



July 12, 2026
10:00 a.m.
Seventh Sunday After Pentecost



Thought for the Day before Worship

Be Assured that God's grace is never ending.

Listen carefully to the word, and you will hear God's guidance in your life.

*All who are able are welcome to stand

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

“Prelude in G”

(Alexander Schreiner)

Tower Bell

***Call to Worship**

Your Word is the seed; our hearts are the garden.

Plant your Word within us, gracious God.

Our gardens are dry. The seeds cannot grow.

Soak us with life-giving water, gracious God.

The earth's become barren with no life within it.

Feed us with your life-giving meal, gracious God.

The weeds are too thick. We can't see the Son.

Shine on us, gracious God!! Your Word is the seed; our hearts are the garden.

Let us together Worship our gracious God!!

***Hymn #136**

“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty”

(Nicaea)

***Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

God of relentless life and love, we say yes to your resurrection way. Your way is risen Life. Your way is risen love. Your way is our best way, away from the tomb, and toward home. Help us to translate these great hopes and greater gifts into the daily course of our lives, and the lives of those around us. May we bring light to others, rather than overshadow or count ourselves better. May we become means by which others come to have hope, rather than causes for despair or resentment. May our yes

to you be spoken and enacted in our affirmation of brothers and sisters, with whom we are held together in your love.

Forgiving God, it is in the name of your Son, Jesus, we dare to make confession. Allow us for these moments to remember how we have sought to avoid you. We have knowingly done things for which we are ashamed, and we have unknowingly neglected you and your will for our lives. Now you are inescapable, and we ask you to hold us close. Your love is strong, your embrace is warm, and your compassion never ending. Thank you for reconciling us to your never-failing love. Send us from this place today as your forgiven and loved children, living lives guided by gratitude. It is in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

***Assurance of Grace**

Hear the Good News! Because of what Jesus did for you, you are forgiven, your sin is forgotten, and you are loved with a love that knows no boundaries or end. 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)

From the Prophets of the Old Testament: Isaiah 55:10-13

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
For you shall go out in joy
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.



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: Rose Wendling

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Chancel Choir Director: Tony Burdette

Sound Technician: Robert Pettus

Greeters: Laura Haas & Tom Williams

Ushers: Steve Twehues & Mike Hanson

Music reprinted under OneLicense.net A-722754

This Week

- Sunday, July 12:

10am Worship Service
- Monday, July 13:

7pm AA & Al-Anon Meeting
- Tuesday, July 14:

7pm NA Meeting
- Thursday, July 16:

3pm - 4pm Yoga Class Fellowship Hall
- Saturday, July 18:

9am AA Meeting
- Sunday, July 19:

10am Worship Service

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

Solo

“In Heaven’s Eye’s”
(soloist - Calia Burdette)

(Greg Nelson/Sandi Patti)

A fervent prayer rose up to heaven.
A fragile soul is losing ground.
Sorting through the earthly babel
 heaven heard the sound
This was a life of no distinction
 no successes, only tries.
Yet gazing down on this unlovely one
 there was love in heaven's eyes

In heaven's eyes there are no losers.
In heaven's eyes no hopeless cause.
Only people like you with feelings like me
amazed by the grace we can find In heaven's eyes.

The orphaned child, the wayward father,
 the homeless traveler in the rain
When life goes by and no one bothers,
 heaven feels the pain.
Looking down, God sees each heartache,
 knows each sorrow, hears each cry
and looking up we'll see compassion's fire
 ablaze in heaven's eyes.

In heaven's eyes, there are no losers,
In heaven's eyes, no hopeless cause,
Only people like you with feelings like me,
 amazed by the grace we can find.

From the Gospels of the New Testament: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. If you have ears, hear!”

“Hear, then, the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

Sermon

“This Earth-ward Word”

Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

*Affirmation of Faith: Trust In God

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba Father.

**In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God’s image,
male and female, of every race and people,
to live as one community.**

Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

**Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.**

**With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or death can separate us from
the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*Hymn #723

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

(Ar Hyd Y Nos)

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

In thanks for all we have received, and for the privilege of sharing, we gratefully bring our tithes and offering.

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 Fickenschier, Flo Grey, Betty Jo Haas, Eric Haas, Family of 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

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 John Westlund. Take a moment this week to send him a card or give him a call as we celebrate John as our member of the week!

His address is:

John Westlund

Emerald Trace on Turkeyfoot

3802 Turkeyfoot Road

Elsmere, KY 41018

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!

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

Offertory	“All People That On Earth Do Dwell” (Calia, Joy, and Tony Burdette)	(arr. Lari Goss)
	Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.	
	All people that on earth do dwell, Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice; Him serve with mirth, His praise forthtell, Come ye before Him and rejoice.	
	O enter then His gates with joy, Within His courts its praise proclaim: That thankful songs your tongues employ, O bless and magnify his name.	
	Because the Lord our God is good; His mercy is forever sure; His truth at all times firmly stood, And shall from age to age endure. Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Him all creatures here below, Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen, amen, amen.	
*Doxology		(Old 100 th)
	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	Generous God, your Word has been scattered among us. It has been planted within us. And this powerful Word, like a seed that has been sown, has taken root in our lives. This Word within and among us prompts us to offer ourselves in gratitude to you. Receive our offerings. Receive our plans, our willingness, all our intentions as signs of your initiating Love. Thank you for the great honor of serving you through the various callings of our lives. Bless us now to bless others in your gracious name. Amen.	
*Hymn #31	“I Sing the Almighty Power of God”	(Ellacombe)
*Benediction		
*Postlude	“Voluntary in G”	(John Worgan)

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 26th
To reserve your special date, please call the church office.



ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS

For online giving, please scan the QR code.

SUMMER FELLOWSHIP SUNDAYS

Please join us after Sunday worship for **lemonade and cookies**. Enjoy a few moments of fellowship outside the entrance at the parking lot drop off. We will celebrate the last Sunday of each month - **July 26th**. Cookie donations are needed for each gathering.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Volunteers are needed to help serve dinner at the Henry Hosea on **Friday, July 31st 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.

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.

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.