

The Visitor

May 2025

TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

Volume 108 Issue 5

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A Message from J. Martin Westermeyer

I am writing this as we are finishing up the Lenten journey and entering to move into the Easter Season towards Pentecost. It is my prayer that you were visited, blessed and moved by the Spirit during the Lenten journey.

I need to thank those of you who participated in the Lenten Prayer Partner Exchange – I hope you took time to chat with the person you prayed for and were praying for you. And maybe you learned something new and different about how the Spirit moves among us.

Once when Jesus was praying alone, with only the disciples near him, he asked them, “*Who do the crowds say that I am?*” They answered, “*John the Baptist; but others, Elijah; and still others, that one of the ancient prophets has arisen.*” He said to them, “*But who do you say that I am?*” Peter answered, “*The Messiah of God.*” – Luke 9:18-20 (NRSV)

In this era of digital life, where we can create unique and partial (or totally fictional) identities through online platforms, “Who do people say that I am?” is almost a rhetorical question. People might say I am healthy if I post pictures of food I have created and cooked (they don’t and I’m not.). People may say I am a spiritual leader if I post something quoting my own religious writing (same answer as before).

“Who does Google say that I am?” can be a more revealing question, depending on what the internet knows about you: your past, your present, your finances, your family, your secrets. Google has the possibility of sharing a more complex representation of identity, compared to the controlled narrative we might carefully hone on specific platforms we use on the internet.

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In the story above, Jesus is taking a Google poll of the disciples about his public image. The answers vary—John the Baptist, Elijah, an ancient prophet—but in essence, what you find is there is a consensus on the public's image of Jesus: he's a dead religious guy who's been resurrected. It's ironic in a way. Even Herod was perplexed and shared this impression of who Jesus is (Luke 9:7-9).

But the follow-up question, the truly essential question of the day, is the relational one: *Who do you say that I am?*

People tend to be inclined to speculate about one another's identities. And we might always be inclined to (or try to) shape our public image with specific, singular narratives. But who we are, most truly, really shows up in the ways we relate to each other.

Let us be open, honest to one another, trusting that we truly can know each other. And then we can ask one another: *Who do you say that I am?*

See you in church – Pastor Marty

PRAYER MINISTRY-MAY BLESSINGS

Motherhood is a million little moments that God weaves together with grace, redemption, laughter, tears and most of all LOVE.

Turn your worry into a Prayer List.

Morning is God's way of saying one more time, go make a difference, touch a heart, encourage a mind, inspire a soul and enjoy the day.



Memorial Day —Remember and Honor
Remember them in prayers and never forget their sacrifice.
God bless America!!
Happy Memorial Day!

NEXT VISITOR DEADLINE: THURSDAY, MAY 22, 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."

LENTEN 2025 PRAYER PARTNER LIST **First Sunday of Lent, March 9 – Easter Sunday,** **April 20, 2025**

Yvonne Daniels	was praying for	Carol Thompson
Carol Fickenscher	was praying for	Kelli Taylor
Carolyn Garriott	was praying for	Rev. Marty Westermeyer
Pat Goins	was praying for	Michael Sullivan
Flo Gray	was praying for	Diana Stamm
Laura Haas	was praying for	Chuck Shay
Bonnie Hoffman	was praying for	Pat Padin
Vickie Kennedy	was praying for	Julie Ollier
Darlene Knepshield	was praying for	Gayle McAtee
Sarah Latham	was praying for	Karen Linden
Karen Linden	was praying for	Darlene Knepshield
Gayle McAtee	was praying for	Sarah Latham
Julie Ollier	was praying for	Bonnie Hoffman
Pat Padin	was praying for	Vickie Kennedy
Chuck Shay	was praying for	Flo Gray
Diana Stamm	was praying for	Laura Haas
Michael Sullivan	was praying for	Carolyn Garriott
Kelli Taylor	was praying for	Pat Goins
Carol Thompson	was praying for	Carol Fickenscher
Pastor Marty Westermeyer	was praying for	Yvonne Daniels

I wanted to thank you for your willingness to be a Lenten Prayer Partner for 2025. Just a reminder that the commitment is to pray for your partner each day during the Lenten Season. After Easter Sunday, April 20, the whole list will be posted on the bulletin board by the coffee and also printed in the May 2025 Visitor.

On or after Easter Sunday, take time to seek out the person for whom you were praying. Chat with them about their life during this time of prayer and see if they experienced God in a different way. Thank you again for your commitment to be in this prayer covenant with each other.

Pastor Marty

MARTY'S MONDAY MINDSET

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.

The Easter Season calls us to love one another.

1 Peter 4:10 - *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."*

Our church food pantry is in need of personal hygiene products and cleaning supplies. During this Easter season we are asking you to consider donating items or making a monetary donation that the Leadership Team will spend on items. Below is a list of what is needed. Any number of goods or amount of money that you are able to contribute will be much appreciated by those who turn to our church in their times of need.

The collection will begin after Easter Sunday and continue through Pentecost Sunday, June 8. We'll have boxes to collect items at the entries to the sanctuary.

List:

Toiletries – toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, deodorant, bar soap, lotion

Cleaning Supplies – paper towels, dish liquid, laundry detergent, all-purpose cleaner, disinfectant, scrubbing sponges, cleaning cloths

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We have an opportunity to engage in a mission by serving dinner at the Henry Hosea House in Newport, Ky. We tried to set up a regular schedule for our church, but unfortunately at this time they have so many regulars that it isn't possible. However, they do need help on Friday May 30th from 3:30-6:00 PM. We would need seven (7) volunteers to make this happen. All you need to do is serve on the food line and provide a warm, welcoming smile to the people who come for dinner. If you and a family member or friend would be willing to do this, please contact Kelli in the church office. Thank you. The Leadership Team.

THANK YOU CAROL FICKENSCHER & MIKE HANSON

We thank Carol Fickenschier for her hard work and dedication with decorating our sanctuary this Easter season We all enjoyed the beauty of the tulips and lilies that were displayed throughout the sanctuary thanks to her hard work.
Thank you Carol!



We thank Mike Hanson for his hard work and dedication in helping to set up the sanctuary for our Easter morning service. Thank you Mike!

TRENT MONTESSORI STUDENTS SAY THANK YOU ST. JOHN'S!

The students from Trent Montessori School were all smiles and laughter when they received their Easter bags filled with candy and treats thanks to St. John's.



We want to thank David and Diana Stamm for assembling 95 treat bags for the students of Trent Montessori and our kids at St. John's.

Congratulations St. John's on another successful outreach Project!

Happy
MOTHER'S
Day

A decorative graphic for Mother's Day. It features the words "Happy", "MOTHER'S", and "Day" in a mix of fonts. "Happy" is in a pink script, "MOTHER'S" is in a large black serif font, and "Day" is in a pink script. Below the text is a large pink flower with a yellow center and green swirls.

ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS

For online giving, please scan the QR code.



MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

May Birthdays

May 10th: Robert Hasse & Alison Morris
May 15th: Flo Grey
May 17th: Dave Coppage & Bonnie Walter
May 21st: Janet Ginter
May 25th: Jack Watts
May 27th: Lois Von Strohe



May Anniversaries

May 13th: Julie & Charles Croley (36 years)
May 22nd: Patricia & James Penrod, Jr. (32 years)
May 24th: Vanessa Nichols & Jim Vago (22 years)



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

MAY HOMEBOUND MEMBERS OF THE WEEK

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

May 4th: Robert Hasse-Birthday May 10th
May 11th: Bonnie Walter-Birthday May 17th
May 18th: Judy Adams
May 25th: Joan Berkemeyer



LUNCH BUNCH
Wednesday, May 14, 2025
12:00 p.m.-2:00p.m.
“Game Board Day”

JOIN US
For
LUNCH!

Lunch will be Provided
Sloppy Joe sandwiches with sides
Drinks & Desserts Provided



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 \$20,245.00. We thank you for your consideration during this time.



EASTER BREAKFAST AT ST. JOHN'S

What a wonderful Easter Sunday we had at St. John's! The morning started with a pre-service Easter breakfast in Fellowship Hall prepared by our leadership team. It was a fun time with fun Easter photos taken.

We then enjoyed a wonderful service filled with beautiful music and an uplifting message. Thanks to our Chancel Choir and our musicians for helping us to praise and celebrate the risen Christ.

Thanks to all who came and worshiped with us this morning. You are always welcome!!

Christ is risen! He is Risen indeed!





NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

On Palm Sunday, April 13th, St. John's welcomed three new members into our congregation. Judy Adams, Wendy Bauer and Janice Keeney joined our congregation by becoming members of the church. We are pleased to welcome Judy, Wendy and Janice to St. John's. Congratulations!



MEMORIAL DAY ROLL OF REMEMBRANCE

If you are a church member and would like to add a member of your family to update our Military Roll of Remembrance for Memorial Day 2025, please contact the church office. The deadline for names is **Wednesday, May 21st**. Our Memorial Day Service will be held on **Sunday, May, 25th**.

Please note that names featured in previous years will be included again, and there is no need to re-submit them. Thank you!



GRADUATE RECOGNITION

During worship on **Sunday, May 18th** St. John's will be recognizing the graduates in our midst. If you know of someone graduating from High

School, College, University or another academic institution, please contact the church office to let us know. **Last day to submit names is Monday, May 12th.** Thank you!



EAST ROW GARDEN TOUR

St. John's United Church of Christ is proud to be partnering with the East Row Garden Club for their East Row Garden Tour. The Garden Tour will be taking place on Saturday, June 7th and Sunday, June 8th from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Music, food, vendor booths, and of course the garden tour are sure to make for a wonderful start to the summer. Tickets can be purchased the day of the tour at one of the vendor booths located here at St. John's.



Congratulations Dobin & Sane

What a joyous day we experienced in the afternoon of Sunday, April 27th at St. John's. Our associate music director, Dobin Park married Sane Jung in a beautiful and moving wedding ceremony. From the pre-service music played by oboist Yo Shionoya, to the lovely singing by the Chancel Choir, the ceremony was truly beautiful. After the ceremony, the happy couple welcomed their guests in a festive reception in Fellowship Hall. Dobin has been a true blessing to St. John's, and we wish him and Sane many blessings and all happiness in their new life together.



Upcoming Events at St. John's

Sunday, May 4th: Communion Sunday

Thursday, May 8th: Food Pantry 9:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 10th: 10:00 a.m. Leadership Team Meeting

Sunday, May 11th: Mother's Day-Every woman in attendance will receive a flower.

Wednesday, May 14th: Lunch Bunch 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 18th: Graduate Recognition Sunday

Sunday, May 25th: Memorial Day Roll of Remembrance Service

Monday, May 26th: Church Office Closed-Memorial Day

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

Food Pantry

In Loving Memory of Sue Wagner ~ Gary Wagner

Memorial Fund In Loving Memory

In Loving Memory of Barbara Coppage ~ Mr. & Mrs. Michael Dunn

In Loving Memory of Barbara Coppage ~ Nancye B. Thompson

In Loving Memory of Barbara Coppage ~ Dave & Kristin Coppage & Family

Buildings and Grounds

In Loving Memory of Howard & Ruth Hanson ~ Dr. Michael Hanson

Music Fund

In Loving Memory of Phil Hamilton ~ Bruce & Marjory Barkhau

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

