It is meet right and our bounden duty that we should at all times and in all  
places, to give thanks to you Almighty God. . . .

**Consecration of the Elements**

P: Let us now gather around the table with the offering of bread and drink upon it  
and the promise of the Living Christ among us. This is the welcome table of  
God where all who seek to be at peace with their neighbor and all who seek  
the mercy of God in Christ are embraced. Come, for we are invited in to this  
holy mystery. Come.

**M: We are ready!**

P: Jesus said: "I am the bread of life. All who come to me shall not hunger,  
and all who believe in me shall never be thirsty.

**M: We are hungry and thirsty. O Lamb of God, we come!**

P: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took his  
authority as the Christ and offered the bread in thanksgiving and said . . .

**M: "Take, eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this in  
remembrance of me."**

P: In the same way, and by the same authority, Jesus offered the cup in  
thanksgiving and said,

**M: "Take, drink. This is my blood of the new covenant which is poured out  
for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you  
drink it in remembrance of me."**

P: Come, Holy Spirit. Come. Open our eyes to the mystery of Christ's presence  
in these ordinary things in these our ordinary lives. May they be for us the  
very essence of the living Christ in our midst. Through the broken bread . . .

**M: We participate in the Body of Christ.**

P: Through the cup of blessing . . .

**M: We participate in the new life Christ gives.**

P: These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are  
ready!

**Partaking of the Lord's Supper**

As is our tradition, the Elements of Communion are held until all are served  
and partake together at the direction of the Pastor.

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)**

**Gracious and loving God, you have made us one in the body of Christ, and nourished  
us at your table with holy food and drink. Thank you for feeding our hunger and  
relieving our thirst. Now send us into the world to do the work you have given us to  
do: to find the lost and lonely, to heal broken souls, to free prisoners, and make the  
powerful care. Grant us strength to persevere in resisting evil, and to proclaim in all  
we say and do your Good News in Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen.**

**\*Hymn #603**                                *"In Christ There Is No East or West"*                                *(St. Peter)*

**\*Benediction**

**\*Choral Response**

**Postlude**                                *"Praise to the Lord the Almighty"*                                *(Diane Bish)*



**GO IN PEACE, SERVE THE LORD                                THANKS BE TO GOD!**

Trash cans are located at each exit for disposal of communion cups.

