

CONTACTS

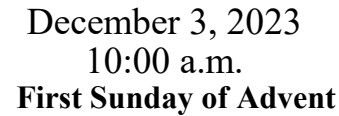
Phone	859-431-1818
Email	stjohnsucc@stjohnsuccnewport.org
Website	www.stjohnsuccnewport.org
Facebook	St. John’s United Church of Christ–Newport, KY

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.	



These weeks of Advent can be a time of spiritual preparation, if we take a moment each day to pay attention to God's presence with us.

Prelude “*Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming*” (*Alice Jordan*)
 (Kendra Franke)

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
 of Jesse's lineage coming as saints of old have sung.
 It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of
 winter, when half-spent was the night

Let us Worship our God with gladness and expectation as we await the day of 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 Henry Marksberry. Take a moment this week to send him a card or give him a call as we celebrate Henry as our member of the week!

His address is:

Henry Marksberry
Seasons of Alexandria Room155
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.

***Prayer of Confession (unison)**

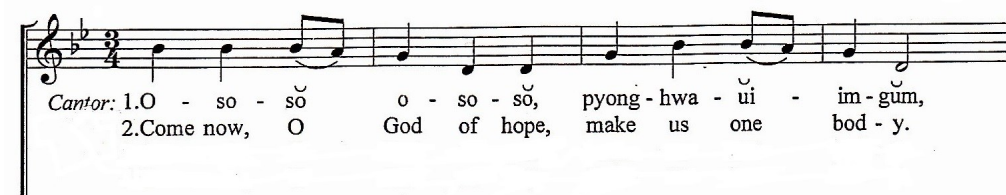
Blessed Lord, in this season of your coming, the darkness in us deepens awaiting your Light. The knowledge in us falters hearing your Truth. We have sinned against you, forgotten human sorrow, denied pity, excused ourselves from love, and shunned holiness. Heal us by the loving touch of your grace and make us teachable, that we may learn again the peace that comes on earth to people of goodwill; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon (responsive)**

Sisters and brothers, hear the Good news: God loved the world so much that the mighty Maker of all creation came to earth in human form.

Our sins are forgiven because this great God loves us. Nothing in all creation can separate us from that love. Praise be to God! Amen!

Lighting the Advent Candle of Hope



(congregation will sing two times as directed)

Prayer (unison)

Come, O Holy One, as the morning light after a wakeful night! Keep us mindful that at any moment you may ask of us an accounting of our lives; help us to love you and love one another in all we do, and so clothe us with your light that we may bring others to love you also, through Jesus our Savior. Amen.

From the Poetry of the Old Testament: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.
Stir up your might,
and come to save us!
Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.
O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
You have fed them with the bread of tears
and given them tears to drink in full measure.
You make us the scorn of our neighbors;
our enemies laugh among themselves.
Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one whom you made strong for yourself.
Then we will never turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call on your name.
Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Children's Chat

Jisoo Bae

From the Major Prophets: Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

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, Roblox gift cards.

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

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION 2023

****Last Day for Washington UCC-We will extend one more week for the Newport Head Start Program**

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



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2023 AT 7 PM

Christmas with the Viva Voices Chamber Ensemble
Christ Church UCC Fort Thomas

CHURCH BOOK CLUB - ALL ARE WELCOME!

Saturday January 27, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.-church parlor
The Hiding Place by Corrie ten Boom

We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name
or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Anthem

“Tidings of Comfort and Joy”

(Lloyd Larson)

O come, O come Emmanuel, we long for heaven’s King.
O come desire of nations, come, that our spirits may take wing!
And when the promise is fulfilled we’ll celebrate and
sing glad tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
glad tidings of comfort and joy!

Come thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free,
From our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

O come to us, Messiah King, and end our long dark night,
come promised child of Jesse’s line, God’s pure and holy light!
And when the promise is fulfilled we’ll sing with all our might
Glad tidings of comfort and joy, glad tidings of comfort and joy!

From the Gospels: Mark 13:24-37

“But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. “Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

(Merle's Tune)

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

O Holy Child of Bethlehem! Descend to us, we pray;

Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels...The great glad tidings tell;

O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

Offertory Invitation

We have prospered and found security in the gracious bounty of our God. Now we seek the good of all God's people as we share the abundance entrusted to us. Let those who rob God to satisfy their own desires find instead the unexpected joy of giving.

Offertory

“A Light Shall Shine”

(Lloyd Larson)

The people walking in darkness shall see a great light.
The people walking in darkness on them a light shall shine.

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed:

A child shall be given, a child shall be born, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.

The government shall be upon his shoulders. The people walking in darkness shall see a great light.
On them a light shall shine.

He shall be called Wonderful Counselor, He shall be called mighty God,
He shall be called the everlasting Father,
the Holy Prince of Peace.

CALL FOR COOKIES

If you or anyone you know has a special cookie recipe you would like to showcase, we would love for you to include it in the Christmas Concert Reception. The Choir is looking for cookies for their reception after the concert on Sunday, December 10th. Cookies can be dropped off during church office hours or before the concert. Contact the church office with any questions (859) 431-1818.

LUNCH BUNCH

Wednesday, December 13th

Noon-2:00pm

Lunch will be provided

Drinks and dessert provided

DELTA KINGS BARBERSHOP CHORUS

The Delta Kings Barbershop Chorus will perform a concert here at St. John's on Friday, December 15th at 7:15 p.m. Come and join the fun and celebrate the holidays with your family and friends by enjoying a night of musical entertainment. The Delta Kings were a big hit when they performed here at St. John's back in September. Join us on December 15th!

ADVENT JOURNEY

The book club will be “walking the labyrinth” as an Advent activity of prayer, reflection, and contemplation of the soul. As long as the weather permits, our plan is to walk at St. Anne’s Convent on Route 8. They have a very nice labyrinth which is “sewn into the grass” in a calm and peaceful environment. If the weather is not conducive to walking outside, other arrangements are being made to have a portable labyrinth we can walk, indoors. Here is the schedule:

Date: Saturday, December 16th

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Place: St. Ann's Convent,

5275 Saint Anne Drive (off Route 8)

Melbourne, KY 41059

For those who would like to meet at Frisch's in Cold Spring (across from Crossroads Blvd) before the walk, we are meeting at 12:15p.m. for hot chocolate, burgers, fries, or pie!



St. John's Chancel Choir Presents

Sing Joy to All the World!

Dec. 10th. 7pm

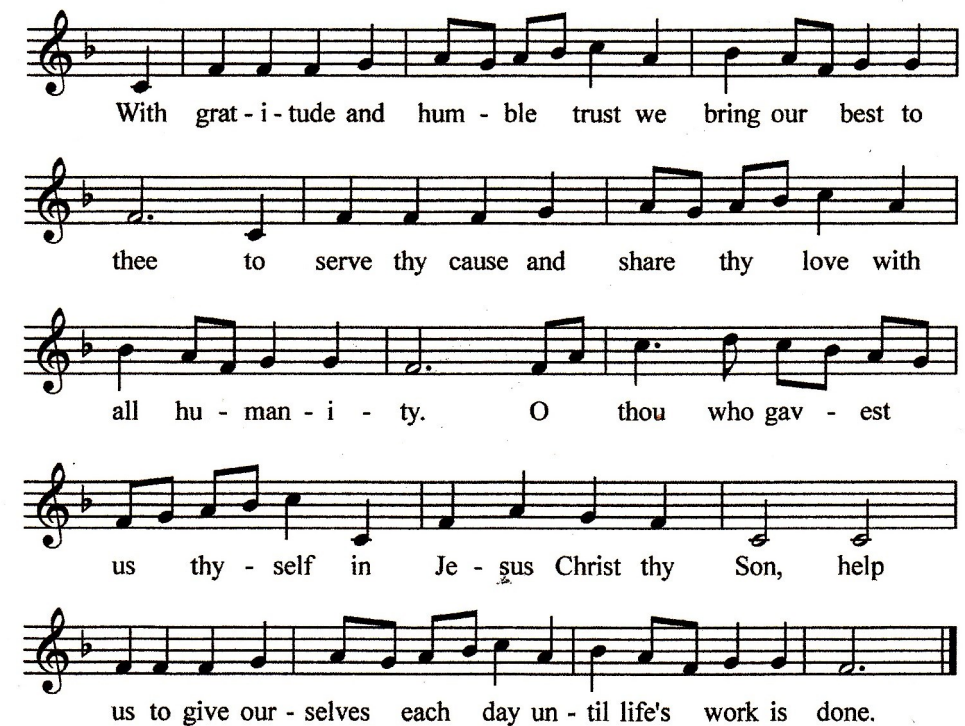
Directed by Dobin Park

Music by Lloyd Larson, Dan Forrest, Jay Rouse, Mack Wilberg
Orchestra from the College-Conservatory of Music

Free Admission

St. John's United Church of Christ
415 Park Ave., Newport, KY 41071
www.stjohnsuccnewport.org

*Doxology



With grat - i - tude and hum - ble trust we bring our best to
thee to serve thy cause and share thy love with
all hu - man - i - ty. O thou who gav - est
us thy - self in Je - sus Christ thy Son, help
us to give our - selves each day un - til life's work is done.

*Prayer of Dedication

Awakening God, we commit ourselves to living consciously, to feeling the pain, seeing the need, hearing the cries of the homeless and helpless. We make this offering in response. Use these gifts for the purposes of your coming reign of peace and justice upon earth, a reign initiated in Christ, who came and is coming, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Reception of New Members: Affirmation of Baptism

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 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.

Welcome and Reception of Members

Let us, the members and friends of St. John's United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

We welcome you with joy in the common ministry of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

Communion

Today we are celebrating the Lord's Supper. We believe in an OPEN Table.

*ALL persons who have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior
are encouraged to participate in the Sacrament.*

Invitation

Eucharistic Prayer

Consecration of the Elements

Partaking of the Lord's Supper

Communion is Open to ALL: saint and sinner, lost and found, believer and seeker.

We partake of the bread together to symbolize our unity and community as God's people.

*We shall partake of the cup individually to symbolize our solitariness
as we each stand alone before our God.*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

O God of light, we thank you for the brightness of your countenance shining in the face of Jesus. As we depart from this table, may Christ's light so shine through us that others may see our good works and give you glory. It is in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*Hymn #176

"Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates" (Truro)
(vs. 1 & 4)

*Benediction

*Choral Response

Postlude

"Wake, Awake For Night Is Flying" (J.G. Walther)

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

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 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.

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

2024 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES AND CHURCH DIRECTORIES

The 2024 church offering envelopes and church directories are available to be picked up in the hallway by the church office. You can pick them up on Sunday morning or during church office hours which are Monday & Wednesday 9:00 am-3:00pm and Friday 9:00am-1:00pm. If you do not have offering envelopes and would like a set, please contact Kelli in the church office.

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.

CHRISTMAS SEASON

The Christmas Season begins on Sunday, December 24th when we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. Join us at 7:00 pm for our candle light Christmas Eve Service with communion.