

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	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.	

TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES



December 22, 2024
10:00 a.m.
Fourth Sunday of Advent



Prayer for the Day before Worship

*God, our hope and our desire, we wait for your coming
as a woman longs for the birth, the exile for her home,
the lover for the touch of his beloved, and the humble poor for justice. Amen.*
Janet Morely No. 1.7 in The Westminster Collection of Christian Prayers (2002)

*All who are able are welcome to stand

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“Go Tell It On The Mountain”
(Dobin Park - piano)

(Mark Hayes)

Tower Bell

***Call to Worship -- based on Psalm 72:18-19**

Hear what the Lord God has to say.

We hear a Voice that speaks for peace.

Peace for all people, for all God's children.

Peace for those who turn to God in their hearts.

Glory to God in the highest.

And peace to God's people on earth.

***Hymn #182**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

(Adeste Fideles)

Welcoming and Leading Us This Morning

Preaching Today: Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

Liturgist: Steve Twehues

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Choral Director: Dr. Dobin Park

Cantor: Jean Nutgrass

Candle Bearers: Katheryn Jones
Mark Behrendt
Diana Stamm
Garrett Cutajar

Sound Technician: Robert Pettus

Greeters: Darlene Knepshield & Wendy Watts

Ushers: Steve Twehues, Ralph Schoulthies & Mike Hanson

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This Week

Sunday, December 22: 10:00 a.m. Worship Service/Fourth Sunday of Advent

Monday, December 23: 7:00 p.m. AA & Al-Anon Meeting

Tuesday, December 24: Church Office Closed
7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
7:00 p.m. NA Meeting

Wednesday, December 25: Christmas Day
Church Office Closed

Thursday, December 26: 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Yoga Class-Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, December 28: 9:00 a.m. AA Meeting
10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Pause for Advent
Discussion Group

Sunday, December 29: 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

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, Family of George Budig, Yvonne Daniels, Betty Jo Haas, 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. Mark UCC; Latonia
Rachel Wirrig

St. John UCC; Covington
Jim Hill

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 Betty Webster. Betty's birthday is Wednesday, December 25th. Take a moment this week to send her a card or give her a call as we celebrate Betty as our member of the week!
Her address is:
Betty Webster
305 Taylor Street Room 10A
Butler, KY 41006

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**

Prince of Peace, Upholder of the lowly, Advocate for the struggling and suffering, you have come forth from a little clan in a small town. But you are the ancient of days who arrives in glory, takes on our flesh, bears our infirmities, and feeds us with the bread of life. In this service today we proclaim your name. May we, in your strength, through our Worship and service make you known to the ends of the earth. Eternal Light, may we reflect your light to lead the nations home to you. In wonder and joy we watch the events of your birth, and with awe we perceive from afar your cross and your crown. Sustain us, uphold us, redeem us. Amen.
Please be seated

Lighting the Advent Candle of Love



Cantor: 1. O - so - sõ o - so - sõ, pyong-hwa - ùi - im - gũm,
2. Come now, O God of hope, make us one bod - y.
3. Come now, O God of peace, make us one bod - y.
4. Come now, O God of joy, make us one bod - y.
5. Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.



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

Prayer (unison)

Come, O Holy One, as the beloved child, Emmanuel! Soften our hearts and open our arms for your coming that we may make this a place worthy and warm, kindly and safe for all your children, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

From the Minor Prophets of the Old Testament: Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth,
and he shall be the one of peace.
If the Assyrians come into our land
and tread upon our soil,
we will raise against them seven shepherds
and eight rulers.

Children's Chat

From the Poetry of the Old Testament: Psalm 80:1-7

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.
Stir up your might,
and come to save us!
Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.
O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
You have fed them with the bread of tears
and given them tears to drink in full measure.
You make us the scorn of our neighbors;
our enemies laugh among themselves.
Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 22nd

December 25th: Betty Webster

CHRISTMAS SEASON

The Christmas Season begins on Tuesday, 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.

CHRISTMAS FUND

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund is one of the UCC's special mission offerings.

Join with others in the United Church of Christ to help return to those who have given so much to each of us and to our churches by giving generously to the Christmas Fund this year.

This special offering will be collected on Sunday, December 22nd.

PAUSE FOR ADVENT

Discussion group will meet from 10am-11am in the church parlor
December 28th and January 4th.

LUMINARIES FOR SALE

St. John's will be selling luminaries that were generously donated by the East Row Community. The luminaries will be sold for \$5 a piece and include 2 sets of two luminaries (4 bags, 8 candles, materials to keep the bags grounded, and directions). All proceeds from this sale will go to benefit the buildings and grounds campaign. Please see Julie at the table located in the church lobby to purchase your luminary kits today.

(Mendelssohn)

Postlude

(Gordon Young)



THANKS BE TO GOD!

Please sign the guest register when it comes to your seat.



Open flower dates are January 5th, 19th & 26th
To reserve your special date, please call the church office.

Our prayers and sympathy go out to the Family of George Budig who passed away on Monday, December 16, 2024. His memorial service will be held here at St. John's on Monday, December 23rd with visitation from 10am-12pm and the service to follow at 12pm. Please keep the Budig family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.



(Mary McDonald)

Then let us all with one accord,
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
Who has made heaven and earth of not,
and with his blood, our life has bought!
Noel!

And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

“For All Who Sometimes Run” Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer



Dear God, you hear every prayer, know all intentions, and read well our hidden fears – we are afraid of giving too much and having too little. We are ennobled by the sacrifice of so many and pledge in passion to surrender all. Yet in the light of the morning after, we renege. So, here we are again asking you to take what we can barely part with and stretch it. Take our hearts, too, and stretch them so that in the future we will give ever more, welcome ever more, forgive ever more, feed ever more, and clothe ever more than we have thus far. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.