

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
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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.

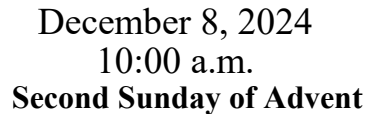
CHURCH STAFF

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.	



Lord, whom we seek, you have sent your messengers to prepare the way before us, messengers of the covenant, messengers in whom you delighted. Use the words of Scripture to prepare us to receive your Word made flesh, and use the messenger who preaches the Covenant to equip us to prepare others, through Christ our Savior. Amen.

*All who are able are welcome to stand

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude “O Come, Emmanuel” (*Wilbur Held*)

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

*Call to Worship

Arise, people of God, to receive the Lord's messenger; be reminded of our covenant with the living God.

God has done great things for us; we are partners in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The messenger of God reminds us of promises made and of good work not yet completed.

We dedicate this hour of Worship to God's glory, opening ourselves to true encounter with the Eternal.

God will lead us in all times and in all places; God is here to bless and confront us.

Let us Worship God!

***Hymn #154** *“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”* *(Veni Emmanuel)*

Welcoming and Leading Us This Morning

Preaching Today: Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

Liturgist: Diana Stamm

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Choral Director: Dr. Dobin Park

Cantor: Jean Nutgrass

Candle Bearers: Katheryn Jones
Charlie Frederick

Sound Technician: Robert Pettus

Greeters: Tom Williams & Laura Haas

Ushers: Steve Twehues, Ralph Schoulthies & Mike Hanson

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This Week

Sunday, December 8: 10:00 a.m. Worship Service/Second Sunday of Advent

Monday, December 9: 7:00 p.m. AA & Al-Anon Meeting

Tuesday, December 10: 7:00 p.m. NA Meeting

Wednesday, December 11: 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Lunch Bunch

Thursday, December 12: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Food Pantry
3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Yoga Class-Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, December 14: 9:00 a.m. AA Meeting
10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Pause for Advent
Discussion Group

Sunday, December 15: 10:00 a.m. Worship Service/Third Sunday of Advent
7:00 p.m. Choral Christmas Concert

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

St. John UCC; Bellevue
Allen Fluent, Interim

St. John's UCC; Newport
J. Martin Westermeyer, Interim

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

Her address is:
Marcia Schmidt
Rosedale Green
4250 Glenn Avenue
Covington, KY 41015

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 (in unison)**

Gracious God, when we pray for comfort for the brokenhearted and repentance for those who need to turn around their lives, we are praying for ourselves. For we are in need of both. We give you thanks for the words of assurance and the call to change our lives, for you know our needs even better than we know ourselves. Hear now the prayers of your people for those we know and love and name before you in the quiet of our hearts.

(Prayer in Silence)

Teach us and shape us to serve you in your world. In Jesus' name. Amen.
(please be seated)

Lighting the Advent Candle of Peace

Cantor: 1. O - so - so o - so - so, pyong - hwa - ui - im - gum,
2. Come now, O God of hope, make us one bod - y.
3. Come now, O God of peace, make us one bod - y.

u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - so.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, re - con-cile your peo-ple.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, re - con-cile your peo-ple.

(congregation sings verse 3 as directed)

Prayer (unison)

Come, O Holy One, as the water of life and refiner's fire! Strengthen us with courage for your work of justice, that in all the creation and among every people your peace may be established, and your joy abound, through Jesus our Deliverer. Amen.

From the Minor Prophets of the Old Testament: Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like washers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD, as in the days of old and as in former years.

Children’s Chat

From the Letters of Paul: Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I hold you in my heart, for all of you are my partners in God’s grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the tender affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what really matters, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Anthem

“Prepare the Way of the Lord!”

(Lloyd Larson)

A voice cries out, “Prepare the way!
prepare the way of the Lord.
The prophet cries out, “Prepare the way
Prepare the way of the lord!”

Every valley shall be lifted up,
every mountain and hill made low.
Every crooked path shall be made straight
and the rough places plain.
The glory of the Lord shall be revealed.

So comfort, comfort my people,
says the Lord God who reigns on high.
To Jerusalem say “your night is gone.
for the Lord has heard your cry”.

A voice cries out, prepare the way,
prepare the way of the Lord .
The prophet cries out, prepare the way
prepare the way of the Lord.

From the Gospels: Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”

Sermon

“The Word Comes”

Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

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.

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.

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 in Loving Memory of Bill Seibert in remembrance of his birthday today.

From his wife Diana Seibert

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



BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 8th

December 8th: Mike Scharber
December 9th: Ralph Schoulthies

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.

LUNCH BUNCH

Wednesday, December 11th

12:00 p.m.-2:00p.m.

Lunch will be Provided
Drinks & Desserts Provided

***Affirmation of Faith:** A New Creed, United Church of Canada, 1980

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

**who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God.**

We are called to be the Church:

**to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

***Hymn #184**

"What Child Is This"

(Greensleeves)

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

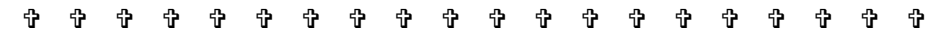
The mountains of God offer prosperity for all people. We have been blessed that we might be a blessing to others. Now we are invited to employ the resources God grants us, to hasten the day when the wolf shall live with the lamb and a little child shall lead them. We give in the name of One whose coming we seek anew in this Advent season.

(John Rutter)

He will bring new light to a world in darkness
Like a bright star shining in the skies above;
He will bring new hope to the waiting nations
When he comes to reign in purity and love,
Let the earth rejoice at the Saviour's coming;
Let the heavens answer with the joyful morn
Gloria in excelsis Deo Hear the angels singing 'Christ is born.'

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.

(Saint-Saens)



THANKS BE TO GOD!

