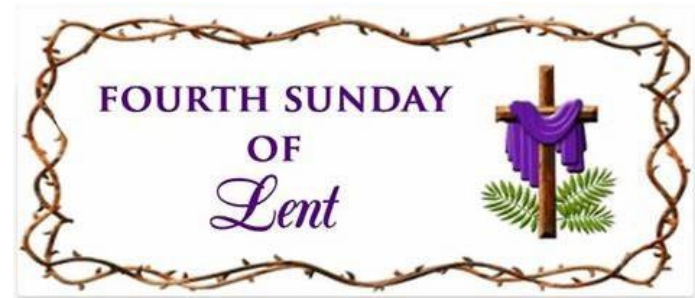


St. John's UCC is a proud "5 for 5" church. This means that we donate to the United Church of Christ's special offerings. One of these offerings is One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) which we supported for the first 4 Sundays of March.

For over 75 years, the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering (OGHS) has been helping American and Canadian Christians bring God's hope and healing to hurting people domestically and around the world. OGHS's mission is to support domestic and international development, fight poverty and its consequences, bring aid and relief to communities torn by war or ravaged by national disaster, advocacy and resettlement assistance for refugees and displaced persons, and combat injustice in its many forms. OGHS provides funding and hands-on assistance in collaboration with local and international partners. Each year, the Offering is gathered by several denominations and Church World Service (CWS) under a single theme developed by the ecumenical OGHS Committee. In addition to posters, brochures, and interactive media, the Committee commissions a Planning and Resource Guide that contains a variety of resources and activities for pastors and church leaders to use as they promote and receive the offering.

Information adapted from: <https://www.ucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/2025-Worship-Planning.pdf>

Welcome to Worship
March 30, 2025



St. John's United Church of Christ

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

Sunday Christian Education 9am Worship 10:30
Office Hours: Tues – Thurs, 9am-Noon stjohs401.org
(815)544-2977 stjohsucc401@gmail.com

Pastor: Rev. Muriel Morley Jahn 815-544-2977
 murielmorley@gmail.com
Pastoral Associate: Beth Carson 815-979-0473
Minister of Music: Mary Albrecht 815-547-7503
Choir Director: Jeanne Anderson 815-985-2652

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.

You Are Not Alone

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

- The Belvidere Group (AA) meets at everyday at 7pm.
Women's Group meets Mondays 5:30pm
- T.O.P.S. Mondays 11am



Delicious Fundraiser



Amazon List



T-Shirts

Announcements

- ✚ **Every 3rd Sunday of the month**, St. John's leads services at **Heritage Woods** at 3 pm. Join after their service for time to socialize with the residents and meet some great people.
- ✚ Thanks to all who signed up to deliver Meals on Wheels this week. Our next assigned week is: May 19-23.
- ✚ **Community Meal** every third Wednesday of the month from 5p-6pm. Menu for April is baked spaghetti, bread, fruit, desserts, and beverages.
- ✚ **Church Council** April 10, 2025
- ✚ **Blessing Box** The outside temperature is still up and down, so we must fill our box accordingly.
- ✚ **Paper Angel Closet** needs toilet paper, paper towels, women's deodorant, bleach, shampoo, and dish soap.
- ✚ **Menards Ministry:** If you have unused Menards rebates, or even receipts. We use these rebates for projects around the church.
- ✚ **Spring Rummage** sale donations are being accepted starting today. The sale is May 2 and 3. Please leave donations in the room next to the kitchen, but DO NOT obstruct access to the cupboards or shelves.
- ✚ **Open Door Fundraiser:** We are still collecting money to upgrade our parking lot doors. Our goal is to collect enough money to automate the doors and make it a double entry to hold the temperature in the office area.



St. John's Calendar

Squandered: Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday in Lent was written by the Rev. Ruth Garwood, a transitional pastor in the Heartland Conference, a certified facilitator of Sacred Conversations to End Racism, and a certified InterPlay leader.

Easter Bulb Sign-Up

Help make the sanctuary beautiful during Easter morning worship with Spring Bulbs. Price per plant is \$12 and the **deadline to order is March 30th**. 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 or 815/544-2977.

Given By:

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

Bulb Choice: _____ Tulip _____ Daffodil _____ Hyacinth

Topic: All Church Meeting

Time: Apr 6, 2025 11:30 AM Central Time

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88169559220?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88169559220?pwd=zZU6xkkyPeNxYKkALX5uwXQaAUctUf.1)

[pwd=zZU6xkkyPeNxYKkALX5uwXQaAUctUf.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88169559220?pwd=zZU6xkkyPeNxYKkALX5uwXQaAUctUf.1)

Meeting ID: 881 6955 9220

Passcode: 296899

Prelude

Announcements

Choral Introit– Lead Me, Guide Me

Lead me guide me along life's way
For if you lead me I cannot stray
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

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-

One: Have you come far to be here today?

Many: You enlarge our gathering: welcome!

One: Have you come from around the corner?

Many: You anchor our gathering: welcome!

One: Do you seek sanctuary? Do you seek inspiration?

Many: May this worship meet you.

One: Do you come with purpose? Do you come with questions?

Many: We welcome you as you are!

All: Let us worship God together!

Invocation— unison

Holy One, we come into your presence and the presence of this fellowship. We are seeking a little light, some hope, healing. Open us to know you, to receive you and find here your transforming love. Amen.

Hymn #423— Great Is Thy Faithfulness

The Apostles' Creed: an alternative version #882

Children's Time

Pastoral Prayer — The Lord's Prayer

Hymn #233— What Wondrous Love is This?

Prayer for Transformation and New Life- unison

Dear God, your gifts are generous and yet we often fail to appreciate what we have been given. We demand more, but squander what we have received. Forgive us for taking for granted what we receive from you. When we fail to accept what you offer, or fail to steward those gifts, bring us back to awareness of you. Amen.

Words of Grace— Leader

However far we wander, God is always ready to receive us, to enfold us in love and grace. In the name of Jesus, you are forgiven.

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

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32

Sermon "Squandered"

Invitation to Generosity— Leader

Remembering the gifts we have received, let us make our offerings to God's work through this church.

Moment for Mission

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

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 Dedication— unison

**Gracious God, bless these gifts and our lives to
your service.**

Hymn #386— The Church's One Foundation

Benediction

May you trust that God's unfailing love and blessings go with you this day and always. Amen.

Postlude



General Giving