

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 26, 2026
10:00 a.m.
Ninth Sunday After Pentecost



Thought for the Day before Worship
Like Jacob, some of us have found the worst parts of ourselves converted into something better, our small expectations shattered in the presence of God's great abundance.
– Kathleen Norris. “Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Faith”.

*All who are able are welcome to stand

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude “Andante Cantabile” (Alexander Schreiner)

Tower Bell

***Call to Worship:** adapted from Psalm 105
We sing praises to our Lord,
Give thanks to the Lord, call on God’s name.
We rejoice in God’s holy name,
Give thanks to the Lord, call on God’s name.
We seek our strength in God,
Give thanks to the Lord, call on God’s name.
We remember the blessings God has granted us,
Give thanks to the Lord, call on God’s name.
God will never forget his promises to us,
Give thanks to the Lord, call on God’s name.
Let us Worship our God!!

***Hymn #2** “O Worship the King” (Lyons)

***Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

Living God, we approach you in our weakness, asking for strength for our journeys from the only place it is available: your Spirit. Fill us, God, with your Holy Spirit, especially when our worldly burdens seem heavy and our hearts fill with despair for our world. We know, God, that you are always at work, bringing good things out of things that may seem random, or even evil, to us. Help us to trust you, Holy One. We are justified in you, God. Help us to know, without a doubt, that nothing in this world can separate us from your love.

God of all knowledge, we confess that too often we rely on our own understanding and not on your wisdom. We often forget the blessings you have bestowed on us and instead focus on the problems and obstacles we face. Forgive us, God, for our lack of faith, for our shortsightedness, and for our failure to call upon your name whenever we feel challenged or inadequate. Remind us, God, that we are a forgiven people, a loved people, and that you are always available to show us grace and love, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

***Assurance of Grace**

Hear the Good News! In everything God works for good with those who respond with love and obedience. You bear the image of God, who calls you, justifies you, and glorifies you. Because you have asked for the opportunity to see things God’s way, God grants you new strength and forgives you all your sins. Dearly Beloved, believe the Good News!
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, now and forever. Amen.

***Gloria Patri**

(Creatorex)

**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.**

From Poetry of the Old Testament: Psalm 128

Happy is everyone who fears the Lord,
who walks in his ways.
You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands;
you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you.
Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
within your house;
your children will be like olive shoots
around your table.
Thus shall the man be blessed
who fears the Lord.
The Lord bless you from Zion.
May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem
all the days of your life.
May you see your children’s children.
Peace be upon Israel!

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: Darlene Knepshield & Wendy Watts

Ushers: Steve Twehues & Mike Hanson

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This Week

- Sunday, July 26:** 10am Worship Service
11:15am Cookies & Lemonade Social
- Monday, July 27:** 7pm AA & Al-Anon Meeting
- Tuesday, July 28:** 7pm NA Meeting
- Thursday, July 30:** 3pm - 4pm Yoga Class Fellowship Hall
- Friday, July 31:** 3:30pm-6:30pm Henry Hosea House Volunteer Day
- Saturday, August 1:** 9am AA Meeting
- Sunday, August 2:** 10am Worship Service/Communion Sunday

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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 Fickenschier, Flo Grey, Betty Jo Haas, Eric Haas, Family of Betty Hasse, Chuck Hawkins, Janice Keeney, Vickie Kennedy, Karen Kiefer, Brenda Scharber, Ed Von Strohe & Wendy Watts

Weekly Prayer List for Northern Kentucky UCC Cluster

St. Mark UCC; Latonia
Rachel Wirrig

St. John UCC; Covington

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 Peggy Eckert. Take a moment this week to send her a card or give her a call as we celebrate Peggy as our member of the week!

Her address is:

Peggy Eckert
The Barrington of Ft. Thomas
940 Highland Avenue Room 1203
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!

Solo

“Not To Far From Here”

(Jean Nutgrass - soloist)

Somebody's down to their last dime, somebody's running out of time, not too far from here.
Somebody's got nowhere else to go, somebody needs a little hope,
not too far from here.

And I may not know their name, but I'm praying just the same
that You'll use me Lord to wipe away the tears,
'cause somebody's crying not too far from here.

Somebody's troubled and confused, somebody's got nothing left to lose, not too far from here.
Somebody's forgotten how to trust, and somebody's dying for love,
not too far from here. It may be a stranger's face,
but I'm praying for Your grace, to move in me and take away the fear.
'Cause somebody's hurting, not too far from here.

Help me, Lord, not to turn away from pain.
Help me not to rest while those around me weep.
Give me Your strength and compassion,
when somebody finds the road of life too steep.

Somebody's troubled and confused, somebody's got nothing left to lose, not too far from here.
Somebody's forgotten how to trust, and somebody's dying for love,
not too far from here.

Now I'm letting down my guard, and I'm opening my heart.
Help me speak Your love to every needful ear.
Someone is waiting, not too far from here.

From the Gospels of the New Testament: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

Sermon “Do You Understand?” Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

***Affirmation of Faith: Statement of Faith written by Rev. Diane Wendorf**
I believe it is a matter of faith
to stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves.
I believe it is a matter of faith
to equally recognize and love all members of God's human family
whatever their race, creed, color, gender, marital status,
physical or mental capacity.
I believe God's creation is good, beautiful, sacred,
and therefore to condemn any portion of God's creation
is to condemn a portion of God.
I believe Jesus Christ came to us to free all people from sin
and to make disciples; people willing to live Christ's discipline of
love and justice for all.
I believe the Holy Spirit is that power within us
that gives us courage and stamina to face the truth and to live it
even to die for it, as Jesus died.
I believe in the resurrection, the victory over death,
the truth that is life for all in Jesus' name. Amen.

***Hymn #560** “I Love to Tell the Story” (Hankey)

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
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
Who will lead God’s children to their promised land? Surely it will be those who have begun to live in the realm of God, who know God’s mercy and remember God’s benefits. To the extent that our offerings are generous, the church can be the yeast of God in a needy world.

Offertory “There Is a Redeemer” (Melody Green/Lloyd Larson)

There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God’s own son;
precious lamb of God, Messiah, holy one.
Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names;
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, hope for sinners Slane.
Thank you oh my Father for giving us your son,
and leaving your spirit till the work on earth is done.

I know that my Redeemer lives! What joy this blessed assurance gives.
He lives, He lives, who once was dead; He lives, my ever living head!
He lives, all glory to his name! He lives, my Savior, still the same,
What joy this blessed assurance gives!
I know that my Redeemer lives!
Thank you oh my father for giving us your son,
and leaving your spirit till the work on earth is done.
Jesus, my Redeemer, God’s own son !

***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**
We give thanks to you, Lord, for the abundance you have bestowed upon us. Whether it’s an abundance of money, an abundance of time, an abundance of spirit, an abundance of love, an abundance of patience, we understand that all blessings, monetary and spiritual, come from you. It is in that spirit that we offer these gifts back to you for your blessing, knowing you will increase them according to your will and use them for your purposes in our world. It is in Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn #712** “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” (Ash Grove)

***Benediction**

***Postlude** Postlude on “The Ash Grove” (Dale Wood)