



General Giving



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T-Shirts

**St.
John's
United
Church
of Christ**

401 N. Main St.
P. O. Box 794
Belvidere, IL
61008

**January
28, 2024**

**Christian
Education**

9:00 A.M.

Worship

10:30 A.M.

St. John's United Church of Christ

WELCOME VISITORS! Thank you for coming! Please sign a pew card to place in the offering plate.

Office Hours: Tues – Thurs, 9am-Noon stjohs401.org
(815)544-3773 stjohsucc401@gmail.com

Pastor: Rev. Muriel Morley Jahn 815-544-2977
murielmorley@gmail.com
Pastoral Associate: Beth Carson 815-544-6834
Minister of Music: Mary Albrecht 815-547-7503
Choir Director: Jeanne Anderson 815-985-2652

Nursery: The nursery is open! Please check downstairs and meet with the nursery attendant before leaving your child.

Today, we thank our special guest preacher, the Rev. Fred Stevens!

Please come **Sunday, February 4th**—our Associate Conference Minister Kathy Lawes will our guest. Afterwards, we will have Annual Meeting—please join us!

Sunday, February 11th is Scout Sunday, followed by our annual Soup-or-Bowl! Create your tastiest soups, stews or chilis and we will all reap the benefits! Can you beat our reigning champion, Atchara Scott? We hope you take part in this fun fellowship!

You Are Not Alone

The following support groups meet regularly at St. John's

- AL-ANON Thursdays at 7pm. at church & on Zoom **Meeting ID:** 3983002123
Passcode: 102964
- Anxiety Support Group Tuesdays at church & on Zoom at 6pm. **Meeting ID:** 862 9227 0691 **Passcode:** 915601
- Open & Affirming Meet Up LGBTQIA+ & Allies welcome! Help plan the next meet up, speak to Pastor Muriel.
- The Belvidere Group (AA) meets at everyday at 1pm & 7pm. Women's Group meets Mondays 5:30pm
- T.O.P.S. Mondays 11am

Community Ministries

Community Meal: Every 3rd Wednesday from 5p-6p!

Blessing Box: Outside by the Main Street entrance open to all who are hungry 24/7.

Paper Angel Closet: Provides supplies to households in need.

558 We Are the Church

Refrain (Unison)

I am the church! You are the church! We are the church to -

WORDS: Richard K. Avery and Donald S. Marsh, 1972
MUSIC: Richard K. Avery and Donald S. Marsh, 1972

PORT JERVIS
77.87 with Refra

geth - er! All who fol - low Je - sus,

all a - round the world! Yes, we're the church to - geth - er!

1. The church is not a build-ing, the church is not a stee-ple,
2. We're man-y kinds of peo-ple, with man-y kinds of fac-es,
3. Some-times the church is march-ing, some-times it's brave-ly burn-ing,
4. And when the peo-ple gath-er, there's sing-ing and there's pray-ing,
5. At Pen-te-cost some peo-ple re-ceived the Ho-ly Spir-it

the church is not a rest-ing place, the church is a peo-ple.
all col - ors and all a - ges, too, from all times and plac - es.
some-times it's rid-ing, some-times hid-ing, al - ways it's learn-ing.
there's laugh - ing and there's cry-ing some-times, all of it say-ing.
and told the Good News through the world to all who would hear it.

Scripture Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111

Sermon "Becoming the People of God"
by Rev. Fred Stevens

Moment for Mission Sri Lanka Partnership

Musical Offering

Doxology

Praise God, through whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below,
Praise God, above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Offertory Prayer

God of justice, mercy, and compassion; we bring our tithes and offerings to your altar and pray they will be used to make your amazing love known to all. Then, most often we leave and return to our weekday lives, expecting someone else to make happen. Remind us that your prophets, your leaders, your missionaries, were called and raised up from "among the people." Help us open our lives and our minds to the possibility that we might be the ones you would call and send. We pray this in the name of Christ, our teacher, and our redeemer. Amen.

Hymn "We are the Church"

Benediction

Go in the peace of being fully known by God.
Go in the hope that God has in you to transform the world.
Go in the love of neighbor and friend.
Go in the assurance that God still goes with you. Amen.

Postlude

*Invocation and Transformation Prayer from UCC Worship Ways, Epiphany 4B
Call to Worship by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, August 2023*

Prelude

Announcements

Choral Introit "We are Called"

1 Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God.
Refrain: We are called to act with justice,
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.

Responsive Welcome Statement (Leader Speaks Plain Font, **All Speak Bold Font**)

At St. John's United Church of Christ, we are Living Outwardly & Valuing Everyone!

We live and work amid God's love!

In that spirit, we extend love to all who come into our midst, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, nationality, skin color, culture, differing abilities, age or political affiliations, to participate fully in all aspects of church.

Our ministry is to bring the Good News of Christ's love to all.

We work in God's name to tear down walls and build community,

to walk with each other through all of life's circumstances,

to provide for those in need,

to offer comfort to the hurting and the sick,

and to uplift the brokenhearted.

Where we fail, we ask for God's forgiveness.

May the Holy Spirit and our siblings continue to challenge us to do better.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 111 and Deuteronomy 18:15-20)

Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart in the company of the upright in the congregation.

Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.

The works of God's hands are faithful and just; all God's precepts are trustworthy. **They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

God's works extend to you and me and the whole community as the Spirit nurtures gifts and graces in each of us. **Great are the works of the Lord, whose love and grace endures forever!**

God raises up some to be prophets to help us follow God's voice, yet all are called to lead by following. **We affirm the gifts of those who are called to Be truth-tellers in our midst, helping us all to answer the call to be truth-doers. Great are the works of the Lord! Amen.**

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, August 2023

Invocation

Holy God, holy, gracious, and merciful we gather mindful of your covenant with us and all creation. We gather mindful of your wonderful deeds and your powerful work among us. Grant that we may be joined with all your creation in praising you in the name of the One who was, and is, and is to come. Amen.

Hymn #397 "Thank Our God For Sisters, Brothers"

1 Thank our God for sisters, brothers, one by grace, in harmony, joining heart to heart with others, making strong community. With the cross of Christ our standard, let us sing as with one voice, Glory, glory, yours the promise; we who are the church rejoice

2 Praise to God for congregations, keeping faith with Christ as guide; many tongues of many nations, song and service unified. Sweet the psalm and sweet the carol, when our song is raised as one, Glory, glory, yours the power, as in heaven your will be done.

3 Holy is your name forever! Heal divisions that remain; bless the church's new endeavors; make our witness one again. One in Christ and in Christ's gospel, make us one we now implore. Glory, glory, yours the glory, then and now and evermore.

Children's Time

"Honesty is the Best Policy"

Mark 1:23-28 *International Children's Bible*

Pastoral Prayer – The Lord's Prayer

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

One: God invites us to come to worship with our whole hearts, to inventory our deeds and our works, mindful of our covenant with God. God offers us a new beginning day by day and week by week. Trusting in God, we pray for transformation and new life:

All: Gracious and Merciful God, maker of covenant, faithful and just, we examine our lives in light of your righteousness which endures forever. You give us commandments, raise up prophets among us from among our own people. You speak to us, and ask us to become accountable. Yet of ten we ignore your ways and disdain your works. We close ourselves to your prophets and to the suffering in our world. Forgive us and renew us, that we may walk in faithfulness to you today, tomorrow, and all days. Amen.

Words of Grace

Hymn #393 "Blest Be the Tie"

1 Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the sharing of a common life is like to that above.

2 Before our God we come and pour our ardent prayers; Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

3 We share each other's woes, Each other's burdens bear. And often for each other flows a sympathizing tear.

4 When we are called to part it gives us inward pain, But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

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. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.