

CONTACTS

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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.

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.	



March 16, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday in Lent



Prayer of Meditation before Worship

As a hen gathers her brood under her wing, O God, gather your children under your everlasting arms in this time of Worship. Grant us such close relationship with you during this Service of Worship that Your Spirit may touch our spirits; through Jesus Christ, the great head of the Church. Amen.

*All who are able are welcome to stand

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude “Voluntary On the Hymn Tune Jefferson” (Dale Wood)

Tower Bell

Introit

If you will trust in God to guide you,
and hope in God through all your ways.
God will give strength what-e’er betide you,
and bear you through the evil days.
Who trusts in God’s unchanging love
builds on the rock that will not move.

*Call to Worship

We gather this day to Worship our God, whose words and ways challenge us.

God invites us to lose our selfishness to find ourselves.

God calls us to be fools in the world to show forth the wisdom of Christ.

God urges us to be obedient to a Divine Will so that we may know true freedom.

We come to Worship our Creator, seeking to have our faith challenged into growth.

We root our faith in Worship, seeking to find nourishment for our spirits in this growing Season of Lent.

Sisters and brothers in Christ let us Worship our God!!

***Hymn #598** “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken” (Austrian Hymn)

***Prayer of Confession:** (done responsively)

Let us confess our sins before God:
God, forgive us, who Worship our own temples, who glorify human systems that let love die, who force our demands and standards on others.

God, forgive us; we forsake Jesus again.

God forgive us, who resist your vision of the world, who fear your truth that exposes our lies, who crush your dreams and smash each dreamer.

God, forgive us; we forsake Jesus again.

God forgive us who crave power, who covet success for ourselves alone, who scheme for gain and connive for profit.

God, forgive us; we forsake Jesus again.

God forgive us, who trust our own programs, who rely on our plans to satisfy, who refuse to follow your goal and purpose.

God, forgive us; we forsake Jesus again. Amen.

***Assurance of Grace**

Hear the Good News! God so loved the world so much that the Mighty Maker of all creation came to earth in human form. Your sins are forgiven because this great God loves you, and nothing in all creation can separate you from that love. 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.**

(Greateorex)

From the Book of the Law: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” But the word of the LORD came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” And he believed the LORD, and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, “I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.” But he said, “O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other, but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

Welcoming and Leading Us This Morning

Preaching Today: Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

Liturgist: Kyle Taylor

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, March 16:** 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
11:30 a.m. Potato Bar Luncheon
- Monday, March 17:** 7:00 p.m. AA & Al-Anon Meeting
- Tuesday, March 18:** 7:00 p.m. NA Meeting
7:00 p.m. East Row Garden Club Meeting
- Thursday, March 20:** 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Yoga Class-Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- Saturday, March 22:** 9:00 a.m. AA Meeting
10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Pause for Lent
- Sunday, March 23:** 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

Our prayers and sympathy go out to the Family of Rev. Andrew Bierken. Rev. Bierken passed away on Friday, May 7, 2025. His visitation will be Thursday, March 20th from 3:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m. with the service to follow. The visitation and service will be at Lakeview UCC, 8639 Columbia Road, Maineville, Ohio 45039



Offertory

“As Long As I Have Breath”

(Sue Farrar)

As long as I have breath, I will praise You, Lord.
As long as I have life, let my soul rejoice.
In times of sore distress; in times of loneliness;

As long as I have breath, I will bless You, Lord.
As long as life is mine, I will sing your song.
Your joy brings forth my praise; Your peace fills all my days,

Let me know Your loving kindness every day,
As you walk beside me pointing out the way.
As long as I have being, I will trust in You;
You are my God; I lift my soul to You.

As long as I have breath, I will serve You, Lord.
As long as life is mine, I’ll exalt Your word.
And when this life shall pass, And I’m at home at last;
Thru all eternity, I will praise You, Lord.

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**
Take what we give and what we are, O God, for we are in your hand. Do with us, our tithes, our lives, whatever seems good and right to you, because we trust you. By your Spirit make all our offerings both a blessing for others and a service to your Kingdom in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Hymn #264

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

(Rathbun)

*Benediction

*Choral Response

Postlude

“Alla Breve and Fugue”

(Louis Marchand)

Luncheon today in Fellowship Hall following worship. Everyone is Welcome!

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

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates.

From the Poetry of the Old Testament: Psalm 27

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?
When evildoers assail me
to devour my flesh—
my adversaries and foes—
they shall stumble and fall.
Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me,
yet I will be confident.
One thing I asked of the Lord;
this I seek:
to live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the Lord,
and to inquire in his temple.
For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will set me high on a rock.
Now my head is lifted up
above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent
sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the Lord.
Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud;
be gracious to me and answer me!
“Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!”
Your face, Lord, do I seek.
Do not hide your face from me.
Do not turn your servant away in anger,
you who have been my help.
Do not cast me off; do not forsake me,
O God of my salvation!
If my father and mother forsake me,
the Lord will take me up.

Teach me your way, O Lord,
and lead me on a level path
because of my enemies.
Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries,
for false witnesses have risen against me,
and they are breathing out violence.
I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.
Wait for the Lord;
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord!

Anthem *“I Will Sing of the Mercies”* (Howard Whitaker)

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever, I will sing,
With my mouth will I make known Thy faithfulness to all generations.

From the Letters of Paul: Philippians 3:17-4:1

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Sermon “Role Model for the Kingdom” Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

*Hymn *“Living for Jesus”*
(see insert)

***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.

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

God has given us the gift of life and surrounded us with abundant resources. Again and again, we have been blessed beyond our deserving. God has bridged the gap between Creator and creatures in Jesus Christ, overcoming our unfaithfulness, overpowering death, and heralding the reign of love. Will we express our thanks in token offerings or in an outpouring of our best?