

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
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 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.

	<p>October 15, 2023 10:00 a.m. Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost</p>	
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Thought for the Day before Worship

*We need a place apart, a safe place where your Spirit can lift and touch ours.
 O God, give us two: a sanctuary building fit to receive You;
 and an internal frame of heart fit to respond with discipleship and prayers.
 Let the external one call people to that place apart with You.
 Let the internal one go with us to safe places in your Spirit. Amen.*

*All who are able are welcome to stand

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude "Lord I Want to Be a Christian" (Diane Bish)

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 135**

Bless the Lord, O Servants of God!

Praise the name of the Lord, give praise!

Bless the Lord for the Lord is good.

Sing praises to the Lord for the Lord is gracious.

The Lord controls the earth and heaven, the seas and the land.

God makes clouds rise and winds blow, the sun and rain God provides.

The Lord is great and mighty, and God's name endures forever.

Those who serve God will be loved by God. God will have compassion on those who serve God.

Offertory

“As the Deer”

(arr. Buryl Red)

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you
You alone are my heart’s desire and I long to worship you.
For you alone are my strength, my shield; to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart’s desire and I long to worship you.

***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]**

Dear God, we thank you for Jesus Christ, who came and taught us by example how to be your disciples. Help each of us grow ever closer to you through our discipleship. Use these tithes, gifts, offerings, and our lives that we offer today, to show others how much we love you and your son, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

***Hymn #426**

“Blessed Assurance”

(Assurance)

***Benediction**

***Choral Response**

Postlude

“Trumpet Tune in C”

(Gordon Young)

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GO IN PEACE, SERVE THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD!

They made a calf at Horeb
and worshiped a cast image.
They exchanged the glory of God
for the image of an ox that eats grass.
They forgot God, their Savior,
who had done great things in Egypt,
wondrous works in the land of Ham,
and awesome deeds by the Red Sea.
Therefore he said he would destroy them—
had not Moses, his chosen one,
stood in the breach before him,
to turn away his wrath from destroying them.

From the Major Prophets of the Old Testament: Isaiah 25:1-9

O Lord, you are my God;
I will exalt you; I will praise your name,
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.
For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of foreigners is a city no more;
it will never be rebuilt.
Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.
For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.
When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,
the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.
On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.
And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death forever.
Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.
It will be said on that day,
“See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

Anthem

“Thou Art Holy”

(Craig Courtney)

Holy, holy, holy, Thou art holy.
Thou alone art holy, Thou art holy.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty,
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim, falling down before Thee,
who wert, and art, and evermore shall be.

Holy, holy, holy, though the darkness hide Thee,
though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;
Only Thou art holy, there is none beside Thee,
perfect in power, in love and purity.

Thou art holy, Thou alone art holy.

From the Gospels: Matthew 22:1-14

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Sermon

“Manners at the Table”

Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

Affirmation of Faith (from That All May Worship)

**As God’s creations, we are fashioned uniquely,
Each endowed with individuality of body, mind, and spirit
To worship freely the One who has given us life.
Each of us has abilities; each seeks fulfillment and wholeness.
Seeking shelter from the vulnerability we all share,
Claiming our promised place in God’s Household of Faith, we are transformed by
invitation, affirmation and love.
In grateful response, we**

- **Worship and serve God, the source of hope and joy;**
- **Celebrate and service one another, rejoicing in our diversity;**
- **Transform and serve the world,**

**Until we become a Community which reflects God’s Oneness and Peace.
Let the House of God be open to all who enter and Worship. Amen.**

***Hymn #559**

“Here I Am, Lord”

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.**

Offertory Invitation

We bring the fruit of our labors to be blessed by God, reminding ourselves that earthly things are temporary. Yet the commonwealth of heaven can be glimpsed and shared as we pursue the heavenly call of God in Jesus Christ. How much of ourselves will we invest, with our offerings, that others may hear the truth of God?