

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 22, 2026
10:00 a.m.
First Sunday in Lent



Thought for the Day before Worship

We ask ourselves, "Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented and fabulous?"

Actually, who are you not to be?

You are a child of God; your playing small doesn't serve the world . . .

We are born to make manifest the glory of God within us.

- Marianne Williamson, A Return to Love, New York: Harper Collins, 1992, pp. 190-191

*All who are able are welcome to stand

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

"Andante con moto"

(Marcel Dupre)

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

We come to be present to God, not to hide.

We come to admit our faults, not deny them.

We come to lay down the burden of shame.

We come to rejoice in forgiveness.

**We come to acknowledge we are not only sons of Adam
and daughters of Eve, but also are sisters and brothers of Christ.**

Let us as sisters and brothers of Christ Worship our God!

*Hymn #252

"Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"

(Land of Rest)

***Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

In times of distress you do not forsake us, O God. Amid the intrusions of life you comfort your people. When we find ourselves in whatever wilderness we wander, your Spirit is there to guide us correctly. Your eye is ever upon us as a mother watches over her brood. In Christ’s name we gather as those you have made righteous. Hear our shouts of joy with our hearts made upright!

We confess that we listen to voices that are not your voice, Holy God, especially when they tell us what we want to hear.

- We confess that we prefer to trust our own wishes rather than your wisdom.

- We confess that we are so out of control that we eat fruit that is not intended for us.

Forgive us our immaturity, our pride, and our greed.

Teach us, again, to allow your Spirit within us to guide us in wise decisions and faithful behavior. Amen.

***Assurance of Grace**

Hear the Good News! We have this assurance that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ. 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 Gospels of New Testament: Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’ ”

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Welcoming and Leading Us This Morning

Preaching Today: Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

Liturgist: Dr. Charles Hawkins

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Chancel Choir Director: Tony Burdette

Sound Technician: Robert Pettus

Greeters: Darlene Knepshield & Wendy Watts

Ushers: Steve Twehues, Ralph Schoulthies & Mike Hanson

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This Week

- Sunday, February 22:** 10am Worship Service
- Monday, February 23:** 7pm AA & Al-Anon Meeting
- Tuesday, February 24:** 7pm NA Meeting
- Wednesday, February 25:** 7pm - 8:30pm Choir Rehearsal
- Thursday, February 26:** 3pm-4pm Yoga Class Fellowship Hall
- Saturday, February 28:** 9am AA Meeting
10am-11am Lenten Discussion Group
- Sunday, March 1:** 10am Worship Service/Communion Sunday

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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, Janice Keeney, Vickie Kennedy, Ed Von Strohe & Wendy Watts

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

Her address is:

Gayle McAtee
Highlandspring of Ft. Thomas
960 Highland Avenue Room 2110
Ft. Thomas, KY 41075

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!

Anthem

"There Is a Redeemer"

(arr. Mary McDonald)

There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.
Thank You, O my Father, for giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit till the work on earth is done.

Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, O for sinners slain.
When I stand in glory, I will see His face;
There I'll serve my King forever in that holy place.

Thank You, O my Father, for giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit till the work on earth is done.
There is a Redeemer!

From the Books of the Law of the Old Testament: Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.' "But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Sermon

"Living Shamelessly"

Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

Affirmation of Faith: UCC Statement of Faith, Second General Synod, 1959

**We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Father,
and to his deeds we testify:
He calls the worlds into being,
creates man in his own image
and sets before him the ways of life and death.
He seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.
He judges men and nations by his righteous will
declared through prophets and apostles.
In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord,
he has come to us and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to himself.**

***Hymn #468** *“My Jesus, I Love Thee”* (Gordon)

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.

Je - sus, re - member me when you come in-to your king-dom.

Je - sus, re - member me when you come in-to your king-dom.

Offertory “*Take Up Your Cross*” (*Lloyd Larson*)

“Take up your cross,” the Savior said, “and humbly follow me.”

***Hymn #466** *“Take My Life and Let It Be”* (Hendon)

***Choral Response** (Peter Lutkin)

Postlude *“St. Anthony Choral”* (Haydn/Brahms)