

Second Mile Offering– OGHS

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a Special Mission Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports partners worldwide with ministries that fund health, education, and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and both international and domestic disaster response.



Mark 12:13-17 • illustratedministry.com

Lent Week 5- March 22, 2026

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
Office Hours: Tues – Thurs, 9am-Noon stjohms401.org
(815)544-2977 stjohmsucc401@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 welcome in all aspects of worship. The nursery provides an alternative space.

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

Announcements

- ✚ **Holy Week and Easter Schedule**
Maundy Thursday Worship at 7pm (April 2)
Easter Breakfast 9:00-9:45 (April 5)
Easter Egg Hunt to follow
Easter Worship 10:30
- ✚ **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.
- ✚ **Community Meal** every third Wednesday of the month from 5p-6pm.
- ✚ **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. No canned items or items in water until we are out of the freezing temperatures.
- ✚ **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.
- ✚ **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.



Delicious Fundraiser



Amazon List



T-Shirts



St. John’s Calendar

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– Mark 12: 13-17

Character Narrative

Sermon– “True Allegiance”

Invitation to Generosity– Leader

Moment for Mission– OGHS

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 For the Offering

**Generous God, we bring our gifts before you and
your church like tiny seeds from a dandelion.
Send out these gifts on the mighty wind of your
Spirit, bringing growth, bearing fruit, and nour-
ishing both our faith community and our neigh-
bors. May each gift of every size bloom with your
holy imagination. Amen.**

Hymn #237- “In the Garden”

Benediction

**Go out into the world with your confidence firmly
planted in the faithful heart of our loving God.**

Postlude

Prelude

Announcements

Choral Introit– “Lord, I Offer My Life to You”

**Lord, I offer my life to You,
Everything I’ve been through,
use it for your glory;
Lord, I offer my days to You,
lifting my praise to You as a pleasing sacrifice.
Lord I offer You my life.**

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 iden-
tity, 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 cir-
cumstances,**

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– Responsively

**Come into God’s presence, you who imagine and
you who seek, you who disrupt and you who repair.
By the Spirit, we gather in hope.**

Come into God’s keeping, you who bear the divine image, you who are in this world but not of it, you who feel tested or tried.

In Christ, we gather and we belong.

Come into God’s presence, singing for joy and for justice; bringing prayer and worship, your most faithful acts of resistance.

To God be the glory! We gather to praise!

Opening Prayer

God of discernment, you send your Spirit to guide us when the questions seem too difficult or the possibilities seem too limited. Bless us with curiosity and creativity. Show us pathways beyond the binaries of “either/or” and “yes/no.” Give us the strength to live your will, and dedicate our lives to your holy callings of love, mercy, humility, and grace. We do this following the way of Jesus Christ, our leader and our guide. Amen.

Hymn #238– “Now the Green Blade Rises”

Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith as we participate in the holy work of imagination.

We believe there is no other object of our allegiance or devotion that compares to the Way of Jesus. This devotion supremely outmatches any allegiance to country, team, or people group. We believe that when we divide our allegiance among other powers, our faith is diluted by lesser ambitions. We lose sight of our calling, and we compromise our values. We believe our allegiance to Christ’s way of love and justice in forms all other promises, contracts, covenants, and relationships. When forced to choose between Caesar’s way and Christ’s way, we choose Christ because Christ first chose us. Amen

Young and Young at Heart Time- “The Coin Bearer”

Pastoral Prayer – The Lord’s Prayer

Hymn #290- “Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart”

Prayer of Confession

Siblings in Christ, let us confess our sins to God, for God knows the ways we have chosen to serve powers that are unloving and unjust. God, you see the powerful people in this world as they scramble for more, keeping the weak in places of suffering. Even though we are aware of their evil alliances, we contribute to these systems and power structures with our money, our time, and our attention.

We confess that our purchases support harmful practices and abusive regimes. We confess that our entertainment choices, at times, center people who mock the weak. We confess that our participation in consumerism and disposability causes destruction of creation. Forgive us for aligning our allegiance with systems and corporations that harm life and cause suffering. Help us resist the temptation to devote ourselves to worldly ways that offend your righteousness. We choose to give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, so we might have open hands to serve you better. Amen.



General Giving

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Pardon

Beloved in Christ, God knows how the dazzle of gold and glory charms us, and God is faithful to show us a better way. Be liberated from the entanglements of this world, receive God’s pardon, and be at peace.