

**CONTACTS**

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 Email [stjohnsucc@stjohnsuccnewport.org](mailto:stjohnsucc@stjohnsuccnewport.org)  
 Website [www.stjohnsuccnewport.org](http://www.stjohnsuccnewport.org)  
 Facebook St. John's United Church of Christ–Newport, KY

**PROGRAM**

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.



November 19, 2023  
10:00 a.m.  
**Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**



**Thought for the Day before Worship**

*Almighty God, giver and provider of all things, on this day of thanksgiving I am mindful of my dependence upon you. You have given all that I have and particularly you have given your Son as Lord and Savior. Help me to remember tomorrow the gratitude I feel today; make me truly thankful. I pray in the name of Christ my Lord. Amen.*

\*All who are able are welcome to stand

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude** *“We Gather Together”* (Healey Willan)  
*(Kendra Franke-Flute)*

**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**

It is good to give thanks to God.

**Great is God's steadfast love toward us.**

It is good to give thanks to God.

**The faithfulness of God endures forever.**

It is good to give thanks to God.

**Just think of the wonderful works of God. It is good to give thanks to God!**

Let us Worship our God together!

**\*Hymn #721** *“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”* (St. George's Windsor)

**\*Prayer of Adoration & Confession**

**With one voice we praise you, great and good God. You come to us amid all our hungers and offer us that which nourishes as well as satisfies us. You care for us as whole persons, interested in our physical as well as spiritual needs. You set before us the bread of life and invite us to share in the feast of redemption.**

**Thanks be to You, our God.**

**O Lord, when we consider all that you are, we marvel that you have created us only a little lower than the angels. We have failed you in so many ways; we have failed to glorify you in our lives, we commit sins of deed and sins of omission. Even though we are not worthy so much as to gather the crumbs under the table of your Son, You have bid us to come to you. In spite of our sin, you love us. Please, help us to be aware that as we confess our sins sincerely before you, you do indeed forgive us in the name of your Son and our Savior. Amen.**

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

Hear the Good News! One fact remains that does not change: God has loved you, loves you now, and will love you always. This is the Good News that brings new life. Dearly Beloved, believe the Good News!

**\*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.**

**From the Books of the Law: Deuteronomy 8:7-18**

For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you.

“Take care that you do not forget the LORD your God by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes that I am commanding you today. When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them and when your herds and flocks have multiplied and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock. He fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you and in the end to do you good. Do not say to yourself, ‘My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth.’ But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today.

**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: Darlene Knepshield & Bertie Jo Tuerpe

Ushers: Steve Twehues, Ralph Schoulthies & Mike Hanson

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**This Week**

- Sunday, November 19:** 10:00 a.m. Worship Service/Stewardship Sunday
- Monday, November 20:** 7:00 p.m. AA & Al-Anon Meeting
- Tuesday, November 21:** 6:30 p.m. East Row Garden Club Meeting  
7:00 p.m. NA Meeting
- Thursday, November 23:** Happy Thanksgiving  
Church Office Closed
- Friday, November 24:** Church Office Closed
- Saturday, November 25:** 9:00 a.m. AA Meeting
- Sunday, November 26:** 10:00 a.m. Worship Service



**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 Marcia Schmidt. Take a moment this week to send her a card or give her a call as we celebrate Marcia as our member of the week!

Her address is:  
Marcia Schmidt  
Rosedale Green  
4250 Glenn Avenue  
Covington, KY 41015

### **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.

### **From the Letters of Paul: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15**

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.. As it is written, "He scatters abroad; he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever."

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us, for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your partnership with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

### **Anthem**

*"Celtic Laud"*

*(Martin/Courtney)*

For fruit of the vine, for harvest of wheat,  
for bread and for wine, the gift of Your feast.  
The cup of thanksgiving I gratefully raise,  
O Lord of my living, my love and my praise.

For dove in the sky, for wind in the trees,  
for coal in the fire, Your Spirit in me,  
The cup of thanksgiving I gratefully raise,  
O Lord of my living, my love and my praise.

For springtime's green earth, for morning's first light,  
for every new birth, for grace and for life,  
The cup of thanksgiving I gratefully raise,  
O Lord of my living, my love and my praise.

### **From the Gospels: Luke 17:11-19**

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten men with a skin disease approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus's feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? So where are the other nine? Did none of them return to give glory to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

**Sermon**

“And We Are a Grateful People!” Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

**\*Affirmation of Faith: Trust In God**

**We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba Father.**

**In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God’s image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.**

**Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.**

**Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.**

**With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**\*Hymn #570**

*“As Saints of Old Their First-fruits Brought” (Forest Green)*

**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.**

**Blessing of the Prayer Blankets**

Lord, we are all made in the image and likeness of You.

**You have made every one of us perfectly, with great detail and intention.**

May these blankets, made by the hands of friends and members of St. John’s United Church of Christ, remind their receiver of the abundant love you share with each one of us....

**And their unique beauty, and worth as your children!**

**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**



### 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.



### ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT RETURNS

On Sunday December 10th at 7 pm, our Chancel Choir, soloists and full orchestra will present "Sing Joy To All The World" by Lloyd Larson. In addition to the Cantata, the choir will present several other Christmas selections by Dan Forrest, Jay Rouse and Mack Wilberg. The choir will be accompanied by a full orchestra from the College Conservatory of Music (CCM). Our choir is already busy preparing this beautiful music for your enjoyment. This joyous Christmas music will surely move your spirit into the true meaning of Christmas. This concert is full of all the traditional music of Christmas that we all love so much. Mark your calendars and invite your family and friends to a joyous evening of Christmas music. A reception will follow in Fellowship Hall.

We ask the recipients to remember, these blankets are a Blessing!

**Dear Lord, as we gather together this morning, we thank you for Your loving hands which have knit the fabric of our life. On this day, we thank you for the loving hands that helped make these prayer blankets. We ask that you bless these individual blankets with your love and grace. May they bring comfort and healing to each person as they wrap themselves in it. May it remind them that they are never alone and that you are always with each one of them in their need. We ask this in your holy name. Amen.**

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Stewardship Moment**

Vickie Kennedy

**Offertory Invitation**

The world and all that is in it belongs to God. The Creator has blessed us with material resources and human companionship. Let us return to God the sacrifices of our thanksgiving.

(Please place your pledge card in the offering plate as it passes)

**Offertory**

*"A Hymn for Thanksgiving"*

*(David H. Williams)*

Praise, oh, praise, our God and King,  
Hymns of adoration sing;  
For His mercies still endure,  
Ever faithful, ever sure.

Praise Him that He made the sun  
Day by day his course to run;  
Praise Him that He gave the rain,  
to mature the swelling grain.

He hath bid the fruitful field,  
crops of precious increase yield;  
for his mercies still endure,  
ever faithful, ever sure.

Glory to our bounteous King,  
Glory let creation sing;  
Glory to the Father, Son,  
And the Spirit, Three in One!

**\*Doxology**

*(Old 100<sup>th</sup>)*

**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**



Flowers in church today are from the memorial service for Shannon Lawrence held on Saturday, November 18th here at St. John's.

If you or anyone you know would benefit from the beauty and joy of the arrangement, please feel free to take them.

Open flower dates are November 26th, December 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st.  
To reserve your special date, please call the church office.

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**On this Thanksgiving Sunday make us a thankful and grateful people. We know that to give is divine, so help us embrace generosity not only of spirit but also of our resources. Accept these offerings we bring today: our Pledge Cards and our weekly gifts. Help us remember, O God, that Jesus humbled himself and became obedient for our sake. Therefore, inspire in us an attitude of thankfulness so that we may obediently and generously pour out our gifts for others. And may we make Thanksgiving, like Easter, not just a day but a season. It is in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**\*Hymn #723**

*"For the Fruit of All Creation"*

*(Ar Hydy Nos)*

**\*Benediction**

**\*Choral Response**

**Postlude**

*Postlude on "Old Hundredth"*

*(Fred Bock)*

**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.**

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**STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY**

Today 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.

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**HAMLET**

On November 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](http://cincinnati-symphony.org)

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**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 would 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!