



May 17, 2026
10:00 a.m.
Seventh Sunday of Easter
Ascension Celebration



Prayer of Meditation before Worship

*Lord, Lord, we seek to enter the Realm of Heaven, and we seek to do the will of our God.
Help us to discern your will, and to recognize true prophets,
that we might hear your words and put them into practice today. Amen.*

*All who are able are welcome to stand

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“Voluntary in G”

(William Walond)

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**

Today is Ascension Sunday, when we celebrate Christ's return to God.

We look up in wonder as he is lifted into heaven!

But this is not the time to gaze upward. There is work to be done!

Jesus has entrusted the ministry of God's love to us.

Let's get to work!

Let's make our hearts ready for the task ahead with prayer and praise!

***Hymn #320**

“Alleluia, Sing to Jesus!”

(Hyfrydol)

***Prayer of Adoration and Confession**
Lord, we are impatient! We want everything now, instantly! We don’t want to wait for anything. We rush our holidays, our celebrations, our very lives and then wonder why our spirits are exhausted and depressed.

Slow us down, Lord, help us to enjoy the process of waiting for the wondrous things you offer us. Let us feel the power and beauty of praising you and singing your praises. Clear away our “high gear” mentality and place us on paths of peace and hope.

Forgive our arrogance and impatience. Help us to overcome those traits which pull us away from you and from appreciating all that you have done for us. As we listen to the scriptures on this day in which the disciples witnessed Jesus’ ascension to you, let our hearts be at peace knowing that you have taught us what we need to know to serve joyfully in the world. Inspire us and give us delight for what is to come. Amen.

***Assurance of Grace**
Hear the Good News! Through Christ, life has been given to us as a new gift for today. We are new and different people from this moment on! Let us arise and walk in the light of the Resurrected and Ascended 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.

Scripture Lesson: From the Letters of Paul in the New Testament: Ephesians 1:15-23
I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.



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: Darlene Knepshield & Julie Ollier

Ushers: Steve Twehues & Mike Hanson

Music reprinted under OneLicense.net A-722754

This Week

Sunday, May 17: 10am Worship Service/Graduate Recognition
7pm Spring Choral Concert

Monday, May 18: 7pm AA & Al-Anon Meeting

Tuesday, May 19: 7pm NA Meeting
7pm East Row Garden Club Meeting

Wednesday, May 20: 7pm - 8:30pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, May 21: 3pm - 4pm Yoga Class Fellowship Hall

Saturday, May 23: 9am AA Meeting
10am - 11:30am Bible Discussion Saturday

Sunday, May 24: 10am Worship Service/Memorial Day Roll of
Remembrance Service

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

Anthem

“I Will Sing Unto the Lord” (Joseph M. Martin)

O I will rejoice and make a joyful noise,
I will sing to the Lord a new song.
With jubilant thanks I will shout to God
for to him all the glory belongs.
I will sing unto the Lord,
I will sing unto the Lord, my God.

O I will give thanks and raise my voice above.
I will lift up my praise to the King.
With all of my heart I will give my thanks,
His love is the reason I sing!

I will sing alleluia, sing alleluia.
I will sing praise to his name.
I will sing to the world all the works of your hand,
With my mouth all your deeds to proclaim.

I will sing unto the Lord,
Sing to the Lord, my God.

Scripture Lesson: From the Gospels of the New Testament: Luke 24:44-53
Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Sermon “Sent Forth By God’s Blessing” 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 #466**

"Take My Life and Let It Be"
(vs. 1 & 4)

(Hendon)

Recognition of Graduates

Honoring Ralph Schoulthies for Years of Service

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

Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me,

Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.

Offertory Invitation

The rains of God come in abundance. God provides daily for our needs. How shall we show our gratitude? Giving is not a dutiful obligation so much as a delightful opportunity. What a joy to give thanks! What a blessing to be able to share!

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

Immanuel UCC; Bromley
Jack Denham

Christ UCC; Ft. Thomas
Diane Vego

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 Bonnie Walter. Bonnie's birthday is Sunday, May 17th. Take a moment this week to send her a card or give her a call as we celebrate Bonnie as our member of the week!

Her address is:

Bonnie Walter
100 Carmel Manor Drive
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!

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

We will resume our Bible Study Group on Saturday May 23. On May 23 we will discuss lessons 6 and 7, and the session will be 10:00 - 11:30 am.

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.

Offertory

“Chariot’s Comin’!” (Don Besig)
(Jean Nutgrass and Katheryn Jones)

I’ve got a home waitin’ in the heavenly kingdom,
up where the streets are gold.
An someday I know I’ll be heading for the heavenly Kingdom with a chariot to carry me home.

Swing low, sweet chariot, comin’ for to carry me home.
Swing low, sweet chariot, comin’ for to carry me home.

Looked over Jordon and what did I see.
A shiny golden chariot waitin’ there for me;
It’s gonna carry me home.

My day is comin’ as sure as can be.
I hear a band of angels callin’ out to me.
They’re gonna carry me home.

***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**
Almighty God, receive these gifts, bless them and multiply them, that they may strengthen and unify the work of your Church here and around the Earth you love. It is in Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

***Hymn #342** “Rejoice, the Lord Is King!” (Darwall’s 148th)

***Benediction**

***Choral Response**

Postlude “Carillon” (Gordon Young)

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 honor and celebration of the
46th wedding anniversary of Julie and Steve Twehues today,
May 17, 2026.



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

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 17TH

May 17th: Dave Coppage & Bonnie Walter
May 21st: Janet Ginter

ANNIVERSARIES FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 17TH

May 17th: Julie & Steve Twehues (46 years)
May 22nd: Patricia & James Penrod, Jr. (33 years)

ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS

For online giving, please scan the QR code.



GRADUATE RECOGNITION 2026



Avery Barber will graduate from Highlands High School on May 26, 2026. She will attend the University of Kentucky in the Fall and major in Elementary Education and Speech Pathology. Avery is the daughter of Tim and Tracy Barber and the granddaughter of Joann Winstel.

Mark Behrendt graduated from the University of Cincinnati, College Conservatory of Music on May 1, 2026 with a Bachelor's of Music in Music Education. He is currently looking for a middle or high school choir job in the Cincinnati area. Mark is the son of Jeff and Diana Behrendt.

Jackson Bittner will graduate from Campbell County High School on June 1, 2026. Currently Jackson is participating in a Cooperative Education program with a local electrical company. He plans to work with them after graduation and attend Enzweiler Building Institute trade school and become an electrician. Jackson is the son of Kyle and Cindy Bittner and the grandson of Tom and Carol Haas.

Jenna Hurtt graduated from Northern Kentucky University on May 9, 2026 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Jenna is the daughter Bob and Beth Gies and the granddaughter of Garry Miller.

Grant Kiefer graduated from Ohio University on May 2, 2026 with a bachelor's degree in broadcasting and journalism. Grant is the grandson of Karen Kiefer.

Max Meadows will graduate from Newport Central Catholic High School on May 18, 2026. He will attend the University of Kentucky in the Fall. Max is the son of Dave and Krista Meadows and the grandson of Mike and Brenda Scharber.

Luke Robert Slater will graduate from Loveland High School on May 17, 2026. He will attend The Ohio State University in the Fall and major in Chemical Engineering. Luke is the son of Robert and Sarah Slater and the grandson of Judy Slater.

Congratulations to the Class of 2026! We wish you much happiness and success!