

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.

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.	



April 6, 2025
10:00 a.m.
Fifth Sunday in Lent



Thought for the Day before Worship

We live in a world that is littered with broken promises and failed relationships, but God promises a relationship that will never fail or be broken.

*All who are able are welcome to stand

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“If Thou Art Near”
(Kendra Franke- flute)

(J.S. Bach)

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:** based on Psalm 126
When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.”
The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.
Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb. May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.
Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.
Let us come before God today with shouts of joy, bearing our gifts to God!

***Hymn #93**

“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”

(Nettleton)

***Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

Our world is a place of broken promises and shattered dreams. Help us look to you, O God, as the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. Open our hearts to receive the gift of your benevolence, and the strength of your promise. When relationships fail and dreams die, remind us that you gave your Son for us.

How is it, God, that we walk through each day and so many times do not see you in the faces and lives of the world around us? Can it be that too often our heads are focused on winning, achieving, and having, so that we miss chances to look into the lives of our family, our friends, the stranger?

Help us, God of life. Give us the courage of Mary to befriend one in need, to do the right thing even in the face of criticism, to spend everything on the priceless ointment of loving you and your world. In the face of death, and in promise of love beyond death, we pray in Christ’s name. Amen.

***Assurance of Grace**

Hear the Good News! Do not fear. I say to you in the name of Jesus Christ: Your sins are forgiven! Your faith has made you free! Anyone who is in Jesus Christ is a new creation: the old has passed away! Behold the new has come! Thanks be to God! 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 Prophets of the Old Testament: Isaiah 43:16-21

Thus says the LORD,
who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,
who brings out chariot and horse,
army and warrior;
they lie down; they cannot rise;
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
Do not remember the former things
or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.
The wild animals will honor me,
the jackals and the ostriches,
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,

Welcoming and Leading Us This Morning

Preaching Today: Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

Liturgist: Diana Stamm

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Choral Director: Dr. Dobin Park

Sound Technician: Robert Pettus

Greeters: David Stamm

Ushers: Steve Twehues, Ralph Schoulthies & Mike Hanson

Music reprinted under OneLicense.net A-722754

This Week

- Sunday, April 6:** 10:00 a.m. Worship Service/Communion Sunday
- Monday, April 7:** 7:00 p.m. AA & Al-Anon Meeting
- Tuesday, April 8:** 7:00 p.m. NA Meeting
- Wednesday, April 9:** 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Lunch Bunch
- Thursday, April 10:** 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Food Pantry
3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Yoga Class-Fellowship Hall
7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- Saturday, April 12:** 9:00 a.m. AA Meeting
9:00 p.m. Leadership Team Meeting
10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Pause for Lent
- Sunday, April 13:** 10:00 a.m. Worship Service/Palm Sunday

✠ ✠

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, Yvonne Daniels, Flo Grey, Betty Jo Haas, Marilyn Hanson, Melvin Hanson, Chuck Hawkins, Gayle McAtee, Ed Von Strohe, Bonnie Walter, Wendy Watts, & Marty Westermeyer

Weekly Prayer List for Northern Kentucky UCC Cluster

Grace UCC, Ft. Wright
Mark Roeder

St. Paul UCC; Alexandria
Paul Forrey

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

Her address is:
Bertie Jo Tuerpe
999 Lincoln Road
Dayton, KY 41074

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!

to give drink to my chosen people,
the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

From the Letters of Paul: Philippians 3:4b-14

even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Anthem

“He Will Hold Me Fast”

(Matthew Merker)

When I fear my faith will fail
Christ will hold me fast
When the tempter would prevail
He will hold me fast

He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Saviour loves me so
He will hold me fast

I could never keep my hold
Through life's fearful path
For my love is often cold
He must hold me fast

For my life He bled and died
Christ will hold me fast
Justice has been satisfied
He will hold me fast

He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Saviour loves me so
He will hold me fast

Raised with Him to endless life
He will hold me fast
'Til our faith is turned to sight
When He comes at last!

Those He saves are His delight
Christ will hold me fast
Precious in His holy sight
He will hold me fast

He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Saviour loves me so
He will hold me fast

He'll not let my soul be lost
His promises shall last
Bought by Him at such a cost
He will hold me fast

He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Saviour loves me so
He will hold me fast

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus's feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

***Affirmation 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.

Gathering Together in Prayer
Joys and Concerns – Silent Prayer – Pastoral 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.

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.- 9:45 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.

8:15 a.m.-9:45 a.m. Easter Breakfast-Fellowship Hall
10:00 a.m. Worship Service/Communion and Special Music

Join us every Monday at 10:00 a.m. or any time/day thereafter on Facebook for our new weekly series, Marty's Monday Mindset. Each week Pastor Marty will be delivering a casual message to get you thinking on a topic as you work through the week. We hope to see you on Facebook each Monday for the new mindset message.



MEMBERSHIP SUNDAY

There has been interest by some individuals about joining the congregation of St. John’s UCC. If you or someone you are acquainted with might be one of these persons, please contact the Church Office or Pastor Marty. We will be receiving new members on Sunday, April 13th (Palm Sunday).



PAUSE FOR LENT

Saturday, April 12th
Saturday, April 19th

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



LUNCH BUNCH

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



PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, April 13th
10:00 a.m. Worship Service



MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

Thursday, April 17th
7:00 p.m. Worship Service/Communion

Response (sing twice)

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in-to your king-dom.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in-to your king-dom.

Offertory Invitation
There are many “stones” in our lives that must be rolled away if we are to break the bonds of death and enter fully into life. Sometimes our possessions are gigantic boulders. Sometimes our lack of basic necessities keeps us from focusing on anything but our own want. We need not be bound or feel locked away from life’s new possibilities. God has granted us gifts to share, that all might know the abundant life in Christ Jesus.

Offertory “Lamb of God” (Twila Paris)
(Dobin Park - soloist)

Your only Son no sin to hide But You have sent Him from Your side To walk upon this guilty sod And to become the Lamb of God	Oh Lamb of God, Sweet lamb of God I love the Holy Lamb of God Oh wash me in His precious Blood My Jesus Christ the Lamb of God
Your gift of love they crucified They laughed and scorned Him as he died The Humble King they named a fraud And Sacrificed the Lamb of God	I was so lost I should have died But You have brought me to Your side To be led by Your staff and rod And to be call a lamb of God

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**

What we offer, God of life and death, we give in love and faithfulness to your call to serve the world in the way of Christ, who in the end as in the beginning, gave everything. Bless these gifts to your service in his name. Amen.

***Hymn #419** “My Faith Looks Up to Thee” (Olivet)
 (vs. 1 & 2)

Celebrating God's Word in Sacrament

*Communion is Open to ALL: saint and sinner, lost and found, believer and seeker.
We partake of the bread together to symbolize our unity and community as God's people.
We shall partake of the cup individually to symbolize our solitariness
as we each stand alone before our God*

***Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord: who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the one holy universal Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Invitation
Eucharistic Prayer
Consecration of the Elements

Partaking of the Lord's Supper

As is our tradition, the Elements of Communion are held until all are served and partake at the direction of the Pastor.

***Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)**

**Loving God in Jesus Christ, with gratitude for your holy nourishment about this table,
we dedicate:**

**our lips to be the hopeful voice of Christ to the despairing;
our hands to reach out in Christ's name to heal the broken;
our feet to walk with Christ to visit those who are shunned;
our bodies to be Christ's living sacrifice to break the power of death.**

Take us. Empower us. Use us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***Hymn #257** *“What Wondrous Love Is This”* (Wondrous Love)

***Benediction**

***Choral Response (All Sing)**

O how He loves you and me, O how He loves you and me;
He gave His life, what more could He give?
O how He loves you, O how He loves me,
O how He loves you and me.

Postlude “*Postlude on a Gregorian Mode*” (*Marcel Dupre*)

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.



The greenery at the pulpit and baptismal font are provided by the church.

Open flower dates are April 27th
To reserve your special date, please call the church office.

Trash receptacles are located at each exit for disposal of communion cups.



For online giving, please scan the QR code.