

# The Visitor

## NOVEMBER 2025

### TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

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#### *A Message from J. Martin Westermeyer*

We will soon be entering the month of November, a month that reminds me of many things as we continue our faith journey. During this month, we have All Saints Sunday when we remember those members and friends of St. John's UCC who have died in the past year. There will be an emphasis on one Sunday about stewardship and the importance of supporting the church and its mission and ministry, and of course remembering to be thankful for all that God has done, is now doing, and will continue to do for us.

I returned after knee surgery and recovery on October 12, 2015. I appreciate all the kind words, thoughts and prayers. Also, thank you for all the cards and greetings for Pastor Appreciation Sunday, which happened to be on October 12<sup>th</sup> as well. As I was recovering and planning for the items listed in the first paragraph, I ran across the following verse(s) from Mark reminding me to slow down and to rethink my attitude of constantly trying to be active in my mind and body.

*A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat the boat. ... Jesus rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. - Mark 4:37 & 39 (NRSV)*

Have you ever tried to be completely still? You'd sooner sprout wings and fly.

No matter how stationary we become, the heart pumps, lungs breathe, intestines digest. Our brain produces an endless stream of thoughts-sometimes a trickle, sometimes a fire hose. We continue to have bodily functions and blink.

Not even inanimate objects are still: not the rock, not the chair, not the parked car. From the perspective of quantum physics (which I know very little about), subatomic particles are buzzing about at warp speed.

Sedentary or not, everything is a teeming dance of movement. True stillness, therefore, requires divine intervention as today's passage makes clear. Stillness is akin to holiness.

When Jesus stilled the storm, he brought creation to a standstill, to the point of "dead calm," which might have been the brink of non-existence, something only the Creator could pull off. That's the point: Jesus had those creds.

I still recommend sitting quietly at least once a day. It's the best way I know to encounter the unstoppable miracle of life dancing through me ... and then be moved to praise.

Shhhh... I'm trying to be still.

See you in Church - Pastor Marty

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### PRAYER MINISTRY-NOVEMBER BLESSINGS

It's not what you say but what you do.

Find the good in every day. It's usually little things that we should be the most thankful for.

Pray anywhere because God is everywhere.

The Bible is rated E for everyone.

A.S.A.P. Always say a prayer.



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### STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

On **Sunday, November 16th** we shall celebrate Stewardship Sunday by bringing forth our pledge cards and placing them in the offering plate. Please plan to join us for this special service.





join us for a

*Buildings & Grounds  
Celebration Luncheon*

Sunday, November 9th | 11:30am



St. John 's UCC Fellowship Hall  
Celebrating the congregation on a major  
financial accomplishment



*Pasta Luncheon, Raffles, Prizes, Music*



## CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Mark your calendars now!! Our annual Choral Christmas Concert will be coming once again in December!

This year we are excited to be doing something a little bit different. We will be joining with the choir of Gloria Dei Lutheran church in Lakeside Park to present the concert. Both choirs are busy rehearsing the music.

On **Saturday evening December 6th at 7pm**, we will present the concert at Gloria Dei under the direction of their director, Houston Tyrrell. On **Sunday evening December 21st at 7pm**, we will present the concert here at St. John's, under the direction of our own director, Tony Burdette.

The main portion of the concert will be the cantata by Mary McDonald entitled "Festival of Christmas". Other selections will be sung, including the Hallelujah Chorus by G.F. Handel. The choirs will be accompanied by an orchestra.

We hope you will plan to be with us here at **St. John's on Sunday, December 21st** to experience beautiful music for your holiday enjoyment. The concert at both churches will be followed by a fun holiday reception.



## ALWAYS GO TO THE FUNERAL — SAY WHAT??

The first week in October St. John's lost two members of longstanding — Norma Biery and Yvonne Daniels. Separated by just three short days, funeral services were held for both dear disciples of Christ. Their soul's departure to Heaven's Door prompted many of us to think: Should I go to visitation and/or the funeral? Fair enough.

And my "job" description at St. John's ("THANK YOU") leads me to answer YES. You go not so much to honor the departed — contrary to the thoughts of some — you go for your peace of mind and to gather with family and friends. Funerals are an event that reaffirms that life this side of Heaven is finite. It has a beginning, a middle and an end. Death can cause a quickening of our discipleship as followers of Christ. It does so for me.

Folks have sometimes shared with me that they had a tenuous relationship with the departed and pondered if attending had value. Hmm? But those who are reading this essay are disciples of Christ in modern America. And you give of your time to show your values — love and forgiveness. Our church's memorial program marking death is important. Friends: the purpose of the funeral service is for family, neighbors, and friends of the departed. Don't take this statement as selfish; but, the purpose, in part, is for you and your well-being in the days to come.

I read an essay by Lori Gottlieb, a therapist — death can unwrap quite a lot of memories and conflicts. She said that the choice of whether to come or not is less about the dearly departed than it is about your need to feel at peace with yourself. What does this funeral represent for you? Is it a symbol of a duty completed? Is it a way of honoring a person that shaped you? It is for sure a space to witness to a life that intersected with your own and to grieve. For me, it has been about what I ought to do with the days remaining in my discipleship.



Blessings,  
John Robson



**Daylight Saving Time Ends**  
set your clocks back an hour

## NOVEMBER IS “BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH” MONTH!

This November, we’re excited to launch **“Bring a Friend to Church Month”** — a special time to reach out, invite, and welcome others into our church family!

Each Sunday in November is an opportunity to share God’s love by bringing a friend, co-worker, neighbor, or family member to experience worship, community, and the Word. Whether it’s someone who’s never been to church, hasn’t attended in a while, or is simply looking for a church home, your invitation could make all the difference.



**When:** Every Sunday in November

**Why:** Because everyone deserves to know they’re loved, seen, and Welcomed

**Who will you invite?**

Let’s pray, reach out, and fill our church with open hearts and new faces this November!



### LUNCH BUNCH

**Wednesday, November 12th**

Bring your own lunch

12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

Desserts provided

All are welcome

**JOIN US  
For  
LUNCH!**

A new group picture of the Lunch Bunch will be taken on this day.  
Be sure to attend so you are included in the picture!



## THANKSGIVING BASKETS FOR THE FOOD PANTRY

St. John's will be collecting food items for our Thanksgiving Baskets to benefit the church's Food Pantry. The Food Pantry is generously donating canned corn, green beans, gravy, sweet potatoes and turkeys to the baskets. The congregation is being asked to help supply the following items: boxed stuffing, boxed mashed potatoes, canned jellied cranberry sauce, boxed cornbread, and boxed desserts (cake mixes, icing, brownies etc.). If you are unable to shop, you are more than welcome to contribute financially to the project. Just mark your donation "Thanksgiving Baskets," and this will help support our cause. Donations will be accepted through **Sunday, November 9, 2025**. Please contact the church office with any questions.



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## CARE CLOSET VOLUNTEERS

On **Saturday, November 15, 2025 from 1:00pm-3:00pm** St. John's is looking for **4-6 volunteers** to help at the Care Closet in Newport, KY. These volunteers will be responsible for sorting bags of donations that are received on a daily basis. The volunteers will help to sort incoming donations into size, gender and season, as well as shoes, toys, baby supplies, etc. The Care Closet is located at 801 York Street in Newport. If you can help with this project, please call the church office at 859-431-1818 option 3 or contact Laura Haas for more information.



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## THE FOOD PANTRY NEEDS YOUR HELP

The Food Pantry is asking for our help in collecting personal hygiene items and cleaning products for the customers that come to our Food Pantry each month. These items are desperately needed to help those in our community. The items that are needed include toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, deodorant, bar soap, lotion and any cleaning products. Any help with donations will be greatly appreciated. Baskets will be located at each entrance of the church for your donated items. Thank you for your help with this project.



## **DARKNESS THEN LIGHT**

**Advent 2025.** Please consider joining a weekly discussion group during Advent season. This year we will be using the Advent devotional book titled *"Darkness then Light"*. The book is a 4 week guide with 25 devotions leading to the birth of Christ. Each devotion focuses on a different theme in scripture. Also included are weekly reflections that enhance group discussion and individual meditation, both providing a rich, thoughtful experience.

The group will meet in the church parlor on Saturday December 6th, 13th, and 20th, from 10:00 - 11:00 am. A closing discussion, optional and to be determined, will meet after Christmas day.

A free book is available to the first 10 folks who sign up for the discussion group. Others may purchase the book from [Christianitytoday.com](http://Christianitytoday.com) for a reasonable price.

If you are interested in joining the group please contact Laura Haas (859-240-9807). All are welcome, church members, family and friends. If you have questions please reach out to Laura.



## **NEW HOPE PREGNANCY CENTER PROJECT**

In September the congregation from St. John's UCC collected money to support New Hope Pregnancy Center. We filled 32 baby bottles full of coins, dollar bills and checks.

New Hope offers free, confidential pregnancy confirmation and support services. They provide the following services: Pregnancy Testing, Ultrasounds, Support & Education.



Thank you to everyone who took the time to support this mission.

## THANK YOU JULIE & DOUG OLLIER

A big thank you to Julie and Doug Ollier for watering the church lawn after the re-seeding project was done and for once again cleaning up the outside around the church and weeding the church flower beds. We appreciate all that you two do for the church.



If anyone would like to help with any small indoor or outdoor projects like Julie and Doug, contact the church office or a member of the Leadership Team.

## TRICK-OR-TREAT BAGS FOR TRENT MONTESSORI SCHOOL

On Friday, October 31st the students from Trent Montessori School enjoyed bags of Halloween treats from St. John's UCC. Each student received a trick-or treat bag filled with candy, snacks and a small toy.

The students greatly appreciated the bags of treats which allowed each student to have a happy Halloween.

Thank you to David and Diana Stamm for buying and assembling around 85 trick or treat bags for the kids and for another successful outreach project from St. John's. Happy Halloween!!



## 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 on 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.



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

## TRUNK-OR-TREAT AT ST. JOHN'S

On Saturday, October 19th St. John's hosted it's second annual Trunk-or-Treat event. We had 12 volunteers plus Newport's Jet's Pizza. We provided candy, face painting, games, and sidewalk chalk to about 25 children. We served 40 hotdogs and gave the leftover hotdogs, buns, and pretzel snacks to our food pantry. Everyone had a great day!!



# *November Birthdays and Anniversaries*

## November Birthdays

November 1st: Claire Coppage  
November 2nd: James Penrod Jr.  
November 4th: Jean Morrow  
November 10th: Cathy Connley  
November 22nd: Jan Haas  
November 23rd: Tracy Barber  
November 25th: Bonnie Hoffmann  
November 26th: Mickel Clark & Rose Wendling  
November 27th: Karen Kiefer  
November 28th: Kyle Taylor  
November 29th: Chuck Hawkins



## November Anniversaries

November 8th: Eric & Jan Haas (45 years)



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

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## NOVEMBER HOMEBOUND MEMBER OF THE WEEK

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

November 2nd: Jean Morrow-Birthday November 4th  
November 9th: Janice Keeney  
November 16th: Carol Strong  
November 23rd: Pam Maloney  
November 30th: Marcia Schmidt

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## NEXT VISITOR DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2025

If you would like to submit an article or receive *The Visitor* via email please contact [StJohnsUCC@StJohnsUCCNewport.org](mailto: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](http://StJohnsUCCNewport.org) under our "News Section."



**GIFTS TO THE MANGER COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS MINISTRY**  
**Washington United Church of Christ**  
**513-541-7757**



Sunday, December 14 we will provide up to 100 area families with gift items and some basic necessities. We hope to give each child (about 350) an outfit, socks, underwear, gloves, hat and a few toys. Each family will receive a food box.

The Christ child was born in poverty and gifted by the magi. What better way to celebrate his birth than to do the same for these children of God!

**PLEASE SEE OUR NEEDS below.** If you have any questions or concerns, please call the church at 513-541-7757.

**MONETARY DONATIONS ARE NEEDED AND APPRECIATED.** We will do the shopping! Please send to: Christmas Ministry, Washington UCC, 2950 Sidney Ave. Cincinnati, Ohio 45225

**UNDERWEAR:** We need girls' sizes small to large and women's sizes small to XL. We need boys sizes 2-3, 4-5 and small and men's sizes small to XL.

**SOCKS:** We need girls ankle socks sizes 4-10 (colors) and 9-11 (white and colors), and boys sizes 6-9, toddlers, and men's large.

**INFANTS:** No need. Need toddler boys 2T to 5T.

**CLOTHING: Girls:** We need girls' sizes 5, 6, 10, 12, 14, 16 and Junior 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 and women small, medium, large, XL. We prefer sweatpants and tops.

**CLOTHING: Boys:** We need boy's outfits in sizes 5-6, 12-14, 14-16, medium and large, then men's size sweatpants/shirts in sizes M, L, XL

**GLOVES/MITTENS and HATS:** All sizes

**TOYS:** We need toys for all ages. Suggestions: art/craft/jewelry making kits, basketball, football, soccer ball, Legos, ethnic baby dolls, Barbie dolls, Barbie doll clothes, cars, trucks, action figures, Play Doh, games, hand held games, toys.

For teens: Bath and beauty, makeup kits, Xbox, Play Station Network, Roblox gift cards.

**SPECIAL REQUEST:** We request no violent games or toys, no wrapping of gifts. We request that

## *Upcoming Events at St. John's*

### **Sunday, November 2nd:**

10:00 a.m. Communion Sunday/All Saints Service

### **Sunday, November 9th:**

10:00 a.m. Blessing of the Thanksgiving Baskets

### **Sunday, November 9th:**

11:30 a.m. Buildings & Grounds  
Celebration Luncheon Fellowship Hall-  
All are Welcome

### **Wednesday, November 12th:**

Noon-2:00p.m.-Lunch Bunch

### **Thursday, November 13th:**

9a.m.-Noon Food Pantry

### **Saturday, November 15th:**

1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Care Closet Volunteers (Brighton Center)

### **Sunday, November 16th:**

10:00 a.m. Stewardship Sunday

### **Sunday, November 30th:**

First Sunday of Advent



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

### **Food Pantry**

In Loving Memory of Sue Wagner ~ Gary Wagner

### **General Fund In Loving Memory**

In Loving Memory of Norma Biery ~ Dr. Michael Hanson

In Loving Memory of Norma Biery ~ Jan & Darlene Knepshield

In Loving Memory of Norma Biery ~ John & Elizabeth Robson

In Loving Memory of Norma Biery ~ Betty Santos

In Loving Memory of Norma Biery ~ Joan Berkemeyer

In Loving Memory of Norma Biery ~ Carol & Jim Thompson

In Loving Memory of Yvonne Daniels ~ Dr. Michael Hanson

In Loving Memory of Yvonne Daniels ~ Jan & Darlene Knepshield

### **Memorial Fund**

In Loving Memory of Norma Biery ~ Carol & Tom Haas

In Loving Memory of Norma Biery ~ Royleen Seibert

In Loving Memory of Yvonne Daniels ~ Carol & Tom Haas

In Loving Memory of Yvonne Daniels ~ John & Elizabeth Robson

In Loving Memory of Yvonne Daniels ~ George & Cheryl Kemper

In Loving Memory of Yvonne Daniels ~ Sandra Showell