

St. John's United Church of Christ

P.O. Box 794, 401 N Main Street, Belvidere, IL
61008stjohns401.org 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

Announcements

Nursery: There is no nursery attendant today so everyone is able to participate in Communion. Kids are welcome to quietly play in the back of the sanctuary or have their adult join them in the nursery.

The Belvidere Group (AA) meets at everyday at 7pm.



Delicious Fundraiser



Amazon List



T-Shirts

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✦ **Fellowship Meal** next Sunday after worship. Sign up to bring a dish in the Narthex.
- ✦ **Chair and Mat Yoga** with Katherine Ray October 18th. Chair yoga at 10 AM and mat yoga at 11:30 AM. No RSVP required, classes are \$5 a piece per person.
- ✦ **Holiday Bazaar Set up** begins after worship on October 19th. Other set up worship hours include Monday the 20th-Thursday the 23rd 10am-4pm.
- ✦ **Holiday Bazaar Friday, October 24th, 9am-3pm & Saturday, October 25th, 9am-1pm** We are looking for holiday decor, baked goods, handmade crafts, and more. Donations are being accepted now through October 22nd at noon. If you would like to help make wreaths with a group of creative folk, learn more or volunteer, please, contacting Bonnie Stevens 815-979-6941.
- ✦ **October 26th Trunk or Treat** 3-4pm sign up for a parking spot today and invite your friends!
- ✦ **Totenfest November 2nd** 10:30am during Sunday worship. Please give names of loved ones and information to Vicki Cummings TEXT ONLY PLEASE **815-566-1249**. this is the corrected number. We are so sorry for printing the wrong number in the past.
- ✦ **November 23rd Decorate for Advent** we are looking for a creative contact person to plan the decor and organize the volunteers after worship.
- ✦ **Coffee Hour** was hosted by Bonnie today! Thank you so much! We will be gathering every first Sunday at 9:30am for this fellowship. You can sign up to host in the Narthex.
- ✦ **Meals on Wheels** delivery is October 15.
- ✦ **Community Meal** every third Wednesday of the month from 5p-6pm.
- ✦ **Blessing Box** non-perishable are welcome. Make sure any items in cardboard have an inner layer of protection to prevent creatures from contaminating the food.
- ✦ **Share Table** please place perishable items here.
- ✦ **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.

the world—renewed, invigorated, and committed—that, so nourished, we may take root and bear life-giving fruit to feed, heal, clothe, and comfort, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Moment for Mission~ Neighbors in Need

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

Glorious Divine Creator, you have united us through our faith in you. These gifts are symbols of our unity and trust in your mission for the church. Bless them and us as we go out into the world to be a uniting force with you. Amen.

Hymn #384 "In Christ there is no East or West"

Benediction



General Giving

Call to Worship: Written by Rev. Taisaku OBATA (Minister, Ube Church, United Church of Christ in Japan) Translated by Mr. David McIntosh (Overseas Liaison, United Church of Christ in Japan)
Communion Liturgy: <https://www.globalministries.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/WCS-Communion-Liturgy.pdf>

Prelude

Announcements

Choral Introit "There's Bread for the Journey"

There's bread for the journey and friends for the way.
There's hope for tomorrow and love for today.

The cup of forgiveness, all blessings release,
to heal and renew us and bring us God's peace.

O Holy Spirit, bind us together, now.
O Holy Spirit, bring us your peace.

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

In a world that remains divided and in conflict, God is inviting us, to make us one.

Today we gather around one table, in answer to God's will.

What do we find at today's table?

God's love, which endures all things and connects all

things.

What is not at today's table?

The many powers of the world, which seek to stand over others.

Let us repent, and give thanks to God's power to bring salvation to all who believe.

Thanks be to God! Make us witnesses of Your love.

Let us worship together the true God, who makes us one.

Hymn #312 "We Love Your Realm, O God"

A New Creed #887

Children's Time "We are What we Eat!?"

Pastoral Prayer~ The Lord's Prayer

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.**

**Hymn #540 "We Plant a Grain of Mustard Seed" (Verse 1-5)
Tune: The Lord's my Shepherd**

**Scripture I Corinthians 12:12-27
John 17:21-23**

Sermon "United"

Service of Communion

Today, we join Christians around the world who gather at Christ's table in many languages, cultures, and traditions. On this World Communion Sunday, we remember that though we come from many places, we are one body, sharing one bread and one cup in Christ.

Like a sower, God scatters, and God will give growth.

God scatters life across the earth.

God scatters people in every land and nation.

God scatters disciples far and wide.

Like a shepherd, God gathers.

God gathers people into families of faith.

God gathers people into communities of love.

God gathers people into the body of Christ.

Today, on this World Communion Sunday, God gathers us at one table with disciples of every language, culture, and tradition. From cathedrals and chapels, from huts and houses, from fields and cities, God gathers us in many places and makes us one in Christ. At this table, we remember the cost of discipleship and rejoice in the richness of Christ's gifts poured out for the whole world.

Communion Prayer

Creator of the Universe, Maker of mountains and rivers, deserts and seas, vineyards and wheat fields, we praise you for the life you have given us and for all living things around us! From the seeds you scattered, you gathered the people of Israel, giving them your covenant and your promise. In the fullness of time, you came to us in Jesus of Nazareth, child of Mary and the Promised One of Israel. We honor his teachings, we weep at his suffering, and we rejoice in his risen life. With angels and archangels, with our ancestors in faith, and with our brothers and sisters who gather at your table across every continent and island, we ask your blessing on this bread and this cup. May these gifts of Christ's body and blood strengthen us to be the gathered and scattered Church in the world—many in culture and expression, yet one in Spirit, one in truth, one in faith, one in love. Gather your scattered seeds into your home of grace and peace, where all creation is renewed in you.

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.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**We thank you, generous God, for the nourishment of
this table and the living presence of Christ among us.
We thank you for the gift of growth and grace in this
life-renewing feast. We thank you for the company of
your great cloud of witnesses, here in this
place, in every land, and throughout the generations.
Take your gathered people and scatter us again into**