



November 23, 2025
10:00 a.m.
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost



Prayer of Meditation before Worship

Almighty God, giver and provider of all things, on this day of thanksgiving I am mindful of my dependence upon you. You have given all that I have and particularly you have given your Son as Lord and Savior. Help me to remember tomorrow the gratitude I feel today; make me truly thankful. I pray in the name of Christ my Lord.

*All who are able are welcome to stand

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“Prelude on a Welsh Tune”
(Kendra Franke - flute)

(Dale Wood)

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**

It is good to give thanks to God.

Great is God's steadfast love toward us.

It is good to give thanks to God.

The faithfulness of God endures forever.

It is good to give thanks to God.

Just think of the wonderful works of God.

It IS good to give thanks to God!

Let us Worship our God together!

***Hymn #721**

“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come” (St. George's Windsor)

***Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

With one voice we praise you, great and good God. You come to us amid all our hungers and offer us that which nourishes as well as satisfies us. You care for us as whole persons, interested in our physical as well as spiritual needs. You set before us the bread of life and invite us to share in the feast of redemption.

Thanks be to you, our God.

O Lord, when we consider all that you are, we marvel that you have created us only a little lower than the angels. We have failed you in so many ways; we have failed to glorify you in our lives, we commit sins of deed and sins of omission. Even though we are not worthy so much as to gather the crumbs under the table of your Son, You have bid us to come to you. In spite of our sin, you love us.

Please, help us to be aware that as we confess our sins sincerely before you, you do indeed forgive us in the name of your Son and our Savior. Amen.

***Assurance of Grace**

Hear the Good News! One fact remains that does not change: God has loved you, loves you now, and will love you always. This is the Good News that brings new life. 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.**

(Greateorex)

From the Poetry of the Old Testament: Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
Serve the Lord with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.
Know that the Lord is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him; bless his name.
For the Lord is good;
his steadfast love endures forever
and his faithfulness to all generations.



TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

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.	

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: Rose Wendling

Greeters: Darlene Knepshield & Wendy Watts

Ushers: Steve Twehues, Ralph Schoulthies & Mike Hanson

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This Week

- Sunday, November 23:** 10:00am Worship Service
- Monday, November 24:** 7:00pm AA & Al-Anon Meeting
- Tuesday, November 25:** 7:00pm NA Meeting
- Thursday, November 27:** Happy Thanksgiving!!
Church Office Closed
- Friday, November 28:** Church Office Closed
- Saturday, November 29:** 9:00am AA Meeting
- Sunday, November 30:** 10:00am Worship Service/First Sunday of Advent

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GO IN PEACE, SERVE THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD!

From the Letters of Paul in the New Testament: Philippians 4:4-9
Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

Anthem

“Celtic Laud”
(Kendra Franke - flute)

For fruit of the vine, for harvest of wheat,
for bread and for wine, the gift of Your feast.
The cup of thanksgiving I gratefully raise,
O Lord of my living, my love and my praise.

For dove in the sky, for wind in the trees,
for coal in the fire, Your Spirit in me,
The cup of thanksgiving I gratefully raise,
O Lord of my living, my love and my praise.

For springtime’s green earth, for morning’s first light,
for every new birth, for grace and for life,
The cup of thanksgiving I gratefully raise,
O Lord of my living, my love and my praise.

From the Books of the Law in the Old Testament: Deuteronomy 26:1-11
“When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess and you possess it and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, ‘Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.’ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: ‘A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.’ You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

Sermon "And Now by Way of Thanks" Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

*Affirmation of Faith: The Confession of 1967, the Presbyterian Church (selected sections)

We believe that God has created the world of space and time to be the sphere of his dealings with humankind. In its beauty and vastness, sublimity and awfulness, order and disorder, the world reflects to the eye of faith the majesty and mystery of its Creator.

We believe that God has created us for personal relationship in which we may respond to the love of the Creator.

Life is a gift to be received with gratitude and a task to be pursued with courage.

We believe that God the Holy Spirit fulfills the work of reconciliation.

The Holy Spirit creates and renews the church as the community in which we are reconciled to God and to one another.

The Spirit enables us to receive forgiveness as we forgive one another and to enjoy the peace of God as we make peace among ourselves.

We believe that in spite of our sin, the Holy Spirit gives us power to become representatives of Jesus Christ and to proclaim the good news of reconciliation to all.

*Hymn #723 "For the Fruit of All Creation" (AR HYD Y NOS)

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.

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, Joanna Haas, Betty Hasse, Chuck Hawkins, Vickie Kennedy, Jan Knepshild, Ed Von Strohe, Wendy Watts & Marty Westermeyer

Weekly Prayer List for Northern Kentucky UCC Cluster

St. Mark UCC; Latonia
Rachel Wirrig

St. John UCC; Covington

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 Pam Maloney. Take a moment this week to send her a card or give her a call as we celebrate Pam as our member of the week!

Her address is:

Pam Maloney
Parkside Manor
317 Oddville Pike #B
Cynthiana, KY 41031

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!

LUNCH BUNCH

A “LUNCH BUNCH” sponsored EVENT

Pre- Christmas Luncheon

Sunday - December 14th - 11:30 AM Fellowship Hall

Baked Ham and Drinks provided by Lunch Bunch

Reservation Forms in Sunday Bulletin

Sign-up Sheets to share your favorite side/dessert at front and side entrances.

ALL ARE WELCOME!!!!

Come and enjoy food, fellowship and a Christmas Song Sing-Along!!

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.

Offertory Invitation

The work of the church goes on night and day. Around the world, our partners in ministry labor and toil for the cause of Christ. In every land, the word of God is at work in believers who share good news through speaking and doing. We join them through our tithes and offerings and in our own efforts where we live. Let us dedicate all to God.

Offertory

“Love Lifted Me”

(Michael T. Smith)

(Joy Burdette - soloist)

I was sinking deep in sin, far from the peaceful shore.
Very deeply stained within, sinking to rise no more,
But the master of the sea, heard my despairing cry,
from the waters lifted me now safe am I.

All my heart to him I'll give, ever to him I'll cling.
In his blessed presence live, ever his praise I'll sing.
Love so mighty and so true, merits my soul's best songs.
Faithful loving service too, to Him belong.
When nothing else could help, love lifted me.

*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

O God, most merciful and gracious, of whose bounty we have all received, accept, we pray, this offering of Your people. Remember in Your love those who have brought it and those for whom it is given; and so follow it with Your blessing that it may promote peace and goodwill among all people and advance the realm of our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

***Hymn #14**

“Now Thank We All Our God”

(Nun Danket Alle Gott)

*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

Postlude on “Old Hundredth”

(Fred Bock)

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 celebration of Kyle Taylor's birthday on Friday, November 28, 2025. Happy Birthday Kyle!!



Love, Dad, Mom, Kelsey & Elise

Open flower dates are November 30th, December 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th

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



ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS

For online giving, please scan the QR code.

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 23RD

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 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!

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

WASHINGTON UCC GIVING TREE

It's that time of year again when we collect items for 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.**