

The Visitor

June/July 2025

TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

Volume 108 Issue 6

A Publication of St. John's United Church of Christ

A Message from J. Martin Westermeyer

As I write this, we have journeyed through the month of May. We have celebrated Mother's Day, recognized Graduates, remembered others on Memorial Day – all as we have journeyed through the Easter Season. Pentecost 2025 falls on Sunday, June 8th. **Please note:** Communion will be Celebrated that day, June 8th and **NOT** on the first Sunday of June. In July, we go back to the schedule of Communion on the first Sunday of the month.

This is also the Visitor for June and July. So, to keep you in the loop: My right knee surgery is scheduled for the last week of June. There will be folks filling the pulpit in my absence. As I write this, those people have not yet been established. I pray, you will continue to be faithful to St. John's UCC – in attendance, in giving, in participation and in prayerful support. I appreciate all of you and your support and prayers!

God is renowned in Judah; in Israel his name is great. His tent is in Salem, his dwelling place in Zion. There he broke the flashing arrows, the shields and the swords, the weapons of war. - Psalm 76:1-3 (NIV)

Sometime when I pray, I feel like a newscaster listing off serious events going on in the world. "God, there is catastrophic climate change all around," or "God, folks all over the world trying to rebuild their lives" or "God, our society feels toxic at times!" I might call out to the Divine. And when I catch myself doing this, it always breaks me out of my prayerful mode.

A voice in my head snidely points out that God is, in fact, already aware of what is going on in the world. I'm reminded there is not a sparrow that falls to the earth, but that God knows about it. So why am I playing the

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role of an evening news anchor informing the Almighty of the day's goings on? This bothers me about my prayer life; it makes me feel somehow frivolous.

But then I ran across this passage from the Book of Psalms, I listed above. And here in the poetry/prayer book found in the Bible, we see the psalmist informing God about all sorts of things that God already knows. God's renown in Judah? Yeah, God is already aware of that.

So, my mental process begins: Maybe I need to cut myself some slack in regard to my prayer life. Maybe I need to let the prayers flow from my spirit in whatever form they take, not worrying about cleaning them up before bringing them to the Almighty's attention.

If you're like me, and you beat yourself up over your prayer life, take a lesson from the Book of Psalms. Just pray. Because even if your prayer life isn't perfect, God is already aware of that.

And then, we should pray: God, thank you for hearing our prayers with grace and love. Amen.

See you in church – Pastor Marty

PRAYER MINISTRY-JUNE/JULY BLESSINGS

Your mind will believe everything you tell it–
Feed it FAITH
Feed it TRUTH
Feed it LOVE

Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about.
Be KIND ALWAYS.

It's CHOOSE DAY.
Choose KINDNESS
Choose PASSION
Choose GRATITUDE
Choose HAPPINESS
Choose YOURSELF



NEXT VISITOR DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 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.”

GOODBYE AND MANY THANKS

We were all happy and filled with joy when our associate music director, Dobin Park, married Sane Jung in a beautiful ceremony here in our church. Many church friends attended the ceremony and the reception which followed. Dobin's beloved choir sang at the ceremony which made it even more special. When Dobin told us he would be moving to San Antonio at the end of June, we were all very sad to lose him, but we wish him and Sane much happiness in their new life together.



Dobin has been a blessing to our choir and to our church over the last eight years. He shared his amazing musical gifts with us every Sunday, and became a dedicated member of our congregation.



Dobin will be back with us the last three Sundays in June, so be sure to greet him before he leaves, and express your gratitude to him for the wonderful ministry he has shared with us over these past eight years.

Michael Sullivan



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. Watch and then share with a friend. We hope to see you on Facebook each Monday for the new mindset message.

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



LIVE STREAMING NOW AVAILABLE FOR ST. JOHN'S

St. John's is excited to announce the start of our new option for online worship: live streaming. Join us Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. on our church Facebook page to join our service live as it happens. This is a great option if you are ill, out of town, or are unable to come to church but still want to experience our in-person worship. Can't attend at 10:00 a.m. ... no problem! The service will be available to watch at any time to our Facebook page and will be uploaded to our YouTube page and website. We hope you can join us for worship in any format that works for you.

ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS

For online giving, please scan the QR code.



June Birthdays and Anniversaries

June Birthdays

June 9th: Beth Gies
June 10th: Tom Haas & Oliver Morris
June 13th: Joanna Haas
June 20th: Betty Jo Haas
June 27th: Stuart Suggs
June 28th: Emily Fussinger



June Anniversaries

June 9th: Patty & Jack Patterson (46 years)
June 13th: Diana & David Stamm (55 years)
June 22nd: Carol & Tom Haas (57 years)
June 25th: Pat & Dan Goins (54 years)



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

JUNE HOMEBOUND MEMBERS OF THE WEEK

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

June 1st: Jean Morrow
June 8th: Norma Biery
June 15th: John Westlund
June 23rd: Betty Webster
June 29th: Peggy Eckert

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

St. John's is excited to announce the return of our Back-to-School supply drive benefiting the Newport Independent School District and Washington UCC. This year the schools are looking for any of the following items: Crayons, Colored pencils, Markers, Folders, Pencils, Pens, Glue sticks, Erasers, Pencil boxes, Spiral Notebooks, and Backpacks.



If you can't make it out to shop, no problem! We will collect monetary donations and send them to the organizations to help them get the supplies they need. This donation drive will kick off on **July 6th** and run through **August 3rd**. Boxes will be located at each of the entrances to the sanctuary to drop off supplies. Please contact the church office with any questions.

July Birthdays and Anniversaries

July Birthdays

July 2nd: Joan Sheanshang
July 5th: Makenzie Connley
July 9th: Sheila Bogen
July 10th: Macy Morris
July 11th: Zachary Rice
July 12th: Phyllis VonStrohe
July 20th: Jennifer Withrow
July 26th: Pat Goins & Garry Miller
July 27th: Bertie Jo Tuerpe
July 29th: Mark Hater
July 31st: Dan Goins



July Anniversaries

July 17th: Pam & Paul Schierberg (48 years)
July 23rd: Kelli & Scott Taylor (37 years)



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

JULY HOMEBOUND MEMBERS OF THE WEEK

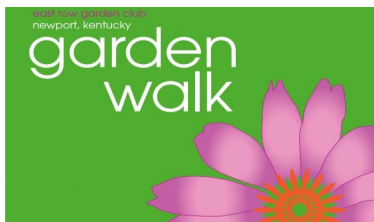
We would like to celebrate and honor our homebound members of the week for the month of July. We appreciate and celebrate these individuals as our members of the week!

July 6th Gayle McAtee
July 13th: Janice Keeney
July 20th: Bertie Jo Tuerpe-Birthday July 27th
July 27th: Carol Strong

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.





LUNCH BUNCH
Wednesday, June 11th
12:00 p.m.-2:00p.m.
"Brown Bag Day"

Bring Your Own Lunch
Drinks & Desserts Provided

**JOIN US
For
LUNCH!**

Lunch Bunch
Wednesday, July 9th
12:00 p.m.-2:00pm
Picnic Style-Lunch Provided
Drinks & Desserts Provided
Fun with chair volleyball



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 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.



Currently the campaign is at \$22,745.00. We thank you for your consideration during this time.



GRADUATE RECOGNITION 2025



Reese Carmony graduated from Pendleton County High School on May 23, 2025. Reese is the granddaughter of Mike and Barb Boyers.

Garrett Cutajar graduated from Highlands High School on May 27, 2025. He plans to attend Northern Kentucky University and major in Cybersecurity and minor in Vocal Music in the fall. Garrett also continues to pursue his National Guard Basic Training to become a Military Police Officer. Garrett is the son of Linda Cutajar and the grandson of Judy Robinson.

Tanner Lawrence graduated from Thomas More University with a Master's Degree in Business. Tanner is the grandson of Karen Kiefer.

Ella Williams graduated from Campbell County High School on May 27, 2025. She will attend the University of Kentucky in the fall. Ella is the granddaughter of Tom and Sue Williams.

Congratulations to the Class of 2025! We wish you great happiness and success!

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

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

Food Pantry

In Loving Memory of Sue Wagner ~Gary Wagner

Joseph Haas Sr. Choral Scholars Fund

In Loving Memory of Joe Haas Sr. ~ Connie Haas

Buildings and Grounds

In Loving Memory of Walter & Helen Berkemeyer ~ Joan Berkemeyer

In Loving Memory of My Mother, Ruth Hanson ~ Dr. Michael Hanson

In Loving Memory of My Father, Howard Hanson ~ Dr. Michael Hanson

Upcoming Events at St. John's

Saturday June 7th & Sunday, June 8th: East Row Garden Walk
11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 8th: Pentecost Sunday/Communion Sunday-Remember to wear something red.

Wednesday, June 11th: Lunch Bunch 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

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

Sunday, June 16th: Father's Day (Every dad in attendance will receive a special gift)

Thursday, June 19th: Juneteenth—Church Office Closed

Thursday, July 3rd & Friday, July 4th: Independence Day—Church Office Closed

Wednesday, July 9th: Lunch Bunch 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 10th: Food Pantry 9:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 13th: Florence Community Band Concert-6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. St. John's side lawn



FLORENCE COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT AT ST. JOHN'S



On **Sunday, July 13th** the Florence Community Band will be here at St. John's for a concert on the lawn. The concert will be from 6-7pm here on the side lawn of the church. Bring a lawn chair and come on down and listen to some wonderful music for the evening. Hope to see you at the concert!