

# 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.

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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

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### 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!

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### 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](mailto: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](http://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.

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**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

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## **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 Fickenschcer 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!

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## 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!

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Happy  
MOTHER'S  
Day

A decorative graphic for Mother's Day featuring a pink flower with a yellow center and green swirls.

## ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS

For online giving, please scan the QR code.



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## 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!

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## 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



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**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

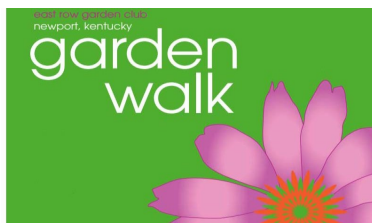
During worship on **Sunday, May 18th** St. John's will be recognizing the graduates in our midst. If you know of someone graduating from High

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

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## *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

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## **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**





*Congratulations to  
Santee Jung and Dobin Park on their  
marriage on April 27, 2025*

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**Quote of the Day**

“What is the most important subject to learn in life?  
To learn to love.”

—Pope Francis  
1936-2025

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**Upcoming Church Business Meeting**

**Leadership Team Meeting:**

Saturday, May 10, 2025

9:00 a.m.

Monthly Business Meeting

All meetings are in the church parlor

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**John's Prayer Ministry May 2025**

**Prayers for Members**

|                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Judy Adams      | Chuck Hawkins     |
| Joan Berkemeyer | Jean Morrow       |
| Norma Biery     | Ed Von Strohe     |
| Yvonne Daniels  | Wendy Watts       |
| Judy Eads       | Marty Westermeyer |
| Flo Grey        | Sue Williams      |
| Betty Jo Haas   |                   |
| Marilyn Hanson  |                   |
| Melvin Hanson   |                   |



**Prayers for Homebound Members**

Joan Berkemeyer, Robert & Betty Hasse,  
Janice Keeney & Bertie Jo Tuerpe

## *Prayers for Members in Assisted Living and Nursing Homes*

### **Parkside Manor Cynthiana, KY**

Pam Maloney

### **Emerald Trace; Elsmere, Ky**

John Westlund

### **Rosedale Green Covington, KY**

Marcia Schmidt

### **The Barrington of Ft. Thomas, KY**

Peggy Eckert

Yvonne Daniels

### **Carmel Manor Ft. Thomas, KY**

Bonnie Walter

### **Fields of Florence, KY**

Norma Biery

### **Highland Spring of Ft. Thomas, KY**

Gayle McAtee

Carol Strong

Jean Morrow

### **Village at Erlanger Munro House; Erlanger, KY**

Judy Adams

### **River Valley of Butler, KY**

Betty Webster

## *Prayers For Family and Friends*

Tim Abramis per V. Kennedy  
Sharyn Barbiea per M. Hanson  
Jerry Baynum per M. Hanson  
Heather Beighle per J. Watts  
Alan Bernstein per J. Kneppshield  
Bill Breyer per L. Haas  
Jerry Caldwell per C. Fickenschier  
Donnie Carr per K. Taylor  
Dan Collier per D. Kneppshield  
Chris Dowers per K. Kiefer  
Larry Eads per J. Eads  
Larry Florence per J. Watts  
J. P. Grimes per J. Watts  
Dorothy Haas per L. Haas  
Jeane Hawkins per C. Hawkins  
John Haynes per M. Sullivan  
Emma Heck per S. Rice  
Mike Herald per J. Watts  
Kim Hilmandolar per D. Westerkamp  
Jack Hoffman per D. Hoffman  
Bentley Hoffmann per D. Hoffman  
Joe Hutchins per C. Thompson  
Dave Jager per M. Sullivan  
Renee Jaegers per K. Liden  
Jeff Keeney per J. Keeney  
Jan Kennedy per V. Kennedy  
Tim Kennedy per V. Kennedy  
Denise & Kip per S. Twehues

Marissa Kiefer Heeg per K. Kiefer  
Mark Knecht per M. Sullivan  
Sharon Knecht per M. Knecht  
Family of Thomas Lawrence  
Tanner Lawrence  
Dorothy Leverman per C. Thompson  
Greyson Manning per C. Haas  
Taylor McElfresh per K. Kiefer  
Cecilia Paskal per K. Kiefer  
Corey Schoo per P. Schoo Schierberg  
Sue Scott per B. Boyers  
Brandon Stafford per L. Haas  
Rebecca Stamm per D. Stamm  
Patti Voelker per K. Kiefer  
Wade per J. Eads  
Shawn Williams per B. Tuerpe  
Beth Yutze per B. Webster

Pope Francis, May He Rest in Peace



## *Prayers for St. John's*

God's grace and guidance as our church looks onward and upward to the future.

Our church staff and lay leaders.

Strengthening our church ministries, Christian education, and grief support programs.

Stronger involvement in youth and young adult programming.

Designated Pastor J. Martin Westermeyer

Pastor of Visitation John Robson

## *Our Members and Friends in the Military*

Nicholas Schierberg

Griffin Thompson



Families of those killed in service and members of the military who have returned home physically wounded or suffering PTSD.

**If there is someone in the Armed Forces you would like us to pray for, please call the office at (859) 431-1818.**

