

CONTACTS

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

PROGRAM

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
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	POSITION	CONTACT
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 8, 2023
 10:00 a.m.
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Thought for the Day before Worship

*The prophets and Jesus warned against becoming smug about our relationship with God.
 Yet Paul called us to great confidence in that relationship.
 When we are smug, we focus on ourselves and our abilities.
 Our confidence, however, lies not in ourselves, but in the promises of God.*

*All who are able are welcome to stand

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude *Voluntary on "Neumark"* (Gordon Young)

Tower Bell

Introit

If you will trust in God to guide you,
 and hope in God through all your ways.
 God will give strength, what-e'er betide you,
 And bear you through the evil days.
 Who trusts in God's unchanging love
 Builds on the rock that will not move.

Call to Worship: based on Psalm 81:1-10

Sing aloud to God our Strength!

Let us shout to the God of Jacob!

Let us raise a song, let us sound the organ!

Let us celebrate on this day of Worship!

For this is the will of God. Let us hear the voice of God and remember what God has done for us!

God has tested us, forgiven us, delivered us and filled us with hope!

Let us Worship our God, who is Lord!

*Hymn #87 *"Come, Christians, Join To Sing"* (Madrid)

***Prayer of Adoration & Confession**

Mighty God of power, who rules with mercy and loves with grace: You know how often we become afraid and how very afraid we often become. We confess that we use our fears; to keep our children from danger, to sacrifice now for a secure future. But most of the time, we are ashamed of our fearful feelings that make us look doubtful or scared, that make the sick give up hope of healing, that make nations put up barriers, Forgive us, a fearful people, living in your vineyard, and teach us to live faithfully with our fears. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

Hear the Good News! As the Gospel reminds us, “The very stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing and it is amazing in our eyes.” Christ is our foundation; God’s will in him cannot be shaken. Our redemption is sure; we are forgiven. Dearly Beloved, believe the Good News!

***Gloria Patri**

(Greateorex)

**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.**

From the Major Prophets of the Old Testament: Isaiah 5:1-7

I will sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.
He dug it and cleared it of stones
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded rotten grapes.

And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.
I will make it a wasteland;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and
thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.
What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield rotten grapes?

For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his cherished garden;
he expected justice
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness
but heard a cry!

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 Westermeyer, Designated Pastor and Pastor John Robson, Pastor of Visitation for their dedication and their love for ministry. Let’s express our appreciation to Pastor Marty and Pastor John.

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

LUNCH BUNCH OCTOBERFEST

Wednesday, October 11th at 12 Noon
“Welcome All”

You are invited to join the Lunch Bunch in celebrating Octoberfest with Mets, brats, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes and/or cottage ham and green beans with layered salad, bread, dessert and drinks.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, October 29th
11:15 a.m. - Following morning worship

BOOK CLUB

Saturday November 4th, 1:00 – 2:30pm, church parlor
Sensible Shoes by Sharon Garlough Brown

***Benediction**

***Choral Response**

Postlude *“Lord God, We All To Thee Give Praise”* (J.S. Bach)



GO IN PEACE, SERVE THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Prayers and Sympathy

We offer our prayers and sympathy to the Family of Charlotte (Char) Scholl. Char passed away on Tuesday, October 3, 2023. Her service will be held here at St. John’s on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 with visitation from 11:00 a.m. –12:00 p.m. and the service to follow at 12:00 p.m. A reception for family and friends will be held immediately after the service. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers during this tender time.



Anthem

“Then Sings My Soul”

(Mary McDonald)

Oh Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made.
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

When through the woods, and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees.
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art.

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in.
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin.

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, "My God, how great Thou art"

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art.

From the Poetry of the Old Testament: Psalm 80:7-15

Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.
You brought a vine out of Egypt;
you drove out the nations and planted it.
You cleared the ground for it;
it took deep root and filled the land.
The mountains were covered with its shade,
the mighty cedars with its branches;
it sent out its branches to the sea
and its shoots to the River.
Why then have you broken down its walls,
so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?
The boar from the forest ravages it,
and all that move in the field feed on it.
Turn again, O God of hosts;
look down from heaven and see;
have regard for this vine,
the stock that your right hand planted.

From the Gospels: Matthew 21:33-46

“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes’?

“Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

Sermon “Whose House Is This?” Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

Affirmation of Faith: *Jesus’ response to the question, “Which commandment is the first of all?”*

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first and the great commandment. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these. Amen.

*Hymn #502 “*Be Thou My Vision*” (Slane)

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

(Amazing Grace)

**The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.**

Offertory Invitation

Each of us is to look not only to personal interests but also the interests of others. We come together as the church of Jesus Christ to do this. We are devoted to a mission whose benefits are not for us alone. This is our opportunity to share in important work in this community and around the world.

Offertory

“What Shall I Bring to the Lord?” (Robert C. Lau)

What shall I bring to the Lord when I come to worship Him?
Shall I bring my best as offering to Him? What shall I bring?
Will the Lord require something special from me?
Oh what shall I bring for a King?

I could bring riches, power; now is the hour to lift our voices and sing.
I could bring wisdom, glory, I could tell the story of Jesus, my King.
But hear what the Lord says: Do justice, have mercy, and walk,
walk humbly with your God, Walk with God.

*Doxology

(Old 100th)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost Amen**

*Prayer of Dedication [Unison]

We rely on your promise, O God, that you will not forsake us; our pledge to you is that we will be faithful. As we stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before, give us a vision of what commitment can mean. Accept the gifts that we place here before you, as we in our day make our response. Let what we do be an example for others so that future believers learn of Christ and his way. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

*Hymn #458

“O Jesus, I Have Promised” (Angel’s Story)