

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.



July 5, 2026
10:00 a.m.

Sixth Sunday After Pentecost



Thought for the Day before Worship

*The church, believe it or not, is the body of Christ. For good or ill,
the church is the way the risen Christ takes up room in the world.
If most people are to encounter the risen Christ,
they will need to do so through the church.*

*All who are able are welcome to stand

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

"Fanfare on "America"
(Kendra Franke - Flute)

(Murry Bradshaw)

Tower Bell

*Call to Worship

Come into the presence of the God of surprise and wonder.

Remember the surprising and wondrous works of God that establish our hope.

Come, knowing that even in hopeless situations, we may trust in God.

Come, trusting in the one who is our hope, who is our life.

Let us Worship our God!!

*Hymn #728

"God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand"

(National Hymn)

*Prayer of Adoration and Confession

Amazing God of love so right and so pure, grace us with your presence. We desire to lean on you even more today than we have in the past. May we manifest a hope right and pure in honesty. You know our hearts. We ask for faith and trust enough to strengthen the hearts you know all so well. Our hope is built on nothing less.

Dear Holy One, though we are in this place of hope, hope may not be in us in this moment. Or, at least, for the moment, we do not feel hope inside of us. We confess that the world confounds our senses at times, and our judgment is clouded in the face of

the conveniences and seductions of the marketplace. Free us, in this time of Worship, of our cravings and indulgences, and cause us to discover the joy of being children in the house of blessedness. Stir within us the hope that comes from knowing ourselves forgiven by you, loved by you, graced by you. May we immerse ourselves in hope that is always deeper and wider than we know. Amen.

***Assurance of Grace**

Hear the Good News! We are ordinary people, made extraordinary by the loving action of God on our behalf, a grace for all and in all. We are cleansed, cleared, and commandeered by God for God. Thanks be to God! 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.**

(Greatorex)

From the Poetry of the Old Testament: Psalm 45:10-17

Hear, O daughter, consider and incline your ear;
forget your people and your father’s house,
and the king will desire your beauty.
Since he is your lord, bow to him;
Daughter Tyre will seek your favor with gifts,
the richest of the people with all kinds of wealth.
The princess is decked in her chamber with gold-woven robes;
in many-colored robes she is led to the king;
behind her the virgins, her companions, follow.
With joy and gladness they are led along
as they enter the palace of the king.
In the place of ancestors you, O king, shall have sons;
you will make them princes in all the earth.
I will cause your name to be celebrated in all generations;
therefore the peoples will praise you forever and ever.

Solo

“Assurance” *(John Ness Beck)*
(Mark Berendt - soloist)

Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.
Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, I this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

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: David Stamm & Wendy Watts

Ushers: Steve Twehues & Mike Hanson

Music reprinted under OneLicense.net A-722754

This Week

- Sunday, July 5:** 10am Worship Service/Communion Sunday
- Monday, July 6:** 7pm AA & Al-Anon Meeting
- Tuesday, July 7:** 7pm NA Meeting
7pm East Row Historic Foundation Meeting
- Wednesday, July 8:** 12pm-2pm Lunch Bunch
- Thursday, July 9:** 9am-12pm Food Pantry
3pm - 4pm Yoga Class Fellowship Hall
- Saturday, July 11:** 9am AA Meeting
- Sunday, July 12:** 10am Worship Service

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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, Carol Fickenscher, Flo Grey, Betty Jo Haas, Eric Haas, Betty Hasse, Chuck Hawkins, Janice Keeney, Vickie Kennedy, Ed Von Strohe, Family of Bonnie Walter & 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 Jean Morrow. Take a moment this week to send her a card or give her a call as we celebrate Jean as our member of the week!

Her address is:

Jean Morrow
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!

From the Gospels of the New Testament: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

“For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Sermon

“Wonder and Secrets”

Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

***Hymn**

“This Is My Song”
(see next page)

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

**And God will raise you up on eagle's wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of God's hand.**

Offertory Invitation

We have been blessed with gifts we have not sought. We have received strength amid our struggles. We have been raised from death to new life. Even our wounds remind us of a God who cares for us and counts us worthy to bear the name of Christ. Let us give thanks, and our full commitment, as we dedicate our offerings.

This Is My Song

1. This is my song, O God of all the na-tions,
 2. My coun-try's skies are blu-er than the o-cean,
 3. This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's king-doms:

a song of peace for lands a-far and mine.
 and sun-light beams on clo-ver-leaf and pine;
 Thy king-dom come; on earth thy will be done.

This is my home, the coun-try where my heart is;
 but oth-er lands have sun-light too, and clo-ver,
 Let Christ be lift-ed up till all shall serve him,

here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho-ly shrine;
 and skies are ev-ery-where as blue as mine.
 and hearts u-nit-ed learn to live as one.

but oth-er hearts in oth-er lands are beat-ing
 O hear my song, thou God of all the na-tions,
 O hear my prayer, thou God of all the na-tions;

with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
 a song of peace for their land and for mine.
 my-self I give thee; let thy will be done.

VENEZUELA EARTHQUAKES

On June 24, 2026, two earthquakes of magnitudes 7.2 and 7.5 struck northern Venezuela. Significant damage has been reported across northern Venezuela, including the capital city Caracas and the government of Venezuela has declared a state of emergency. Immediate impacts include loss of shelter, infrastructure, disruption of basic services, and psychosocial distress. Long-term impacts are expected to include prolonged displacement and loss of livelihoods.

As of June 30, 2026, over 1,900 have perished and thousands were injured. These numbers are expected to rise as rescue crews continue search-and-rescue efforts. More than 46,000 people remain missing.

The Global HOPE team is in working with its partners through ACT Alliance and Global Ministries to accompany those most deeply impacted by this tragedy. Members of ACT Alliance are working to provide shelter, mental health and psychosocial support services, food security and nutrition support, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) support in the immediate future and plans are being developed for long-term accompaniment and recovery support.

David Giron, Global Relations Minister for Latin America and the Caribbean, reports that Venezuelan aid workers, rescue teams, and citizenry have mobilized immediately, carrying relief supplies and searching for those caught under the rubble and debris. The search and rescue effort has been impeded by significant aftershocks, including a 4.6 magnitude aftershock on June 29, 2026, off the northern coast.

While communication remains slow due to collapsed infrastructure, we will continue to provide updates as we receive them. We invite you to please continue to keep all those impacted in your prayers.

*God of the broken and the buried,
 Hear us as we pray in sorrow and hope.
 We hold before you those whose lives have been shaken,
 Let your peace, comfort and love be known to
 Those who search, those who wait, and those who grieve.
 Let your love be a source of light amidst the chaos of uncertainty.
 In your name we pray,
 Amen*

You can also mail a check payable to the United Church of Christ, PO Box 71957, Cleveland, OH 44194. Please be sure to note "Venezuela Earthquakes 2026" in the memo section of your check.
 Our EIN: 34-1927041

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

St. John's is excited to announce the return of our Back-to-School supply drive benefiting the Newport Independent School District and Washington UCC. This year the schools are looking for any of the following items: Crayola Crayons, Crayola Colored Pencils, Crayola Markers, Folders, Pencils, Pens (blue, black & red), Glue Sticks, Erasers, Pencil Boxes, Scissors, Single Subject Spiral Notebooks (wide & college lined), Composition Books and Backpacks.

If you can't make it out to shop, no problem! We will collect monetary donations and send them to the organizations to help them get the supplies they need. Make your check payable to St. John's UCC and mark it for the "Back to School Drive." This donation drive will kick off on **July 5th** and run through **August 2nd**. Boxes will be located at the baptismal font in the sanctuary to drop off supplies. Please contact the church office with any questions.



LUNCH BUNCH

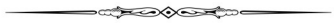
Wednesday, July 8th

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

Barbecue Sliders & Ice Cream Floats

Drinks & Desserts Provided

ALL ARE WELCOME!!!!



ADULT EDUCATION

The following is a summary of the recent survey results regarding adult education. It seems to be that most people are interested in viewing and discussing The Chosen as the last 2 seasons become available. Folks appreciate the devotional groups during Advent and Lent. The most popular choices in bible study included the continued study of the Gospel, New Testament, Psalms and the Wisdom books.

The majority of folks prefer in person sessions on Saturday mornings. Preferred times of the year were across the board, all seasons, with Fall and Winter identified as the most popular.

With these thoughts in mind, we'll aim to begin a group study in September. Look for more information in August. We hope you'll consider joining a group in the year ahead and sharing fellowship and your faith journey with us. A reminder that all are welcome – neighbors, friends and family.

If you need a good read for the summer, I suggest **"Who Needs God"** by **Harold Kushner**. In this book Rabbi Kushner "makes religious commitment understandable and attractive to everyone – as he explores the importance of God and religious faith in our daily lives". This book was published in 1989, so if you've read it before, it is worth reading again. If you would like to share in a **book discussion** of "Who Needs God" please join us **Saturday August 29 at 10am** in Fellowship Hall.

Offertory

Hungry and thirsty, Lord I come to Thee,
Here, lowly kneeling, Thy sacred feast before,
Strengthen my spirit, with Thy food divine,
As now Thou feeds me
With the bread and wine.

"Communion Hymn"

(Mary Opie)

Come to me Savior, in this holy hour,
Shed Thou upon me, all Thy wondrous love,
That I may ever dwell within Thy light,
And come before Thee stainless, pure and white

Jesus my Savior, look with loving eye
As from my heart I make this humble cry.
Give of Thyself, dear Lord, that I may be
Filled with Thy grace, throughout eternity. Amen.

***Doxology**

(Old 100th)

**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**

***Prayer of Dedication**

God of hope and trust, you have filled our hands and hearts with such good things. By your Spirit's leading, we come to see that room is made for the blessings of the future as we share the remarkable abundance of our past. Accept these gifts from our hands and the overflow of our hearts. Allow us to make room for the love that will ultimately find us, becoming the people you envision us to be. In Jesus Christ. Amen.

***Hymn #419**

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

(Olivet)

(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.

***Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed**

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 #727 “America, the Beautiful” (Materna)

*Benediction

*Postlude “Stars and Stripes Forever” (John Phillip Sousa)

Communion Cup Disposal

Please use trash receptacles located at each exit for disposal of communion cups.

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 5TH

July 5th: Makenzie Connley
July 10th: Macy Morris
July 11th: Zachary Rice

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 July 12th, 19th & 26th
To reserve your special date, please call the church office.



ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS

For online giving, please scan the QR code.