

## **Announcements**

- ‡ **The Belvidere Group (AA)** meets at everyday at 7pm.
- ‡ **Chair and Mat Yoga** with Katherine Ray is going weekly! Chair yoga at 10 AM and mat yoga at 11:30 AM. No RSVP required and classes are \$5.
- ‡ **Sunday School for Adults and Kids** Sundays at 9am. Check out the upcoming curriculum options for more studies.
- ‡ **Community Meal** 3rd Wednesday of each month.
- ‡ **The Belvidere Group (AA)** meets at everyday at 7pm.

### **Rummage Sale - April 24-25**

Thanks to all who have brought in early donations so far. We have plenty of room in the garage and plenty of time to offer your items on Facebook or eBay.

Your attic, basement, closet, or garage will be happy, the community will be happy to give your extras a new home and the church will be happy to have more funds for our ministries.

If you have an old laptop computer, iPad, or cell phone sitting around, someone else can use it. Paul has the bleachbit software to wipe out all data. Bring it in and we'll find it a new home.

Betsy (815-222-9323) and Nancy (815-978-3319)

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

P.O. Box 794, 401 N Main Street, Belvidere, IL 61008  
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John 20:1-18 • Illustratedministry.com

# **Happy Easter! Christ is Risen!**

**St. John's UCC Staff**

**Pastor:** Rev. Muriel Morley Jahn 815-544-2977  
 murielmorley@gmail.com

**Pastoral Associate:** Beth Carson 815-979-0473

**Minister of Music:** Mary Albrecht 224-234-7749

**Choir Director:** Jeanne Anderson 815-985-2652

**Nursery Attendant:** Hanna Jarvis 815-914-4718

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

**WORSHIP: When reading this bulletin** Leader Speaks Plain Font, Everyone Speak Bold Font

**NURSERY:** Children are welcome in all aspects of worship. The nursery provides an alternative space so kids and parents can both get what they need from worship. Children are encouraged to check in with their adult before going downstairs with the nursery attendant.

**Easter Flowers**

**Beth Carson** to the Glory of God

**Vicki Cummings** in Memory of Georgia Steuben

**Kramer Family** in Memory of Rev. Ken Kramer, Sr. & Rev. Ken Kramer, Jr.

**Ladenburgers** in Memory of Parents, Grandparents & Corps

**Betsy Mollway** in Memory of Father, Mother, Sister and Brother

**Paul Mollway** In Memory of Lin and Tyler Mollway

**Gary and Barb Reding** in Memory of Jenni Bader, Jim & Pauline Zap, Dean & Phyllis Reding

**Lettie Thurman** in Memory of Donna Fox, Harold Miller, and Michaelyn Heral

**Greg & Angie McKee-Umhoefer**

**Alex & Carol VonBosse** in Memory of our parents

*Thank you to our singers & our instrumentalists for adding extra joy to our service today!*

**HYMN #301 "Crown with your Richest Crowns"**  
(v. 1, 3, & 5)

**CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

Fee Free digital donations can now be made on our website stjohns401.org. Follow the QR code and check out all the possibilities! This means no more buying checks and added security!



General Giving



Amazon List

We use an Amazon List to let people know what St. John's needs for our office and different ministries like the Paper Angel Closet and Community Meals. It is always changing. Check it out.

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**How to use a QR code:** open the camera on your cell-phone. Pretend you are going to take a picture of one of the 4 boxes on this page.

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The camera will focus on the box. Words will appear on the bottom of the screen. Tap on the words.

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**Tea & Coffee**

St. John's also has two ongoing fundraisers where you can order items and have them delivered right to your door with a portion of the proceeds supporting our ministries.



T-Shirts

**SERVICE OF COMMUNION****BLESSING AND SHARING THE ELEMENTS**

*All are invited to participate in this Holy symbol of Communion. You are invited to eat the as a sign of your own personal faith and hold the cup to drink together as a sign of our communion faith.*

**SPECIAL MUSIC "Easter Angel Song"**

(Jeanne Anderson, Rev. Chip Jahn & Ben Stucky, Soloists)

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**Holy, Imaginative God, may we believe like Mary, running from this place, shouting, "I have seen the Lord." For here in this place, we see your image reflected in the eyes of all we made contact with today. We feel your presence in the gathering of your people. We hear your blessing in the voice of our neighbor. Let us not keep silent. But take all we have seen and heard, and share it with those who long to know your peace. Amen.**

**INVITATION TO GENEROSITY****MOMENT FOR MISSION~ Habitat for Humanity****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 FOR THE OFFERING**

**Generous God, like the first blooms of spring, we bring our gifts before you and your church to be sent out into the world, by the power of your spirit, to proclaim new life and bear witness to resurrection. May each gift of every size bloom with resurrection hope, nourishing both our faith community and our neighbors. Amen.**

**PROCESSIONAL #233 "Christ the Lord is Risen Today"****ANNOUNCEMENTS****RESPONSIVE WELCOME STATEMENT**

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**

Come into God's presence, you who imagine and you who seek, you who disrupt and you who repair.

**By the Spirit, we gather in hope.**

Come into God's day of resurrection, you who have known grief, you who long for new life, you who carry "Alleluias" in your hearts.

**In Christ, we gather at the empty tomb.**

Come into God's presence, singing for joy and for justice; bringing prayer and worship, your most faithful acts of resistance.

**To God be the glory! We gather to praise!**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**God of life, you breathe resurrection into our world, and you promise that life will triumph over death. On this day of celebration, awaken our spirits to signs of new life and symbols of grace, in our world, in our relationships, and in our own hearts. Lead us by the witness of Mary Magdalene and the faith that drew her to the garden. With her, let us proclaim, "We have seen Jesus!" Give us the courage and the joy to share this good news in word and in deed. We pray this in the name of Christ, who is risen indeed—alleluia! Amen.**

**YOUNG & YOUNG AT HEART TIME****PASTORAL PRAYER~ THE LORD'S PRAYER****HYMN #245 "The Day of Resurrection"****CALL & PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Siblings in Christ, let us confess our sins to God, for sin and death have been defeated. They have no power over us any longer!

**God of resurrection power, we confess we have sinned against you. We have lived in the sad melancholy of sinfulness despite the transformative power you showed us in Jesus. Forgive our unbelief and inspire us to imagine life in the glow of resurrection today. In the name of the risen Christ, we pray. Amen.**

**MOMENT OF SILENCE****ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Beloved in Christ, today we rejoice in the resurrection, in Easter hope. No matter what pitiful stories we have believed in the past, we turn now to the story of full redemption through Jesus. We turn from despair to expectation, knowing that God will be faithful to renew all things. We have been set free! Receive God's gift of

grace and be at peace. Receive God's pardon for your sins, and be at peace.

**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.**

**SCRIPTURE John 20:1-18****PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**God who breathes meaning and inspiration into our sacred scriptures, who crafts stories of redemption, liberation, and love, may these words help us celebrate the world you are making new. May we be emboldened to join you in this resurrection work, bringing heaven to earth as we follow the risen Christ in love and justice. Amen.**

**CHARACTER VISIT: Mary Magdalene****SERMON "Fulfilling Imagination"****HYMN "THE WORK OF IMAGINATION"**

*(Chorus only)*

Deep cries out to deep our spirit joins your song  
In the work of imagination to rewrite every wrong  
As deed cries out to deep, we pray your kingdom come

In the work of imagination  
as deep cries out to deep our spirit joins your song  
In the work of imagination to rewrite every wrong  
As deed cries out to deep, we pray your kingdom come

In the work of imagination to see your will be done  
To see your will be done. To see your will be done.  
To see your will be done