

The Visitor

April 2025

TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

Volume 108 Issue 4

A Publication of St. John's United Church of Christ

A Message from J. Martin Westermeyer

We have been on the journey together through the Lenten Season since Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025. Soon, we will be entering Holy Week on Sunday, April 13th. We will follow Jesus through his week of trial and torture and eventual death. On Sunday, April 20th, we will gather to celebrate together Jesus' triumphant victory over death.

On Easter, we hear that we are to continue to share the news of Christ's resurrection. In that vein of thought, I read this passage: *You are witnesses of these things.* - Luke 24:48

After his resurrection, Jesus revealed himself to people who were consumed in grief by his crucifixion and death. They were startled by him and believed they are seeing a ghost/spirit. It was difficult for them to immediately reconcile the miracle of Jesus's presence with the seeming finality and devastation of his death.

This is one of the first glimpses of the challenge of being a witness to the promise of Easter. There are times when the world can seemingly be falling apart, and we're called to believe that salvation is still possible. Our loved ones die from diseases we don't understand and can't cure. World leaders start wars that seemingly never end. The greedy have plenty and there are many of us who struggle to survive.

And yet we still believe that God's grace and mercy will keep saving us.
- We're still called to embody the grace and mercy of the One who did save us.

-We find seas of hope in spiritual deserts.

- We witness violence and death all around us and somehow know and believe that Divine love hasn't lost its power.

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The Resurrection gives us permission to challenge the limits of permanence (what we think might be permanent) —even the apparent permanence of death.

And that, my friends, is the call of being a witness.

The promises of God won't fail us, and the miracle of Jesus is true. When disappointment surrounds us—even when we feel disappointed in ourselves—we can keep going. When it feels as if we can't go on, there is everlasting love and everlasting life that will embrace and revive us. In a world of finite ends, "It is finished" gave us a holy beginning.

So, let us prepare ourselves as we approach Easter to embrace this gift we have been given. A gift we need embracing in our faith. As we journey together, let us embrace, accept and share this gift with others.

See you in church – Pastor Marty

PAUSE FOR LENT

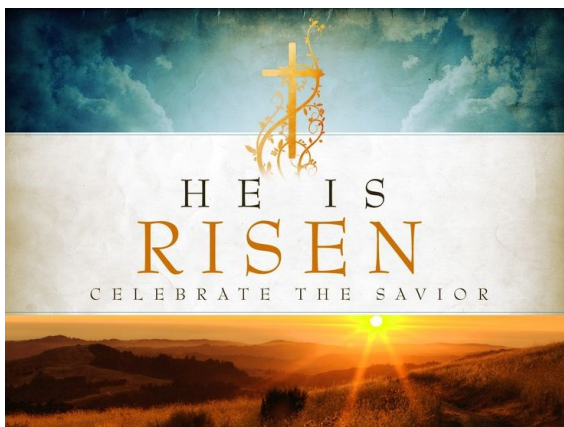
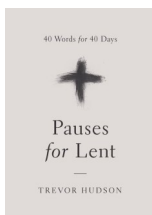
Saturday, March 29th

Saturday, April 5th

Saturday, April 12th

Saturday, April 19th

Discussion Group will meet from 10-11am in the church parlor



Sunday, April 13th Palm Sunday



10:00 a.m. Worship Service

"And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!'" Matthew 21:9

Thursday, April 17th Maundy Thursday Service



7:00 p.m. Worship Service/
Communion

"I am giving you a new commandment. You must love each other, just as I have loved you. If you love each other, everyone will know that you are my disciples." John 13:34-35

Sunday, April 20th Easter



8:15 a.m. Easter Breakfast-Fellowship Hall

10:00 a.m. Worship Service/
Communion and Special Music

"God did not send his Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it."

An invitation from you may be the only thing keeping a friend from visiting St. John's church. Share with them the difference Christ has made in you. Invite them to join you for services during Holy Week and the Easter season.

EASTER BREAKFAST AT ST. JOHN'S

The Leadership Team will be coming together to serve an Easter Breakfast to all of our members and friends. Please join us on Sunday, April 20th beginning at 8:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall for a breakfast of pastries, coffee cakes, different breakfast casseroles, and drinks. All we need you to do is just show up as the Leadership Team is providing this to thank everyone for all that you do for St. John's. We hope you can join us for a delicious meal and fellowship before we join together in the celebration of our Easter Service.



ST. JOHN'S UCC ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES

You will be able to access the worship service by following the link below:

St. John's UCC website
<https://www.stjohnsuccnewport.org>

St John's UCC YouTube Channel
St. John's Newport UCC

St. John's UCC Facebook Page
St. John's UCC Newport



PRAYER MINISTRY-APRIL BLESSINGS

Mornings are better when you talk to God first.

Don't wait til Sunday to thank God.
Thank God every day.

Before you sleep, PRAY.
When you wake up, PRAY.
When life gets hard, PRAY.
When you're happy, PRAY.
If you are unsure, PRAY.
God is ALWAYS with us.



PRAYER GROUP

At this time of the year, it seems appropriate to remind everyone that the Prayer Group of St. John's is still functioning. We are a group of dedicated ladies who pray daily at home for the individuals on the Prayer List.

If you know of anyone, family or friend, who is in need of prayer, please let me know or call Kelli in the church office. You can also fill out a prayer card located in each church pew. I only ask that you give the reason the person needs prayer, which is kept in confidence, and then keep us updated on the progress.

Blessings,

Darlene Knepshield



NEXT VISITOR DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2025

If you would like to submit an article or receive *The Visitor* via email please contact StJohnsUCC@StJohnsUCCNewport.org.

You may also visit the "News" heading on our website and fill out the appropriate form.

A digital copy of *The Visitor* can be accessed at our website: StJohnsUCCNewport.org under our "News Section."



ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS

For online giving, please scan the QR code.



April Birthdays and Anniversaries

April Birthdays

April 5th: Chase Coppage & Diana Stamm
April 13th: Ethan Schwalbach
April 15th: Brenda Scharber
April 16th: Jan Knepshield
April 20th: Rona Hater
April 21st: Judy Eads & Elizabeth Robson
April 24th: Bette Bolmer & Steve McLane



April Anniversaries

April 28th: Barbara & Mike Boyers (41 years)
April 28th: Jeri & Steve McLane (52 years)



St. John's would like to wish a happy birthday and happy anniversary to our friends and family celebrating during the month of April!

APRIL HOMEBOUND MEMBERS OF THE WEEK

We would like to celebrate and honor our homebound members of the week for the month of April. We appreciate and celebrate these individuals as our members of the week!

April 6th: Bertie Jo Tuerpe
April 13th: Carol Strong
April 20th: Pam Maloney
April 27th: Betty Hasse



LUNCH BUNCH
Wednesday, April 9, 2025
12:00 p.m.-2:00p.m.
Bring Your Own Lunch
Drinks & Desserts Provided

JOIN US
For
LUNCH!



BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS CAMPAIGN FOR ST. JOHN'S

St. John's has set a goal of raising \$25,000 to use for buildings and grounds work at the church. The church is in need of some routine maintenance and this fund will pay for the repairing of the sanctuary windows, replacement of the broken lights in the upstairs classrooms, and reseeded of the church lawn. Members and friends can place their donations to the campaign in the offering plate but it is in addition to their regular offering not a replacement. The Leadership Team will put on a celebration for the church once the goal is met. Please join us in this goal and work together to strengthen our foundation.

Currently the campaign is at \$19,715.00. We thank you for your consideration during this time.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY LUNCHEON

On Sunday, March 16th St. John's celebrated St. Patrick's Day a little early with a potato bar luncheon. Everyone celebrated with baked potatoes and all the toppings along with delicious salads and desserts. Thanks to David Stamm and Mike Hanson who were our cooks for the day with baking all those potatoes and to all of our wonderful volunteers who took the time to bring in potato toppings, salads and desserts. Happy St. Patrick's Day!!





WASHINGTON UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
2950 Sidney Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45225
513-541-7757
www.washingtonucc.org

February 19, 2025

Dear Members of St. John's Church

The Mission Outreach Working Group would like to thank you so very much for your donations of food to Washington UCC Food Pantry where everything is free. Each month this ministry provides food, clothing, hygiene and household goods for approximately 375 or more low-income families in the Camp Washington Community. Anyone that comes into our store is welcome to food, clothing etc. Our store feeds approximately 500 people each month. The year of 2024 we fed from our store 6,700 people. The donation you made will help many families in need.

Again, thank you so very much.

Gratefully,

Ann Osterfeld
Washington UCC Pantry Coordinator
Mission Outreach Washington UCC



The **Glory** of **God** shone around them....

(Luke 2:9)

February 20, 2025

Saint John's UCC
Rev. J. Martin "Marty" Westermeyer
415 Park Avenue
Newport, KY 41071-1792

Dear Reverend Westermeyer,

I hope you are enjoying a beautiful start to the new year. As a cherished supporter of The Christmas Fund, and as a beacon of generosity within our United Church of Christ community, I wanted to thank you for your generous gift.

Your donation helps the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance (UCBMA) multiply the light of God's love into the lives of our active and retired ministers, church workers, and their families. So many lives are impacted by our Christmas Fund community and so much spiritual support is conveyed through the gifts you make each year. Thank you again for your faithful generosity!

With heartfelt appreciation,

Rev. Dr. Paul Leon Ramsey
Director, Church Relations & Philanthropy

United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization (EIN: 13-6168290). Gifts to UCBMA are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Please consult your tax advisor for further information.

Date: 1/21/2025

Amount: \$786

Check #: 22015

In Loving Memory of, and In Honor of...

Food Pantry

In Loving Memory of Sue Wagner ~ Gary Wagner

General Fund In Loving Memory

In Loving Memory of Andrew Bierkan ~ John & Elizabeth Robson

Memorial Fund In Loving Memory

In Loving Memory of Barbara Coppage ~ Cathy & Jim Shepherd

In Loving Memory of Barbara Coppage ~ Gilmer & Brenda Fauber

In Loving Memory of Barbara Coppage ~ Rob & Gayle Bolton

Buildings and Grounds

In Loving Memory of Don Berkemeyer ~ Joan Berkemeyer

Upcoming Events at St. John's

Saturday: April 5th, 12th & 19th: 10-11am Pause for Lent:
Church Parlor

Sunday, April 13th 10am: Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 17th 7pm: Maundy Thursday Service

Sunday, April 20th 8:15am: Easter Breakfast Fellowship Hall

Sunday, April 20th 10am: Easter Sunday Service with
Communion



Easter Word Search

DZVREPUOTHEDDPWYZEXR
ABPUVYGEJERGZTCBSILU
DECELEBRATIONXNAMRVZ
VAXLNUXZESFWIIMSEUOC
ZNPUASPRINGZCWUKCUIA
OSBEYMHTPOPKFGZEHAWA
GJEXKZBZLKLRRCTIIVB
BCHEESECAKEXHAQEC AVN
LTEXBXRKNSFNONHGKYFL
WUADOYVFOHCACDZGSHNW
RLJRHN SCLUWNMYCSOFZY
TIPYJNBACOSWPSJECXGU
GPEPLBURGHWH TFIGJYXE
RSE RDCNRFUUEXXRMSDJU
AWPCQMNOVOMRRIACETOG
SWSLQLYT TXHOC SZLEARU
SDSNEJHUNTWGLHRPKIPK
PGLCHOCOLATESUNDAYOV
ZBPKUHMUFSCFN FJQLILY
VYYIPUIZZSLXQTM SMM SK

celebration
chicks
Sunday
candy
lamb

cheesecake
carrot
tulips
grass
lily

chocolate
church
spring
beans
bunny

flowers
basket
hunt
peeps
eggs