

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.	

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, Family of Mary Haas, Donna & Phil Hamilton, Marilyn Hanson, Melvin Hanson, Karen Kiefer, Carol & Henry Marksberry, Bill Seibert, Family of 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 John Westlund. John's birthday is Thursday, December 21st. Take a moment this week to send him a card or give him a call as we celebrate John as our member of the week!

His address is:
John Westlund
Emerald Trace on Turkeyfoot
3802 Turkeyfoot Road
Elsmere, KY 41018

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)**

Righteous God, we confess that we have not looked up to claim the riches of your love. We have not listened to your voice of truth in the wilderness of our despair. We have not acknowledged your presence amid the loneliness of our struggles. We have been too busy with our own agendas to reach out in concern to those who carry burdens far greater than our own. Baptize us anew, we pray, with a passion for justice and righteousness.

***Assurance of Pardon (responsive)**

God does not judge by what our eyes see or decide by what our ears hear. The needy are delivered from their oppressors. The righteous flourish and peace abounds. Even now, God's realm is among us, making all things new. We are freed to bear fruit befitting repentance.

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!

Please be seated

Lighting the Advent Candle of Peace



Cantor: 1. O - so - so o - so - so, pyong - hwa - ui - im - gum,
2. Come now, O God of hope, make us one bod - y.
3. Come now, O God of peace, make us one bod - y.

u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - so.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, re - con - cile your peo - ple.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, re - con - cile your peo - ple.

(congregation sings verse 3 as directed)

Prayer (unison)

Come, O Holy One, as the water of life and refiner's fire! Strengthen us with courage for your work of justice, that in all the creation and among every people your peace may be established, and your joy abound, through Jesus our Deliverer. Amen.

From the Major Prophets: Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord’s hand
double for all her sins.
A voice cries out:
“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”
A voice says, “Cry out!”
And I said, “What shall I cry?”
All flesh is grass;
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers; the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers; the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.
Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”
See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms
and carry them in his bosom
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Children’s Chat

Laura Haas

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.

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 in Fellowship Hall before the concert.

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!

Your prophets call us to lives of grace and generosity, to lives shining with your presence, God of all. We bring you gifts created by your goodness and transformed by our hope, and ask that in the receiving and in the giving, we may become more faithful servants. Amen.

***Benediction**

[illegible]

Please sign the guest register when it comes to your seat.



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

Lord, you were favorable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you pardoned all their sin. Selah

Anthem *“Prepare the Way!”* (Lloyd Larson)

Every valley shall be lifted up, every mountain and hill made low, and the glory of the Lord revealed.
Rejoice, sing and rejoice! Emmanuel come to thee, O Israel!
Prepare the way of the Lord!

Sermon “To Be A Candle for Jesus” Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

You, O God, are supreme and holy.

Your purpose overarches everything we do.

You are God.

You came to us before we came to you.

**your love for us in Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose again.**

You are God.

You empower us to be your gospel in the world.

You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.

(Greensleeves)

Joys & Concerns – Silent Prayer – Pastoral Prayer

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

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

The mountains of God offer prosperity for all people. We have been blessed that we might be a blessing to others. Now we are invited to employ the resources God grants us, to hasten the day when the wolf shall live with the lamb and a little child shall lead them. We give in the name of One whose coming we seek anew in this Advent season.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous Gift is giv'n;
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His Heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

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-till life's work is done.