

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.	



January 26, 2025
10:00 a.m.
Third Sunday After Epiphany



*All who are able are welcome to stand

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude *“Andante con moto”* (Marcel Dupre)

Tower Bell

Introit

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,
I can feel His mighty power and His grace.
I can feel the brush of angel wings,
I see glory on each face,
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

***Call to Worship**
Let us say together the words of an old Celtic rune of hospitality.
We saw a stranger yesterday.
We put food in the eating place, drink in the drinking place, music in the listening place, and with the sacred name of the Triune God he blessed us and our house, our cattle and our dear ones.

As the lark says in her song:
Often, often, often goes the Christ in the stranger's guise.
May we help all who come across our path in our journey of life.
Let us Worship our God who has come to us in Jesus the Christ!!

***Hymn #66** *“To God Be the Glory”* (To God Be the Glory)

***Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

O God let us recognize Christ present in this place. Let us recognize Christ in one another. Let us recognize Christ in those not present here. We are the members of your body and you have called us to do your work in the world, to show forth your love and your mercy until you come again. Let that work begin with those present here today. Enable us to carry your work into our community, and even throughout the world. Open our eyes of faith to see you, Lord, in all the peoples of the earth. In the power of the Spirit, enable us to be your instruments of peace, of grace, of redemption.

All too often, merciful God, we have not recognized your presence among us. All too often, we have not seen you in another, particularly in those we consider different from ourselves. All too often we have failed in proclaiming you to others through the way we live and act.

Forgive us and open our eyes of faith that we may see you more clearly in the many ways you come to us. Help us ever to act toward our brothers and sisters as we would act toward you. Forgive us when we fail. May we, by your wisdom, recognize and learn from our failures that we may serve ever more faithfully day to day. It is in the name of Jesus, the Christ, we pray. Amen.

***Assurance of Grace**

Hear the Good News! One Holy Spirit was poured out for all of us to drink.
The weakest of us are still indispensable to the Body of Christ, the Church.
Dearly Beloved, believe the Good News!
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, now and forever. Amen.

***Gloria Patri**

**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.**

(Creatorex)

From the Poetry of the Old Testament: Psalm 19 - adapted (responsively)
The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat.

The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;
the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple;

the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes;

Welcoming and Leading Us This Morning

Preaching Today: Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

Liturgist: Laura Haas

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Choral Director: Dr. Dobin Park

Sound Technician: Robert Pettus

Greeters: Darlene Knepshield & Wendy Watts

Ushers: Steve Twehues, Ralph Schoulthies & Mike Hanson

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This Week

Sunday, January 26: 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Monday, January 27: 7:00 p.m. AA & Al-Anon Meeting

Tuesday, January 28: 7:00 p.m. NA Meeting

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

Saturday, February 1: 9:00 a.m. AA Meeting

Sunday, February 2: 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

Judy Adams, Joan Berkemeyer, Norma Biery, Barbara Coppage, Yvonne Daniels, Flo Grey, Betty Jo Haas, Marilyn Hanson, Melvin Hanson, Betty Hasse, Rona Hater, Chuck Hawkins, Gayle McAtee, Carol Schoulthies, Ralph Schoulthies, Chuck Shay, Ed Von Strohe, Bonnie Walter, Wendy Watts, & 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 Judy Adams. Take a moment this week to send her a card or give her a call as we celebrate Judy as our member of the week!

Her address is:

Judy Adams
Munro House
3034 Riggs Avenue Apt. 109
Erlanger, KY 41018-3066

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!

the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of our hearts...
be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and our redeemer.

From the Letters of Paul: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect, whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work powerful deeds? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.



Anthem

“Because He Lives”

(Gaither/McDonald)

God sent His son, they called Him Jesus;
He came to love, heal and forgive;
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives!

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living,
Just because He lives!

How sweet to hold a newborn baby,
And feel the pride and joy he gives;
But greater still the calm assurance:
This child can face uncertain days because He Lives!

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living,
Just because He lives!

And then one day, I'll cross the river,
I'll fight life's final war with pain;
And then, as death gives way to victory,
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives!

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
Because He lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living,
Just because He lives!

From the Gospels: Luke 4:14-21

Then Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding region. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:
“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

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 February 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd.
To reserve your special date, please call the church office.

ANNIVERSARIES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 26th

January 28th: Jim & Carol Thompson (64 years)

Offertory

“What Shall I Bring To The Lord”

(Robert Lau)

Sermon

“The First Sermon”

Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

What shall I bring to the Lord when I come to worship Him?
Shall I bring my best as offering to Him? What shall I bring?
Will the Lord require something special from me?
Oh what shall I bring for a King?

I could bring riches, power; now is the hour to lift our voices and sing.
I could bring wisdom, glory, I could tell the story of Jesus, my King.
But hear what the Lord says: Do justice, have mercy, and walk,
walk humbly with your God, Walk with God.

*Doxology

(Lasst Uns Erfreuen)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up-lifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***Prayer of Dedication**
These gifts, Lord, represent our lives, our possessions, all that we are and have. We offer them now to you as symbols of ourselves, so that you may take us and bless us and, through the power of your Spirit, shape us into the hands and feet and voices that embody Christ today. Amen.

*Hymn #580

“We Are Called to Be God’s People”

(Austrian Hymn)

*Benediction

*Choral Response

*Postlude

“Fanfare”

(Jean Joseph Mouret)

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

***Affirmation of Faith:** Statement of Faith written by Rev. Diane Wendorf
I believe it is a matter of faith
to stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves.
I believe it is a matter of faith
to equally recognize and love all members of God's human family
whatever their race, creed, color, gender, marital status,
physical or mental capacity.
I believe God's creation is good, beautiful, sacred,
and therefore to condemn any portion of God's creation
is to condemn a portion of God.
I believe Jesus Christ came to us to free all people from sin
and to make disciples; people willing to live Christ's discipline of
love and justice for all.
I believe the Holy Spirit is that power within us
that gives us courage and stamina to face the truth and to live it
even to die for it, as Jesus died.
I believe in the resurrection, the victory over death,
the truth that is life for all in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Hymn #571

“Christ, You Call Us All to Service”

(In Babilone)

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

Psalm 143:1

Hear Our Prayer, O Lord

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The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Hear Our Prayer, O Lord'. It is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: 'Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord, in-cline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace. A-men.' The score is arranged in two systems, each with two staves. The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system covers the last two lines. The music ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

WORDS: Psalm 143:1
MUSIC: George Whelpton, 1897

HEAR OUR PRAYER
Irr.

Installation of 2025 Leadership Team in an Affirmation of Ministry

Affirmation of ministry is the act whereby a local church of the United Church of Christ recognizes the diverse gifts of its members, and celebrates the particular ministry of each person in the life of the church or in various settings in the life of the world. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.

There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served.

There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us for our particular service.

The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.

Christ is like a single body, which has many parts.

It is still one body even though it is made up of different parts.

If one part of the body suffers, all the others suffer with it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share in it's happiness.

All of us are Christ's body and each is a part of it.

I call forward the following individuals:

Kyle Taylor, Pat Goins, Dave Stamm, Vickie Grey Kennedy, Laura Haas

These people have been called by God, in accordance with the faith and order of this church, to serve among us. They have accepted their call and are before us in witness to their willingness to serve.

Sisters and brothers, this congregation is entrusting to you a special and sacred responsibility. Those whom God summons, persons like you, with differing gifts and ways of serving God, each one is given a gift by the Spirit to use for the common good. Together

we are the Body of Christ, and individually members of it. Remember the words of our Lord, "whoever among you wants to be great, must become the servants of all." Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry, are you prepared to serve with the help of God in Christ's name and for the glory of God?

Members of the 2025 Leadership Team: I am.

Do you thoughtfully and sincerely accept your individual responsibilities, and will you seek under God's guidance to fulfill them: to serve with energy, imagination and love, showing forth the love Christ has given you?

Members of the 2025 Leadership Team: I will, relying on God's grace.

There is not only responsibility of leadership, but also of the "Fellowship." May each one here resolve to do their utmost to bring the rule of love into the church, and our community. Members of this household of faith, you have heard the promises of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them. Will those who are able, please rise and witness to the commitment we now make?

We do. We stand in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, to honor your leadership, and assist you, that together we may be a faithful community of Jesus Christ.

Laying on of Hands

The laying on of hands is the symbolic act whereby the church in every age recognizes God's call to ministry in the lives of faithful women and men and asks the Holy Spirit to confer upon them the gifts of ministry. We lay hands upon these elected individuals, for the position of Leadership Team Member.

Ordination of Leadership Team Members

Prayer and Declaration

In accordance with the faith and order of this church, I extend to you the right hand of Christian fellowship. And the people of God respond, saying:
Thanks be to God.

Offertory Invitation

We will offer sacrifices in God's tent with shouts of joy, for light has come to us and oppressors have been defeated. The riches of God's bounty have been entrusted to us. Let our gifts and our lives answer the call of Christ.