

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
Chancel Choir Director	Tony Burdette	Tony.Burdette@stjohnsuccnewport.org
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.	



August 24, 2025
10:00 a.m.
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost



Prayer for the Day before Worship

Gracious God, we gather in this place at your invitation. You place before us this day, in the elements of the service, your Son Jesus Christ and the offer to live as your children, free from fear and free of death's power. Grant your Spirit, that we may cling to your promises and never let go. As you graciously offer us your grace and life in your reign today, give us the strength to take your hand and live. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*All who are able are welcome to stand

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude *"Meditation in G"* (A. Schreiner)

Tower Bell

*Call to Worship: based on Psalm 71

In you, O Lord, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame.

In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me and save me.

Be to me a strong fortress, to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.

For you, O Lord, are my hope and my trust. My praise is continually of you.

Let us Worship our God!!

***Hymn #569** *"God of Grace and God of Glory"* (CWM Rhondda)

*Prayer of Adoration and Confession

Blessed are those whose strength is in you, O God of hosts, in whose hearts are highways to your eternal dominion. A day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere, and you withhold nothing from those who walk uprightly. We shall dwell as doorkeepers in your heavenly household, there to give you the honor and glory that is due your name.

With Christ as our hope, O God, we stand at the gates of your sanctuary seeking your pardon. We confess that we have not Worshipped you alone. Life makes its demands

and we push you to the margins. You are for leisure moments, when our own work is done. Forgive us for our small minds and mistaken priorities. Restore in us the sense of your greatness and your ultimate claim upon our lives. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

***Assurance of Grace**

Hear the Good News with grateful hearts, that Jesus, the mediator of the New Covenant, ushers us into the gates of God’s eternal kingdom. By his own blood he healed the estrangement between God and us. And his sacrifice offers reconciliation to all who believe. In this Christ we have assurance that we are forgiven, and truly citizens of the heavenly city. 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 Poetry of the Old Testament: Psalm 103:1-8

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits—
who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
who satisfies you with good as long as you live
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.
The Lord works vindication
and justice for all who are oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses,
his acts to the people of Israel.
The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

From the Letters to the Entire Church: Hebrews 12:18-29

You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. (For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.” Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.”) But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living

Welcoming and Leading Us This Morning

Preaching Today: Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

Liturgist: Steve Twehues

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Chancel Choir Director: Tony Burdette

Sound Technician: Robert Pettus

Greeters: Darlene Knepshield & Wendy Watts

Ushers: Steve Twehues, Ralph Schoulthies & Mike Hanson

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This Week

- Sunday, August 24:**

10:00 a.m. Worship Service
11:15 a.m. Cookies & Lemonade/Welcome Reception
- Monday, August 25:**

7:00 p.m. AA & Al-Anon Meeting
- Tuesday, August 26:**

7:00 p.m. NA Meeting
- Thursday, August 28:**

3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Yoga Class Fellowship Hall
- Saturday, August 30:**

9:00 a.m. AA Meeting
- Sunday, August 31:**

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

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GO IN PEACE, SERVE THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD!

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 honor and celebration of Jan and Darlene Knepshield's 63rd wedding anniversary tomorrow. Congratulations Jan and Darlene!

Love, Kelli, Scott, Shelby, Kelsey, Kyle, Elise, Tanner, Jannah, Leah & Camryn



Open flower dates are August 31st, September 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th
To reserve your special date, please call the church office.

We thank Tony and Joy Burdette for sharing their beautiful gift of music this morning.

ANNIVERSARIES FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 24TH

August 25th: Laura Haas & Jim Breyer (13 years)

August 25th: Darlene & Jan Knepshield (63 years)

LETTERS AND CARDS FOR GARRETT CUTAJAR

One of our Choral Scholars, Garrett Cutajar is in basic training from now through the middle of December. He will return to the choir around the end of December. If you would like to send him a card or letter, his address and instructions are listed below. Only send cards or letters. They are not allowed to receive additional items other than what they were issued, and definitely no food/treats.

Front of envelope:

PV2, Cutajar, Garrett
Co. A 795th MP BN, PLT #2
7676 Loyalty Loop, Bldg. 901
Fort Leonard Wood, MO 65473

Back of the envelope:

Co. A 795th MP BN, PLT #2

FYI

It could take up to 2 weeks for him to receive letters. Stop mailing the last week of November. He returns the end of December.

God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking, for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven." This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe, for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

Solo

"Were It Not For Grace"

(Hamilton/ McHugh)

(Tony Burdette - soloist)

Time measured out my days
Life carried me along
In my soul I yearned to follow God
But knew I'd never be so strong
I looked hard at this world
To learn how heaven could be gained
Just to end where I began
Where human effort is all in vain

So here is all my praise
Expressed with all my heart
Offered to the Friend who took my place
And ran a course I could not start
And when He saw in full
Just how much His would cost
He still went the final mile between me and heaven
So I would not be lost

Were it not for grace
I can tell you where I'd be
Wandering down some pointless road to nowhere
With my salvation up to me
I know how that would go
The battles I would face
Forever running but losing this race
Were it not for grace

Were it not for grace
I can tell you where I'd be
Wandering down some pointless road to nowhere
With my salvation up to me
I know how that would go
The battles I would face
Forever running but losing this race
Were it not for grace.

From the Major Prophets of the Old Testament: Jeremiah 1:4-10

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a boy,' for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord."

Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

Sermon “Call, Risk, and Promise” Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

***Affirmation of Faith: from That All May Worship**
As God's creations,
we are fashioned uniquely,
Each endowed with individuality of body, mind, and spirit
To worship freely the One who has given us life.
Each of us has abilities; each seeks fulfillment and wholeness.
Each of us has disabilities; each knows isolation and incompleteness.
Seeking shelter from the vulnerability we all share,
Claiming our promised place in God's Household of Faith,
We are transformed by invitation, affirmation and love.
In grateful response, we...
- Worship and serve God, the source of hope and joy;
- Celebrate and serve one another, rejoicing in our diversity;
- Transform and serve the world,
until we become a Community which reflects God's Oneness and Peace.
Let the House of God be open to all who enter and Worship. Amen.

***Hymn #345** “Jesus Calls Us o’er the Tumult” (Galilee)

Gathering Together in Prayer
Joys and 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 (Amazing Grace)

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

Offertory Invitation
Our spiritual ancestors followed specific instructions for their offerings. A tithe belonged to God, and sacrifices were expected. Perhaps it is our casual commitment that creates doubts and desperation within and among us. What would happen if all of us were to give in proportion to what we have received, with joy and deepest gratitude?

Response “He’s Got the Whole World In His Hand” (arr. Margaret Bonds)
(Joy Burdette - soloist)

He's got the whole world in His hand
He's got the whole world in His hand
He's got the whole world in His hand
He's got the whole world in His hand

He's got the woods and the waters in His hand
He's got the woods and the waters in His hand
He's got the sun and the moon right in His hand
He's got the whole world in His hand

He's got the birds and the bees right in His hand
He's got the birds and the bees right in His hand
He's got the beasts of the field right in His hand
He's got the whole world in His hand

He's got you and me right in His hand
He's got you and me right in His hand
He's got everybody in His hand
He's got the whole world in His hand
He's got the whole world in His hand

***Doxology** (Old 100th)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost Amen

***Prayer of Dedication**
With praise and adoration we enter your temple, O God. Thanksgiving spills from our lips as we approach your majesty. You are God who creates in splendor; holy and blessed is your glorious name. With your Spirit to guide us we shall strive to enter the narrow door, following Christ’s teachings and the call to obey. Receive now these offerings: our tithes, gifts and offerings, as signs of our commitment, of our unceasing gratitude for the gifts you bestow. It is in the name of Jesus that we pray. Amen.

***Hymn #496** “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms” (Showalter)

***Benediction**

Postlude Postlude on “Italian Hymn” (Albin Whiteorth)