



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

**March 17,  
2024**

**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.

## Mark Your Calendar

- ✦ **Every 3rd Sunday**, St. John's Leads services at **Heritage Woods** at 1 pm. Join after their service for time to talk to socialize with their residents and meet some great people.
- ✦ **April 7th** All feathers, fur and scales are welcome to worship for St. John's **Pet Blessing!** Come support Mike Coons as our guest preacher.
- ✦ **April 14th** St. John's has the great honor of welcoming **musician, Jim Hendricks** as our worship leader and special speaker.
- ✦ **April 20th** Set aside the day for some family fun during the **Prairie Association Meeting** at Pilgrim Park in Princeton, IL!

## You Are Not Alone

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

- AL-ANON Thursdays at 7pm on Zoom **Meeting ID: 3983002123 Passcode: 102964**
- The Belvidere Group (AA) meets at everyday at Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 1pm & everyday at 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.

**Ma & Paw's Pet Treat Fundraiser**  
*All natural, professionally baked treats*

**Cheddar Cheese & Bacon**  
Ingredients: Barley flour, palm oil, honey, rolled oats, cheddar cheese, flax, coconut oil, natural bacon flavor.

**Peanut Butter**  
Ingredients: Garbanzo bean flour, potato flour, tapioca starch, flaxseed, peanut butter, quinoa, canola oil, whole dried eggs.

**Duck**  
Ingredients: Duck, pea flour, pea protein, chickpea, coconut glycerin, potato flour, flaxseed, cane molasses, salt, lactic acid, natural smoke flavor, mixed tocopherols

**Pumpkin**  
Ingredients: Barley flour, palm oil, honey, rolled oats, pumpkin, oat flour, flax, coconut oil, chia seeds, cinnamon, ginger, allspice and cloves.

**Kitty Kasserole**  
Ingredients (star shape): Chicken, brown rice, pea flour, sweet potato, brewers yeast, pea protein, coconut oil, alfalfa powder, eggshell calcium, sorbic acid, poultry fat  
(fish shape): Whitefish, brown rice, pea flour, sweet potato, brewer's yeast, pea protein, coconut oil, alfalfa powder, eggshell calcium, sorbic acid, poultry fat

**Made in the USA!**

**We are selling Ma and Paw's Pet Treats from now until Easter!**

**Put in an order today or take an order form with you and sell to your family and friends!**

**Place all orders or order forms in Pastor Muriel's mail slot.**

**Invitation to Generosity**

As yeast rises to create bread, so do the rising of our gifts multiply the love of God in the life of the world. Give of your treasure, whatever it may be, however large or small. And trust God will use it for the building of the kingdom of God that is emerging among us.

**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.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

O God who causes our lives to rise, we lay down to you the abundance you have given us and allow it to fall so that you may multiply it to give life to your world. May it be so. Amen.

**Hymn #451 "Be Now My Vision"**

**Benediction**

God's people, go out and nurture this world so that new life will rise. Let go of that which binds you to distraction and isolation. And look towards your days with the hope of a single grain multiplying into the abundance of God's joy and love. Amen.

**Postlude**

*Single Grains: Service Prayers for the Fifth Sunday in Lent Year B was written by The Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott, Conference Minister in the Indiana-Kentucky Conference.*

**Holy Week Schedule**

**Palm / Passion Sunday 10:30 AM Worship**

Come to worship and honor this holy day as we welcome our Conference Minister, Rev. Molly Carlson, to the pulpit. Kids come early to be a part of the Palm precession.

**Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM Worship**

We remember Jesus' last day before the crucifixion and journey with him to the cross through music and hymns.

**Easter Schedule**

**9:00 AM Breakfast** A few more items are needed to make this breakfast complete. Please check the sign up sheet or call the church office.

**9:45 AM Easter Egg Hunt**

**10:30 AM Worship**

***Donations of Eater Candy are welcome. Please bring to the Church Office by Tuesday March 26th.***

**Easter Bulb Sign-Up**

Help make the sanctuary beautiful during Easter morning worship with Spring Bulbs. Bulbs are \$12 each; the deadline is **Sunday, March 17th**. Please give order form and money to Pastor Muriel. If paying by check, please make it out to St. John's UCC. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Muriel at [murielmorley@gmail.com](mailto:murielmorley@gmail.com) or 815-544-2977

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory/Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Mark your choice: \_\_\_\_\_ Tulip \_\_\_\_\_ Daffodil \_\_\_\_\_ Hyacinth

Please include check or cash and put in Rev. Muriel's mail slot.

**Prelude****Announcements****Choral Introit "Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart"**

**Give thanks with a grateful heart,, Give thanks to the Holy One,  
Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, His Son.  
Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,  
Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, His Son.  
And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say,  
"I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us."  
And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say,  
"I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us."  
Give thanks.**

**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** (Leader Speaks Plain Font, **All Speak Bold Font**)

New life rises!

**That which rises, must first fall and die.**

Single grains merely remain as they are unless they are released to the ground.

**The grains of the earth that fall will multiply and nourish.**

Come, die to the self and live a life of service to the Living God.

**And God will raise us up anew. Amen.**

## Invocation

God of grains and grace, we gather today seeking to follow in the way of Jesus. The path he chose for his disciples was one of service and it requires of us that we lay down our desires, our ambitions, and serve you with our whole heart. May our worship this day inspire our dying and rising with you as we seek to love and serve like Jesus. May it be so. Amen.

**Hymn #489 "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" (Verses 1-3,5 &6)**

## Childrens Time

## Pastoral Prayer – The Lord's Prayer

**Hymn #509 "How Deep the Silence" (Tune: Kingsfold)**

## Prayer for Transformation and New Life

**God of love, we confess that our ego can all too often get in the way of our ability to serve you and others with our lives. Our false self is driven by our lack of trust in you to provide for our every need. We rely on our own strength. But, our true self can let go and be formed anew by your love. Forgive us our false ways and transform us and raise us to new life. Amen.**

## Words of Grace

Friends, Jesus reminds us that those who serve him will have the assurance of his presence with them. Trust that you are you are forgiven, that new life rises, and that Jesus abides with you. In the name of Christ, 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.  
Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.  
Amen.**

**Scripture John12:20-33**

**Sermon "A Grain of Truth"**

**Moment for Mission One Great Hour of Sharing**