

CONTACTS

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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 18, 2025
10:00 a.m.
Fifth Sunday of Easter



Thought for the Day before Worship

Jesus' new commandment, that we love one another as he has loved us, is consistent with God's other work of calling for newness.

*All who are able are welcome to stand

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

(Gordon Young)

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: based on Psalm 145, assorted verses

Every day I will bless you,
And praise your name for ever and ever.
Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
His greatness is unsearchable.
On the glorious splendor of your majesty,
And on your wondrous works I will meditate.
The Lord is gracious and merciful,
Slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
The Lord is good to all,
And his compassion is over all that he has made.
The Lord upholds all who are falling,
And raises up all who are bowed down.
Let us Worship our God!!

*Hymn #40

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

(Dix)

***Prayer of Adoration and Confession**
God of grace and goodness, we give you thanks for this new day. You have faithfully entered our lives with your unfailing grace, and the newness you bring is a sign of your love. You have given us a new covenant, a new commandment, new teachings with new authority, and you have promised us a new heaven and earth. In this Easter season we praise you for the new life of the Risen Christ. Bring your new love to the many in need, your new peace to those in conflict, and your new healing to those who are ill. Grant us new energy to work at your mission and strengthen us through your renewing Spirit. Forgive us, O God, for our fears of change and our resistance to that which is new. We, your followers in this 21st century, have such a rich heritage and a strong tradition, and we are slow to change. We marvel at how you challenged your followers in earlier days, and we wonder if we can be changed. Grant us your wisdom to discern the presence of your renewing Spirit. Fill us with your love, so that we will not fear your calls for newness. We are so thankful for the safety net of your gracious love that upholds us even as we stray from you. Take us by the hand and lead us to your new future, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

***Assurance of Grace**
Hear the Good News! Take heart: God’s Spirit empowers us to move from the ways of death to the ways of new life. Our sins are forgiven. Let us forgive one another and give ourselves to one another in the joyful community of the risen Christ. 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.

(Greateorex)

From the Revelation of John: Revelation 21:1-6
Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and be their God; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.”
And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.

Welcoming and Leading Us This Morning

Preaching Today: Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

Liturgist: Tom Williams

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Choral Director: Dr. Dobin Park

Sound Technician: Robert Pettus

Greeters: Darlene Knepshild & Carol Thompson

Ushers: Steve Twehues, Ralph Schoulthies & Mike Hanson

Music reprinted under OneLicense.net A-722754

Choral Director Today: Sang Bin Park

<u>This Week</u>	
Sunday, May 18:	10:00 a.m. Worship Service/Graduate Recognition
Monday, May 19:	7:00 p.m. AA & Al-Anon Meeting
Tuesday, May 20:	7:00 p.m. NA Meeting 7:00 p.m. Garden Club Meeting
Thursday, May 22:	3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Yoga Class Fellowship Hall 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, May 24:	9:00 a.m. AA Meeting
Sunday, May 25:	10:00 a.m. Worship Service/Memorial Day Roll of Remembrance

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GO IN PEACE, SERVE THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD!

*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 thank you, O God, for the gift of life itself, for a place to live, for food to eat, for clothing, for work, for people to love and be loved by. You have provided all that we pretend we deserve, but now we acknowledge all is a gift from your grace. Receive our offerings as a sign of our gratitude and a desire to serve you with our whole life. Create a new spirit within us, a spirit of gratitude and grace, and a willingness to listen for your guidance. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

*Hymn #595 “They’ll Know We Are Christians ”

*Benediction

*Choral Response

Postlude

“St. Anthony Choral”

(Haydn/Brahms)

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 Shannon Lawrence in remembrance of her birthday today and also In Honor of Tanner Lawrence on his graduation from Thomas More University.



Open flower dates are June 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th.
To reserve your special date, please call the church office.

From the New Testament History: Acts 11:1-18
Now the apostles and the brothers and sisters who were in Judea heard that the gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners, and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

Anthem

“Sing Out a Song!”

(Don Besig)

Sing out a song, sing out a song, sing out a song unto the Lord.
Let the people rejoice, lift up your voice. Let joyful anthems resound.
Let all nations be glad this day, and give thanks to God for all His love.
Let all people arise and say; “He is marvelous.
He is wonderful. He is ruler of earth and heaven above!”
Come rejoice, lift up your voice. Sing out a song!

From the Gospels of the New Testament: John 13:31-35
When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Sermon

“A Dream, a Vision, an Example” 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.

As the ways of God which are beyond our ways,

As a deeper, different reality than we imagine,

As a possible reality.

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.

Thanks be to God!! Amen.

(Gordon)

Gathering Together in Prayer

Joys & 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.

Psalm 143:1

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

HEAR OUR PRAYER
Irr.

The truth for which Stephen gave his life has been passed on to us as a gift. The Christ, whom Paul proclaimed against fearful odds, has become our Savior because many before us have kept the faith and shared it. The spiritual sacrifices of many have contributed to our legacy of faith. It is our privilege to pass on these gifts through our tithes and offerings, through our giving of self.

(Hal Hopson)

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my king.
Take my lips and keep them true; Lord, may they always speak of you.

Take my thoughts, my very will, your true purpose to fulfill.
Take me Lord, and yours I'll be, yours for all eternity.

Lord, in mercy hear my plea, may I now your loved one be,
Loving for your love to see; O, hear me, hear me Lord. Amen.