

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 stjohs401.org
(815)544-2977 stjohsucc401@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 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

- ✚ This weekend we celebrate **Memorial Day**. Memorial Day began after the Civil War as an effort toward reconciliation between the families of veterans in the North and the South. After the war, there was already a tradition in the North of decorating soldiers' graves, called "Decoration Day." But in 1868 an organization of Northern war veterans decreed it ought to be a national holiday. May 30 was carefully chosen as the date because it was not the anniversary of a specific battle, and therefore would be a neutral date for both sides.
 - ✚ But human beings hold on to their wounds, and reconciliation takes time, grace and mercy. So initially, as the holiday spread, it was an occasion for both sides to give angry speeches about the wartime atrocities inflicted by the other side, and the righteousness of their own. However, as time went on, Memorial Day really did become a time to remember all veterans, a time to visit the graves of family and friends, and to remember their lives.
 - ✚ In 1968, the Uniform Holidays Bill moved three holidays off of their specific dates and onto Mondays, in order to create three-day weekends. Memorial Day came to be associated with the beginning of summer, as well as the Indianapolis 500.
 - ✚ Today, let us remember the spirit in which the day was conceived, as a way to bring together those who had once been bitter enemies. After the fighting is over, the loss and heartbreak are shared throughout the human family. God's mercy pours out over all God's children, with no respect for the borders of nation states, which are awfully temporary, from the perspective of eternity.
- Prayer-** On this day, we pray for comfort for all those who have lost a loved one to the ravages of war. We pray that the peace of Christ, which passes all human understanding, will knit together this weary and war-torn world. Amen.

https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/daily_devotional_memorial_day/

Invitation to Generosity– Leader**Moment for Mission
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.

Prayer of Dedication– unison

Receive the offerings we bring, O God, and sanctify them to the holy purpose of extending your gifts to all who are in need and to all who would desire them, even as you sanctify our lives in the presence of the Holy Christ who is in our midst today. Amen

Hymn #595– “I’ll Fly Away”**Benediction****Postlude**

Call to Worship and Opening Prayer written by: *Sally Johnson, United Methodist Creation Justice Movement*

**Prelude****Announcements****Choral Introit– “Rain Down’****(Refrain)**

Rain down, rain down, rain down your love on
 your people.

Rain down, rain down, rain down your love, God
 of life.

God of creation, we long for your truth;
 You are the water of life for our thirst.

Grant that your love and your peace touch our
 hearts,

All of our hope lies in you.

(Refrain)**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– Responsively

In the beginning, the voice that whispered us into being still whispers, saying...

Let there be light!

In the wilderness, the voice that fed us from the heavens still feeds us. saying...

Let there be light!

In the story we share with this God of mystery and amazing love, the voice calls to us each and every morning, saying...

Let there be light!

Invocation– unison

God of the stars and galaxies, God of the seed and Earth, we thank you that you continue to come to us, to amaze us, to laugh with us, to cry with us, to comfort us, and to show us that your love shines through us and your creation, bringing light to a darkened world. May this beauty and peace be reflected in this sacred circle. In the name of the Christ-presence, we pray. Amen.

Hymn #300– “Jesus Shall Reign”

The Apostles' Creed: an alternative version #882

Children's Time**Pastoral Prayer – The Lord's Prayer****Hymn #576– “For the Healing of the Nations”****Prayer for Transformation and New Life-**

In our ignorance we have made bad decisions and made life difficult for those around us.

In our willfulness we have pursued goals that we know are evil and corrupting.

In our foolishness we have lost our way and blundered into situations that degrade.

In our selfishness we have withheld compassion from those who most need it.

In our pig-headedness we have clung to opinions and deeds that are unworthy.

In our fickleness we have betrayed the deep values of Christ for shallow pleasures.

In our inanity we have dallied with temptations which overtax our integrity.

In our sinfulness we have disappointed ourselves, those around us, and your Holy Spirit.

Savior of the world, we open our hearts to your grace, mercy and peace.

Create a clean heart within us, loving God, And renew a healthy spirit within us.

Through Christ our Redeemer Amen!

Words of Grace– Leader

Family of God, Christ has not come to bind our mistakes and sins on us, but to loose the bonds and give us liberty. In his name I declare the forgiveness of sins and the life that is eternal. If Christ sets you free, then you are free indeed.

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

Psalm 67

John 14: 23-29

Sermon– “Peace”

[General Giving](#)