

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

- ✚ **Join us today after worship for our FELLOWSHIP MEAL.**
- ✚ **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** 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 Bar Soap the most. We could also use toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex, feminine Hygiene, 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.

The One Who Showed Mercy: Service Prayers for the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost was written by the Rev. Jacob Nault, Pastor of Union-Congregational Church (UCC), of Waupun, WI. and member of on the United Church of Christ's Disabilities Ministries Board. As a musician and disability justice advocate, he shares original music, liturgy, and devotionals which help congregations and communities grow in their justice work. For more information on Jacob's music and ministry, you can visit www.jacobnault.com.

ion. You are invited to eat the as a sign of your own personal faith and hold the cup to drink together as a sign of our communion faith.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Invitation to Generosity

The Good Samaritan helped a needy stranger at great cost. This revolutionary act of love was life-saving. How will your gifts of time, talent, treasure, or prayer provide hope to this community, and this world?

Mission Moment Carpenter's Place

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

God of love, we give these gifts back to you with humility, remembering time we've needed help in our own lives. Help us use the gifts we give to love others as we have been loved. Amen.

Hymn #530 "God our Author and Creator"

Benediction

Postlude



General Giving

Prelude

Announcements

Choral Introit "I Love you, Lord"

**I love You, Lord, and I lift my voice
To worship You, O my soul rejoice
Take joy, my King, in what You hear
May it be a sweet, sweet sound in Your ear
I love You, Lord, and I lift my voice
To worship You, O my soul rejoice
Take joy, my King, in what You hear
May it be a sweet, sweet sound in Your ear**

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

We come to worship this day, knowing deeply what it means to struggle.

We remember times in our lives when we've felt hopeless, yearning for someone to care for us.

In this divided climate that might tempt us to ignore the neighbors in our midst, we need only tap into our own humanity.

Because we know what it means to struggle, we are challenged each day to show radical love to our neighbors.

Even those who aren't like us.

Especially those who aren't like us.

May our worship today help us remember times we have been helped...

...and how we can become the helpers, and the hope-bearers, in this world.

Invocation

Christ, who shows us how to be in community together, thank you for gathering us into community together, onsite and online. We give you thanks for the ways we have been held in love in this community of faith. We are comforted by memories of mercy shown to us in difficult times, both by our friends in this space, and by your gracious presence in our lives. Empower us to be Good Samaritans in our own ways. Embolden us to seek out those who are hopeless and in need, not out of pity, but out of a deep understanding of difficulty in our own lives. Guided by your example, may we lead with radical love and brave compassion. Amen.

Hymn #588 "Let Justice flow like Streams"

Affirmation of Faith #886

Children's Time**Pastoral Prayer – The Lord's Prayer****Hymn #537 "Christian, Rise and Act your Creed"****Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

God of the oppressed, we confess that it's sometimes easier to ignore those in need than it is to help them. We confess that we sometimes ask ourselves, "what will it cost us?" "what will others think?"—rather than remembering your call to care for our neighbors, whether we think they "deserve it" or not. Forgive us. Help us repent of our embarrassment at those in need, and turn instead toward empathy and compassion. We pray this in the name of your son, who teaches us how to love all of our neighbors. Amen.

Words of Grace

Friends, take comfort. None of us get this right all the time. We are utterly human—fallible people in need of redirection and second chances. This is the good news: we believe in a God who gives us a chance to start again. We are forgiven. May we respond to this grace with grateful hearts attuned to the pursuit of justice, mercy, and hope for all.

Thanks be to God! 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 Luke 10:25-37

Sermon "Mercy, Love and Charity"

Service of Communion**Blessing and Sharing the Elements**

All are invited to participate in this Holy symbol of Communion