

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. |                        |



May 10, 2026  
10:00 a.m.  
**Sixth Sunday of Easter**



Thought for the Day before Worship

“What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has the eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men.

That is what love looks like.”

– Augustine

\*All who are able are welcome to stand

Welcome and Announcements

**Prelude** *“For the Beauty of the Earth”* (Gordon Young)

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: *based on Psalm 66*

For blessing us with this new day . . .

**We bless you, O God.**

For testing us like the finest silver . . .

**We bless you, O God.**

For bringing us through the fire and water . . .

**We bless you, O God.**

We bless you, O God, by coming into your house to offer ourselves as living sacrifices.

**Come and hear, all you who love God.**

Let all who love God, come and Worship our God!!

\*Hymn #40

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

(Dix)

**\*Prayer of Adoration and Confession**  
Bless us, Holy One, as we come into your house. Help us to leave the cares of the world behind during this time and reconnect with you through the holy awe that you inspire in the depths of our spirit. We give thanks, Holy One, for this opportunity: to be in this place, among our community, to recharge our batteries and revive our spirits. Open our hearts, minds, and ears so that we may feel your Spirit as it moves among us in this place.  
We get so caught up in the trials and tribulations of life, Holy One, we often forget that we are never alone or left to our own devices. We try to face the challenges around us on our own, as if we are abandoned orphans. Forgive us when we insist on taking over and trying to slay the dragons of this world on our own. Remind us, Holy One, that you stand ready to be our advocate, our adoptive parent who counsels and helps and leads us to ultimate victory over the evils of this life. Amen.

**\*Assurance of Grace**  
Hear the Good News! In Christ, God has shown us the reality of resurrection life and calls us to become the fullness of who we are intended to be. By our repentant hearts and through God’s grace, we are enabled to open our minds to new truth, our hearts to new love, and our lives to new action. This is God’s gracious gift in Christ. 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)

**Scripture Lesson: From the Poetry of the Old Testament: Psalm 66:8-20**  
Bless our God, O peoples;  
let the sound of his praise be heard,  
who has kept us among the living  
and has not let our feet slip.  
For you, O God, have tested us;  
you have tried us as silver is tried.  
You brought us into the net;  
you laid burdens on our backs;  
you let people ride over our heads;  
we went through fire and through water;  
yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.  
I will come into your house with burnt offerings;  
I will pay you my vows,  
those that my lips uttered

**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: Laura Haas & Tom Williams  
  
Ushers: Steve Twehues & Mike Hanson  
  
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**This Week**

|                           |                                                                                                |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday, May 10:</b>    | 10am Worship Service/Mother’s Day                                                              |
| <b>Monday, May 11:</b>    | 7pm AA & Al-Anon Meeting                                                                       |
| <b>Tuesday, May 12:</b>   | 7pm NA Meeting                                                                                 |
| <b>Wednesday, May 13:</b> | 12pm-2pm Lunch Bunch<br>7pm - 8:30pm Choir Rehearsal                                           |
| <b>Thursday, May 14:</b>  | 9am-12pm Food Pantry<br>3pm - 4pm Yoga Class Fellowship Hall                                   |
| <b>Saturday, May 16:</b>  | 9am AA Meeting<br>9:30am-12pm Concert Dress Rehearsal<br>10am - 11am Bible Discussion Saturday |
| <b>Sunday, May 17:</b>    | 10am Worship Service/Graduate Recognition<br>7pm Spring Choral Concert                         |

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

### **Weekly Prayer List for Northern Kentucky UCC Cluster**

St. John UCC; Bellevue  
Allen Fluent, Interim

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

### **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 Flo Grey. Flo's birthday is Friday, May 15th. Take a moment this week to send her a card or give her a call as we celebrate Flo as our member of the week!

Her address is:

Flo Grey  
The Barrington of Ft. Thomas Apt. 2106  
940 Highland Avenue  
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](http://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!

and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.  
I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatted calves,  
with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;  
I will make an offering of bulls and goats. Selah  
Come and hear, all you who fear God,  
and I will tell what he has done for me.

I cried aloud to him,  
and he was extolled with my tongue.  
If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,  
the Lord would not have listened.  
But truly God has listened;  
he has heard the words of my prayer.  
Blessed be God,  
who has not rejected my prayer  
or removed his steadfast love from me.

### **Anthem**

*"How Great Thou Art!"*

*(Dan Forrest)*

O Lord My God! O Lord my God!  
How Great Thou art!

O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder,  
Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made;  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.  
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!

When through the woods, and forest glades I wander,  
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees.  
When I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur  
And see the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.

And when I think, that God, His Son not sparing;  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;  
That on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
He bled and died to take away my sin.

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.  
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,  
And then proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art.

Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee,  
how great Thou art!

### Scripture Lesson: From the Letters to the Entire Church: 1 Peter 3:13-22

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

**Sermon**                                      “The Witness of Suffering”      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 #458**                                      “O Jesus, I Have Promised”                                      (Angel's Story)

### 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



### MOTHER'S DAY

To celebrate Mother's Day, flowers will be available for every woman, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and mother-to-be at the end of the service today. Flowers will be handed out at each exit as you leave. Happy Mother's Day to all the special women in our lives!!



### LUNCH BUNCH

**Wednesday, May 13th**

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Lunch Will Be Provided

Cincinnati Reds Theme

Coneys and Cheese Coneys Will Be Served

Drinks & Desserts Provided

**ALL ARE WELCOME!!!!**

### **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



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

HEAR OUR PRAYER  
Irr.

### **Offertory Invitation**

Praise God with sacrificial offerings. Return thanks to the Creator, who gives us life and breath. Manifest God's love for the world through your sharing. Reaffirm your baptism as you dedicate your time and talents with the material gifts God has loaned to you.



Offertory

“The Majesty and Glory of Your Name”

(Tom Fettke)

When I gaze into the night skies and see the work of your fingers;  
The moon and stars suspended in space.  
Oh, what is man, that you are mindful of him?

You have given man a crown of glory and honor  
And have made him a little lower than the angels,  
you have put him in charge of all creation:  
The beast of the field, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,  
But what is man, that you are mindful of him.

O Lord, our God the majesty and glory of your name  
Transcends the earth and fills the heavens.  
O Lord, our God, little children praise You perfectly,  
And so would we, and so would we.

Alleluia, Alleluia! The majesty and glory of Your name.  
Alleluia!

\*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**  
**Out of both our abundance and our lack, we give these gifts to be used in your service,**  
**God. We give, trusting that you will bless our gifts, multiply them beyond measure,**  
**and use them to help others both near and far. We give thanks for the blessings that**  
**we have received, and for the blessings that are rushing toward us even now. Remind**  
**us, God, to never hoard any of those blessings, but make us channels of your**  
**generosity, so that everyone will know your blessings. It is in Jesus' name we pray.**  
**Amen.**

\*Hymn #607

“Happy the Home When God Is There”

(St. Agnes)

\*Benediction

\*Choral Response

Postlude

“St. Anthony Chorale”

(Arr. David Johnson)

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 May 24th  
To reserve your special date, please call the church office.

**BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 10TH**

May 10th: Robert Hasse & Alison Morris  
May 15th: Flo Grey  
May 16th: Karen Liden

**ANNIVERSARIES FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 10TH**

May 13th: Julie & Charles Croley (37 years)