

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 /Director of Operations	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.	



August 16, 2026
10:00 a.m.
Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost



Thought for the Day before Worship
*Life is full of challenges, disappointments, and suffering.
We will encounter mountains too high to climb and valleys too deep
to cross, but those who keep their faith in God will ultimately overcome.*

*All who are able are welcome to stand

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude “Morning Hymn” (Gordon Young)

Tower Bell

***Call to Worship**
We come to this place of God's visitation and blessing. Everyone is Welcome here!
We are sons and daughters of the new covenant, disciples of our Lord, Jesus Christ.
In Christ there is neither Jew or Greek, slave or free, male nor female.
We are one in Christ, who has chosen us and equips us for our ministry.
The gifts of God are for no one religion, and God's family includes all creation.
God's people are of many races and creeds, old and young, rich and poor, of every land.

We gather to celebrate God's revelation in Jesus, while others Worship the same God in other ways. Let us Worship our God in the best way we know how!!

***Hymn #513** “Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus” (Webb)

***Prayer of Adoration and Confession**
For faith that keeps us steadfast in prayer and faithful in well-doing, we give you thanks, O God. For hope that enlightens our future and encourages our persistence, we give you thanks, O God. For love that will not let us go and that warms the coldness of our hearts, we give you thanks, O God.

God of all, creator of all things larger than our imagining and small beyond our notice, we praise you that your image resides in each of us, and that everything bears your mark. Yet we confess that we have limited our perception of your unlimited grace. In this we hinder ourselves more than you. Hear us, heal us, deliver us from the boundaries we create, and set us free to serve you in the ministries you have called us to. This we pray in your mighty name. Amen.

***Assurance of Grace**

Hear the Good News! Hear God’s word from Colossians: “God rescued us from the power of darkness and brought us safe into the kingdom of his dear Son, by whom we are set free, that is, our sins are forgiven.” This is the word of assurance for us and all people who sorrow for their sin and desire to lead a new life of mutual love and respect as brothers and sisters in God’s family. Praise be to Jesus, the way, the truth, and the life! 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 Major Prophets of the Old Testament: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Thus says the LORD:
Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come
and my deliverance be revealed.

And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it
and hold fast my covenant—
these I will bring to my holy mountain
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar,
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.
Thus says the Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel:
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

Welcoming and Leading Us This Morning

Preaching Today: Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

Liturgist: Dr. Charles Hawkins

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Chancel Choir Director: Tony Burdette

Sound Technician: Robert Pettus

Greeters: Darlene Knepshield & Julie Ollier

Ushers: Steve Twehues & Mike Hanson

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This Week

- Sunday, August 16:**

Monday, August 17:

Tuesday, August 18:

Thursday, August 20:

Saturday, August 22:

Sunday, August 23:
- 10am Worship Service

7pm AA & Al-Anon Meeting

7pm NA Meeting
7pm East Row Garden Club Meeting

3pm - 4pm Yoga Class Fellowship Hall

9am AA Meeting

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, Flo Grey, Betty Jo Haas, Eric Haas, Chuck Hawkins, Janice Keeney, Vickie Kennedy, Brenda Scharber, Family of Joan Sheanshang, Diana Stamm, 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 Judy Adams. Judy's birthday is Wednesday, August 26th. Take a moment this week to send her a card or give her a call as we celebrate Judy as our member of the week!

Her address is:

Judy Adams
Munro House
3034 Riggs Avenue Apt. 109
Erlanger, KY 41018-3066

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 Poetry of the Old Testament: Psalm 133

How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!
It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.
It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the LORD ordained his blessing,
life forevermore.

Solo

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”
(Charlie Frederick - soloist)

(arr. Lloyd Larson)

Great is Thy faithfulness,” O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

“Great is Thy faithfulness!” “Great is Thy faithfulness!”
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
“Great is Thy faithfulness,” Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

From the Gospels of the New Testament: Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” He answered, “It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table.” Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed from that moment.

Sermon “Unexpected Turn” Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

*Affirmation of Faith: A New Creed, United Church of Canada, 1980

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

*Hymn #443 “Trust and Obey” (Trust And Obey)

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.

NKY UCC
DARTBALL GATHERING
with a Carry In Lunch

Sunday, August 30, 12:30
at
St. John’s Newport
415 Park Avenue

Come enjoy a day of food and fellowship
with all our NKY UCC churches!

Any one who is interested is welcome
to join in a friendly game (or two) of dartball.

DRINKS:

St. John’s Newport

SIDES:

St. Paul Alexandria
Christ Ft. Thomas

MAIN COURSE:

Immanuel Bromely
(Open-faced roast beef
and turkey sandwiches)

DESSERT:

Grace Ft. Wright
St. Mark Latonia
St. John Bellevue

NKY UCC DART BASEBALL TOURNAMENT AND CARRY IN LUNCH – AUGUST 30TH

On **Sunday, August 30, 2026**, we at St. John's UCC will be hosting the other UCC churches in Northern Kentucky at a Dart Baseball Tournament. (participation in the tournament is optional)

The meal will begin at 12:30 pm, with the tournament to follow at approximately 1:30 pm. It will be an opportunity to share food and fellowship with our sister UCC folks in Northern Kentucky. We are the hosts, and will provide drinks, paper plates, etc. The main course will be open-faced roast beef and open-faced turkey sandwiches. The flyer lists what items individual churches are to bring. If you feel motivated to provide a side or a dessert – no one will turn you down.

As I understand it, there was a team at St. John's UCC that participated in the Northern Kentucky league that was formed in the late 1980's and ran until 2020. If you are willing to participate, then please attend and represent St. John's UCC-Newport in the tournament. (Pastor Marty wants to have bragging rights). If you will participate and/or bring your boards, please let Rachel at St. Mark's UCC know at rachelswirrig@gmail.com.

As I understand it, there will be other people from the denomination (moderator, Association Minister, etc.) attending and fellowshiping with us. Please plan to share lunch and the afternoon together with other UCC folk and share in the fellowship.



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 - **August 30th**. Cookie donations are needed for each gathering. **This is the last lemonade and cookies summer fellowship celebration for the summer.**

Offertory Invitation

What is our response to God, who has acted mightily on our behalf, who has blessed us with abundance and prosperity? How will we show our thanks to One who saves us from foes within and beyond us? May our offerings be expressions of gratitude.

Offertory

“As the Deer”

(arr. Lloyd Larson)

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after thee.
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship thee.
You alone are my strength, my shield; to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship thee.
You're my friend and you are my brother, even though you are a King.
I love you more than any other, so much more than anything.
I want you more than gold or silver, only you can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy-giver and the apple of my eye.
You alone are my strength, my shield; to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my hearts desire and I long to worship thee.

***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**

From this very place, this point, this speck of earth where we have gathered in your name, may our gifts honor you, giver of all good things, inspiring us to give more, do more, be more of your presence in this suffering and struggling world. May our actions today say more about you than us. Magnify these gifts far beyond their material worth according to the spirit in which they are given. Bless us to your service in our giving and receiving. Amen.

***Hymn #61**

“There's a Wideness in God's Mercy”

(Wellesley)

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

“In Dich hab' ich gehoffet, Herr” (Johann Christoph Bach)

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 by the pulpit are in celebration of the
life of Wayne Hetteberg March 13, 1943 - August 12, 2026.

Open flower dates are September 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th
To reserve your special date, please call the church office.



ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS

For online giving, please scan the QR code

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 16TH

August 20th: Judy Slater

ANNIVERSARIES FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 16TH

August 19th: Betty Jo & Fred Haas (65 years)

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

1. Book Discussion - Saturday August 29, 10:00 – 11:30 am

“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”. Whether you’ve read the book or not, you would likely enjoy the conversation.

2. Bible Study – Saturdays 10:00 – 11:30 am, September 12 through October 31

“Acts 1-12 The Church is Born” by R. Albert Mohler, Jr. Good Book Guide. This is an 8-session study of the first half of The Book of Acts. “The story of Jesus does not end with the resurrection and ascension; what did Jesus do next? As the parable of the mustard seed teaches, great things can come from small beginnings. We see this principle play out in the history of the Church.”

The first 12 chapters include the ascension, Pentecost, the first Christian martyrdom, the conversion of Saul, and the coming of the gospel to the Gentiles. When we take time to not just read, but to understand the Bible, we are better able to apply what we learn to our lives and participate in growing the church.

On September 12 we will share in discussion of session #1, Promises, pages 7-12. The book can be purchased easily through Amazon. This is the 2025 edition published by The Good Book Company. If you have any questions, don’t hesitate to reach out.

Laura Haas, 859-240-9807, lauraclairehaas@gmail.com

A NEW OPPORTUNITY

Beginning **September 6th**, on the first Sunday of each month, St. John’s UCC located at Park and Nelson Place in Newport, is offering a Sunday School session for grades K-6 during worship. Worship on the first Sunday of the month is our communion Sunday, to which all are welcome!

Sunday worship is 10:00 – 11:00 am. Coffee Hour, a time of fellowship, precedes worship in Fellowship Hall on the lower level below the sanctuary.

Signs in the building will guide you to the Sunday School classroom.

The children’s time will be led by Mr. Matthew Shephard