

CONTACTS

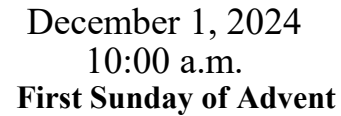
Phone	859-431-1818
Email	stjohnsucc@stjohnsuccnewport.org
Website	www.stjohnsuccnewport.org
Facebook	St. John’s United Church of Christ–Newport, KY

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
Jan Knepshield	Church President	(H) 859-261-2567 (C) 859-912-2563
Carol Fickenscher	Church Vice President	(H) 859-635-4638
Carolyn Garriott	Church Secretary	(C) 859-801-0067
Chuck Hawkins	Church Treasurer	Hawkins@NKU.EDU

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.	



*Today, the first Sunday of Advent, begins a new Christian year.
Our secular society does not celebrate this day as New Year's Day.
As a Christian, does your spiritual life need to change?
Are you willing to begin practicing the spiritual disciplines of
daily prayer, meditation, and Bible Study?*

Welcome and Announcements

Tower Bell

Introit

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming as saints of old have sung.
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of
winter, when half-spent was the night

The time has come to wait:
For a world to end and a life to begin.

The time has come to listen:
For the thunder of change and the whisper of hope.

The time has come to watch:
For a dead branch to blossom and a barren tree to bear fruit.

The time has come to wake.
The time has come to wake!

***Hymn #153** *“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”* (Hyfrydol)

Welcoming and Leading Us This Morning

Greeters: David Stamm & Wendy Watts

Music reprinted under OneLicense.net A-722754

This Week

Sunday, December 1:	10:00 a.m. Worship Service/First Sunday of Advent/Communion Sunday
Monday, December 2:	7:00 p.m. AA & Al-Anon Meeting
Tuesday, December 3:	6:30 p.m. East Row Historic Foundation Meeting 7:00 p.m. NA Meeting
Thursday, December 5:	3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Yoga Class-Fellowship Hall 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, December 7:	9:00 a.m. AA Meeting 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Pause for Advent Discussion Group
Sunday, December 8:	10:00 a.m. Worship Service/Second Sunday of Advent

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GO IN PEACE, SERVE THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD!

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

Judy Adams, Joan Berkemeyer, Norma Biery, Yvonne Daniels, Betty Jo Haas, Family of Phil Hamilton, Marilyn Hanson, Melvin Hanson, Betty Hasse, Rona Hater, Chuck Hawkins, Gayle McAtee, Carol Schoulthies, Ralph Schoulthies, Ed Von Strohe, Bonnie Walter & Marty Westermeyer

Weekly Prayer List for Northern Kentucky UCC Cluster

Grace UCC; Ft. Wright
Mark Roeder

St. Paul UCC; Alexandria
Paul Forrey

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

Her address is:
Bonnie Walter
100 Carmel Manor Drive
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.

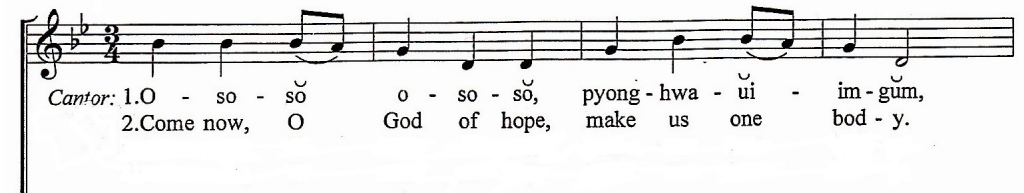
Online Video Worship Services

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!

***Prayer of Invocation**

O God, this Advent Season is a time when your light radiates through the world. Inasmuch as we can, let us be bright for you. Shine your lights through us as though we are pieces in a stained-glass window. Flow through us into others as the warm colors seep into a church. God of light, we hear you calling us out of hopelessness into hope. We strive to see your presence upon all who receive your grace. Guide us in your way, that we might be children of the day. Through the Light of the World, we pray. Amen.

Lighting the Advent Candle of Hope



(congregation will sing two times as directed)

Prayer (unison)

Come, O Holy One, as the morning light after a wakeful night! Keep us mindful that at any moment you may ask of us an accounting of our lives; help us to love you and love one another in all we do, and so clothe us with your light that we may bring others to love you also, through Jesus our Savior. Amen.

From the Major Prophets of the Old Testament: Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Children's Chat

From the Poetry of the Old Testament: Psalm 25:1-10

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
O my God, in you I trust;
do not let me be put to shame;
do not let my enemies exult over me.
Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.
Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.
Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!
Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
He leads the humble in what is right
and teaches the humble his way.
All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

Anthem *“Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning” (Spiritual/arr.Lloyd Larson)*

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
the time is drawing nigh.
Children don’t grow weary for the time is drawing nigh.
Darker midnight lies before us, the time is drawing nigh.
See the morning star arising, the time is drawing nigh.
Children don’t grow weary, the time is drawing nigh.
Now our night will soon be over, yes the time is drawing nigh.
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
The time is drawing nigh.

From the Gospels of the New Testament: Luke 21:25-36

“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

CALL FOR COOKIES

If you or anyone you know has a special cookie recipe you would like to showcase, we would love for you to include it in the Christmas Concert Reception. The Choir is looking for cookies for their reception after the concert on Sunday, December 15th. Cookies can be dropped off during church office hours or before the concert. Contact the church office with any questions (859) 431-1818 Option 3.

PAUSE FOR ADVENT

Please consider joining our small group gathering. A “Pause for Advent” by Trevor Hudson will be the group’s daily resource during the Advent and Christmas seasons. During this time, we will gather in a discussion group each week for reflection and learning together. Taking time to pause for a few minutes each day can help us maintain balance in our lives, invite us to a deeper understanding of these seasons, and discover how we can open our hearts and lives more generously to God.

This discussion group will meet from 10am-11am in the church parlor on Saturday Dec 7, Dec 14, Dec 21, Dec 28, and January 4. All are welcome. You do not need to be following Hudson’s book to join us, nor do you have to participate every week. If you have questions, please contact Laura Haas (lauraclairehaas@gmail.com) or Kelli in the church office.

LUNCH BUNCH
Wednesday, December 11th
12:00 p.m.-2:00p.m.
Lunch will be Provided
Drinks & Desserts Provided

ST. JOHN’S COOKBOOK

We recently found a number of copies of the Cookbook we had printed for St. John’s 160th anniversary. We are offering copies for \$5.00 each with the proceeds going to the Building and Grounds Fund. The cookbook would make a wonderful gift or stocking stuffer! Copies will be available before and after church beginning Sunday, November 24th. Julie Ollier will be in the lower entry by the fountain if you are interested in purchasing copies. You may also call the church office to have copies set aside for you.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS CAMPAIGN FOR ST. JOHN'S

St. John's is setting a goal of raising \$25,000 to use for buildings and grounds work at the church. The church is in need of some work like cleaning the air ducts in the sanctuary and repairing the windows in the sanctuary. Members and friends can place their donations to the campaign in the offering but it is in addition to their regular offering not a replacement. The Leadership Team will put on a celebration for the church once the goal is met. Please join us in this goal and work together to strengthen our foundation.

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 at the pulpit are provided by the church.

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 December 15th & 22nd
To reserve your special date, please call the church office.

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

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 1ST

December 4th: Barbara Boyers

2025 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES AND CHURCH DIRECTORIES

The 2025 church offering envelopes and church directories are available to be picked up in the hallway by the church office. You can pick them up on Sunday morning or during church office hours which are Monday & Wednesday 9:00 am-3:00pm and Friday 9:00am-1:00pm. If you do not have offering envelopes and would like a set, please contact Kelli in the church office.

CHRISTMAS SEASON

The Christmas Season begins on Sunday, December 24th when we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. Join us at 7:00 pm for our candle light Christmas Eve Service with communion.

“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Sermon

“Worried”

Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

***Hymn #158**

“Blessed Be the God of Israel”

(Merle's Tune)

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

O Holy Child of Bethlehem! Descend to us, we pray;

Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels...The great glad tidings tell;

O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

Offertory Invitation

We have prospered and found security in the gracious bounty of our God. Now we seek the good of all God's people as we share the abundance entrusted to us. Let those who rob God to satisfy their own desires find instead the unexpected joy of giving.

Offertory

“Candle Light Carol”

(John Rutter)

How do you capture the wind on the water?

How do you count all the stars in the sky?

How can you measure the love of a mother,

Or how can you write down a baby's first cry?

Shepherds and wise men will kneel and adore him,

Seraphim round him their vigil will keep;

Nations proclaim him their Lord and their Saviour,

But Mary will hold him and sing him to sleep.

Candlelight, angel light, firelight and star-glow

Shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn.

Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!

Angels are singing; the Christ child is born.

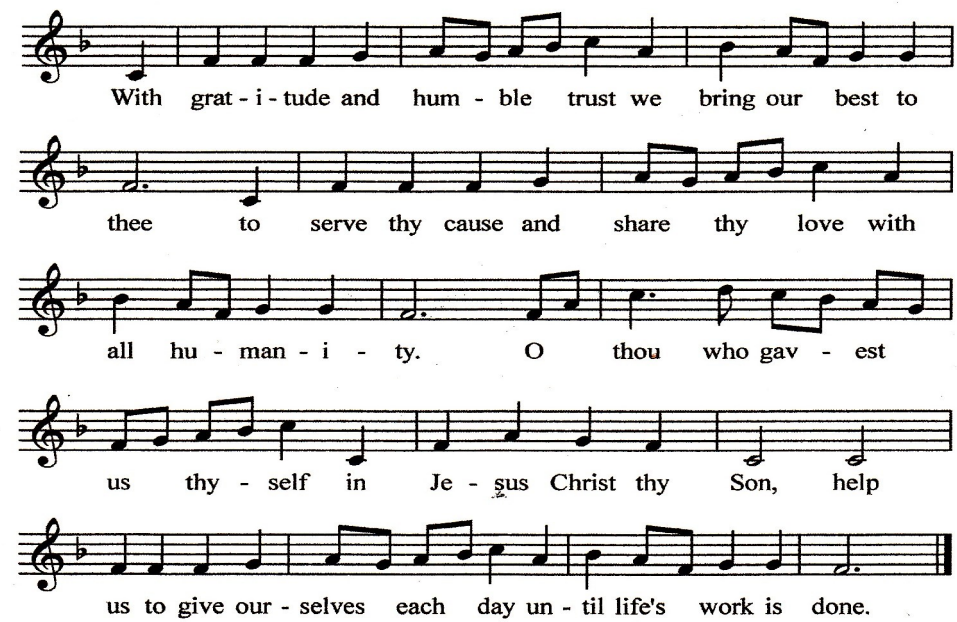
Find him at Bethlehem laid in a manger:

Christ our Redeemer asleep in the hay.

Godhead incarnate and hope of salvation:

A child with his mother that first Christmas Day.

***Doxology**



With grat - i - tude and hum - ble trust we bring our best to
thee to serve thy cause and share thy love with
all hu - man - i - ty. O thou who gav - est
us thy - self in Je - sus Christ thy Son, help
us to give our - selves each day un - til life's work is done.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Advent God, you have planted us to bear fruit for your realm. Receive and bless all that we have put forth. You have pruned us so that we may put forth abundantly. Receive and bless the full portion of all we have become. You have decreed that we will become a sign of your shalom. Receive and bless us to be a living sanctuary of peace and hope in this day and in the time to come. Amen.

***Hymn #232**

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”
(Vs 1 & 2)

(Picardy)

Communion

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 power of 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 (responsively)

Friends, having given, let us now receive. Let us gather around the table with God’s holy offering of bread and cup upon it, and the promise of the Living Christ among us. This is the welcome table of God where all who seek to be at peace with their neighbor and all who seek the mercy of God in Christ are embraced. Come, for we are invited into this holy mystery. Come.

We are ready!

Jesus said, I am the bread of life. All who come to me shall not hunger, and all who believe in me shall never be thirsty.

We are hungry and thirsty. O Christ, Savior and Brother, we come!

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, when Jesus was with the disciples in the upper room, he took the bread, broke it and took his authority as the Christ and said:

“Take, eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way, Jesus took that cup, and by the same authority, he offered the cup in thanksgiving and said:

“Take and drink. This is the cup of the new covenant which is poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of me.”

Come, Holy Spirit. Come. Open our eyes to the mystery of Christ’s presence in these ordinary things and in our ordinary lives. May they be for us the very essence of the living Christ in our midst.

Through this broken bread ...

We participate in the body of Christ.

Through this cup of blessing ...

We participate in the new life Christ gives.

Partaking of the Lord's Supper

*As is our tradition, the Elements of Communion are held until all are served
and partake at the direction of the Pastor.*

***Prayer of Thanksgiving (in 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. Amen.

***Hymn #176**

“Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates”
(vs. 1 & 4)

(Truro)

***Benediction**

***Choral Response**

Postlude

“Wake, Awake For Night Is Flying”
(J.G. Walther)