

St. John's United Church of Christ

P.O. Box 794, 401 N Main Street, Belvidere, IL
61008stjohns401.org stjohnsucc401@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: 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. Women's Group meets Mondays 5:30pm



Delicious Fundraiser



Amazon List



T-Shirts

Announcements

- ✦ **Listening Session** Today after worship. Come with questions and concern to share in a safe and open environment. We will also have the listening space open for those of us who would like to join on Zoom.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83745466380?pwd=WvtL9sJMu42BL2lVwEFLiJW2z1OIiY.1>
Meeting ID: 837 4546 6380
Passcode: 965169
- ✦ **Community Meal** this Wednesday from 5p-6p! Stay after to hear about NAMI.
- ✦ **Hippy Yoga** starts Saturday, September 6th Chair Yoga will be at 10am and Mat Yoga will be at 11:30am. It will continue every other week. Katherine Ray will be our instructor and classes will be \$5.
- ✦ **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.
- ✦ **Blessing Box** could use some back stock of different foods. Canned goods, mixes, spices, noodles, crackers, cereal, nuts and granola bars are all great options.
- ✦ **Paper Angel Closet** needs Toothbrushes, Deodorant, and Dish soap.
- ✦ **Menards Ministry:** If you have unused Menards rebates, or even receipts. We use these rebates for projects around the church.
- ✦ **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.

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**Prayer of Dedication**

May the gifts we have be the gifts we use to supply the needs of the community. When we employ generosity, we resist the powers of evil, reject the lie of scarcity, and assert trust in the God who provides. May our gifts reflect the blessings we have received and the faith that we proclaim. Holy, Holy, Holy God, who provides, who gifts, and who refines. We offer these gifts to you in gratitude and hope. May they extend beyond the walls of our sanctuaries so that your name will be known through us. May they spark hope and joy to dispel despair and despondency. May needs be met and lives changed through our giving and our living. Receive these gifts as our tangible prayer that your kingdom come and will be done. Amen.

Hymn #8 "Praise to the Living God" (Verse 1,3 and 4)**Benediction**

As you go, cast fire
 To burn the acceptance of injustice
 To illuminate the way of peace
 To warm the bonds of human connection
 To clear the path to a new world
 We build together

General Giving**Postlude**

Cast Fire: Service Prayers for the Tenth-Sunday after Pentecost was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.

Prelude**Announcements****Choral Introit "Surely the Presence"**

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,
 I can feel His mighty power and His grace.
 I can hear the brush of angel's wings
 I see glory on each face;
 Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

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 (Inspired by Psalm 80)**

Turn again, O God of hosts; look down from heaven and see; have regard for this vine, the stock that your right hand planted.

The world is ablaze around us with pain and suf-

fering, natural disasters and human schemes, injustice and brokenness.

Create again, O God of Fire; respond to the needs of your people and shepherd us to be good stewards of your creation.

Let your Holy Fire meet the infernos that seek to consume us with refining and renewing power.

Redeem again, O God of hosts; ignite a flame within your kingdom that will spread as a wildfire of righteousness and love.

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Invocation

God of Fire, we recognize the spark that you bring into our gathering. Let it ignite within us as we worship you in the company of siblings. We honor your power and remain in awe of your glory. Let it fall again as Spirit dwells among us.

May the warmth of your presence give us courage for these days and the clarity of your light give us discernment toward a future with hope. Be pleased by our worship, Eternal God, and be glorified in our praise. Amen.

Hymn #21 "God Reigns o'er all the Earth" (Verse 1,2 and 4)

A New Creed #887

Children's Time

Pastoral Prayer – The Lord's Prayer

Hymn #493 "O Jesus, I have Promised"

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Transforming One, forgive us for dampening your fire, even for our failure to recognize your movement among us. Help us to follow in the path of life abundantly for our neighbors and

ourselves. Make us instruments of your kingdom as we encourage and uplift one another like iron sharpens iron. Surround us as a community of accountability and support to transform us in your image, character, and nature. We receive the gift of new grace, new mercies, and new life that you offer to us each day. Amen.

Words of Grace

Beloved, in Jeremiah 23:29, the Voice declares, "Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?" We may be assured of God's power to break down in order to build back up. The brokenness we experience in life does not have the final word. For the redemptive love of God makes all things new and the healing grace of God restores and repairs. New life in Christ awaits us all this day and every day.

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 Luke 12:49-56

Sermon "Pitchforks and Torches"

Invitation to Generosity

Mission Moment Northern IL Hospice

Musical Offering

Doxology

**Praise God, through whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below,
Praise God, above ye heavenly host.**