

# The Visitor

## May 2024

**TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES**

Volume 107 Issue 5

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

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### *A Message from J. Martin Westermeyer*

The Season of Spring seems to be bringing an abundance of reasons to be together in Worship. If you have looked through the Visitor or noticed announcements in the weekly bulletin or email, there are many things going on in the life our congregation.

We begin with the Celebration of Communion on May 5th, and then we take time on May 12th to acknowledge the women in our lives. On May 19th, there will be a guest preacher while I am out of town conducting my youngest granddaughter's wedding. On that day we will celebrate Pentecost with Rev Andrew Bierkan as Guest Minister. On May 26th, we will acknowledge Memorial Day and on June 2nd, we will again have the Celebration of Communion.

Each of these opportunities is a time to thank God for all that we have been given. They also offer us time to be together on the journey of faith.

Sharing in the Sacrament of Communion and "remembering Jesus" is an important aspect of our time together as community.

- Acknowledging the role women have shared in our faith journey.
- Acknowledging those who have died in service to our country and others who have touched our lives is also a time to gather as we will on Memorial Sunday, May 26th.

Plan to be with us as we continue to be the people of God through these Sunday Worship experiences. I would encourage you to also continue to be the people of God in the other activities of the church, as well as sharing your faith with those you share life with every day.

May we continue to know the presence of God through the resurrected Christ in your life this Spring and as we continue to journey together. And make decisions for ourselves and for our church!

See you in church – Pastor Marty

## Prayer Ministry-May Blessings

### Thoughts for May

Feed your faith and your fears will starve to death.

Prayer is bringing your wishes and worries to God,  
Faith is leaving them there.

Be the reason someone believes God is good.

Store the Bible in your heart, not on your shelf.



### THE STORY OF "SOFTLY AND TENDERLY"

A popular hymn from the 19th century is "Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling." I think we all love to sing this hymn and it holds a special place in our hearts. Will Thompson (1847–1909), a songwriter of gospel, popular music, and national anthems, was the author of this hymn.

Following the rejection of his earlier works, Thompson decided to establish his own music publishing business where he first published this new hymn. "Softly and Tenderly" gained popularity and was included in several church hymnals.

Thompson was motivated to dedicate his life to literature after hearing the renowned preacher Dwight L. Moody speak at a revival service. I would have preferred to have written "Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling" than anything else I have been able to achieve in my entire life," Moody said to Thompson as he lay dying in the hospital.

Artists including Amy Grant, Reba McEntire, Trisha Yearwood, Kelly Clarkson, Johnny Cash, and Alan Jackson have all recorded "Softly and Tenderly."

## Softly and Tenderly

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is - call - ing, call - ing for  
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for  
 3 O for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me; see, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,  
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,  
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

*Refrain*  
 watch - ing for you and for me. Come home, come home,  
 mer - cies for you and for me? Come home, come home,  
 par - don for you and for me. Come home, come home,

ye who are wea - ry, come home; ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, O sin - ner, come home!

## GOODBYE AND GOOD LUCK AARON

On Sunday, April 21st we said goodbye to our Choral Scholar Aaron McKone. Aaron joined us in 2020 as our tenor section leader and has been with us ever since. He is leaving to join an opera company in Virginia, and then this summer he will move to Salt Lake City to join a professional opera company there. Aaron has been a blessing to the choir and to our church. We wish him all best wishes and pray for his continued success.



## BAPTISM

On Sunday, April 21st we had a wonderful service of worship, beautiful music and a wonderful message.

During the service Pastor Marty baptized Eliyana Ruth Jansen into the family of God. Congratulations to Eliyana and her parents Brandy Jansen and Joseph Rogers.

“You are a child of God, you are wonderfully made, dearly loved and precious in His sight.” -Psalm 139

# Baptism

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## EASTER BREAKFAST AT ST. JOHN'S

What a wonderful Easter Sunday we had at St. John's!

The morning started with a pre-service Easter breakfast in Fellowship Hall prepared by our leadership team. It was a fun time with fun Easter photos taken.

Then we moved upstairs to the sanctuary for a beautiful service, filled with amazing music and an inspirational message by Pastor Marty.

Christ is risen! He is Risen indeed!







## *May Birthdays*

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May 3rd: Peyton Rice  
May 10th: Robert Hasse & Alison Morris  
May 15th: Flo Grey  
May 17th: Dave Coppage & Bonnie Walter  
May 21st: Janet Ginter  
May 22nd: Brandon Rice  
May 27th: Lois Von Strohe



### *May Anniversaries*

May 13th: Julie & Charles Croley (35 years)  
May 22nd: Patricia & James Penrod, Jr. (31 years)  
May 24th: Vanessa Nichols & Jim Vago (21 years)



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

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## **MAY HOMEBOUND MEMBERS OF THE WEEK**

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

May 5th: Robert Hasse—Birthday May 10th  
May 12th: Bonnie Walter—Birthday May 17th  
May 19th: Gayle McAtee  
May 26th: Judy Adams

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## **CONGRATULATIONS DOBIN!**

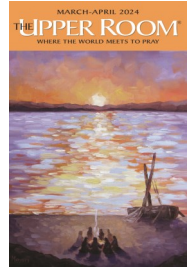
Congratulations to our associate Director of Music Dobin Park for completing all requirements for his Doctor of Musical Arts degree (DMA) at the University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music (CCM). Dobin graduated from CCM on Thursday, April 25, 2024. Congratulations Dr. Park, we are so proud of you!!!

*Congratulations*

## SHARING THE UPPER ROOM

“Christ is among us in fresh ways when we gather together, listening to God and to each other.” (*The Upper Room*) Please consider joining us on the last Saturday of each month for a spiritual discussion group. We will share scripture, meditation, prayer, and conversation regarding how God works within us and around us. Discussion will center on how we live our lives, and how we hear and respond to God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

We'll use *The Upper Room* as our resource because this is easily available to us through our church. Zerox copies of the meditation and the discussion questions will be available to pick up the Sunday before each session. We'll begin with one gathering a month and increase our time together if those involved feel that calling. Over time we'll consider using other suggested resources specific for small groups and spiritual growth.



We'll meet at St. John's UCC in Newport, the last Saturday of each month, from 10:00 – 11:00 am, in the church chapel area (near the church parlor).

All are welcome! Bring a friend. No reservations required. We hope to see you on **Saturday, May 25th**. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.



### LUNCH BUNCH

There will be no meeting of the Lunch Bunch for the month of May. We hope to see you next month when we will get together in June.

JOIN  
US  
For  
LUNCH



## MEMORIAL DAY ROLL OF REMEMBRANCE

If you are a church member and would like to add a member of your family to update our Military Roll of Remembrance for Memorial Day 2024, please contact the church office. The deadline for names is **Wednesday, May 22nd**. Our Memorial Day Service will be held on **Sunday, May, 26th**.

Please note that names featured in previous years will be included again, and there is no need to re-submit them. Thank you!



## GRADUATE RECOGNITION

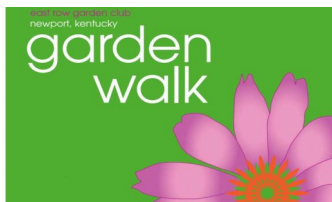


During worship on Sunday, June 9th St. John's will be recognizing the graduates in our midst. If you know of someone graduating from High School, College, University or another academic institution, please contact the church office to let us know. Last day to submit names is **Friday, May 24th**. Thank you!



## EAST ROW GARDEN TOUR

St. John's United Church of Christ is proud to be partnering with the East Row Garden Club for their East Row Garden Tour. The Garden Tour will be taking place on Saturday, June 1st and Sunday, June 2nd from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Music, food, vendor booths, and of course the garden tour are sure to make for a wonderful start to the summer. Tickets can be purchased the day of the tour at one of the vendor booths located here at St. John's.



## **RETURN OF ST. JOHN'S VIDEO ONLINE WORSHIP**

St. John's is excited to announce the return of its Online Worship in Video format. Each week, a video recording of that week's Sunday Worship Service will be available for those to view. This is an excellent option for those who are homebound, are out of town for a week or two, or just want to experience Sunday Worship again. Please visit either our Facebook Channel (St. Johns United Church of Christ – Newport KY), Youtube Channel (St. John's Newport UCC), or Website ([www.stjohnsuccnewport.org](http://www.stjohnsuccnewport.org)). Online worship videos will be available by Wednesday night or sooner. We hope you will join us for this worship!



## **ST. JOHN'S UCC ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES**

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

**St. John's UCC website**  
**<https://www.stjohnsuccnewport.org>**

**St John's UCC Youtube Channel**  
**St. John's Newport UCC**

**St. John's UCC Facebook Page**  
**St. John's UCC Newport**



## **NEXT VISITOR DEADLINE: THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2024**

If you would like to submit an article or receive *The Visitor* via email please contact  
**[StJohnsUCC@StJohnsUCCNewport.org](mailto: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](http://StJohnsUCCNewport.org) under our "News Section."

# PUZZLES FOR KIDS AND KIDS AT HEART



## Happy Mother's Day

G K L D M T C U P C A K E S C  
E Q B F C O K Z J X U F E C O  
O T A S A G I N H A P P Y H O  
S K K E N E S J L P X Q J O K  
Q R I U D T S H L W C F O C I  
B K N N Y H E I A K I D S O N  
S T G G L E S M I K O C S L G  
V Y H I J R S G Z H O H F A M  
B X O P R E S E N T S I L T Z  
L Z C S C A R D C Y H L O E P  
U V F G N I O P U L U D W S G  
B Q P L R G Y H U G S R E L U  
U Y S O D F W M G G K E R O X  
N J Q V E S W E E T S N S Z J  
Z N O E S F R A I O E F T Y M



SWEETS

HUGS

CHOCOLATES

HAPPY

KIDS

COOKING

PRESENTS

FLOWERS

TOGETHER

CARD

BAKING

KISSES

LOVE

CHILDREN

CUPCAKES

CANDY



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## *Upcoming Events at St. John's*

**Sunday, May 5th:** Communion Sunday

**Thursday, May 9th:** Food Pantry 9:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m.

**Saturday, May 11th:** 10:00 a.m. Leadership Team Meeting

**Sunday, May 12th:** Mother's Day-Every woman in attendance will receive a flower.

**Sunday, May 19th:** Pentecost Sunday-Remember to wear something red.

**Saturday, May 25th:** Upper Room Devotional Series 10:00 am-11:00 am

**Sunday, May 26th:** Memorial Day Roll of Remembrance Service

**Monday, May 27th:** Church Office Closed-Memorial Day

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## *Quote of the Day*

Always be a little kinder than necessary.

—James M. Barrie

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## *Upcoming Church Business Meeting*

**Leadership Team Meeting:**

Saturday, May 11, 2024 - 10:00 a.m.

Church Parlor

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