



September 21, 2025  
10:00 a.m.  
**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**



**Thought for the Day before Worship**

*Always pray for leaders when you pray for everyone,  
but don't confuse worldly government with  
our eternal allegiance to God through Jesus.*

\*All who are able are welcome to stand

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude**

*“Sicilienne”*

*(Malcom Archer)*

**Tower Bell**

**Introit**

Come we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known,  
Join in a song with sweet accord, and thus surround the throne.

**\*Call to Worship: Adapted from Psalm 113**

Praise God, all who have come to worship. Praise His holy name!

**Blessed be God's name from this time on and forevermore.**

From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the LORD is to be praised.

**The glory of God is high above the heavens.**

Who is like God, who is seated on high, who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?

**God raises us all, poor and rich, and seats us at the same table.**

God gives us all a home, making us part of one family. Let us Praise and Worship God!

**\*Hymn #59**

*“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”*

*(Hymn To Joy)*

**\*Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

**O gracious God, you have supplied our every need and require only that we live in thanksgiving. As we deepen our relationship with you, make our lives blossom and grow in every way. When we are with you we enrich our lives beyond measure. Remind us that this is why we love you.**

We are too quick, God of patience and forbearance, to take up the ways of the world, to speak harshly and in judgment, raising economic walls, creating nations while you embrace all of humanity, drawing lines between political parties, and hiding from those we imagine are “others.”  
But we are one people. You, who truly are wholly other than us, created us in love that we might in one voice proclaim your glory to the universe. Write your will on our hearts. Let your word become a balm of healing.  
Find us! Receive us! Forgive us!  
In your holy name we come before you, a confessing people, confessing our sins, but also confessing the love of Christ to a sorrowful world. Hear our prayer in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

**\*Assurance of Grace**  
Hear the Good News! As we face the uncertainty of this world, we are accepted, received, recognized, confronted and loved by God. Let us struggle with accepting, recognizing, confronting and loving ourselves. Dearly Beloved, believe the Good News!  
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, now and forever. Amen.

**\*Gloria Patri** (Greateorex)  
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.

**Scripture Lesson: Old Testament Jeremiah 8:18-9:1**  
My joy is gone; grief is upon me; my heart is sick.  
Listen! The cry of the daughter of my people from far and wide in the land:  
“Is the Lord not in Zion? Is her King not in her?”  
 (“Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their foreign idols?”)  
 “The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.”  
For the brokenness of the daughter of my people I am broken, I mourn, and horror has seized me.

Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of the daughter of my people not been restored?

O that my head were a spring of water and my eyes a fountain of tears, so that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!

**Scripture Lesson: New Testament 1 Timothy 2:1-7**  
First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.



**CONTACTS**

|                        |                                                |             |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Phone                  | 859-431-1818                                   |             |
| Email                  | stjohnsucc@stjohnsuccnewport.org               |             |
| Website                | www.stjohnsuccnewport.org                      |             |
| Facebook               | St. John’s United Church of Christ–Newport, KY |             |
| <b>PROGRAM</b>         | <b>LOCATION</b>                                | <b>TIME</b> |
| 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. |                        |

## Welcoming and Leading Us This Morning

## Preaching Today: Vickie Grey Kennedy

Liturgist: John Robson

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Chancel Choir Director: Tony Burdette

Sound Technician: Robert Pettus

Greeters: Darlene Knepshild & Julie Ollier

Ushers: Steve Twehues, Ralph Schoulthies & Mike Hanson

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## This Week

**Sunday, Sept. 21st:** 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

**Monday, Sept. 22nd:** 7:00 p.m. AA & Al-Anon Meeting

**Tuesday, Sept. 23rd:** 7:00 p.m. NA Meeting

**Wednesday, Sept. 24th: 7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal**

**Thursday, Sept. 25th:** 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Yoga Class Fellowship Hall

**Saturday, Sept. 27th:** 9:00 a.m. AA Meeting  
10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. The Chosen Discussion Group

**Sunday, Sept. 28th:** 10:00 a.m. Worship Service



**GO IN PEACE, SERVE THE LORD**

**THANKS BE TO GOD!**

## Anthem

*“Be Glad in the Lord”*

*(Joseph Martin)*

Be glad in the Lord, all ye righteous. Rejoice, rejoice, all ye people.  
Sing out for joy, all ye pure in heart. Rejoice, give thanks, and sing.  
Rejoice, give thanks and sing. Bring praise to the King of kings  
Rejoice, let the nations sing and lift their praise to the Lord who redeems.  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing. The steadfast love of the Lord is with you.  
His grace surrounds all those who trust in his name.  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing. Be glad in the Lord, give thanks, and sing.

## Scripture Lesson: Gospel Luke 16:1-13

Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

# Sermon

## “Faithfulness vs. Dishonesty”

Vickie Grey Kennedy

**\*Affirmation of Faith: UCC Statement of Faith, Second General Synod, 1959**

**We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit,**

**Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father,**

**and to his deeds we testify:**

**He calls the worlds into being,**

**creates man in his own image**

**and sets before him the ways of life and death.**

**He seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.**

**He judges men and nations by his righteous will**

**declared through prophets and apostles.**

**He bestows upon us his holy Spirit,  
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,  
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages,  
tongues and races.**

**He promises to all who trust him  
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,  
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,  
his presence in trial and rejoicing,  
and eternal life in his kingdom which has no end.  
Blessing and honor, glory and power, be unto him. Amen.**

## Gathering Together in Prayer

### Joys and 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.

We have wireless receivers for the hearing impaired which you may obtain from an usher.

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.

Judy Adams, Wendy Bauer, Joan Berkemeyer, Norma Biery, Yvonne Daniels, Flo Grey, Betty Jo Haas, Chuck Hawkins, Vickie Kennedy, Jean Morrow, Ralph Schoulthies, Jim Thompson, Ed Von Strohe, Wendy Watts, Marty Westermeyer & Sue Williams

Christ UCC; Ft. Thomas  
Diane Vego, Interim

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

Her address is:  
Norma Biery  
Fields of Florence Room 333  
212 Main Street  
Florence, KY 41042

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.

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.

You can view our online video Sunday worship services through our church website: [www.stjohnsuccnewport.org](http://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!

## WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

World Communion Sunday offers congregations a distinctive opportunity to experience Holy Communion in the context of the global community of faith. The first Sunday of October is when Christians in every culture break bread and pour the cup to remember and affirm Christ as the Head of the Church. On that day, we recognize that we are part of the whole body of believers. Join us on **Sunday, October 5th** as we celebrate World Communion Sunday.

## NEIGHBORS IN NEED

The Neighbors in Need offering supports ministries of justice and compassion, with one-third of the offering given to the Council for American Indian Ministries and the remaining two-thirds supporting UCC justice ministries.

In 2025 the Neighbors in Need Offering supported 26 grant recipients across the UCC who were engaged in projects of direct service and advocacy.

This special offering will be collected on **World Communion Sunday (October 5, 2025)**. Thank you for your support and generosity!

## PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY

**Sunday, October 12th** is Pastor Appreciation Day. Take a moment and let Pastor Marty and Pastor John know how much we appreciate all that they do for St. John's and for everyone here at St. John's.

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, October 26th - 11:15 a.m.  
Sanctuary after Sunday Worship

## TRUNK OR TREAT

Join us **Saturday, October 18, 2025 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** as St. John's hosts a Trunk-or-Treat event. This event will take place in the parking lot of St. John's. We are asking members and friends to bring their cars and decorate them and pass out candy to children as they come to your car. Costumes are encouraged for both children and adults and there will be a winner for best costume. There will also be games and activities for kids to participate in as they make their way through the treat trail. Invite all of your children, grandchildren, and friends to join us for this fun event. If you would like to participate by providing a car or hosting an activity please contact the church office or place your name on one of the sign-up sheets located in the church.

## Response

*Psalm 143:1*

### Hear Our Prayer, O Lord 306

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: 'Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord, in - cline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace. A - men.' The score ends with a double bar line. Below the staves, it says 'WORDS: Psalm 143:1' and 'MUSIC: George Whelpton, 1897'. In the bottom right corner, it says 'HEAR OUR PRAYER Irr.'

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

HEAR OUR PRAYER  
Irr.

## Offertory Invitation

The God who bears us up on eagles' wings invites us to participate in the transformation of the world. The church at its best is devoted to nothing less than changing peoples' thoughts and actions to a more loving way. Contribute in liberality; give aid with zeal; serve with caring devotion. Our offerings symbolize our commitment.

## 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 raise our voices to you today, who are mindful before we spoke not only for what we desire, but what we need. Hear us, God of this season and all seasons, as we seek your wisdom this day. Our offerings are no sacrifice, but represent welcome freedom from the ties that bind us too closely to this world. Accept our gifts as we approach with awe, wonder, respect, and joy. Draw near, Lord Jesus. Let this present world pass away. Amen.**

**\*Hymn #508**

*“Lead On, O King Eternal”*

*(Lancashire)*

**\*Benediction**

**\*Choral Response**

**Postlude**

*“Festal Flourish”*

*(Flor Peeters)*

**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.**



The greenery at the pulpit and baptismal font are provided by the church.

Open flower dates are September 28th, October 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th  
To reserve your special date, please call the church office.

**BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 21ST**

September 21st: Josephine Fussinger  
September 24th: Matthew Morris



**ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS**

For online giving, please scan the QR code.

**THE CHOSEN**

Saturday September 27, 10-11:30am  
Saturday October 04, 10-11:30am  
Saturday October 11, 10-11:30am  
Saturday October 18, 10-11:30am  
Saturday October 25, 10-11:30am  
**Meetings are in the church library**

**NEW HOPE PREGNANCY CENTER PROJECT**

Join us in collecting money to support New Hope Pregnancy Center. The Leadership Team has chosen New Hope for our September outreach. New Hope is proud to offer free, confidential pregnancy confirmation and support services. They provide the following services: Pregnancy Testing, Ultrasounds, Support & Education.  
We are inviting you to take a baby bottle bank home, and fill it with any loose change or dollar bills. Return the bottles to church by **September 28th** so we can turn them over to New Hope Pregnancy Center as a gift of love, care, and compassion.

**CARDS FOR PASTOR MARTY**

Anyone wishing to send a card to Pastor Marty while he is out recovering from knee surgery may do so at the address below.  
Pastor Marty Westermeyer  
c/o Carol Westermeyer  
5518 Lucenna Drive  
Cincinnati, OH 45238