

CONTACTS

Phone	859-431-1818
Email	stjohnsucc@stjohnsuccnewport.org
Website	www.stjohnsuccnewport.org
Facebook	St. John's United Church of Christ--Newport, KY

PROGRAM

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.	



November 16, 2025
10:00 a.m.
Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost



Thought for the Day before Worship

True gratitude is magnificat; that is, it magnifies. It refuses to remain strictly private but like poetry itself, employs the personal to convey something more universal, stories that others may claim as their own. Gratitude in this sense reverberates throughout one's relationships with others and the world as magnificat, gratitude is praise in the light of the past, and it uses past experience in order to bolster the ability to enter into an unknown future with trust and hope. As magnificat, gratitude is not a thank you for a new sense of ease or comfort. If nothing else, Mary's song in the first chapter of Luke reveals that magnificat is its own reward. And yet such wanton thanksgiving seems to provide Mary with strength for accepting the gift of incarnation and for taking off for territories unknown. - Kathleen Norris, Christian Century, June 3, 1998

*All who are able are welcome to stand

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

"We Gather Together"

(Healey Willan)

Tower Bell

Introit

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His son.
And now let the weak say "I am strong," let the poor say "I am rich,"
Because of what the Lord has done for us. Give Thanks.

*Call to Worship

We are here in the name of Christ because God has given us life as a gift.

We are here because, despite all life's contradictions, we believe this gift is good.

We have come to thank God for the gift we call life.

We are here because of Jesus, our Christ, whose life was full as God intends our lives to be.

We have come to share life together; not to be overcome by it, but to rejoice in its fullness, following in God's way.

We have come to Worship God.

Let us Worship our God together!!

(Lobe Den Herren)

God, we thank you that through Jesus you are creating a new heaven and a new earth. This is good news for us and for our world. We thank you for the call to be co-creators with you in new expressions of justice, generosity, caring, and compassion that will lead to a sharing of peace and security. We recognize that this vision is a work in progress, and so we pray that where there are divisions and conflicts, where there is hurt or misunderstanding, your Spirit will bring healing and reconciliation. God, we come to prayer from a wide variety of life situations that bring a broad range of emotional and physical and spiritual responses. We are thankful for happy occasions and times to celebrate our own blessings and accomplishments and those of our families and friends. We are thankful for words and actions that bring benefit or enjoyment to our congregation, our community, and our country. We also come to prayer with an awareness of our own needs and needs of our congregations and communities, our own country and the nations of the world. Help us to be channels of your grace and peace in our relationships and interactions. By what we say and do, may we give evidence of the faith we hold and the promise we claim of new life in Christ. Bless us, as we seek to be a blessing to others. Amen.

Hear the Good News! God hears the confession of our hearts and lips. Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven all our sins, and by the Holy Spirit we are empowered for new life. Dearly Beloved, believe the Good News!
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, now and forever. Amen.

(Creatorex)

**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.**



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Sunday, November 16:	10:00am Worship Service/Stewardship Sunday
Monday, November 17:	7:00pm AA & Al-Anon Meeting
Tuesday, November 18:	7:00pm NA Meeting 7:00pm East Row Garden Club Meeting
Wednesday, November 19:	7:00pm-8:30pm Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, November 20:	3:00pm-4:00pm Yoga Class Fellowship Hall
Saturday, November 22:	9:00am AA Meeting
Sunday, November 23:	10:00am Worship Service



THANKS BE TO GOD!

Hearing Assistance

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

Pastoral Care Notice

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.

In Our Prayers

Judy Adams, Joan Berkemeyer, Ernie Brady, Flo Grey, Betty Jo Haas, Eric Haas, Chuck Hawkins, Vickie Kennedy, Jan Knepshield, Ed Von Strohe, Wendy Watts & Marty Westermeyer

Weekly Prayer List for Northern Kentucky UCC Cluster

Immanuel UCC; Bromley
Tom Daria

Christ UCC; Ft. Thomas
Diane Vego, Interim

Continued Prayerful Support

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
Pastor of Visitation John Robson

Homebound Member of the Week

Our homebound member of the week is Carol Strong. Take a moment this week to send her a card or give her a call as we celebrate Carol as our member of the week!

Her address is:

Carol Strong
Coldspring Transitional Care Center
300 Plaza Drive Room 2408
Cold Spring, KY 41076

Children's Activity Bags

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.

Audio Recordings of Our Sunday Services

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.

Online Video Worship Services

You can view our online video Sunday worship services through our church website: 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!

From the Major Prophets of the Old Testament: Isaiah 12

You will say on that day:
“I will give thanks to you, O Lord,
for though you were angry with me,
your anger turned away,
and you comforted me.
Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust and will not be afraid,
for the Lord is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.”

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say on that day:

“Give thanks to the Lord;
call on his name;
make known his deeds among the nations;
proclaim that his name is exalted.
Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.
Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

From the Poetry of the Old Testament: Psalm 98

O sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.
His right hand and his holy arm
have gotten him victory.

The Lord has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.
He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.

Let the sea roar and all that fills it,
the world and those who live in it.

Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy
at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming
to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

Anthem

“A Jubilant Psalm” (Victor C. Johnson)

Sing out with joy, sing alleluia! Lift your hearts to the Lord with Jubilation.
Sing out with praise, sing out with gladness, lift your voice to God.
Sing out to Him and give thanks, alleluia!
O God, be merciful unto us, and cause Your face to shine upon us.
O God, be gracious and bless, bless us, and we will sing Thy praise forevermore.

From the Letters of Paul in the New Testament: 2 Chronicles 31:1-10

Now when all this was finished, all Israel who were present went out to the cities of Judah and broke down the pillars, cut down the sacred poles, and pulled down the high places and the altars throughout all Judah and Benjamin, and in Ephraim and Manasseh, until they had destroyed them all. Then all the people of Israel returned to their cities, all to their individual properties. Hezekiah appointed the divisions of the priests and of the Levites, division by division, everyone according to his service, the priests and the Levites, for burnt offerings and offerings of well-being, to minister in the gates of the camp of the Lord and to give thanks and praise. The contribution of the king from his own possessions was for the burnt offerings: the burnt offerings of morning and evening, and the burnt offerings for the Sabbaths, the new moons, and the appointed festivals, as it is written in the law of the Lord. He commanded the people who lived in Jerusalem to give the portion due to the priests and the Levites, so that they might devote themselves to the law of the Lord. As soon as the word spread, the people of Israel gave in abundance the first fruits of grain, wine, oil, honey, and of all the produce of the field, and they brought in abundantly the tithe of everything. The people of Israel and Judah who lived in the cities of Judah also brought in the tithe of cattle and sheep and the tithe of the dedicated things that had been consecrated to the Lord their God and laid them in heaps. In the third month they began to pile up the heaps and finished them in the seventh month. When Hezekiah and the officials came and saw the heaps, they blessed the Lord and his people Israel. Hezekiah questioned the priests and the Levites about the heaps. The chief priest Azariah, who was of the house of Zadok, answered him, “Since they began to bring the contributions into the house of the Lord, we have had enough to eat and have plenty to spare, for the Lord has blessed his people, so that we have this great supply left over.”

Sermon

“Tough Talk about Tithing” Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer



WASHINGTON UCC GIVING TREE

It’s that time of year again when we collect items from our Christmas Giving Tree for Washington UCC. This year they are requesting that we focus our giving on hats, scarves, gloves, and blankets, all sizes. They ran out of these items last Christmas and feel this is their biggest need for this year. Monetary donations will also be accepted, and Washington UCC will do the shopping. **There will be baskets at each door for you to place your donations in, and remember not to wrap them. The last day for collecting will be Sunday, December 7th.**



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 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.



GIFT CARDS FOR JOHN & ELIZABETH

The Leadership Team is asking for your help in supporting our dear friends John and Elizabeth Robson, as they journey through this trying time during Elizabeth’s recent accident and rehab. Rather than flooding them with casseroles and other food, we are asking for donations of gift cards for local restaurants and especially gift cards for Kroger, so John can manage their food choices and special diets. If you are able to donate a card or two, please put them in an envelope with John’s name on it and either put them in the offering plate, take them to the office, or give them to Kelli or a member of the Leadership Team. We have a card from the congregation and envelope in the office where John will pick them up when he comes in. John does so much for us, it is our pleasure to be able to do something special for him. Thank you in advance from the Leadership Team.

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 16TH

November 22nd: Jan Haas



ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS

For online giving, please scan the QR code.

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!

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

Today we shall celebrate Stewardship Sunday by bringing forth our pledge cards and placing them in the offering plate. If you forgot your pledge card today, extra cards are available at each entrance.

ORDER YOUR POINSETTIAS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Poinsettia order forms can be found in your Sunday Bulletin.

Orders are due by Sunday, December 7th.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, November 30th

***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.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord,

he has come to us and shared our common lot,

conquering sin and death

and reconciling the world to himself.

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 calls us into his church

to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,

to be his servants in the service of men,

to proclaim the gospel to all the world

and resist the powers of evil,

to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,

to join him in his passion and victory.

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.

***Hymn #570**

“As Saints of Old Their First-fruits Brought”

(Forest Green)

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

Psalm 143:1

Hear Our Prayer, O Lord

306

Words: Psalm 143:1
Music: George Whelpton, 1897

HEAR OUR PRAYER
Irr.

Musical score for 'Hear Our Prayer, O Lord' (Psalm 143:1) by George Whelpton (1897). The score is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. 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.'

Stewardship Moment

Vickie Kennedy

Offertory Invitation

We have been issued the invitation and the means to be generous, whether in material things or in the capacity to care. All of us have received, and all of us have something to give. Our offerings are a symbol of our intent to please God and to realize in and through the church the community God intends.

(Please place your pledge card in the offering plate as it passes)

Offertory

“Jesus Love Me” (arr. Michael T. Smith)
(Sofiya Chvojka - soloist)

Jesus loves me this I know; for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong; they are weak but He is strong.

Jesus loves me, He will stay close beside me all the way;
If I love Him when I die, He will lead me home on high.

*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

God, we pray so often: “Thy kingdom come.” And now we have opportunities to put that prayer into practice as we offer these gifts to be used by the direction and guidance of your Spirit. We bring them, with thanksgiving and praise, in Christ’s name and for the sake of the world he came to save. Amen.

*Hymn #22

“Let All Things Now Living” (Ash Grove)

*Benediction

*Choral Response

As we follow Christ and leave this place, let us take God’s love and boundless grace.
May we now run with patience the race, looking to Jesus’ face.

Postlude

“Let All Things Now Living” (Dale Wood)

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 November 30th
To reserve your special date, please call the church office.