

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.	

TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES



November 30, 2025
10:00 a.m.
First Sunday of Advent



Thought for the Day before Worship

We are honored that you chose to Worship with us on this First Sunday of Advent. Advent means “Coming”. Since the Advent Season reflects entirely upon the Christmas event, it has little meaning apart from the celebrating of Christmas. Advent is our opportunity as the Christian community to prepare spiritually for the celebration of Christmas.

*All who are able are welcome to stand

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude “O Come Emmanuel” (*Wilbur Held*)

Tower Bell

Introit

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming, from tender stem hath sprung.
From Jesse's lineage coming, as saints of old have sung.
It came a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.

*Call to Worship

I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord!”

We have come to the house of the Lord to Worship together.

Come; let us give thanks to the name of the Lord!

We have come to give thanks to the name of the Lord for all God has done for us!

In this season of Advent, let us pray for peace and prosperity throughout the world!

We have come to seek Jesus. Come, let us Worship together!

Come, let us Worship our God together!!

***Hymn #154** *“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”* *(Veni Emmanuel)*

Welcoming and Leading Us This Morning

Preaching Today: Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

Liturgist: Diana Stamm

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Chancel Choir Director: Tony Burdette

Cantor: Jean Nutgrass

Candle Bearer: Mark Behrendt

Sound Technician: Robert Petus

Greeters: Darlene Knepshield & Mike Hanson

Ushers: Steve Twehues, Ralph Schoulthies & Mike Hanson

Music reprinted under OneLicense.net A-722754

This Week

Sunday, November 30: 10:00am Worship Service/First Sunday of Advent

Monday, December 1: 7:00pm AA & Al-Anon Meeting

Tuesday, December 2: 7:00pm NA Meeting

Wednesday, December 3: 7:00pm-8:30pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 4: 3:00pm-4:00pm Yoga Class Fellowship Hall

Saturday, December 6: 9:00am AA Meeting

Sunday, December 7: 10:00am Worship Service/Second Sunday of Advent

† †

GO IN PEACE, SERVE THE LORD

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

Weekly Prayer List for Northern Kentucky UCC Cluster

Grace UCC; Ft. Wright
Mark Roeder

St. Paul UCC; Alexandria
Paul Forrey

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

Her address is:
Marcia Schmidt
Rosedale Green Room 308-1
4250 Glenn Avenue
Covington, KY 41015

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

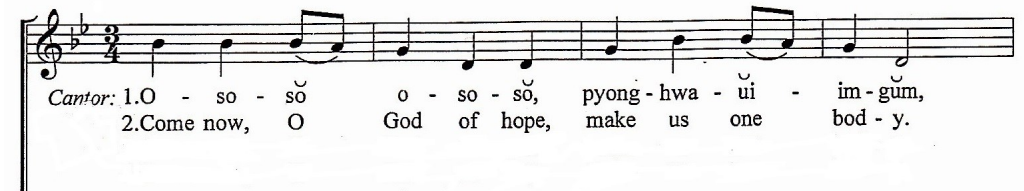
You can view our online video Sunday worship services through our church website: www.stjohnsuccnewport.org, our Church's Facebook Page or YouTube Channel (just search our church's name on Facebook/YouTube) and through the Constant Contact weekly email, (just click the online worship button at the bottom of the page). Hope you enjoy the services!

***Prayer of Invocation**

O God, this Advent Season is a time when your light radiates through the world. Inasmuch as we can, let us be bright for you. Shine your lights through us as though we are pieces in a stained-glass window. Flow through us into others as the warm colors seep into a church. God of light, we hear you calling us out of hopelessness into hope. We strive to see your presence in all who receive your grace. Guide us in your way, that we might be children of the day. Through the Light of the World, we pray. Amen.

Please be seated

Lighting the Advent Candle of Hope



(congregation will sing two times as directed)

Prayer (unison)

Come, O Holy One, as the morning light after a wakeful night! Keep us mindful that at any moment you may ask of us an accounting of our lives; help us to love you and love one another in all we do, and so clothe us with your light that we may bring others to love you also, through Jesus our Savior. Amen.

From the Major Prophets of the Old Testament: Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come
the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.
Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.
O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord!

From the Letters of Paul in the New Testament: Romans 13:11-14

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Advent Chorus: (All sing)

(Austrian Carol)

Hope, hope, hope -. The light of Christ is hope.
In all our darkness Christ is shining,
Leading upward, faith refining.
Hope, hope, hope - The light of Christ is hope.

From the Gospels of the New Testament: Matthew 24:36-44

“But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Sermon

"What's Your Vision for Life?" Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

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.



SEASON OF ADVENT

November 30, December 7, December 14, December 21

Each week we will light the Advent Candles remembering the themes of: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. During these four Sundays we will be singing Advent hymns and Christmas Carols. There will be special music throughout the season from our musicians and singers.

Christmas Season

The Christmas Season begins on **Wednesday, December 24th** when we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. Join us at 7:00 pm for our candle light Christmas Eve Service with communion.



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.

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.**

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.

ORDER YOUR POINSETTIAS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Poinsettia order forms can be found in your Sunday Bulletin.

Orders are due by Sunday, December 7th.

***Affirmation of Faith:** from A New Zealand Prayer Book

You, O God, are supreme and holy.

You create our world and give us life.

Your purpose overarches everything we do.

You have always been with us.

You are God.

**You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond all measure.**

You came to us before we came to you.

**You have revealed and proved
your love for us in Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose again.**

You are with us now.

You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit.

You empower us to be your gospel in the world.

You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.

You are our God. We Worship you. Amen.

***Hymn #158**

"Blessed Be the God of Israel"

(Merle's Tune)

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

O Holy Child of Bethlehem! Descend to us, we pray;

Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels...The great glad tidings tell;

O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

Offertory Invitation

We have prospered and found security in the gracious bounty of our God. Now we seek the good of all God's people as we share the abundance entrusted to us. Let those who rob God to satisfy their own desires find instead the unexpected joy of giving.

Offertory

“How Shall We Know Him?”

(Gilbert Martin)

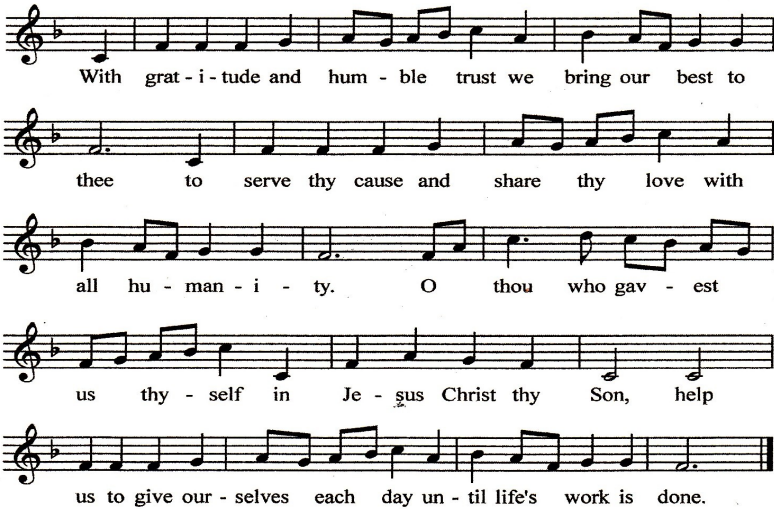
How shall we know him when he comes? Not by any din of drums;
neither by the manner of his airs, nor by anything he wears.
How shall we know him, how shall we know him when he comes?

How shall we know him when he comes? Not by any rush of wings;
neither by the flashing of a sword, nor by anything untoward.
How shall we know him, how shall we know him when he comes?

How shall we know him when he comes? Not by any flag unfurled;
neither by a gesture or a frown, nor by any golden crown.
How shall we know him, how shall we know him when he comes?

How shall we know him when he comes? We shall know him when he comes!
And his coming known shall be by the holy harmony Which his coming makes in thee.
We shall know him when he comes!

*Doxology



With grat - i - tude and hum - ble trust we bring our best to
thee to serve thy cause and share thy love with
all hu - man - i - ty. O thou who gav - est
us thy - self in Je - sus Christ thy Son, help
us to give our - selves each day un - til life's work is done.

*Prayer of Dedication

As we begin this season of Advent we give thanks for the gift of Jesus. Bless these gifts we give back to you that they might share your love for those who come to hear about Jesus, for those who need food, shelter, and clothing, for those who need healing, and for those who need to experience your love. We dedicate our gifts and our lives to share your love to the people and places that need them the most. Amen.

*Hymn #176

“Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates”

(Truro)

*Benediction

*Choral Response

Give us grace O Savior small, *to share the news, goodwill to all.*
Angels tell us of your birth, good will to all and peace on earth.

Postlude

“Sleepers Wake, A Voice Is Calling”

(J.G. Walther)

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 is provided by the church.

Open flower dates are 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 30TH

December 4th: Barbara Boyers