

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 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.

	<p>November 12, 2023 10:00 a.m. Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost</p>	
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Thought for the Day before Worship
 Consider how you are nurturing your faith today
 so that you may be prepared for life's unanticipated challenges.

*All who are able are welcome to stand

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude *“For the Beauty of the Earth”* (Gordon Young)

Tower Bell

Introit

We praise you, O God, our redeemer, creator;
 In grateful devotion our tribute we bring;
 We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
 We bless your holy name: glad praises we sing.

***Call to Worship - Based on Psalm 78**

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

We will tell of your glorious deeds, O Lord, and the wonders you have done.

Tell your children and your children's children that they should set their hope in God.

And not forget your works, O God, but keep your commandments.

Let us Worship our God!!

***Hymn #40** *“For the Beauty of the Earth”* (Dix)

***Prayer of Adoration & Confession**

We do not always see evidence of your promised reign on earth, O God. Children go hungry in our city, war rages on despite our desires for peace, and your church seems torn by conflicts that do not cease.

We are tempted to accept the world the way it is instead of the way you promise it will be. We are tempted to live as though you are not coming to make all things new. Ease us of our temptations with evidence of your power and presence around us, between us, and within us. Let us see tangible signs of your reign healing the sick, binding up the brokenhearted, and unburdening the oppressed. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the light who enlivens each of us.

Merciful God, we are not ready for you to come and visit us.

- We would not want you to see how we sometimes treat other people.

- We would not want you to see how we sometimes treat the earth.

- We would not want you to find out how often we live as though

you are not coming to make good on your promises. Forgive us and make us ready to greet you and your coming reign on earth. Supply us with the fuel of your Word that we might burn brightly with your passion for justice and peace, now, until the day you come to make all things new. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

Paul delivers words of comfort when he writes, "May the God of peace ... sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." God who calls you is faithful and in Christ we hear again the words of assurance, we are forgiven! 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)

From the Poetry of the Old Testament: Psalm 78:1-7

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will utter dark sayings from of old,
things that we have heard and known,
that our ancestors have told us.
We will not hide them from their children;
we will tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the Lord and his might
and the wonders that he has done.
He established a decree in Jacob
and appointed a law in Israel,
which he commanded our ancestors
to teach to their children,

Welcoming and Leading Us This Morning

Preaching Today: Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

Liturgist: Laura Haas

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, November 12: 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
Monday, November 13: 7:00 p.m. AA & Al-Anon Meeting
Tuesday, November 14: 7:00 p.m. NA Meeting
Thursday, November 16: 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, November 18: 9:00 a.m. AA Meeting
10:00 a.m. Leadership Team Meeting
Sunday, November 19: 10:00 a.m. Worship Service/Stewardship Sunday

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GO IN PEACE, SERVE THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD!

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, Flo Grey, Betty Jo Haas, Mary Haas, Donna & Phil Hamilton, Marilyn Hanson, Melvin Hanson, Karen Kiefer, Carol & Henry Marksberry, 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 Carol Marksberry. Take a moment this week to send her a card or give her a call as we celebrate Carol as our member of the week!

Her address is:
Carol Marksberry
Seasons of Alexandria Room 155
7341 East Alexandria Pike
Alexandria, KY 41001

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.

that the next generation might know them,
the children yet unborn,
and rise up and tell them to their children,
so that they should set their hope in God,
and not forget the works of God,
but keep his commandments;

From the Letters of Paul: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Anthem

"Total Praise"

(Smallwood/Raney)

Lord I will lift my eyes to the hills knowing my help is coming from you.
Your peace you give me in time of the storm.
You are the source of my strength, you are the strength of my life.
I lift my hands in total praise to you.

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God almighty.
Early in the morning my song shall rise to Thee. Holy, Holy,
Holy merciful and mighty God in three persons blessed trinity.

From the Gospels: Matthew 25:1-13

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Sermon "Today Is The End - How Will It End?" Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

***Affirmation of Faith Colossians 1:15-20 (adapted)**

Christ is the image of the invisible God, the first born of all creation; for in Christ all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or authorities - all things were created through Christ and for Christ.

Christ is before all things, and in Christ all things hold together. Christ is the head of the body, the church; Christ is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything Christ might be preeminent. For in Christ all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Christ all things are reconciled to God, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of Christ's cross. Amen.

***Hymn** "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"
(see next page)

**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.**

Stewardship Moment

Kyle Taylor

Offertory Invitation

The work of the church goes on night and day. Around the world, our partners in ministry labor and toil for the cause of Christ. In every land, the word of God is at work in believers who share good news through speaking and doing. We join them through our tithes and offerings and in our own efforts where we live. Let us dedicate all to God.

**GIFTS TO THE MANGER COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS MINISTRY
Washington United Church of Christ
513-541-7757**

Sunday, December 10, we will provide up to 100 area families with gift items and some basic necessities. We hope to give each child (about 350) an outfit, socks, underwear, gloves, hat and a few toys. Each family will receive a food box.

The Christ child was born in poverty and gifted by the magi. What better way to celebrate his birth than to do the same for these children of God!

PLEASE SEE OUR NEEDS below.

MONETARY DONATIONS ARE NEEDED AND APPRECIATED. We will do the shopping! Please send to: Christmas Ministry, Washington UCC, 2950 Sidney Ave. Cincinnati, Ohio 45225

UNDERWEAR: We need girls' sizes small to large and women's sizes small to XL. We need boys sizes 2-3, 4-5 and small and men's sizes small to XL.

SOCKS: We need girls ankle socks sizes 4-10 (colors) and 9-11 (white and colors), and boys sizes 6-9, toddlers, and men's large.

INFANTS: No need. Need toddler boys 2T to 5T.

CLOTHING: Girls: We need girls' sizes 5, 6, 10, 12, 14, 16 and Junior 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 and women small, medium, large, XL. We prefer sweatpants and tops.

CLOTHING: Boys: We need boy's outfits in sizes 5-6, 12-14, 14-16, medium and large, then men's size sweatpants/shirts in sizes M, L, XL

GLOVES/MITTENS and HATS: All sizes

TOYS: We need toys for all ages. Suggestions: art/craft/jewelry making kits, basketball, football, soccer ball, Legos, ethnic baby dolls, Barbie dolls, Barbie doll clothes, cars, trucks, action figures, Play Doh, games, hand held games, toys.

For teens: Bath and beauty, makeup kits, Xbox, Play Station Network, Roblux gift cards.

SPECIAL REQUEST: We request no violent games or toys, no wrapping of gifts.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION 2023

This year we will continue to collect for Washington UCC through its “Gifts to the Manger Program.” But, we also would like to include this year collecting for the local community through the Northern Kentucky Community Action Commission for the Newport Head Start Preschool Program and their “Christmas Giving Tree”.

There will be two trees with ornaments listing items needed for each family, child or adult. The trees will be located in both narthexes where you will be able to get the list of items needed.

We are asking that you return the gifts you purchase to the same tree or label the bags when you return them to the church. There will also be lists available in the narthex and in the bulletin.

The deadline for returning the purchased items will be Sunday, December 3, 2023. Thanking you in advance for your generosity and sharing with others!!

See next page for listing of Christmas items needed

MEMBERSHIP SUNDAY

There has been interest by some individuals about joining the congregation of St. John’s UCC. If you or someone you are acquainted with might be one of these persons, please contact the Church Office or Pastor Marty. We could like to schedule a Member Sunday in the near future, but Pastor Marty wants to be sure to offer this opportunity to all. We hope to hear from you soon!

SEASON OF ADVENT

December 3, December 10, December 17 & December 24

Each week we will light the Advent Candles remembering the themes of: Hope, Love, Peace and Joy. On December 3 we will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion. Communion will be served on this Sunday to celebrate the start of the season of Advent. During these four Sundays we will be singing Advent hymns and Christmas Carols. There will be special music throughout the season from our musicians and singers.

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

Matt. 25:1-13
Laurentius Laurenti, 1700
Tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1854

LANCASHIRE 7.6.7.6.D.
Henry Smart, 1836

1. Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, And let your light ap - pear;
2. See that your lamps are burn - ing; Re - plen - ish them with oil,
3. Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear!

The eve - ning is ad - van - cing, And dark - er night is near:
And wait for your sal - va - tion The end of earth - ly toil.
A - rise, thou Sun so longed for, O'er this be - night - ed sphere!

The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing, And soon he draw - eth nigh;
The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the Bride - groom near,
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see

Up, pray and watch and wres - tle: At mid - night comes the cry.
Go meet him as he com - eth, With al - le - lu - ias clear.
The day of earth's re - demp - tion That brings us un - to thee.

Offertory

“Praise! Praise!”

(G. F. Handel)

Praise! Praise! Let every nation give praise to the Lord.
Rejoice and be glad for the Lord comes to all.
Let every nation give thanks to our God, resound joyful praise.
The glory and power of God we proclaim,
And sing with a loud voice the Lord’s holy name.



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.

***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**

Open flower dates are November 19th & 26th
To reserve your special date, please call the church office.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Every time we gather in this sanctuary, O God, we pray that Your Kingdom will come. Receive these gifts as our offerings on behalf of that prayer. Do not allow that the coming of Your Realm should be delayed by even one day for want of resources. Bless these gifts and all of the gifts of time, talent and treasure that we offer in service of the visions of wholeness that you have placed before us. In the name of Christ, our Lord, we pray. Amen.

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

We offer our prayers and sympathy to the family of Shannon Lawrence. Her memorial service will be held here at St. John’s on Saturday, November 18th at noon. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers during this tender time.



***Hymn #22**

“Let All Things Now Living”

(Ash Grove)

***Benediction**

***Choral Response**

Postlude

“Let All Things Now Living”

(Dale Wood)

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

On Sunday, November 19th we will celebrate Stewardship Sunday by bringing forth our pledge cards and placing them in the offering plate. Please plan to join us for this special service.

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.

RECITAL

Isabel Lee, one of our Choral Scholars will be giving a voice recital here in our sanctuary tomorrow evening. The recital is at 6:30 pm and members of our congregation are invited to attend. Isabel is working towards her Artist Diploma in opera performance at CCM.

HAMLET

On November 17th and 19th, Aaron McKone will be performing the role of Laertes (lay-air-teez) in the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra’s production of the opera “Hamlet,” based on Shakespeare’s play, at the Cincinnati Music Hall. The performances are Friday, November 17th at 7:30 pm and Sunday, November 19th at 2 pm. Tickets can be purchased at cincinnati-symphony.org