

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

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

- ✚ **Fellowship Meal** after worship today.
- ✚ **Pet Blessing:** Sunday during 10:30am worship on May 18th. Bring your fur, feather, or scaled friends or pictures to be blessed and celebrated on this festive day!
- ✚ **Just Like Me: Vacation Bible School**, June 23rd-27th from 5pm to 7pm. Registration available now and Volunteers welcome!
- ✚ **Community Meal** every third Wednesday of the month from 5p-6p!
- ✚ **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** If you want to make canned donations, you can bring things *INSIDE* the church and we will get them to Food pantries or people in need.
- ✚ **Paper Angel Closet** needs toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex, toothpaste, 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 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.

Prayer of Dedication

Collective Creator we thank you for the gifts of the people – from our ancestors to our elders to those who have still yet to come, we share what we have so that all can flourish and follow you. Amen.

Hymn #301 “Crown with your Richest Crowns” (V. 1-3, 5)

Benediction

Postlude

The Works Testify: Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday of Easter was written by Rev. ellie hutchinson, who serves as the Minister for Congregational and Community Engagement for the United Church of Christ.

Prelude

Announcements

Choral Introit “Seek Ye First”

**Seek ye first
The kingdom of God
And His righteousness
and all these things shall be added unto you
Allelu, Alleluia.**

**Ask and it shall be given unto you
seek and ye shall find
knock and the door shall be opened unto you
Allelu, Alleluia.**

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

Transformative Creator, you envelope us with examples of community

We are witness to Jesus' up close and personal attempts to learn about and be with the people

You want us to know that what happens outside of our church building matters to God's people.

Continue to work in and through us to build towards collective flourishing

Call us into living—

Call us into being curious, approachable, and loving towards all Your creation

Invocation

Creator of the Collective, let us begin by sitting in silence so that we can feel the presence of You in one another

open up all our senses to be more available to the possibility of the Creator's reflection in one another and let us be ready to build up a world, one in which we become agents of change. Open our hearts, O God, and help us to feel the brokenness of your world so we can begin again. Amen.

Hymn #28 "For the Beauty of the Earth"

United Church of Christ Statement of Faith #885

Children's Time "Parent Jobs"

Pastoral Prayer – The Lord's Prayer

Hymn #479 "God is my Shephard" (V 1-3, 5)

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Holy One, We ask ourselves: Who do we say that we are? How do we show up against an oligarchy that allows discrimination, war, genocide, vio-

lence, transphobia, and poverty run rampant amongst God's people. When we experience tension, give us the courage to feel into that tension and to invite a feeling of love and kindness and grace the way that Your Son showed us time and time again. Be with us in this and all the hard moments still to come. Amen.

Words of Grace

Beloved, let us go forth today and all the days with the courageous belief that we can truly recognize the Holy One in the other and then act accordingly. By grace, Creator will move us towards the transformation where acts of love, humility, curiosity, faith, abundance, and hope are on display for all to witness.

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 Proverbs 31:10-31

Sermon "Mom, Mom, Mom, MOM!"

Invitation to Generosity

Mission Moment Strengthen the Church

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.**



General Giving