

The Visitor

February 2024

TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

Volume 107 Issue 2

A publication of St. John's United Church of Christ

A Message from J. Martin Westermeyer

This article this month isn't the usual type I write, but I wanted to update you on some changes in Worship and what will be happening during the Lenten Season.

As I write this, we are near the end of the Epiphany Season and will soon begin the Season of Lent on February 14, 2024. I wanted to keep you all in the loop how the Communion Schedule will be during the upcoming Lenten Season.

- We will celebrate Communion on Sunday, February 4, 2024 as usual on the first Sunday.
- We will again celebrate Communion by Intinction on Wednesday, February 14, 2024 during our Ash Wednesday Service @ 12:00 Noon. Ashes will also be offered at this Service.
- To celebrate the beginning of Lent, we will celebrate Communion on the First Sunday in Lent, February 18, 2024 during Sunday morning Worship.
- The next time to receive Communion during Worship will be Maundy Thursday, Service on March 28, 2024. As always, Communion will be celebrated on Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024.

As you can notice, we will NOT celebrate Communion on Sunday mornings throughout the Season of Lent.

As you may have noticed during Communion Services at Christmas Eve and on January 7, 2024, we celebrated Communion at the table and not on the altar. I would like to explain the reasons behind my decision:

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In Christianity, an *altar* has been a structure on which a sacrifice was offered. In the past, it would have been animals or other form of sacrifice. The *table* on the other hand has come from our understanding and tradition because we do not see Communion as sacrificial in any way. We also, see the Communion table in the same way we gather about the dining room or breakfast table in our homes for a meal to be shared with those we love.

For us, then, at St. John's UCC, the altar will be a place for the candles, the Bible (and in some churches, the Book of Worship) or any decorations or flowers for the season. And the table, then, will become the place where we place the elements and gather to celebrate Communion. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Mid-Week Lenten Programs/Service:

During the Season of Lent we will hold Mid-week Lenten Programs/Service beginning Wednesday, February 21, 2024 and conclude on Wednesday, March 20, 2024. Two times to meet will be offered each week to accommodate as many as possible. During the day, we will meet at 1:00 pm and the other will be at 6:00 pm. We will run for 1 ½ - 2 hours.

I have not worked all the details out at this time to what will be involved – but I would like to take time to begin and continue the Small Group or Cottage Meetings. This would involve some discussion and questionnaires to acquire data that would be used eventually to compile the Church Profile. There will also be some devotional time and/or discussion about religious topics. More details to come in Sunday bulletins and in the Weekly New Updates.

INSTALLATION OF THE 2024 CHURCH LEADERSHIP TEAM

On Sunday, January 7th St. John's celebrated our Sunday service with the Installation of our 2024 Leadership Team. We congratulate



President: Kyle Taylor
Vice-President: David Stamm
Secretary: Pat Goins
Treasurer: Vickie Kennedy
Past President: Laura Haas

Prayer Ministry-February Blessings

Love isn't February 14. Love is John 3:16.

Kindness is like snow, it beautifies everything it covers.

When you don't have the words to pray, God hears your heart.

Your first thought in the morning should be Thank You.



“SOUPER” BOWL SUNDAY AT ST. JOHN’S

Join St. John's on Sunday, February 11th as we celebrate Super Bowl Sunday with our “Souper” Bowl Event. This event will be a two-part event consisting of a food drive and luncheon following Sunday Worship.

Before worship, we will be hosting a canned food drive benefiting the Washington UCC Food Pantry to help individuals in need in our local area. We are asking everyone to bring in some form of canned food item (soup, fruit, vegetable, etc.) and place them in the baskets located at either entrance of the Sanctuary.



Then, join us following worship in Fellowship Hall where we will be hosting a light luncheon of soup, sandwiches, and desserts. Carol Thompson and Julie Ollier are leading this luncheon and will be providing some delicious recipes but they can always use our help. If you would like to help, sign-up sheets for food will be located at the entrances of the sanctuary of the church. Please sign up if you would like to bring a dessert or just come for the luncheon. Reservations are also welcomed, and you will find forms in the bulletin to do so or you may contact the church office. Forms can be placed in the offering plates on Sunday morning.



We hope you can join us as we gather for worship and fellowship while also helping our local community with this fun event. If there are any questions please contact the church office.

COMING SOON

A small group for the new season of “The Chosen” will be starting soon in either March or April on Saturdays with the time to be determined at a later date. Look for more information in your Sunday bulletin, March Visitor or weekly email as to the official start date.



February 14, 2024

Service at noon with Imposition of Ashes and Communion



LUNCH BUNCH
Wednesday, February 14th
1:00pm-2:00pm time change
Bring your own lunch
Drinks and dessert provided
We will eat lunch after the Ash
Wednesday Service

**JOIN
US
For
LUNCH**



THANK YOU NOTE FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS



NORTHERN
KENTUCKY
Community
Action
Commission



January 3, 2024

St. John's United Church of Christ
415 Park Avenue
Newport, KY 41071

Dear St. John's United Church of Christ:

On behalf of Northern Kentucky Community Action Commission, we sincerely thank you for your support of our organization. We greatly appreciate your donations to support families in need.

Your donations to our agency will greatly assist us in our efforts to provide support to families at a turning point in their lives. NKCAC is there to help when families are unable to meet their most basic needs. As families struggle, it affects the safety of neighborhoods, the productivity of workers and businesses, and children's ability to learn and grow. Conversely, as families achieve self-reliance their contribution to their community increases, their children's future is more secure, and they are healthier and better prepared to learn.

Through donations like yours, we can help families get back on their feet and become self-reliant. Your support means a lot to NKCAC, the children who will benefit from your donations, and to us personally. You are making a difference. We truly appreciate your support of this very important mission.

If you would like to learn more about our organization, you can visit our website at www.nkcac.org, or check us out on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/NKCAC>.

Sincerely,

Laurie Wolsing
Vice President of Children's Services

Marie Heeb
Family and Community Partnership Coordinator

YOGA CLASSES AT ST. JOHN'S

A group from the East Row will begin holding a yoga class here at St. John's beginning Thursday, January 25th from 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall and will continue to meet every Thursday. They would love for members of our church to join them. The class will be a chair, gentle, yin combo. Tell your friends, bring a friend and join in on the fun.



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

St. John's is pleased to announce that we were able to collect **\$760.00** to benefit Brighton Center to support their needs in helping others. This collection will go to help individuals in the local area who are facing difficult times. This donation will be able to help the Brighton Center continue their work which is a continuation of the work Dr. King envisioned. Again, thank you to everyone that participated in this and know that you made a difference in our community.



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.



ST. JOHN'S UCC ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE

You will be able to access the worship service by following the link below:

St. John's UCC website (This is the Sunday morning worship service-audio only)
<https://www.stjohnsuccnewport.org>



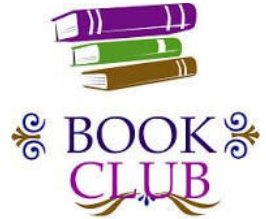
CHURCH BOOK CLUB - ALL ARE WELCOME!

Saturday March 23, 1:00 – 2:30pm, church parlor

Twelve Extraordinary Women by John F MacArthur

These women were ordinary, common, and in some cases even ostracized and rejected by society, yet each was made extraordinary by her life-changing encounter with God.

In *Twelve Extraordinary Women*, bestselling author and Bible teacher John MacArthur shows us that the God to whom they were so faithful is the same God who continues to mold and guide us today.



As you meet these women in Scripture and get to know more about their lives and characters, they will challenge you, motivate you, encourage you, and inspire you with love for the God whom they trusted, served, and loved, teaching us that:

- Our personal struggles and temptations are the very same kinds of trials that all believers of all ages have confronted
- Even in the midst of our trouble, God remains eternally faithful
- Through God, anyone can become extraordinary

From Eve to the Samaritan Woman, these twelve women each serve as reminders of both our frailty and our potential. Together, they all point us to Christ and His grace.

If you have any questions reach out to Laura Haas or call the church office. No sign ups required.

THANK YOU NOTE FROM JOAN BERKEMEYER

Dear St. John's Members & Friends,

I pray everyone is doing well at St. John's UCC. You are all in my daily prayers.

Thank you for your prayers for me. I continue to do my daily physical therapy exercises in the morning and afternoon. I hope some day in the future the pain will go away from my left knee and thigh where the rod and five screws are located in the femur bone.

Take care of yourself. God bless everyone.

Love and Blessings,

Joan Berkemeyer



February Birthdays

February Birthdays

February 5th: Betty Lou Larman
February 7th: Matthew Greenert
February 10th: Carol Haas & Michael Sullivan
February 12th: Roger Quinn
February 15th: Sheila Witte
February 16th: Kathy Spaulding
February 17th: Tom Fuldner
February 18th: Shirley Rice
February 19th: Kelli Taylor & JoAnn Winstel
February 20th: Kelsey Taylor & Larry Spaulding
February 23rd: Paul Bogen & Robert Gray
February 24th: Julie Ollier
February 27th: Pamela Fuldner



St. John's would like to wish a happy birthday to our friends and family celebrating during the month of February!

FEBRUARY HOMEBOUND MEMBERS OF THE WEEK

We would like to celebrate and honor our homebound members of the week for the month of February. We appreciate and celebrate these individuals as our members of the week!

February 4th: Gayle McAtee
February 11th: Peggy Eckert
February 18th: Bonnie Walter
February 25th: Donna Hamilton

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

**The Church Office will be closed on
the following day:**

Monday, February 19, 2024:
President's Day



NEXT VISITOR DEADLINE: THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 22, 2024

If you would like to submit an article or receive *The Visitor* via email please contact StJohnsUCC@StJohnsUCCNewport.org.

You may also visit the “News” heading on our website and fill out the appropriate form.



A digital copy of *The Visitor* can be accessed at our website: StJohnsUCCNewport.org under our “News Section.”

In Loving Memory of, and In Honor of...

Memorial Fund In Loving Memory

In Loving Memory of Barbara Runge ~ CH Guenther & Son
In Loving Memory of Barbara Runge ~ Marian Dibert
In Loving Memory of Barbara Runge ~ Janet Grau
In Loving Memory of Barbara Runge ~ Mary Brown
In Loving Memory of Barbara Runge ~ Roger Neff
In Loving Memory of Barbara Runge ~ Bonnie & Michael Roth
In Loving Memory of Barbara Runge ~ Hank & Nancy Pogue
In Loving Memory of Barbara Runge ~ Anonymous
In Loving Memory of Barbara Runge ~ Royleen Seibert
In Loving Memory of Barbara Runge ~ Scott & Sheila Davis
In Loving Memory of Barbara Runge ~ Garden Club of Ft. Thomas
In Loving Memory of Barbara Runge ~ Joan Berkemeyer
In Loving Memory of Barbara Runge ~ Judy Gates
In Loving Memory of Carol Marksberry ~ Jan & Darlene Kneppshield
In Loving Memory of Carol Marksberry ~ John & Elizabeth Robson
In Loving Memory of Carol Marksberry ~ Joan Berkemeyer
In Loving Memory of Dan Grey ~ Vickie Kennedy
In Loving Memory of Mary Haas ~ Royleen Seibert
In Loving Memory of Mary Haas ~ Joan Berkemeyer

Music Fund

In Loving Memory of Mary Haas ~ William Rowekamp
In Loving Memory of Carol Marksberry ~ Jim & Susan Colding

Flower Fund

In Loving Memory of Barbara Runge ~ Laura Haas

Memorial Fund In Loving Memory

In Loving Memory of Carol Marksberry ~ Dr. Michael Hanson
In Loving Memory of Barbara Runge ~ Dr. Michael Hanson

Food Pantry

In Loving Memory of Jason Swearingen ~ Tom & Carol Haas