

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.	



May 4, 2025
10:00 a.m.
Third Sunday of Easter



Thought for the Day before Worship
Remember the old spiritual called “We Are Climbing Jacob’s Ladder”?
We don’t meet God by climbing up. God comes down to us.
God is present in the common.

*All who are able are welcome to stand

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude
“*Sicilienne*”
(Kendra Franke-flute)
(Malcolm Archer)

Tower Bell

Introit
Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise:
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise;
He who on the cross a victim, for the world’s salvation bled-
Jesus Christ, the King of glory, now is risen from the dead.

***Call to Worship: from Psalm 30**
I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up,
And did not let my foes rejoice over me.
O Lord my God, I cried to you for help,
And you have healed me.
Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones,
And give thanks to his holy name.
For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime.
Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.
Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me!
O Lord, be my helper!

***Hymn #87**
“*Come, Christians, Join to Sing*”
(Madrid)

***Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

Jesus Christ, Savior and Lord, we turn to you and see the wonders of God revealed through such ordinary means. So we look for you today in this time of Worship. In prayers and songs, signs of welcome and kindness, in the affection of friends and family we see hints of your presence. Bless us now. Shine your love on all in need of healing. Hear the cries of thanksgiving for your abundant grace. Listen to our worries as we turn over to you that which we cannot manage on our own, trusting in your goodness.

Gracious God, in Jesus’ question of his friend Peter we hear your question for us. Do we love you? We want to do what is good and right, but we so often stumble and fall. We have hurt others with our selfishness and frustrated you with our good intentions we never accomplish. We worry about everything when we should trust you, and we try to control others when we should let go and get out of their way. We know you created us in your image and you are shaping us to resemble you, but now we are impatient with ourselves. Touch us with your grace. Forgive us and free us in Jesus’ name. Amen.

***Assurance of Grace**

Hear the Good News! Our God and the God of our ancestors has raised Jesus from the death of the cross and has exalted him at His own right hand as our leader and Savior to grant us repentance and forgiveness of sins. 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 History of the New Testament: Acts 9:1-20

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” He asked, “Who are you, Lord?” The reply came, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.” The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” He answered, “Here I am, Lord.” The Lord said to him, “Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him

Welcoming and Leading Us This Morning

Preaching Today: Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

Liturgist: Laura Haas

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, May 4:** 10:00 a.m. Worship Service/Communion Sunday
- Monday, May 5:** 7:00 p.m. AA & Al-Anon Meeting
- Tuesday, May 6:** 7:00 p.m. NA Meeting
7:00 p.m. East Row Historic Foundation Meeting
- Thursday, May 8:** 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, May 10:** 9:00 a.m. AA Meeting
9:00 a.m. Leadership Team Meeting
- Sunday, May 11:** 10:00 a.m. Worship Service/Mother’s Day

✚ ✚

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, Judy Eads, Flo Grey, Betty Jo Haas, Marilyn Hanson, Melvin Hanson, Chuck Hawkins, Donna Hoffman, Gayle McAtee, Jean Morrow, Ed Von Strohe, Bonnie Walter, Wendy Watts, Marty Westermeyer & Sue Williams

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 Robert Hasse. Robert's birthday is Saturday, May 10th. Take a moment this week to send him a card or give him a call as we celebrate Robert as our member of the week!

His address is:

Robert Hasse
500 Lakeview Drive #103
Wilder, KY 41071

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!

so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem, and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

From the Revelation of John: Revelation 5:11-14

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea and all that is in them, singing, "To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the elders fell down and worshiped.

Anthem

"If You Love Me"

(Joel Raney)

My peace I give you, my peace I leave with you,
and I will comfort you in times of trouble.
And if you love me, if you love me,
If you love me keep my commands.

Though I may leave you, I will return for you,
I'll go prepare for you, a place beside me.
And if you love me, if you love me,
If you love me keep my commands.

Because I live, you too shall live.
I bring you peace that the world cannot give.



After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

Sermon “Fish for Breakfast” Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

We are an Easter-faith people.

**As a spring festival coinciding with the earth's rebirth,
As a revelation in scripture of God's intentions,
As a central meaning of human existence.**

As a puzzle, an intriguing mystery,
As contrary to the apparent facts of life and death,
As impossible to have happened, much less to happen still.

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.

List:

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

Drinks & Desserts Provided

Congregation members are welcome to take a flag to place on the grave of a loved one who gave their life in service to our country. Let us honor their sacrifice and remember them with grace and gratitude.

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 reseeding 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.

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.



Flowers at the pulpit are In Loving Memory of Bill Seibert .

Love,
Diana Seibert



Open flower dates are May 11th & 25th
To reserve your special date, please call the church office.



ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS

For online giving, please scan the QR code.

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!

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.

Still, the resurrection of Jesus Christ comes to us:

As the ways of God which are beyond our ways,

As a deeper, different reality than we imagine,

As a possible reality.

Thus, we are Easter-filled people:

Living the hope of new life,

Expecting signs of renewal in ourselves and others,

Believing that the mystery of God is a mystery of forgiving love.

In joy, with power, through faith, we are becoming God's Easter people.

Thanks be to God!! Amen.

***Hymn**

"Alleluia, Hear God's Story"

(see insert)

Gathering Together in Prayer

Joys & 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.

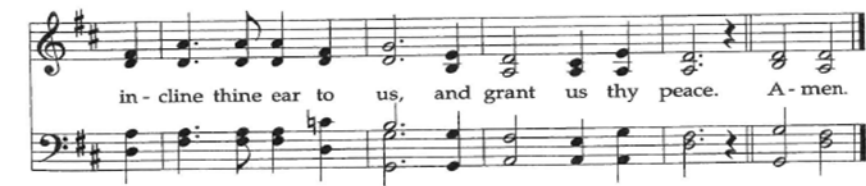
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Response

Psalm 143:1

Hear Our Prayer, O Lord

306



WORDS: Psalm 143:1
MUSIC: George Whelpton, 1897

HEAR OUR PRAYER
Irr.

Offertory Invitation

Our stewardship of God’s gifts to us can provide a place at the table for some who are hungry, and shelter for some who have no place to lay their heads. But most of all, our offerings express thanks to God for the bounty we enjoy and the loving acceptance we have known through Christ.

Offertory “More Love to Thee” (Lanny Lanford)

More Love To Thee, O Christ, More Love To Thee!
Hear Thou The Prayer I Make On Bended Knee.
This Is My Earnest Plea: More Love, O Christ, To Thee;
More Love To Thee, More Love To Thee!

Once Earthly Joy I Craved, Sought Peace And Rest;
Now Thee Alone I Seek, Give What Is Best.
This All My Prayer Shall Be: More Love, O Christ To Thee;
More Love To Thee, More Love To Thee!

Give me a faithful heart, likeness to Thee,
that each departing day henceforth may see
Some work of love begun, some deed of kindness done,
Some wanderer sought and won, more love to Thee.

Then Shall My Latest Breath Whisper Thy Praise;
This Be The Parting Cry My Heart Shall Raise;
This Still Its Prayer Shall Be: More Love, O Christ To Thee;
More Love To Thee, More Love To Thee!

*Doxology (Lasst Uns Erfreuen)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up-lifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Prayer of Dedication

We have heard you call us by name, dear God, and we turn to you now to offer not only these gifts of tithes and offerings, but ourselves to you. You have gifted us uniquely, each of us, so that we might serve you and this household of faith. Give us the motivation and energy to use our gifts for the sake of your mission in the world proclaiming your love, serving the poor, and embodying your healing presence. Take us by the hand and lead us through these church doors to be your servants in our world, following Jesus’ example. Amen.

*Hymn #695 “As We Gather at Your Table” (Beach Spring)
(vs. 1 & 3)

Communion

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)
O God, by coming to your table we receive more gifts than we deserve. We give thanks for Jesus Christ, through whom we receive life and in whom we are bound in covenant. Renew us so we may willingly serve as Christ served. Amen.

*Hymn #312 “Christ Is Alive!” (Truro)
(vs. 1 & 5)

*Benediction

*Choral Response

Postlude “Psalm XIX” (Benedetto Marcello)

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