



March 1, 2026
10:00 a.m.
Second Sunday in Lent



Prayer of Meditation before Worship

Lord, today we read in Scripture about the wonder of Abram and his faith. You called him and he responded. His faith is one of the many miraculous signs in our Old Testament. As we ponder today what it means to follow you, gracious God, remind us of Abram and his courage that heeded your call. He recognized your word. He experienced your sovereignty in his life. He also responded to your invitation with his fidelity. As we meditate anew on our call to ministry as baptized people, let us reflect a share of Abram's mettle. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*All who are able are welcome to stand

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

"Abide With Me"

(Albin Whitworth)

(Kendra Franke - flute)

Tower Bell

Introit

We have come into His house and gathered in His name to worship Him.
We have come into His house and gathered in His name to worship Him.
We have come into His house and gathered in His name to worship Christ the Lord.
Worship Him. Christ the Lord.

***Call to Worship**

Come, heaven and earth – feel the power of God.

Come, people of God – feel the power of God.

Come, great and small, and know that you are in the presence of God.

Come, let us Worship God.

Come, let us together Worship our God on this Sabbath Day!!

***Hymn #356**

"I Will Sing of My Redeemer"

(Hyfrydol)

***Prayer of Adoration and Confession**
You keep your eye upon us, O God; you protect us as a shield. You give us hope in spite of the disquiet that lingers within us. You lift our spirits and make us glad. All creation sings your praise; we your humble people laud your name. Hear us as we Worship, and speak to us as we gather. For we seek to be filled with your Spirit and made alive by your abiding Word.
Ever-Recreating God, when we cling to old identities;
forgive us into new being.
When we hang on to old ideas and understandings;
forgive us into new thought.
When we clutch old practices and traditions;
forgive us into new spirit.
When we nurse old grudges;
forgive us into forgiveness.
Re-create us as your new people, who sit so lightly with our lives that we can rise with ease to follow Christ through this world to the next. Amen.

***Assurance of Grace**
Hear the Good News! “For the sake of the joy that was set before him Jesus endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.” Our faith depends on him from start to finish, and he unceasingly intercedes on our behalf. Therein abides our hope and our assurance. 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 Law of the Old Testament: Genesis 12:1-4
Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.



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: Kyle Taylor

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Chancel Choir Director: Tony Burdette

Sound Technician: Robert Pettus

Greeters: David Stamm & Wendy Watts

Ushers: Steve Twehues, Ralph Schoulthies & Mike Hanson

Music reprinted under OneLicense.net A-722754

This Week

- Sunday, March 1:** 10am Worship Service/Communion Sunday
- Monday, March 2:** 7pm AA & Al-Anon Meeting
- Tuesday, March 3:** 7pm NA Meeting
7pm East Row Historic Foundation Meeting
- Wednesday, March 4:** 7pm - 8:30pm Choir Rehearsal
- Thursday, March 5:** 3pm - 4pm Yoga Class Fellowship Hall
- Saturday, March 7:** 9am AA Meeting
10am -11am Lenten Discussion Group
11am Leadership Team Meeting
- Sunday, March 8:** 10am Worship Service

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

Anthem

*“There Is an Everlasting Kindness”
(Getty/Townsend arr. Shackley)*

There is an everlasting kindness You lavished on us
When the Radiance of heaven came to rescue the lost;
You called the sheep without a shepherd to leave their distress
for your streams of forgiveness and the shade of Your rest.

And with compassion for the hurting, You reached out Your hand as
the lame ran to meet You and the dead breathed again;
You saw behind the eyes of sorrow and shared in our tears,
heard the sigh of the weary, let the children draw near.

What boundless love, what fathomless grace
You have shown us, O God of compassion!
Each day we live an offering of praise
as we show to the world Your compassion.

We stood beneath the cross of Calvary And gazed on Your face at the
thorns of oppression and the wounds of disgrace,
For surely You have borne our suffering and carried our grief
as You pardoned the scoffer and showed grace to the thief.

How beautiful the feet that carry this gospel of peace
to the fields of injustice and the valleys of need—
to be a voice of hope and healing, to answer the cries
of the hungry and helpless with the mercy of Christ.

What boundless love, what fathomless grace
You have shown us, O God of compassion!
Each day we live an offering of praise
as we show to the world Your compassion.

From the Gospels of the New Testament: John 3:1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Sermon “Breathing Deeply” Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

*Hymn #461 “Breathe on Me, Breath of God” (Trentham)

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 sing twice

The image shows two staves of musical notation for a hymn. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. Both staves are in 3/4 time and have a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive, with the lyrics 'Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.' written below the notes. The bottom staff has a final double bar line.

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

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. Marcia’s birthday is Tuesday, March 10th. 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

LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUP

Saturday, March 7th: 10:00 – 11:00 am
Saturday, March 14th: 10:00 – 11:00 am
Saturday, March 21st: 10:00 – 11:00 am
Saturday, March 28th: 10:00 – 11:00 am
Saturday, April 4th: 10:00 – 11:00 am

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.**

LUNCH BUNCH

Wednesday, March 11th
12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.
Bring Your Own Lunch
Drinks & Desserts Provided
ALL ARE WELCOME!!!!

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

One Great Hour of Sharing is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports disasters, refugees, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries.

On **Sunday, March 15, 2026** St. John’s UCC will participate in One Great Hour of Sharing by collecting a special offering on that day. Please consider giving to this special project.

TIME CHANGE NEXT WEEK

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 8th, at 2:00 a.m. (clocks jump to 3:00 a.m. "spring forward") Remember to set your clocks one hour ahead next Sunday so you are not late for church.

Offertory Invitation

God has given us the gift of life and surrounded us with abundant resources. Again and again, we have been blessed beyond our deserving. God has bridged the gap between Creator and creatures in Jesus Christ, overcoming our unfaithfulness, overpowering death, and heralding the reign of love. Will we express our thanks in token offerings or in an outpouring of our best?

Offertory

“I Am Light, I Am Life, I Am Love”

(Mary McDonald)

At this table come and dine, feast on bread, partake the wine
Do this in remembrance of me.
This my body and my blood, for the weary soul outpoured.
Do this in remembrance of me.
I was given for you.
Come and taste of the Father’s love.
As you drink from the cup, remember the blood shed for you.
I am Light, I am Life, I am Love.
At this table, come and dine, feast on bread, partake the wine.
Do this in remembrance of me.
I was given for you.
Come and taste of the Father’s love.
As you drink from the cup, remember the blood shed for you.
I am light, I am life, I am love.

***Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost Amen**

(Old 100th)

***Prayer of Dedication**

We offer to you, Almighty God, a portion of what you have first given to us. Receive these gifts, and receive us. Accept from us our willingness to serve you and do your work. Transform us truly to be your people, seeking in our humble ways to change our world to be in line with your will. Amen.

***Hymn #354**

“Just As I Am”
(vs. 1 & 2)

(Woodworth)

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*

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.

Partaking of the Lord's Supper

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.

Most gracious God, we praise you for what you have given and for what you have promised us here. You have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. You have fed us with the bread of life, and renewed us for your service. Now we give ourselves to you; and ask that your daily living may be part of the life of your kingdom, and that our love may be your love reaching out into the life of the world. Amen.

(*Rathbum*)

*Choral Response

(Peter Lutkin)

(J.S. Bach)

WELCOME!

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!

The greenery at the pulpit and baptismal font are provided by the church.

Open flower dates are March 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th
To reserve your special date, please call the church office.

March 1st: Carol Fickenscher



For online giving, please scan the QR code.

