

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.	



February 1, 2026
10:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany



Thought for the Day before Worship
“All the blessings we enjoy are Divine deposits, committed to our trust on this condition: that they should be dispensed for the benefit of our neighbors.”
 – John Calvin

*All who are able are welcome to stand

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“In Heavenly Love Abiding”
(Kendra Franke - flute)

(Gordon Young)

Tower Bell

Introit

Spirit of the living God, fall a-fresh on me;
 Spirit of the living God, fall a-fresh on me.
 Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
 Spirit of the living God, fall a-fresh on me.

***Call to Worship**
 God has told us what is good.
So, we come together to be God’s justice.
 For God has told us what is good.
So, we come together to be God’s loving-kindness.
 God has told us what is good.
So, we come together to be God’s humble compassion.
We bring bodies, hearts, minds, and souls to be a redeemed and redeeming community.
 Let us Worship our God!!

*Hymn #2

“O Worship the King”

(Lyons)

***Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

**Blessed and Blessing God, we are blessed by this community
you have given us, to help us live as attentive and thankful people.
We are blessed by your generosity, which floods our world
because of who you are and not because of anything we do.
Bless us with the reminder that your creation is a realm of kindness, grace, love,
beauty, hope, and mercy. And inspire us to live so that we will embody those blessings
in every breath we take.
Patient God, we confess that we have often chosen
our limited human wisdom over your immeasurably foolish love.
We confess that too often we assume that power and authority
are more valuable and more effective change agents than
humility and self-restraint.
We confess that we seek and value too highly the signs of worldly success, while
ignoring the transforming gestures of grace and blessing. Forgive us for choosing to
stumble again and again over our own agendas. Open our ears to your foolish
promise. Open our eyes to the power of the weak to change your world. Open our
hearts to the life of abundant equity that is hidden in plain sight.
In the name of the highest who became servant of all, let it be so. Amen.**

***Assurance of Grace**

When we know ourselves to be weak and sinful, we find that God places us among the very
ones who need to be blessed! Jesus came for those who long to be forgiven and who long
to live a different life. He came with a new way of seeing and being. And this is reality in
the reign of Christ. Jesus is God’s gift of love and grace to us now, and a foretaste of the
coming reign of heaven on earth. Praise be to God! 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)

Welcoming and Leading Us This Morning

Preaching Today: Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

Liturgist: Laura Haas

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Chancel Choir Director: Tony Burdette

Sound Technician: Robert Pettus

Greeters: David Stamm & Wendy Watts

Ushers: Steve Twehues, Ralph Schoulthies & Mike Hanson

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This Week

Sunday, February 1: 10:00am Worship Service/Communion Sunday

Monday, February 2: 7 :00pm AA & Al-Anon Meeting
7:00pm East Row Historic Foundation Meeting

Tuesday, February 3: 7:00pm NA Meeting

Wednesday, February 4: 7:00pm - 8:30pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 5: 3:00pm-4:00pm Yoga Class Fellowship Hall

Saturday, February 7: 9:00am AA Meeting

Sunday, February 8: 10:00am Worship Service
11:30am “Souper” Bowl Sunday Luncheon

† †

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, Judy Eads, Flo Grey, Betty Jo Haas, Eric Haas, Betty Hasse, Vickie Kennedy, 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 Joan Berkemeyer Take a moment this week to send her a card or give her a call as we celebrate Joan as our member of the week!

Her address is:
Joan Berkemeyer
213 Linden Avenue
Southgate, KY 41071-3213

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 Minor Prophets of the Old Testament: Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the Lord has a case against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!
For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
and I sent before you Moses,

Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

“With what shall I come before the Lord
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

Anthem

“Praise, Praise the Lord”

(Jay Althouse)

Praise, praise the Lord, all ye people! Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord; who is great and exalted.

Praise the Lord; he is Savior and King.

We stand before him in wonder, We stand before him and sing.

The earth rejoices and then our voices will ring! Let our voices ring!

Praise the Lord from the hill to the valley.

Praise the Lord from the sea to the sky.

God speaks and all the earth listens; with thanks we humbly reply.

Our heart rejoices and we raise our voices on high, on high.

Praise the Lord of the strong and the weary.

Praise the Lord, the Lord of great and small.

The lamb will lie with the lion; they both will follow God's call.

And now we sing of him, for he is King of them all, King of all.

O, praise the Lord!

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Sermon “Being Blessing” Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

***Hymn #345** “Jesus Calls Us” (Galilee)

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 (Amazing Grace)

**The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.**

Offertory Invitation

What offering can we bring to God? All our wealth is not enough to express our praise. How shall we share in tasks beyond our ability to accomplish? Yet God chooses us and our gifts to make a difference in the world. God employs our weakness to shame the strong. God prospers our work and witness, transforming the world, beginning with us. Let us share in the joy of giving.

PRAYER PARTNERS FOR LENT 2026

Praying for one another is a special way in which we become acquainted with each other. In keeping with that idea, we will exchange Prayer Partners for Lent. You will be given the name of a church member or church friend that you will pray for each day during the Lenten Season. You will ***not know*** who is praying for you!!

Partners will be exchanged on the **First Sunday of Lent, February 22nd and will be revealed on Easter Sunday, April 5th**. This commitment is for **six weeks** and is a good way to remember one another every day

There will be a sign-up sheet available for those interested in being part of this Lenten Prayer Ministry 2026 until Sunday, February 15th. If you cannot be present to sign-up and would like to be part of this Lenten Prayer Ministry, call the church office, 859.431.1818 or email Kelli: kelli.taylor@stjohnsuccnewport.org

LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUP

We invite you to join in the Lenten Discussion group. This year we will be using ***"The Easter Code: A 40 Day Journey to the Cross"*** by O.S. Hawkins. The devotional guide provides daily materials from Ash Wednesday through Easter. Each day includes daily reflection, scripture, a word for the day, and prayer. Engage in a meaningful way to prepare your heart and mind for Easter. The group will meet each week to share in discussion of the weekly devotions. All are welcome, church members or not, we'll gather on **Saturdays, 10:00 – 11:00 am, February 21 through April 4.**

If you are interested, please sign up when you are in church on a Sunday morning, reach out to the church office (859-431-1818), or contact Laura Haas (859-240-9807 or lauraclairehaas@gmail.com).

If Saturdays are not convenient for you, please sign up and indicate a better day, marking the most convenient time as morning, afternoon, or evening.

**COMING THIS SPRING! BIBLE STUDY OF THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW,
APRIL THROUGH JUNE, 2026**

“One encounter with Jesus changed Matthew’s life. He can change yours, too.” This spring we will use **Max Lucado’s *Life Lessons, the gospel of Matthew***, for a 12-week study of the gospel. This is year A of the common lectionary and the gospel of Matthew is the primary focus of the gospel readings. Each lesson includes bible readings, “intriguing questions, inspirational stories and poignant reflections”. The study guide works well for small groups and individual study.

More information and encouragement to sign up coming soon.

“SOUPER” BOWL SUNDAY AT ST. JOHN’S

Join St. John’s on **Sunday, February 8th** as we celebrate Super Bowl Sunday with our “Souper” Bowl Event. This event will be a two-part event consisting of a food drive and luncheon following Sunday Worship.

Before worship, we will be hosting a canned food drive benefiting the St. John’s UCC Food Pantry to help individuals in need in our local area. We are asking everyone to bring in a canned food item (**items that are especially needed: canned fruit, peanut butter, jelly, pudding, maple syrup, and vegetable oil etc.**) and place it in the baskets located at either entrance of the Sanctuary.

Then, following worship, join us in Fellowship Hall where we will be hosting a light luncheon of soup, salads, and desserts.

If you would like to help, sign-up sheets for food will be located at the entrances of the sanctuary of the church. **Please sign up if you would like to bring a soup, salad or dessert, or just come for the luncheon.** Reservations are also welcomed, and you will find forms in the bulletin to do so, or you may contact the church office. Reservation forms may be placed in the offering plates on Sunday morning.

We hope you can join us as we gather for worship and fellowship while also helping our local community with this fun event. If there are any questions, please contact the church office.



SENDING VALENTINE'S DAY CARDS TO CHILDREN AT CINCINNATI CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

This Valentine's Day, St. John's would like to help the children that are unable to participate in the normal festivities of Valentine's Day. Cincinnati Children's has made it possible for individuals to send Valentine Day Cards to children in the hospital so that they may feel the love of others on this special holiday.

To send a card please visit:

<https://www.cincinnatichildrens.org/patients/resources/support/ecard>

or google search Cincinnati Children's Valentine’s Cards. **A link for easy access will also be located on our weekly email and Facebook page.**

We would love for members of St. John's to participate in this special activity to help those children in need. If there are any questions please contact the church office.

Offertory

“Come into God’s Embrace”

(Mary McDonald)

The table of love, prepared for you; come to the feast of grace.
Come, eat the bread; come, drink the wine; come into God’s embrace.
Lamb of God, Lamb of love, You took away our sin.
Here we remember Your sacrifice, God’s plan for all: forgive!
His body, His blood are given for you; come to the feast of grace.
Come, taste the bread; come, taste the wine; come into God’s embrace.

***Doxology**

(Lasst Uns Erfreuen)

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up-lifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Blessed and Blessing God, we are blessed by this community you have given us to help us live as attentive and thankful people. We are blessed by your generosity, which floods our world because of who you are and not because of anything we do. Bless us with the reminder that your creation is a realm of kindness, grace, love, beauty, hope, and mercy. And inspire us to live so that we will embody those blessings in every breath we take. Amen.

***Hymn #695**

“As We Gather at Your Table”

(Beach Spring)

(vs. 1 & 3)

Communion

Celebrating God’s Word in Sacrament

*Communion is Open to ALL: saint and sinner, lost and found, believer and seeker.
We partake of the bread together to symbolize our unity and community as God’s people.
We shall partake of the cup individually to symbolize our solitariness
as we each stand alone before our God*

***Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord: who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the one holy universal Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Invitation

Eucharistic Prayer

Consecration of the Elements

Partaking of the Lord's Supper

*As is our tradition, the Elements of Communion are held until all are served
and partake at the direction of the Pastor.*

*Traditional wine is located on the outside circle of the serving tray and
apple juice is available on the inner circle of the serving tray.*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving (in unison)

Loving God in Jesus Christ

With gratitude for your holy nourishment about this table,

We dedicate:

Our lips to be the hopeful voice of Christ to the despairing;

Our hands to reach out in Christ's name to heal the broken;

Our feet to walk with Christ to visit those who are shunned;

Our bodies to be Christ's living sacrifice to break the power of death.

Take us. Empower us. Use us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*Hymn #559

"Here I Am, Lord"

*Benediction

*Choral Response

God be with you till we meet again,
by His counsels guide uphold you,
With His sheep securely fold you,
God be with you till we meet again.

*Postlude

"Voluntary in G"

(John Worgan)

Trash receptacles are located at each exit for disposal of communion cups



ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS

For online giving, please scan the QR code.

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 February 8th, 15th & 22nd
To reserve your special date, please call the church office.

ANNIVERSARIES FOR THE WEEK OF JANUARY 25TH

January 28th: Jim & Carol Thompson (65 years)

LUNCH BUNCH
Wednesday, February 11th
Lunch Will Be Provided
12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.
Drinks & Desserts Provided
ALL ARE WELCOME!!!!

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

We will begin the Season of Lent with Worship Services on **Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2025**. Two services will be offered that day: **12:00 noon and 7:00 pm**. The 12:00 noon service will be Liturgy only and the 7:00 pm service will be a full Worship experience including hymns and special music. The Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion will be offered at both services. Please place this on your calendar and let us begin Lent together.