St. John's United Church of Christ

P.O. Box 794, 401 N Main Street, Belvidere, IL 61008stjohns401.org stjohnsucc401@gmail.com

Rev. Muriel Morley Jahn Pastor: 815-544-2977

murielmorley@gmail.com

Beth Carson Pastoral Associate: 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 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





Amazon List



T-Shirts

Announcements

Pet Blessing

St. John's UCC

- Worship at Heritage Woods with Beth today at 3 pm. Join after their service for time to socialize with the residents and meet some great people.
- Community Meal this Wednesday 5p-6p!

May 18, 2025

- ◆ Community Garden work day Monday 9-10:30 with Paul and Betsy Mollway. Garden with Pastor Muriel this Saturday 9-Noon. We are still planting, watering and mulching. We also have a number of rain barrels to install!
- Fellowship Meals happen after worship every 2nd Sunday. Please mark your calendar and plan to join. Let us know What you are bringing on the sign up sheet for the June 8th Carry In.
- ♣ Faye Latzig's Funeral will be held at St. John's on June 21st with a catered luncheon to follow. Please plan to come celebrate her life and spend time with her family.
- ₱ 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, 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.
- Just Like Me Bible School is June 23rd -27th 5pm to 7pm. We need volunteers to hang fliers, decorate, set up, clean up and run different stations. Tell your neighbors and friends!

Registration now open online at https:// forms.gle/MyG5EXFpWYX36kdQA

Hymn #4 "Joyful, Joyful" (Verses 1-3)

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.

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!

St. John's UCC

Call to Worship

Creation sings around us with a thousand voices. Let us lift our voices to join the chorus! From the smallest bugs to the largest whale From dust to ocean we worship our God. We gather as human and animal to celebrate God's great creation and the place we have been given.

Invocation

God when we worship you we cocreate with you this world you have gifted your creation. Let us focus our hearts on you so we can imagine the world you call us to create as you say the Kingdom of heaven is here. Amen.

"To You, O God, all Creatures Sing Hymn #17 (Verses 1, 2 and 4)

A New Creed #887

Pastoral Prayer – The Lord's Prayer

Children's Time "Talk like Animals"

Animal Introductions

Hymn #12 "I Sing the Might Power of God"

Blessing of the Animals

Blessed are you, Lord God, who made every living thing with which the water teems. and every winged bird, the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground. and the wild animals. and called it all "good." Thank you for this animal,

for its life that comes from you, and for the love and joy it brings. Please bless this creature and let our loving care for him/her be a reflection of your loving nature. We praise you for all your beauty in creation, and especially for this expression of your love. Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures! Amen.

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 Psalm 145:8-21

"Creation Compassion" Sermon

Invitation to Generosity

Strengthen the Church Mission Moment

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 Dedication

Kind Creator, bless these gifts freely given. Bless the time spent doing your work of care and compassion. Bless the talents offered sharing the beauty of creation. Bless the treasures offered as symbols of our gratitude and hope. May all our gifts be blessed to serve you. Amen