



February 8, 2026
10:00 a.m.
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany



Thought for the Day before Worship

Lord God, you have commanded us to be the Salt of the Earth, the Light of the World and Obeyers of the Law. Those commandments sound like too much for us.

We ask that during this Worship today, we might savor the flavor of your commandments, receive the Light of Christ we can mirror to the world, and be filled with your Spirit to obey your Law; we pray expectantly in Jesus' name.

*All who are able are welcome to stand

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“My Jesus, I Love Thee”

(Don Hustad)

Tower Bell

Introit

We are standing on holy ground.
And I know that there are angels all around.
Let us praise Jesus now.
We are standing in His presence on holy ground.

***Call to Worship**

God has commissioned us to pay attention,

To notice, to care, to feel with, to serve.

God has commissioned us to serve

By sharing the burdens of injustice with sisters and brothers.

God has commissioned us to serve

By sharing the oppression of silence.

God has commissioned us to serve

By sharing our bread, our homes, our money. There is no answer but, Yes. Yes, I will!

Let us Worship the God who has called us to serve!

*Hymn #569 "God of Grace and God Of Glory" (CWM Rhondda)

*Prayer of Adoration and Confession

God, our Creator, we who have gathered here today are your children whom you have created, sustained, and brought to this moment. We bless and glorify you for your care and humbly pray that all our days may be filled with your Love. Holy Truth, we confess that too often we choose not to see what is revealed right before us, because it calls our own choices into question. We confess that too often we do not hear the cries of the oppressed, the persecuted, the abused, the imprisoned, because their voices challenge us to look beyond our own comfort. We confess that too often we do not speak the truth we know, because it would upset our friends, our family, or our colleagues. Grant us the courage and the faith to act as your incarnate self, even in our weakness and fear and trembling. In the name and honor of all the faithful who have gone before us, we ask this blessing. May it be so in Jesus’ name. Amen.

*Assurance of Grace

Hear the Good News! By the love and grace of God we are forgiven of our sin, and counted worthy to carry the gospel of Jesus Christ into the world. Indeed, God depends upon us to be bearers of the good news so that others may know the same freedom from guilt and sin which we ourselves have received. Dearly Beloved, believe the Good News! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, now and forever. Amen.

*Gloria Patri (Greateorex)

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.

From the Letters of Paul in the New Testament: 1 Corinthians 2:1-16

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. But we speak God’s wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him”— God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also, no one comprehends what is truly God’s except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit



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: Laura Haas

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Chancel Choir Director: Tony Burdette

Sound Technician: Robert Pettus

Greeters: Tom Williams & Laura Haas

Ushers: Steve Twehues, Ralph Schoulthies & Mike Hanson

Music reprinted under OneLicense.net A-722754

This Week

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

Monday, February 9 7 :00pm AA & Al-Anon Meeting

Tuesday, February 10: 7:00pm NA Meeting

Wednesday, February 11: 12:00pm-2:00pm Lunch Bunch
7:00pm - 8:30pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 12: 9:00am-12:00pm Food Pantry
3:00pm-4:00pm Yoga Class Fellowship Hall

Saturday, February 14: Happy Valentine's Day
9:00am AA Meeting

Sunday, February 15: 10:00am Worship Service

† †

GO IN PEACE, SERVE THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD!

of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny. "For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?"

But we have the mind of Christ.

Anthem

“Make A Joyful Noise”

(Mark Hayes)

Make a joyful noise to God all the earth!
Break forth and sing for joy and sing praises!
Sing praises to God with the harp, with the harp and the sound of melody,
with the trumpets and the sounds of the horn.
Make a joyful noise before God, the Lord Most High.
Let the sea and all that fills it, let the earth and all who dwell in it,
Let the rivers clap their hands! Let the hills sing together for joy
at the presence of God Who is coming to judge the earth,
to judge the world with righteousness and with equity.
Make a joyful noise!

From the Gospels in the New Testament: Matthew 5:13-20

“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

Sermon

“Pass It On!”

Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

You, O God, are supreme and holy.

Your purpose overarches everything we do.

You are God.

You came to us before we came to you.

You are with us now.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit.

You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.

You are our God. We Worship you. Amen.

“Pass It On”

Joys and Concerns – Silent Prayer – Pastoral 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.



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

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.

Judy Adams, Joan Berkemeyer, Judy Eads, Flo Grey, Betty Jo Haas, Eric Haas, Vickie Kennedy, Ed Von Strohe & Wendy Watts

St. John UCC; Bellevue
Allen Fluent, Interim

St. John's UCC; Newport
J. Martin Westermeyer, Interim

Homebound members.

Church Leadership Team, Ministry Teams, and all our church leaders.

Designated Pastor Rev. J. Martin
Westermeyer

Pastor of Visitation John Robson

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

Jean Morrow

Ft. Thomas, KY 41075

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.

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.

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 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](tel: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.**

Response

Psalm 143:1 306

Hear Our Prayer, O Lord

WORDS: Psalm 143:1
MUSIC: George Whelpton, 1897

HEAR OUR PRAYER
Irr.

Offertory Invitation

It is well with those who deal generously, the psalmist tells us. They have distributed freely, and have given to the poor. Bring your tithes and offerings to participate in the joy of our Creator. Let your light shine so others may see your good works and give glory to God.

Offertory

“God and God Alone”

(McHugh/McDonald)

God and God alone created all these things we call our own,
From the mighty to the small, the Glory in them all is God's and God's alone

God and God alone reveals the truth of all we call unknown.
And all the best and worst of man won't change the Master's plan. It's God's and God's alone

God and God alone is fit to take the universe's throne
Let everything that lives reserve it's truest praise for God and God alone

God and God alone will be the joy of our eternal home
He will be our one desire, Our hearts will never tire of God and God alone
God and God alone is fit to take the universe's throne
Let everything that lives reserve it's truest praise for God and God alone

*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!**

Generous Giver, Merciful Receiver:

***Hymn #462**

(All Is Well)

***Choral Response**

(Peter Lutkin)

“Minuet”
(from Concerto No. 9)

(G. F. Handel)

Please sign the guest register when it comes to your seat.



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

February 10th: Carol Haas & Michael Sullivan



For online giving, please scan the QR code.

**Food, Fun and Fellowship
ALL ARE WELCOME!!!!**

Drinks & Desserts Provided
ALL ARE WELCOME!!!!

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.

The 2025 End of Year Contribution Statements were mailed out on **Thursday, January 22nd**. If you did not receive a contribution statement and feel that you should have, you can contact our financial administrator Chris Baker at: Financialadmin@stjohnsuccnewport.org or you can call the church office at (859) 431-1818 option 3 for Kelli or option 7 for Chris for more information.