



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

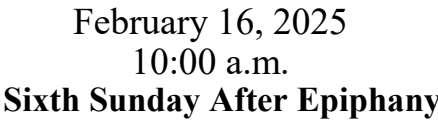
PROGRAM	LOCATION	TIME
Coffee Fellowship Time	Fellowship Hall (L.L.)	9:00 a.m.
Worship	Sanctuary	10:00 a.m.
Infant, Toddler, Preschool & School Age Child Care	South Hallway	9:30 a.m.

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

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

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.



Too often, Lord, we consider our material blessings – our homes, our food, our status in the community – as signs of your favor. Your sermon on the plain suggests that our comfort and ease may be the source of our deepest woe. Help us to learn, servant God, that our spiritual contentment – our blessings – comes as we answer the call to the simple life of servanthood. For Christ's sake we pray. Amen.

*All who are able are welcome to stand

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude “*Lord, I Want To Be A Christian*” (*Diane Bish*)

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

Come with the crowds who seek to touch Jesus; come to hear and to be healed.

We are poor and hungry, in need of food for our souls.

Cursed are those who put their trust in human beings.

Blessed are those who put their trust in God and find their hope in Jesus Christ.

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Our faith is not in vain and our hope is sure;

Let us rejoice together in our faith and Worship our God!

***Hymn #113** “Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart” (Marion)

***Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

God of Creation, you have given us our very lives. You have loved us with a perfect love. You have redeemed us as children within your household. We come to your altar with thankful hearts. Feed us on Your Word, that we too may grow more like our Savior, Jesus Christ.

God of Forgiveness, look upon us with mercy. We have all forsaken the covenant of your love because of our selfish greed and arrogant pride. We have each gone our own way, seeking to be free from the tensions of faith. We come to you today as people in need.

Forgive us, and continue to hold us in your arms of love. Renew your covenant within our hearts, and turn our eyes upon you. Teach us to depend upon you for our wisdom. Help us to discipline our lives so that you may be glorified, and your Realm increased. In the name of Jesus the Christ, we pray. Amen.

***Assurance of Grace: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 (adapted)**

Hear the Good News! By the power of God, Jesus reached out to heal the afflicted and cleanse troubled spirits. When we want that transformation within and among us more than we want to cling to the past, we will know the blessing of forgiveness. Jesus has been raised from the dead and offers to lift us from the death of sin. Claim the victory over sin that comes to those who hope in Christ. Dearly Beloved, believe the Good News! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, now and forever. Amen.

***Gloria Patri**

(Creatorex)
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 Major Prophets of the Old Testament: Jeremiah 17:5-10

Thus says the Lord:
Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the Lord.
They shall be like a shrub in the desert
and shall not see when relief comes.
They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.
They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.
It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

Welcoming and Leading Us This Morning

Preaching Today: Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

Liturgist: Chuck Hawkins

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Choral Director: Dr. Dobin Park

Sound Technician: Robert Pettus

Greeters: Darlene Knepshield & Julie Ollier

Ushers: Steve Twehues, Ralph Schoulthies & Mike Hanson

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This Week

- Sunday, February 16:** 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- Monday, February 17:** **President’s Day-Church Office Closed**
7:00 p.m. AA & Al-Anon Meeting
- Tuesday, February 18:** 7:00 p.m. NA Meeting
7:00 p.m. East Row Garden Club Meeting
- Thursday, February 20:** 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Yoga Class-Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- Saturday, February 22:** 9:00 a.m. AA Meeting
- Sunday, February 23:** 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

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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 Barbara Copping, Yvonne Daniels, Flo Grey, Betty Jo Haas, Marilyn Hanson, Melvin Hanson, Betty Hasse, Chuck Hawkins, Gayle McAtee, Carol Schoulthies, Ralph Schoulthies, Chuck Shay, Ed Von Strohe, Jim Thompson, Bonnie Walter, Wendy Watts, & Marty Westermeyer

Weekly Prayer List for Northern Kentucky UCC Cluster

Immanuel UCC; Bromley

Christ UCC; Ft. Thomas
Ed Goode

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

Her address is:

Jean Morrow
41 Arcadia Avenue
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!

The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse—
who can understand it?
I the Lord test the mind
and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

From the Poetry of the Old Testament: Psalm 1

Happy are those
who do not follow the advice of the wicked
or take the path that sinners tread
or sit in the seat of scoffers,
but their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law they meditate day and night.
They are like trees
planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.
The wicked are not so
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous,
for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

Anthem

“Thou Art Holy”

(Craig Courtney)

Holy, holy, holy, Thou art holy.
Thou alone art holy, Thou art holy.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty,
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim, falling down before Thee,
who wert, and art, and evermore shall be.

Holy, holy, holy, though the darkness hide Thee,
though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;
Only Thou art holy, there is none beside Thee,
perfect in power, in love and purity.

Thou art holy, Thou alone art holy.

From the Gospels: Luke 6:17-26

He came down with them and stood on a level place with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And everyone in the crowd was trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. “Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

“Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

“But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. “Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. “Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

Sermon “Taking Advanced Lessons” Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

***Affirmation of Faith: The Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

We will begin the Season of Lent with Worship Services on **Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025**. Two services will be offered that day: **12:00 noon and 7:00 pm**.

The 12:00 noon service will be Liturgy only and the 7:00 pm service will be a full worship experience including hymns and special music. The Imposition of Ashes will be offered at both services. Holy Communion will be offered only at the 7:00 pm service. Please place this on your calendar and let us begin Lent together.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The Church Office will be closed on the following day:
Monday, February 17, 2025: President’s Day

ST. JOHN’S COOKBOOKS DISCOVERED AGAIN

After many cleaning projects in the church, we have discovered another box of church cookbooks. You can purchase your cookbook(s) for \$5.00 each by calling Kelli in the church office. Proceeds once again will go to the Buildings and Grounds Campaign.



BIRTHDAY'S FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 16TH

February 17th: Wendy Watts

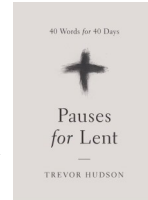
February 18th: Shirley Rice

February 19th: Kelli Taylor & JoAnn Winstel

February 20th: Kelsey Taylor

PAUSE FOR LENT

Please consider joining our small group gathering during Lent. “Sometimes a pause is good for the soul. It gives us the chance to regroup, reflect, and refocus on God. In *Pauses for Lent*, Trevor Hudson offers a beautifully minimalist book in which he focuses on one word for each day of Lent. You are invited to pause, focus on the word, read a scripture and a brief meditation related to the word, and then offer a prayer.” We will enhance the experience by gathering each week for reflection and learning together.



This discussion group will meet from 10-11 am in the church parlor every Saturday during Lent beginning on March 8. 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.

PRAYER PARTNERS FOR LENT

Praying for one another is a special way in which we become acquainted with each other. In keeping with that idea, we will exchange Prayer Partners for Lent. You will be given the name of a church member or church friend that you will pray for each day during the Lenten Season. You will ***not know*** who is praying for you!!

Partners will be exchanged on the First Sunday of Lent, March 9th and will be revealed on Easter Sunday, April 20th. This commitment is for six weeks and is a good way to remember one another every day

There will be a sign-up sheets available for those interested in being part of this Lenten Prayer Ministry 2025 until Sunday, March 2nd. If you cannot be present to sign-up and would like to be part of this Lenten Prayer Ministry, call the church office, 859.431.1818 or email Kelli: kelli.taylor@stjohnsuccnewport.org

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Hymn #345

“Jesus Calls Us o'er the Tumult”

(Galilee)

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

(Sing twice)



Offertory Invitation

Unless we plant and water, how will God give the growth? If we do not share, how will others be fed? If we hoard God's love, how can new life burst forth into the world? Surely, we are instruments of God, co-workers who can make a difference in the world. One way is through proportionate giving of our substance and ourselves.

Offertory

“We Walk By Faith”

(Williams/Sanborn)

We walk by faith and not by sight. We trust in God and not in might.
For in our darkness He is light. We walk by faith and not by sight.
Sometimes trials come our way. We don’t know what to do or say.
But we know God will make a way if we trust, trust and obey.
We walk by faith and not by sight. We trust in God and not in might.
For in our darkness He is light. We walk by faith and not by sight.
We trust in God and in His Son. What God has promised will be done.
And as each journey is begun His Holy Spirit makes us one.
We walk by faith and not by sight. We trust in God and not in might.
For in our darkness He is light. We walk by faith and not by sight.
We may not fully understand, but we are guided by His hand.
And as we follow faith’s command, God leads us to the promised land.
We walk by faith and not by sight. We trust in God and not in might.
For in our darkness He is light. We walk by faith and not by sight.

*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**
Lord of Life, we have received so very much from you. From the beginning you have loved us, and have given yourself for us. You have comforted us in times of sorrow. You have inspired us in times of joy. You have walked with us in times of uncertainty. As you have poured yourself out for us, let us give to you now our tithes, gifts, offerings and ourselves, cheerfully and with visions of what you can accomplish in Jesus’ name. Amen.

*Hymn #443

“Trust and Obey”

(vs. 1 & 4)

(Trust and Obey)

*Benediction

*Choral Response

*Postlude

“Trumpet Tune”

(William Boyce)

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 the Valentine’s birthday of Barbara Twehues.



Love,
The Twehues Family



Flowers at the baptismal font are in celebration of Kelli and Kelsey Taylor’s birthdays on February 19th & 20th.



Happy Birthday Kelli and Kelsey!
We hope you have a wonderful year.

Love,
Mom, Dad, Scott, Kyle, and Elise

Open flower dates are February 23rd, March 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd & 30th
To reserve your special date, please call the church office.