

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.	



December 29, 2024
10:00 a.m.
First Sunday after Christmas



Thought for the Day before Worship

*We do not need to search for Christ.
He says, "Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking . . ."*

*All who are able are welcome to stand

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude	<i>Prelude on "Bohemian Carol"</i> (Kendra Franke - flute)	<i>(Wilbur Held)</i>
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***Call to Worship**

The Holy One is present in this sanctuary.
We open ourselves to God's presence.
The Holy One will search for those who are lost, who strayed away.
God will bring them safely home again, and will bind up the injured.
The Holy One will strengthen the weak and feed them.
God is present in this sanctuary – let us open to Holy Presence.
Let us Worship our God, the Holy One this day!!

*Hymn #179	<i>"Joy To The World"</i>	<i>(Antioch)</i>
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***Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

We come to you, O Lord, as humbly as we know how, thanking you for your constancy and presence without fail. You know where we are at all times and never lose track of us or what we are going through.
We thank you for the grace of your Holy Spirit that ministers to us in difficulties, your unconditional love that holds us up, and your power that carries us through.
We pray for those who do not know you, O God, who are lost in the dark and are looking for peace where it will not be found. Use us, O Lord. May our light shine as a

beacon, that we may lead people into the light of your holy presence, so they may know the great joy of truly being found.
God, we confess our weakness before you. In this world that brings so much pain to so many, we seek an easy way out. We seek to protect ourselves by surrounding ourselves with things that can take us away from the hard work of faith. We hoard items of comfort, live vicariously through others as we watch television or movies. We look for our share of the pie, instead of looking to give to others from the blessing of your goodness to us. Help us to remember that true joy is found in you. Open our hearts, that we may not hold on so tightly to temporal things, but to the treasures that are everlasting. Help us to enrich the lives of others, knowing that richness of spirit is far more valuable than earthly possessions. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

***Assurance of Grace**
Hear the Good News! Behold! God makes all things new! We are given a new day and a new moment to live according to the will of God! 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 Samuel 2:18-26
Samuel was ministering before the LORD, a boy wearing a linen ephod. His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife and say, “May the LORD repay you with children by this woman for the loan that she made to the LORD,” and then they would return to their home.

And the LORD took note of Hannah; she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. And the boy Samuel grew up in the presence of the LORD.

Now Eli was very old. He heard all that his sons were doing to all Israel and how they lay with the women who served at the entrance to the tent of meeting. He said to them, “Why do you do such things? For I hear of your evil dealings from all these people. No, my sons; it is not a good report that I hear the people of the LORD spreading abroad. If one person sins against another, someone can intercede for the sinner with the LORD, but if someone sins against the LORD, who can make intercession?” But they would not listen to the voice of their father, for it was the will of the LORD to kill them.

Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the LORD and with the people.

Welcoming and Leading Us This Morning

Preaching Today: Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

Liturgist: Robert Pettus

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Choral Director: Dr. Dobin Park

Sound Technician: Rose Wendling

Greeters: Darlene Knepshield

Ushers: Steve Twehues, Ralph Schoulthies & Mike Hanson

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This Week

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

Monday, December 30: 7:00 p.m. AA & Al-Anon Meeting

Tuesday, December 31: 7:00 p.m. NA Meeting

Wednesday, January 1: New Year’s Day
Church Office Closed

Thursday, January 2 : 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Yoga Class-Fellowship Hall

Saturday, January 4: 9:00 a.m. AA Meeting
10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Pause for Advent Discussion Group

Sunday, January 5: 10:00 a.m. Worship Service/Communion Sunday

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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, Family of George Budig, Barbara Coppage, 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

All Cluster Churches

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 Robert Hasse. Take a moment this week to send him a card or give him a call as we celebrate Robert as our member of the week!

His address is:

Robert Hasse
500 Lakeview Drive #103
Wilder, KY 41071

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: Colossians 3:12-17

Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Anthem

"Mary, Did You Know?"

(Mark Lowry)

(Sang Bin Park - soloist)

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?
This child that you've delivered, will soon deliver you

Mary, did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy will calm the storm with his hand?
Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?
When you kiss your little baby, you kiss the face of God.

The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak the praises of the Lamb!

Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know that your baby boy would one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby boy is Heaven's perfect Lamb?
That sleeping child you're holding is the great I am

From the Gospels: Luke 2:41-52

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents were unaware of this. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously looking for you." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them, and his mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favor.

Sermon “Let the Baby Grow Up” Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

*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 #180 “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (St. Louis)

Gathering Together in Prayer

Joys and 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

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me

forever, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in

thy tender care, and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

Offertory Invitation

Consider once more our covenant with God. The One for whom and by whom all things exist has blessed us with abundance, mercy, and steadfast love. We are called to respond with our whole being in an outpouring of thanksgiving. Let us worship God with our offerings.

Offertory “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (Wilbur Held)
(Kendra Franke - flute)

*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

We dedicate these tithes and offerings to the work of your sovereign realm. May they be used to feed the hungry in body and spirit, and to find the lost, so that they may come to know you, Lord. Amen.

*Hymn #198 “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” (In Dulci Jubilo)

*Benediction

*Choral Response

Postlude Improvisation on “Joy To the World”

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 honor and celebration of Pat and Richard Paden’s 50th wedding anniversary. Pat and Richard were married here at St. John’s 50 years ago today.



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

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 29th

January 1st: Carol Strong

January 2nd: Julie Croley