

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. |                        |



December 21, 2025  
10:00 a.m.  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**



**Thought for the Day before Worship**

*We are honored that you chose to Worship with us on this Fourth Sunday of Advent.  
Advent means “Coming”. Since the Advent Season reflects entirely upon  
the Christmas event, it has little meaning apart from the celebration 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 Little Town Of Bethlehem”*                                      *(Richard Purvis)*

**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**

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their  
flocks by night.

**An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around  
them, and they were terrified.**

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, I bring you good news of great joy  
that will be for all the people.

**Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you: he is Christ the Lord.**

This will be a sign for you: “you will find a baby wrapped in bands of cloth and  
lying in a manger.”

**Welcoming and Leading Us This Morning**

Preaching Today: Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

Liturgist: Rose Wendling

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Chancel Choir Director: Tony Burdette

Cantor: Jean Nutgrass

Candle Bearer: Mark Behrendt  
Diana Stamm  
Charlie Frederick  
Wendy Bauer

Sound Technician: Robert Pettus

Greeters: Darlene Knepshield & Julie Ollier

Ushers: Steve Twehues, Ralph Schoulthies & Mike Hanson

Music reprinted under OneLicense.net A-722754

**This Week**

**Sunday, December 21:** 10:00am Worship Service/Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Monday, December 22:** 7:00pm AA & Al-Anon Meeting

**Tuesday, December 23:** 7:00pm NA Meeting

**Wednesday, December 24:** 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service

**Thursday, December 25:** **Merry Christmas!**  
Church Office Closed

**Friday, December 26:** Church Office Closed

**Saturday, December 27:** 9:00am AA Meeting

**Sunday, December 28:** 10:00am Worship Service  
11:30am Lunch Bunch Christmas Luncheon

### 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, 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

Immanuel UCC; Bromley  
Jack Denham

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 Betty Webster. Betty's birthday is Thursday, December 25th. Take a moment this week to send her a card or give her a call as we celebrate Betty as our member of the week!

Her address is:  
Betty Webster  
305 Taylor Street Room 10A  
Butler, KY 41006

### 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](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!

**Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among those whom God favors."**

Let us Worship our God!!

### **Hymn #189**

*"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"*

*(Regent Square)*

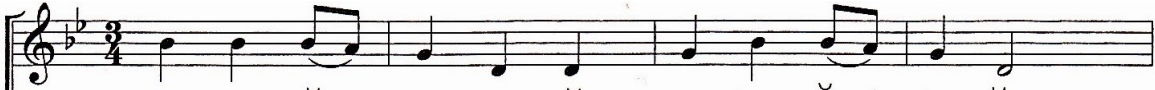
### **\*Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

**Magnificent God, you are always conceiving gracious hope in those who dare to accept your offer. You are always being conceived in the hearts and minds and bodies of those who walk in grace. You are the vessel and the contents; the bearer and the borne.**

**Magnificent God, unfold in us as you once unfolded in Mary and Elizabeth, dancing in joy, being welcomed with wisdom, being recognized and named and known before you could be seen. Inspire us with the courage to enfold you as Mary enfolded you in her flesh, and as Elizabeth enfolded Mary in her embrace and her hospitality. Magnificent God, be magnified in us. Amen.**

Please be seated

### **Lighting the Advent Candle of Love**



*Cantor:* 1. O - so - so o - so - so, pyong-hwa - ui - im - gum,  
2. Come now, O God of hope, make us one bod - y.  
3. Come now, O God of peace, make us one bod - y.  
4. Come now, O God of joy, make us one bod - y.  
5. Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.



u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - so.  
Come, O Lord Je - sus, re - con-cile your peo - ple.  
Come, O Lord Je - sus, re - con-cile your peo - ple.  
Come, O Lord Je - sus, re - con-cile your peo - ple.  
Come, O Lord Je - sus, re - con-cile your peo - ple.

(congregation sings verse 5 as directed)

### **Prayer (unison)**

**Come, O Holy One, as the beloved child, Emmanuel! Soften our hearts and open our arms for your coming that we may make this a place worthy and warm, kindly and safe for all your children, in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

### **From the Major Prophets of the Old Testament: Isaiah 7:10-17**

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted. The Lord will bring on you and on your people and on your ancestral house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

### **From the Letters of Paul in the New Testament: Romans 1:1-7**

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, to all God’s beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Advent Chorus: (All sing)**

**Joy, joy, joy-  
We praise you, Christ, with joy!  
Our peace, our hope, our love and treasure,  
Highest calling, deepest pleasure!  
Joy, joy, joy-  
We praise You, Christ, with joy!**

**Love, love, love -  
The heart of Christ is love.  
On all who come He pours His presence,  
Life and love in holy essence,  
Love, love, love -  
The heart of Christ is love.**

## **CHRISTMAS CHORAL CONCERT** ***St. John’s UCC & Gloria Dei Lutheran Church*** **Sunday, December 21 · 7:00 PM — *St. John’s UCC***

Director: **Tony Burdette**

Featuring:

*“Festival of Christmas”* — Mary McDonald

Additional Christmas selections

*Handel’s Hallelujah Chorus* with orchestra

A holiday reception will follow the performance.



### **CALL FOR COOKIES**

If you or anyone you know has a special cookie recipe you would like to showcase, we would love for you to include it in the Christmas Concert Reception. The Choir is looking for cookies for their reception after the concert on Sunday, December 21st. Cookies can be dropped off before the concert.



## **CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE** **Wednesday, December 24 · 7:00 PM**

A reverent candlelit celebration of the birth of Christ.

*Holy Communion will be served.*



### **2026 CHURCH DIRECTORIES AND 2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Beginning the week of December 7th the 2026 Church Directories and 2026 Offering Envelopes will be available in the hallway by the church office. If you do not find a set of offering envelopes and would like one, please contact Kelli in the church office and she will prepare a set for you (859) 431-1818 Option 3 or [kelli.taylor@stjohnsuccnewport.org](mailto:kelli.taylor@stjohnsuccnewport.org).



## **CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON-LUNCH BUNCH-RESCHEDULED**

**Sunday, December 28 · 11:30 AM · Fellowship Hall**

Baked Ham & Drinks provided.

Bring a side dish or dessert.

Enjoy fellowship and a Christmas sing-along!

**All are welcome!**

## 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 poinsettias in church today are provided  
by our members and friends of the church.

Open flower dates are December 28th, January 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th  
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 DECEMBER 21ST

December 21st: John Westlund

December 25th: Betty Webster

### THE CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING 2025

For over one hundred years, The Christmas Fund has provided direct financial assistance to United Church of Christ ministers, church workers, and their families. Last year, over 1,800 congregations joined together to secure the physical, financial, and spiritual health of those engaged in the life of the Church. Thank you to our community for your continued support! Christmas Fund envelopes can be found in your Sunday bulletin.

### From the Gospels of the New Testament: Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

### Sermon

"He's Coming! Ready or Not!" Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

### \*Affirmation of Faith

*The Maasai Creed: was composed in about 1960 by Western Christian missionaries for the Maasai, an indigenous African tribe of semi-nomadic people located primarily in Kenya and northern Tanzania. The creed attempts to express the essentials of the Christian faith within the Maasai culture.*

**We believe in the one High God, who out of love created the beautiful world and everything good in it. He created man and wanted man to be happy in the world. God loves the world and every nation and tribe on the earth. We have known this High God in the darkness, and now we know him in the light. God promised in the book of his word, the Bible, that he would save the world and all nations and tribes.**

**We believe that God made good his promise by sending his son, Jesus Christ, a man in the flesh, a Jew by tribe, born poor in a little village, who left his home and was always on safari doing good, curing people by the power of God, teaching about God and man, showing that the meaning of religion is love. He was rejected by his people, tortured and nailed hands and feet to a cross, and died. He was buried in the grave, but the hyenas did not touch him, and on the third day, he rose from that grave. He ascended to the skies. He is the Lord.**

**We believe that all our sins are forgiven through him. All who have faith in him must be sorry for their sins, be baptized in the Holy Spirit of God, live the rules of love, and share the bread together in love, to announce the good news to others until Jesus comes again. We are waiting for him. He is alive. He lives. This we believe. Amen.**

### \*Hymn #184

"What Child Is This"

(Greensleeves)

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

The earth is God’s, and all that is in it, the world, and all those who live in it. We have been blessed by God with the stewardship of many resources. God has asked us to use them for the benefit of all with whom we share this planet. The church is a most important channel for faithfulness to this mandate. Let us give to the glory of God.

Offertory “This Joyful Christmas Day” (Mary McDonald)

When the men of olden days  
to the King of Kings gave praise,  
with the sound of fife and drum,  
Tu-re-lu-re-lu, pat-a-pat-a-pan;  
with the sound of fife and drum  
to the King of Kings gave praise.

God and all are now become as one  
through Mary’s son,  
Let us play the fife and drum,  
Tu-re-lu-re-lu, pat-a-pat-a-pan;  
Let us play the fife and drum  
to the Son of God give praise.

So be joyful on this day,  
this joyful Christmas day,  
And be merry while you play,  
Tu-re-lu-re-lu, pat-a-pat-a-pan  
And be merry while you play,  
this joyful Christmas day.

On Christmas day all Christians sing  
To hear the news the angels bring  
On Christmas day all Christians sing  
To hear the news the angels bring.  
News of great joy news of great mirth.  
News of our merciful King's birth

Then why should we on earth be so sad  
since our Redeemer made us glad.  
Then why should we on earth be so sad  
since our Redeemer made us glad.  
When from our sin He set us free,  
all for to gain our liberty.

Then let us all rejoice and sing,  
On Christmas day, on Christmas day;  
Then let us rejoice and sing,  
On Christmas day in the morning.

\*Doxology (The First Noel)

Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heav’n-ly Lord,  
that hath made heaven and earth of naught,  
and with his blood man-kind hath bought.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

\*Prayer of Dedication

O God, mercifully accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; and hear us as we humbly pray that the spirit of your son’s birth may abide in our hearts continually. Of your goodness give us; with your love inspire us; by your Spirit guide us; by your power protect us and in your mercy receive our gifts, now and always. Amen!

\*Hymn #183 “Once In Royal Davids City” (Irby)

\*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 “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” (Lani Smith)

† † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † † †

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