

**CONTACTS**

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 Facebook St. John's United Church of Christ–Newport, KY

**PROGRAM**

	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>TIME</b>
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**

<b>PERSON</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>
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**

<b>PERSON</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>
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.



February 25, 2024  
 10:00 a.m.  
**Second Sunday in Lent**



**Thought for the Day before Worship**

As we hear Jesus' call to take up our crosses and follow him, we pray for the Spirit's help to follow willingly, and trust that as we do, Christ will help us with the burdens of our own crosses, which threaten to weigh us down or destroy us.

\*All who are able are welcome to stand

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude**

*“Have Thine Own Way”*

*(Don Hystad)*

**Tower Bell**

**Introit**

Oh, sacred head now wounded, with grief, and shame weighed down,  
 Now scornfully surrounded with thorns thine only crown:  
 O sacred head what glory; what bliss till now was thine;  
 Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call thee mine.

**\*Call to Worship**

The God whom we Worship calls us to discipleship,  
**to follow where Christ leads**  
 and obey what Christ commands;  
**to follow when it is not easy;**  
 to follow when others think us foolish;  
**to follow where justice leads;**  
 to follow where love guides us;  
**to follow even when it leads to the cross.**

Come let us Worship the living God, who loves us and leads us and promises to never let us go.

**\*Hymn #66**

*“To God Be the Glory”*

*(To God Be The Glory)*

**\*Prayer of Confession**

Loving God, we humbly confess that all too often we are more interested in listening to the voices of this world than we are in listening to your voice.

- Those voices claim us daily, and tempt us to follow them to places more destructive than we could ever imagine.

- Those voices would have us believe that we do not need you, or the power of your love.

- They would make us think that we are our own gods, and that we can provide for our needs.

Help us, we pray, to listen to you and your son as he invites us to take up our crosses and follow him. Help us to trust that as we take up our crosses, Christ goes with us – sharing our burdens, knowing our pain. For through Jesus’ suffering and death we have been given new life and new hope to realize that as we carry our crosses, nothing will be able to separate us from the power of your love. Amen.

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

Hear the Good News! For those things you ought to have done that you have left undone, God has forgiven you, and God has restored a right spirit within each of you. For those things you ought not to have done that you have done, God forgives you and restores a right spirit within you. Dearly Beloved, believe the Good News!

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

**\*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 Poetry of the Old Testament: Psalm 22:23-31**

You who fear the Lord, praise him!  
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him;  
stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

For he did not despise or abhor  
the affliction of the afflicted;  
he did not hide his face from me  
but heard when I cried to him.

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;  
my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek him shall praise the Lord.

**Welcoming and Leading Us This Morning**

Preaching Today: Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

Liturgist: Diana Stamm

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Choral Director: Dobin Park

Sound Technician: Robert Pettus

Greeters: Darlene Knepshield

Ushers: Steve Twehues, Ralph Schoulthies & Mike Hanson

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**This Week**

**Sunday, February 25:** 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

**Monday, February 26:** 7:00 p.m. AA & Al-Anon Meeting

**Tuesday, February 27:** 7:00 p.m. NA Meeting

**Wednesday, February 28:** 1:00 p.m. Mid-Week Lenten Service  
6:00 p.m. Mid-Week Lenten Service

**Thursday, February 29 :** 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Yoga Class Fellowship Hall  
7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

**Saturday, March 2:** 9:00 a.m. AA Meeting

**Sunday, March 3:** 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

**\*Doxology**

*(Old 100th)*

**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**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Loving God, you gave your son to suffer and die for the sake of our sins so we might have an abundant life. Since Jesus gave his life for us, help us in turn give our lives to him through these gifts we bring. Empower us to live our lives with joy and thanksgiving, trusting that as we take up our crosses and follow Jesus, he will be there to guide and direct us. Amen.**

**\*Hymn #466**

*“Take My Life and Let It Be”*

*(Hendon)*

**\*Benediction**

**\*Choral Response**

**Postlude**

*“In Thee I Put My Trust”*

*(J.S. Bach)*

**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 March 10th, 17th & 24th

To reserve your special date, please call the church office.

May your hearts live forever!  
All the ends of the earth shall remember  
and turn to the Lord,  
and all the families of the nations  
shall worship before him.  
For dominion belongs to the Lord,  
and he rules over the nations.

To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down;  
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,  
and I shall live for him.

Posterity will serve him;  
future generations will be told about the Lord  
and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying that he has done it.

**Childrens Chat**

Vickie Kennedy

**From the Letter of Paul: Romans 4:13-25**

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So shall your descendants be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), and the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore “it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

## Anthem

“Jesus Paid It All”

(Grape)

I hear the Savior say, “Thy strength indeed is small!  
Child of weakness, watch and pray, Find in Me thine all in all.”  
Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe;  
Sin had left a crimson stain, He washed it white as snow.

For nothing good have I Where by Thy grace to claim.  
I’ll wash my garments white In the blood of Calv’ry’s Lamb.

And when before the throne I stand in Him complete,  
“Jesus died my soul to save,” My lips shall still repeat.

## From the Gospels: Mark 8:31-38

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

## Sermon

“No Expedience in the Cross” Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

**\*Affirmation of Faith:** The Kansas City Statement of Faith, 1913

**We believe in God the Father, infinite in wisdom, goodness and love, and in Jesus Christ, his Son, our Lord and Savior, who for us, and our salvation lived and died and rose again and lives evermore; and in the Holy Spirit, who taketh of the things of Christ and reveals them to us, renewing, comforting, and inspiring the souls of all people.**

**We are united in striving to know the will of God as taught in the Holy Scriptures, and in our purpose to walk in the ways of the Lord, made known or to be made known to us.**

**We hold it to be the mission of the Church of Christ to proclaim the gospel to all humankind, exalting the worship of the one true God, and laboring for the progress of knowledge, the promotion of justice, the reign of peace, and the realization of human brotherhood.**

**Depending, as did our parents, upon the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us into all truth, we work and pray for the transformation of the world into the kingdom of God, and we look with faith for the triumph of righteousness, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## \*Hymn #419

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

(Olivet)

## 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

Sing Twice

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

## Offertory Invitation

God has given us the gift of life and surrounded us with abundant resources. Again and again we have been blessed beyond our deserving. God has bridged the gap between Creator and creatures in Jesus Christ, overcoming our unfaithfulness, overpowering death, and heralding the reign of love. Will we express our thanks in token offerings or in an outpouring of our best?

## Offertory

“If You Love Me”

(Joel Raney)

My peace I give you, my peace I leave with you,  
and I will comfort you in times of trouble.  
And if you love me, if you love me,  
If you love me keep my commands.

Though I may leave you, I will return for you,  
I’ll go prepare for you, a place beside me.  
And if you love me, if you love me,  
If you love me keep my commands.

Because I live, you too shall live.  
I bring you peace that the world cannot give.