

CONTACTS

Phone	859-431-1818
Email	stjohnsucc@stjohnsuccnewport.org
Website	www.stjohnsuccnewport.org
Facebook	St. John's United Church of Christ–Newport, KY

PROGRAM

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	Dr. 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.	



August 25, 2024
10:00 a.m.
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Thought for the Day before Worship
Faith may be a gift of grace, but discipleship is a choice of will.

*All who are able are welcome to stand

Welcome

Prelude *“Lord I Want To Be A Christian”* (Diane Bish)

Tower Bell

***Call to Worship**
Why have you come here?
We have come for the hope and wholeness we find in God.
But why have you come here?
We have come because we are pilgrims, and Christ is found on the journey.
But why have you come here?
We have come because this place and these people offer the Spirit’s sanctuary.
Let us, **all of us, come** and gather together **here** to Worship God **today!**

***Hymn #48** *“Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”* (St. Denio)

***Prayer of Adoration & Confession**
We praise you, God, that your glory and goodness surpass our imaginings. Nothing we construct can tame or contain you. Your ways are beyond our understanding. You cannot be confined by the limits of our beliefs or the narrowness of our vision. In the vastness of your mercy, you hear our prayers and the prayers of all who trustingly call your name.
Forgive us, O God, when your words and ways seem difficult.
- Soften us when we harden our views about you and about others into rigid opinions from which we will not back down.

- Refresh us when we parch ourselves and others dry with formulas instead of relationships, with offense taken instead of understanding granted.
Remind us through your Spirit that even when we stumble into these impasses, you are there to renew our spirits, to enlighten our minds, to cast away that which holds us and others back and under, and to take on that which leads to life in Jesus Christ. We choose to follow Christ, not because we must but because we may. Amen.

***Assurance of Grace**
Hear the Good News! God’s saving power comes to us, and by God’s grace we are forgiven. The Holy One offers eternal life to all who believe. 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 History of the Old Testament: 1 Kings 8:22-30, 41-43
Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of the whole assembly of Israel and spread out his hands to heaven. He said, “O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love with your servants who walk before you with all their heart, the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. Therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, ‘There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.’ Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed that you promised to your servant my father David.

“But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! Regard your servant’s prayer and his plea, O LORD my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today, that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, ‘My name shall be there,’ that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling place; hear and forgive.

“Likewise when foreigners, who are not of your people Israel, come from a distant land because of your name—for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm—when foreigners come and pray toward this house, then hear in heaven your dwelling place and do whatever the foreigners ask of you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and so they may know that your name has been invoked on this house that I have built.

Welcoming and Leading Us This Morning

Preaching Today: Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

Liturgist: Dr. Charles Hawkins

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Choral Director: Dr. Dobin Park

Sound Technician: Robert Pettus

Greeters: Darlene Knepshield & David Stamm

Ushers: Steve Twehues, Ralph Schoulthies & Mike Hanson

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	<u>This Week</u>
Sunday, August 25:	10:00 a.m. Worship Service
Monday, August 26:	7:00 p.m. AA & Al-Anon Meeting
Tuesday, August 27:	7:00 p.m. NA Meeting
Thursday, August 29:	3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Yoga Class-Fellowship Hall
Saturday, August 31:	9:00 a.m. AA Meeting
Sunday, September 1:	10:00 a.m. Worship Service/Communion Sunday

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, Phil Hamilton, Marilyn Hanson, Melvin Hanson, Betty Hasse, Rona Hater, Chuck Hawkins, Karen Liden, Henry Marksberry, Gayle McAtee, Ed Von Strohe, Carol Strong, Bertie Jo Tuerpe, Bonnie Walter & Marty Westermeyer

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 Gayle McAtee. Take a moment this week to send her a card or give her a call as we celebrate Gayle as our member of the week!

Her address is:

Gayle McAtee
Highland Spring of Ft. Thomas Room 2110
960 Highland Avenue
Ft. Thomas, KY 41075

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.

Online Video Worship Services

You can view our online video Sunday worship services through our church website: www.stjohnsuccnewport.org, our Church’s Facebook Page or YouTube Channel (just search our church’s name on Facebook/YouTube) and through the Constant Contact weekly email, (just click the online worship button at the bottom of the page). Hope you enjoy the services!

From the Letters of Paul to the Churches: Ephesians 6:10-20

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power; put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil, for our struggle is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on the evil day and, having prevailed against everything, to stand firm. Stand, therefore, and belt your waist with truth and put on the breastplate of righteousness and lace up your sandals in preparation for the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Solo	<i>“Give Me Jesus”</i> (Dobin Park - soloist)	<i>(Spiritual/arr. Moses Hogan)</i>
In the morning when I rise, in the morning when I rise, in the morning when I rise, give me Jesus.		Dark midnight was my cry, dark midnight was my cry, dark midnight was my cry, give me Jesus.
Give me Jesus, give me Jesus. You may have all this world, give me Jesus.		Oh, when I come to die, oh, when I come to die, oh, when I come to die, give me Jesus.

From the Gospels of the New Testament: John 6:56-69

Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which the ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” He said these things while he was teaching in a synagogue at Capernaum.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who were the ones who did not believe and who was the one who would betray him. And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

Sermon “To Whom Shall We Go?” Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

*Affirmation of Faith: Affirmation of Faith from A New Zealand Prayer Book

You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us.
You are God.
You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved
your love for us in Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now.
You are God.
You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.
You are our God. We Worship you. Amen.

*Hymn #668 “Wonderful Words of Life” (Words of Life)

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.

Offertory Invitation

Who has given a gift to God to receive a gift in return? Who has complained when the faithful fare no better than others? Have we forgotten that the riches of God are far deeper than surface appearances? Have we lost the joy of giving for the sheer exhilaration of celebrating the wonders of life?

Offertory “Amazing Grace” (Kiho Jang)

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

When we’ve been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we’ve no less days to sing God’s praise,
than when we’d first begun.

*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
Receive, O God, these gifts we choose to render to you through this congregation.
May this congregation choose wisely where and how to expend these gifts in your service. And remind us always how you have chosen to entrust us as stewards with creation’s gift, love’s grace, and discipleship’s call. May our wills tend faithfully to what you have already bestowed and to what may still come. In Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Hymn #560 “I Love to Tell the Story” (Hankey)

*Benediction

Postlude “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name” (Hal Hobson)

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GO IN PEACE, SERVE THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD!