

CONTACTS

Phone	859-431-1818
Email	stjohnsucc@stjohnsuccnewport.org
Website	www.stjohnsuccnewport.org
Facebook	St. John's United Church of Christ–Newport, KY

PROGRAM

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.	



May 3, 2026
10:00 a.m.
Fifth Sunday of Easter



Thought for the Day before Worship

Each of us, by word and deed, points out the way of Jesus in the world.

*All who are able are welcome to stand

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude	<i>“Break Thou the Bread of Life”</i> (Kendra Franke - flute)	<i>(Albin Whitworth)</i>
----------------	--	--------------------------

Tower Bell

Introit

There’s a sweet, sweet spirit in this place,
And I know that it’s the spirit of the Lord.
Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet Heavenly Dove,
You’re right here with us filling us with Your love.
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
Without a doubt we’ll know the we have been revived,
When we shall leave this place.

*Call to Worship

People of God, come follow the Way!
We want to walk in the footsteps of Jesus.
People of God, come seek the Truth!
We desire to live lives that reflect the love and mercy of our God.
People of God, come embrace the Life!
Jesus is our way, truth, and life! We live our lives in Him!
Let us Worship our God!!

*Hymn #71	<i>“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”</i>	<i>(Lobe Den Herren)</i>
------------------	---	--------------------------

***Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

With gratitude and praise, we give thanks, O God, that you are the way and the truth and the life. In the midst of uncertain times, in trouble and turmoil, confusion and unrest, you point the way to love and life, and we seek to follow on your path.

We ask for your guidance as we live our lives in you. Help us to love as you love, rejoice as you rejoice, forgive as you forgive, enact justice when you would speak. Just as you were revealed in the mission and ministry of Jesus, so may our lives show forth your presence each day. May others look at us and see your face, hear your voice, know your touch, experience your peace, because we live and love because of Jesus.

O God, we confess that we have lost our way:

We have not followed in your footsteps;
we have not helped our sisters and brothers to find your path.

Forgive us our distractions and set our feet on your path again.

Empowered by your grace, direct us as we seek to follow you once again, walking in your truth and bringing to light your life. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

***Assurance of Grace**

Hear the Good News! Come to the Christ, the living stone, chosen and precious in God’s sight. Declare the wonderful deeds of Christ who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were no people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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.

Scripture Lesson: From the Letters to the Church: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: “See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,” and “A stone that makes them stumble and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

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, May 3:** 10am Worship Service/Communion Sunday
- Monday, May 4:** 7pm AA & Al-Anon Meeting
- Tuesday, May 5:** 7pm NA Meeting
7pm East Row Historic Foundation Meeting
- Wednesday, May 6:** 7pm - 8:30pm Choir Rehearsal
- Thursday, May 7:** 3pm - 4pm Yoga Class Fellowship Hall
- Saturday, May 9:** 9am AA Meeting
10am - 11am Bible Discussion Saturday
11am Leadership Team Meeting
- Sunday, May 10:** 10am Worship Service/Mother’s Day

✚ ✚ ✚ ✚ ✚ ✚ ✚ ✚ ✚ ✚ ✚ ✚ ✚ ✚ ✚ ✚ ✚ ✚ ✚ ✚

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, Janice Keeney, Vickie Kennedy, Ed Von Strohe & 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 Robert Hasse. Robert's birthday is Sunday, May 10th. Take a moment this week to send him a card or give him a call as we celebrate Robert as our member of the week!

His address is:
Robert Hasse
500 Lakeview Drive #103
Wilder, KY 41071

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!

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Anthem

"Praise the Lord" (G.F. Handel)

Praise the Lord. Let songs of joy break forth. Sing alleluia. Praise his name for evermore.
Shout, sing and dance and celebrate; Rejoice, let all now praise his holy name.

Scripture Lesson: From the Gospels of the New Testament: John 14:1-14

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

Sermon

"How Can We Know the Way?" Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

Affirmation of Faith: An Easter Affirmation

We are an Easter-faith people.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ comes to us:

As a spring festival coinciding with the earth's re-birth,
As a revelation in scripture of God's intentions,
As a central meaning of human existence.

Yet, the resurrection of Jesus Christ comes to us:

As a puzzle, an intriguing mystery,
As contrary to the apparent facts of life and death,
As impossible to have happened, much less to happen still.

Still, the resurrection of Jesus Christ comes to us:

As the ways of God which are beyond our ways,
As a deeper, different reality than we imagine,
As a possible reality.

Thus, we are Easter-filled people:
Living the hope of new life,
Expecting signs of renewal in ourselves and others,
Believing that the mystery of God is a mystery of forgiving love.
In joy, with power, through faith, we are becoming God’s Easter people.
Thanks be to God!! Amen.

*Hymn #505 “All the Way My Savior Leads Me” (All The Way)

Gathering Together in Prayer
Joys & 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

Psalm 143:1 Hear Our Prayer, O Lord 306

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Hear Our Prayer, O Lord'. It is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: 'Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord, in - cline thine ear to us, and grant us thy peace. A - men.' The score is divided into two systems. The first system contains the first two lines of the melody and lyrics. The second system contains the next two lines. At the bottom left, it says 'WORDS: Psalm 143:1' and 'MUSIC: George Whelpton, 1897'. At the bottom right, it says 'HEAR OUR PRAYER' and 'Irr.'.

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

HEAR OUR PRAYER
Irr.

Offertory Invitation

The truth for which Stephen gave his life has been passed on to us as a gift. The Christ, whom Paul proclaimed against fearful odds, has become our Savior because many before us have kept the faith and shared it. The spiritual sacrifices of many have contributed to our legacy of faith. It is our privilege to pass on these gifts through our tithes and offerings, through our giving of self.

GRADUATE RECOGNITION

During worship on **Sunday, May 17th** St. John’s will be recognizing the graduates in our midst. If you know of someone graduating from High School, College, University or another academic institution, please contact the church office to let us know.
Last day to submit names is Monday, May 11th. Thank you!

SPRING CHORAL CONCERT
St. John’s UCC Chancel Choir and Friends
Present
A NIGHT OF WORSHIP
Sunday, May 17, 2026
7:00 p.m.
Sanctuary
Free Admission

Come hear the return of the Lisa Stamm Memorial Bells being played by the Gloria Dei Lutheran Bell Choir

MEMORIAL DAY ROLL OF REMEMBRANCE

If you are a church member and would like to add a member of your family to update our Military Roll of Remembrance for Memorial Day 2026, please contact the church office. The deadline for names is **Wednesday, May 20th**. Our Memorial Day Service will be held on **Sunday, May, 24th**.

Please note that names featured in previous years will be included again, and there is no need to re-submit them. Thank you!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Volunteers are needed to help serve dinner at the Henry Hosea House on **Friday, May 29th from 3:30-6:30pm**. All you need to do is serve on the food line and provide a warm, welcoming smile to the people who come for dinner. If you and a family member or friend would be willing to do this, please text or call Pat Goins at 859-250-2830 or contact Kelli in the church office.



ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS

For online giving, please scan the QR code.



BIBLE STUDY, THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW (2026 LECTIONARY YEAR A)

Saturdays 10:00 – 11:00 AM
April 11 through June 27
St. John's UCC Newport, church chapel



LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING

Leadership Team Meeting
Saturday, May 9, 2026
11am
All meetings are in the church parlor



MOTHER'S DAY

To celebrate **Mother's Day on Sunday, May 10th**, flowers will be available for every woman, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and mother-to-be at the end of the service.



LUNCH BUNCH

Wednesday, May 13th
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Lunch Will Be Provided
Cincinnati Reds Theme
Drinks & Desserts Provided
ALL ARE WELCOME!!!!

Offertory

"Communion Hymn"

(Kellermeyer)

Break Thou the bread of life, Dear Lord, to me,
As Thou didst break the loaves beside the sea.
Beyond the sacred page I seek Thee, Lord;
My spirit pants for Thee, O Living Word!

Bless Thou the truth, dear Lord, to me, to me,
As Thou didst bless the bread by Gallilee;
Then shall all bondage cease, All fetters fall,
And I shall find my peace, my All in all.

Thou art the Bread of Life, O Lord, to me
Thy holy Word the truth that saveth me;
Give me to eat and live With Thee above;
Teach me to love Thy truth For Thou art love.

*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

Help us to maintain the vital balance between receiving and giving, O God. Open the frozen channels of our hearts that we may give of our substance and of our time and of our talents, until fully we are serving you in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Hymn #695

"As We Gather at Your Table"

(Beach Spring)

(vs. 1 & 2)

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.

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)**

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.

***Hymn #341** “Jesus Shall Reign” (Duke Street)

***Benediction**

***Response (All Sing)**

**Because He lives, I can face tomorrow.
Because He lives, All fear is gone!
Because I know He holds the future
And life is worth the living just because He lives!**

Postlude *“Trumpet Tune”* (William Boyce)

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.



Flowers at the pulpit are In Loving Memory of Guy Bauer.
We think of you always and hold you close to our hearts.

Love Wendy and the family



Flowers at the baptismal font are
In Loving Memory of Bill Seibert.

Love Diana

Open flower dates are May 10th, 24th & 31st
To reserve your special date, please call the church office.

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