

## 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                   |
|----------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Kyle Taylor    | Church President      | 859-394-5256              |
| David Stamm    | Church Vice President | 859-322-2426              |
| Pat Goins      | Church Secretary      | 859-250-2830              |
| Vickie Kennedy | Church Treasurer      | 859-653-2630 text or call |

## 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. |                        |



January 7, 2024  
10:00 a.m.  
**Epiphany Sunday**



## Prayer for the Day before Worship

Gracious God, make us aware that today we celebrate one of the major festivals of the church, Epiphany. It is the Greek word meaning "manifestation." Associated with Epiphany is light: "Arise, shine for you light has come." When the light comes, things in the darkness become manifest. Through the Epiphany Season, we will see the glory of God manifested in Jesus. Epiphany is a time to let the light of Christ shine through missions and evangelism. Amen.

\*All who are able are welcome to stand

## Welcome and Announcements

### Prelude

*"The Three Kings"*

*(Wilbur Held)*

### Tower Bell

### Introit

We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.  
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

### \*Call to Worship

Arise, shine for your light has come, and the glory of God has risen upon you.

**We, who have lived in a shadowed world, have seen God's revelation in Jesus.**

Lift up your eyes and see; God's light dwells in you and others see it.

**Our hearts rejoice at the opportunity to witness to what we have heard and observed.**

Gather then, as apostles and prophets, stewards of the mystery of Christ.

**We have seen a star and come to Worship!**

May your awareness, responsiveness and reverence be strengthened in our time together.

**We will search diligently and listen carefully for all that God would reveal to us.**

Let us Worship our God!!

### \*Hymn #243

"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"

*(St George's Windsor)*

**\*Prayer of Adoration & Confession**

We thank you, O God, for the privilege of coming to you in prayer. We honor and praise you for your love and power and mercy. Bless us with wisdom for the days ahead and the years to come, that we might move in the direction you would have us move. Help us to meet the challenges of each moment with grace and compassion. Open the ears of our hearts, that we might hear your voice clearly, listen with eagerness, and respond with complete trust. May we create the spaces in our day to pray, to meditate on your word, and to seek your presence, lest we lose our way.

We confess, O God, that we want to go our own way. We prefer to listen to our own voices instead of yours. We confess our need for power and our unwillingness to submit ourselves to you. It feels good to do things our way; to think we cause our own success and to believe our power is an end unto itself. Forgive us, and help us to have a more humble spirit. We know that your wisdom is better than our own, and your direction for us will lead to a better destiny. Help us to have more desire and commitment to receiving the grace and wisdom of your Holy Spirit. In the name of Jesus Christ, the One whose path we follow. Amen.

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

Hear the Good News! The secret has been revealed. The Gospel makes everyone, Jew and Gentile, joint heirs for the promise made in Christ Jesus. Dearly Beloved, believe the Good News!

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, now and forever. Amen.**

**\*Gloria Patri**

*(Greateorex)*

**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 Major Prophets: Isaiah 60:1-6**

Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.  
For darkness shall cover the earth  
and thick darkness the peoples,  
but the Lord will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.  
Nations shall come to your light  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.  
Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together; they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.

**Welcoming and Leading Us This Morning**

Preaching Today: Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

Liturgist: Tom Williams

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, January 7:** 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- Monday, January 8:** 7:00 p.m. AA & Al-Anon Meeting
- Tuesday, January 9 :** 7:00 p.m. NA Meeting
- Wednesday, January 10:** Noon –2:00 p.m. Lunch Bunch
- Thursday, January 11:** 9:00 a.m.-Noon Food Pantry  
7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- Saturday, January 13:** 9:00 a.m. AA Meeting  
10:00 a.m. Leadership Team Meeting
- Sunday, January 14:** 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

**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, Chuck Hawkins, Karen Liden, Family of Carol Marksberry, Henry Marksberry, Family of Barbara Runge, Bill Seibert, Ed Von Strohe, Bonnie Walter, Wendy Watts & Betty Webster

**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 Pam Maloney. Pam’s birthday is Tuesday, January 16th. Take a moment this week to send her a card or give her a call as we celebrate Pam as our member of the week!

Her address is:  
Pam Maloney  
Parkside Manor  
317 Oddville Pike #B  
Cynthiana, KY 41031

**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.

**Choral Christmas Concert DVD’s**

DVD’s of the Choral Christmas Concert are available on the table located at the North Lobby entrance.

Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you;  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.  
A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.  
They shall bring gold and frankincense  
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

**Children’s Chat**

Bonnie Hoffmann

**From the Letters of Paul: Ephesians 3:1-12**

This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles, for surely you have already heard of the commission of God’s grace that was given me for you and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God’s grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

**Anthem**

*“Guide Us to the Perfect Light”* (Lloyd Larson)

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning  
Dawn on our darkness and come to our aid;  
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,  
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.  
  
What shall we give him in costly devotion?  
Shall we bring incense and offerings divine,  
gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,  
myrrh from the forest and gold from the mine?

O Star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright.  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy Perfect Light.  
  
O brightest and best of the stars of the morning,  
dawn on our darkness and come to our aid;  
Star of the East, the horizon adorning,  
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.  
  
Guide us to the perfect Light.

### **From the Gospels: Matthew 2:1-12**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**Sermon**            “Where O Where Can He Be?” or “There is One Among You?”  
Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

**\*Hymn #234**            *“Wise Men, They Came to Look for Wisdom”*            (Neumark)

### **Installation of 2024 Leadership Team**

Affirmation of ministry is the act whereby a local church of the United Church of Christ recognizes the diverse gifts of its members, and celebrates the particular ministry of each person in the life of the church or in various settings in the life of the world. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.

**There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served.**

There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us for our particular service.

**The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.**

Christ is like a single body, which has many parts.

**It is still one body even though it is made up of different parts.**

If one part of the body suffers, all the others suffer with it;

if one part is praised, all the other parts share in it's happiness.

**All of us are Christ's body and each is a part of it.**

I call forward now the 2024 Leadership Team: Kyle Taylor, Pat Goins, Vickie Kennedy, Laura Haas & (David Stamm-absent)

These people have been called by God, in accordance with the faith and order of this church, to serve among us. They have accepted their call and are before us in witness to their willingness to serve.

### **MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY SPECIAL OFFERING BENEFITING THE BRIGHTON CENTER**

On Sunday, January 14, 2024, St. John's will participate in a special offering to help our local organization The Brighton Center. In the spirit of Dr. King's work, the church wanted to take a moment to help individuals in need by performing a service to benefit them. Brighton Center is a local organization here in Newport that lives out Dr. King's message of helping individuals in need with jobs, finances, resources, and social services to name a few. You will find a special offering envelope in your bulletin on Sunday, January 7th and 14th. Please place this envelope in the offering plate on January 14<sup>th</sup> when this special offering will be collected. We appreciate your consideration for donations to this cause.

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### **LUNCH BUNCH**

**Wednesday, January 10th**

Noon-2:00pm

Soup, drinks and dessert provided

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### **CHURCH BOOK CLUB - ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Saturday January 27, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.-church parlor

The Hiding Place by Corrie ten Boom

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### **BIRTHDAYS FOR THE FIRST PART OF JANUARY**

January 1st: Carol Strong

January 2nd: Julie Croley

January 7th: Tim Kennedy

January 8th: Mike Witte

January 12th: Dobin Park

January 13th: Carolyn Garriott

## **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 January 14th, 21st & 28th  
To reserve your special date, please call the church office.



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



## **LITURGISTS WANTED**

Pastor Marty is looking for individuals who are interested in serving as liturgist for our Sunday Worship Service. The responsibilities of being a liturgist include reading a couple of scriptures, the call to worship and the offertory invitation. If you would like to serve in this role, please reach out to Pastor Marty or Kelli in the church office.

Sisters and brothers, this congregation is entrusting to you a special and sacred responsibility. Those whom God summons, persons like you, with differing gifts and ways of serving God, each one is given a gift by the Spirit to use for the common good. Together we are the Body of Christ, and individually members of it. Remember the words of our Lord, "whoever among you wants to be great, must become the servants of all." Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry, are you prepared to serve with the help of God in Christ's name and for the glory of God?

**Members of Leadership Team:** I am.

Do you thoughtfully and sincerely accept your individual responsibilities, and will you seek under God's guidance to fulfill them: to serve with energy, imagination and love, showing forth the love Christ has given you?

**Members of Leadership Team:** I will, relying on God's grace.

There is not only responsibility of leadership, but also of the "Fellowship." May each one here resolve to do their utmost to bring the rule of love into the church, and our community. Members of this household of faith, you have heard the promises of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them. Will those who are able, please rise and witness to the commitment we now make?

**We do. We stand in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, to honor your leadership, and assist you, that together we may be a faithful community of Jesus Christ.**

## **Declaration**

In accordance with the faith and order of this church, I extend to you the right hand of Christian fellowship. And the people of God respond, saying:

**Thanks be to God.**

## **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.

Mission Moment

Kyle Taylor

Offertory Invitation

The wondrous works of God are more than we can number. God has blessed us far beyond our ability to name the gifts. In our baptism, God has called us to a life of witnessing. Let us glorify God through deeds of light and through words that bless and heal. May our offerings reach out around the world in Christ’s name.

Offertory

“Bleak Midwinter’s Gift” (Joseph Martin)

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;  
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.  
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give Him—give my heart.

\*Doxology

(Lasst Uns Erfreuen)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up-lifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

\*Prayer of Dedication

Eternal God, you have called your people from the east and west and north and south to feast at the table of Jesus Christ. We thank you for Christ’s presence and for the spiritual food of Christ’s body and blood. By the power of your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to your will. Go with us to our homes, and to our places of labor and leisure, that whether we are gathered or scattered, we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we rejoice to pray. Amen.

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.

\*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.

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 #236

“As with Gladness” (Dix)

\*Benediction

\*Choral Response

Postlude

“We Three Kings” (Gordon Young)