

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
stjohns401.org (815)544-3773 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

Nursery: Children are always welcome in worship, however we know sometimes the family needs different things. The nursery attendant will take kids downstairs after the children's time.

Fellowship Meal: Join us after worship today for a carry in meal in the Fellowship Hall downstairs.

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



Amazon List



T-Shirts

Mark Your Calendars

✝ **CALLING "Anyone looking to make a joyful noise to the Lord!"** Choir usually meets at 10 a.m. to run through the Sunday song, as well as a brief practice after church. Let's "raise the roof!"

✝ **Christian Education for all Ages** at 9am every Sunday until December 1st. Adults will discuss current topics through the lens of faith. Young and young at heart will study the Bible through activities and crafts.

✝ **Trunk or Treat:** Sunday, October 27th 3pm-4pm Start planning your costume now. Sign up for your space today. We have 20 parking spaces available.

✝ **Community Garden** is open to all 24/7. Many things are ready to harvest, so stop by anytime. We have work days October 26th 9am to noon. Please come and help us prep the grounds for the Fall and Winter.

✝ **Community Meal:** Every 3rd Wednesday from 5p-6p! Next is October 16th.

✝ **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.

Get Involved at St. John's

✝ **Blessing Box** Donations are always welcome! Help keep the bugs and critters out of the box. Please only put food items in the box that are contained in plastic or glass and make sure the door is latched. Also, please make sure no frozen items are ever put in the box and all produce should be placed on the **Share Table** by the Community Garden.

✝ **Paper Angel Closet** needs paper towels, Kleenex, bar soap, woman'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.

✝ **Open Door Fundraiser:** We are still collecting money to try to upgrade our parking lot doors. Our goal is to one day collect enough money to automate the doors and make it a double entry to help hold the temperature in the office area.

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 **Job 23:1-17**
 Psalm 90:12-17

Sermon **"How We Face the Dark"**



General Giving

Invitation to Generosity

Generosity is a spiritual gift that may be cultivated, grown, and nurtured. Let us plant seeds today with our gifts that will bloom and provide a harvest beyond our expectation or imagination.

Moment for Mission **N.I.N. (Neighbors in Need)**

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 Thanksgiving and Dedication

Gracious God, may the gifts we bring be magnified and do miracles in our community. Use them for restoration and hope as your kingdom is demonstrated before us all. Amen.

Hymn #475 "God's Eye is on the Sparrow"

Benediction**Postlude****Prelude****Announcements**

Choral Introit "Fresh as the Morning"
**Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful you do not change
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful you do not change
(Repeat)**

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 90)

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, O God, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

The Holy One meets us in the stillness of our thoughts, in the joy of our laughter, in the spontane-

ity of our encounters, in the hope of our presence. Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, O God, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. The Creator sustains us with mercy, reassures us with compassion, and challenges us with grace. Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, O God, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. Let us worship our Maker in spirit and in truth, through pain and despair, with the fullness of our being.

Invocation

Everlasting God, we come before you with questions, and you question us in return. We declare that you are good, and you have declared us good. May we acknowledge that you make all things new, you redeem our days, and you empower us to be your people. In your presence, there is joy, and there is struggle. Peace surpasses understanding, and our hearts break. This defines the fullness of human community and experience in companionship with you. We give thanks for your presence and trust that you continue to transform the impossible into the possible. Make it so in us and through us in your precious name. Amen.

Hymn #1 "Immortal, Invisible God only Wise"

An Affirmation of Faith by Steve Garnaas-Holmes

We give our hearts to you, God, Creator of all, giver of life, Source of all that is; whose love is faithful, whose grace is abundant, whose heart is generous with mercy.

We follow Jesus, the Christ, the embodiment of God's love, who taught and healed, who fed the hungry, who set us free from our fears and wants. He was crucified and died; but in the infinite generosity of your grace you raised him to life. He reigns

among us, living proof of your steadfast love, calling us to faithful trust in you.

We live by the Holy Spirit, your Word unfolding in us, that leads us to live lives of gratitude and trust, compassion, courage and generosity. We believe in the power of forgiveness, the reality of resurrection, the gift of the community of the Body of Christ, and the mystery of eternal life. In gratitude to God, we commit ourselves to lives of abundant love, for the sake of the world, in the name of Christ, who lives and reigns with the Creator and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Time "Lights Out"

Pastoral Prayer – The Lord's Prayer

Hymn #433 "In the Bulb"

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Just God, we confess our attachment to things of this world, to our possessions, and to objects of status. We acknowledge the pride we take in doing good things that require little of us while turning away from the needed thing that challenges our wants and desires. Make us repairers of brokenness and restorers of lost. Help us to discern that life in full pursuit of your kingdom is rich, full, and freeing. Even as you test us, help us meet the moment with abounding love and abiding faith. Amen.

Words of Grace

Dear One, God is with you. Hear these words of assurance from 1 Corinthians 10:13, "No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful and will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing God will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it."