



# St. John's United Church of Christ

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**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:** 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.

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



Delicious Fundraiser



Amazon List



T-Shirts

## Announcements

- ✚ **Meals on Wheels** delivery is October 15.
- ✚ **Community Meal** Wednesday, September 17th from 5p -6pm. Come at 4:30pm for a Community Listening Session with the Hunger Coalition on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Participants will receive a gift card. Thank you to church members who will be taking on important rolls during the event.
- ✚ **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.
- ✚ **Candle Crest Order Forms** to be turned in today. We will put the official orders in together and have deliveries by beginning to mid October.
- ✚ **The Prairie Association 2025 Fall Meeting**  
**Theme:** "Be the Church: Organizing the Body of Christ for our renewed Governance and Ministry"  
**Location:** Zoom (Online Only)  
**Sunday, September 28th, 2:00pm-4:00pm**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**God our Provider, receive these gifts in gratitude from your people.**

**We pray that these offerings meet the needs of the world and our community. May they serve as a public witness of our commitment to being your church. Amen.**

**Hymn #357 "You are Called to tell the Story"**

**Benediction**

***Joy in Heaven: Service Prayers for the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost*** was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.



General Giving

**Prelude****Announcements****Choral Introit "Like a Healing Stream"**

**Like a healing stream, in a barren desert  
Spirit water springing life to dusty earth. God is trick-  
ling through our lives as in a dream unfolding,  
promising revival and rebirth like a healing stream.**

**Like a mighty sea, reaching far horizons, Spirit water with  
a love both deep and wide, God is working in our hearts  
to shape a new tomorrow: God will always challenge and  
provide! Like a mighty sea.**

**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 as-  
pects 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 circum-  
stances,**

**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 chal-  
lenge us to do better.**

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

**Call to Worship** *(Inspired by Psalm 51)*

Let us enter the presence of our God with a renewed heart and a right spirit.

**Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.**

Let us speak, hear, and embrace truth and the wisdom of God.

**Strengthen and empower us, O God, according to your steadfast love.**

Let us hear joy and gladness. Restore our crushed spirits.

**Revive us again, O God, according to your steadfast love.**

**Invocation**

**Maker of Heaven and Earth, we rejoice in your presence. In you, we find joy and strength, comfort and courage, truth and insight. Speak to us again. Reveal your power in and through us. Show us your glory and be glorified in our worship. May your glorious light shine through hidden spaces. May your blessed darkness make space for rest. Fortify us for this journey and make us instruments of your kingdom. Amen.**

**New Member Ceremony**

**Maxwell Brooks  
Lynn Hemmons  
Betsy Mollway  
Paul Mollway  
Erin Sharp**

**Hymn #397 "Thank our God for Sisters, Brothers"**  
(Tune: Holy Manna)

**The Nicene Creed (an alternative version) #884**

**Children's Time "What is Church?"**

**Pastoral Prayer~ The Lord's Prayer**

**Hymn #562 "Take My Gifts"****Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

**Holy God, you seek us when we are lost. You do not turn away from those who others minimize and demean. Help us to recognize the belovedness of every human being and all your creation. Give us courage and curiosity to engage with those that others would ignore or isolate. Let us rejoice on earth as your rejoice in heaven as we make restoration, redemption, and reconciliation abound among us. Amen.**

**Words of Grace-Leader**

Beloved, the Holy One seeks you and rejoices when you turn from the ways of the world that minimize and marginalize the community God has prepared for us. We can be builders of a future that celebrates the kingdom of God alive and rejoicing on earth.

**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 1 Timothy 1:12-17  
Luke 15:1-10**

**Sermon "Who is in the Flock?"**

**Moment for Mission~ C.U.E. (Chicago, United, Eden)**

**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.**