YWCA of Palestine Jalazone Kindergarten and Community Center

What better way to support a more sustainable and hopeful future than to support and educate future generations? The YWCA of Palestine, a United Church of Christ partner through Global Ministries and supported by One Great Hour of Sharing, has engaged local Palestinian communities since 1893.

Today, it offers programs of economic empowerment, women's rights, youth leadership, and children's education. An example of the latter is the YWCA's nursery schools and kindergartens in refugee camps, schools the YWCA has run for decades. In addition to regular classes, the YWCA offers skill-based camps such as photography and sports, as well as other extracurricular activities at its schools.

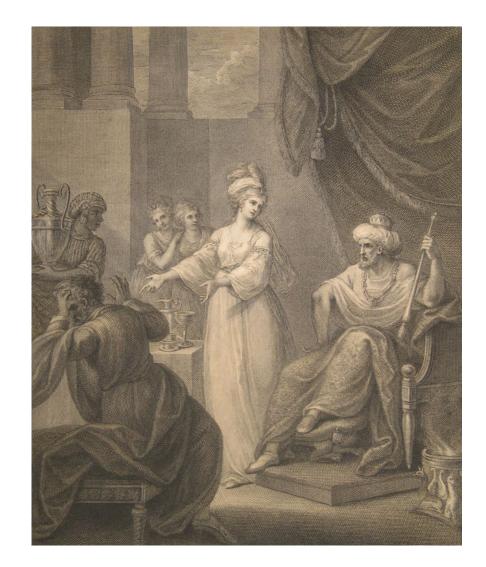
In the occupied Palestinian West Bank, roughly onefourth of the 900,000 Palestinian refugees registered with the United Nations live in 19 refugee camps. The YWCA kindergarten in the Jalazone Refugee Camp near Ramallah is a sign of hope for a community that has endured over 75 years of displacement.

The school and connected community center address the needs of over 80 children and their families within the camp. In a place that is often subjected to raids and night-time patrols by the Israeli military, children are not immune from the trauma the residents of the camp experience. As a result, the YWCA has added awareness and counselling sessions to regular classes to help improve the psychological well-being of the children there.

The opportunities that the YWCA affords the community through the kindergarten benefit the children, their families, and the teachers as well, providing a safe space for play and employing techniques to cope with the stress of daily life living in subpar circumstances of a refugee camp under military occupation.

The pride the children have when they dress up for their graduation ceremony is palpable. They enjoy the celebration of their accomplishment, and anticipate their next stages of education and life better able and prepared for the challenges they will face.

https://www.ucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/2025-Mission-Moment.pdf



"The Macklin Bible—Esther Accusing Haman" By William Hamilton and Francesco Bartolozzi

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 stjohns401.org (815)544-2977 stjohnsucc401@gmail.com

Pastor: Rev. N	iuriel moriey Jann	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



Announcements

- Spring Eggstravaganza Saturday, March 22nd 11am-2pm. Have any potential vendors contact Pastor Muriel. Check out the Volunteer sign up sheet. Stuffed Easter Egg donations welcome.
- Community Meal Every 3rd Wednesday 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.
- Blessing Box No canned foods or anything that may contain water and freeze in this weather.
- Paper Angel Closet needs women's deodorant, shampoo, dish soap, bleach, and adult toothbrushes.
- 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.

Easter Bulb Sign-Up

Help make the sanctuary beautiful during Easter morning worship with Spring Bulbs. Price per plant is \$12 and the <u>deadline to order is March 30th.</u> Please give order form and money to Pastor Muriel. If paying by check, please make it out to St. John's UCC. If you have questions please contact Pastor Muriel at <u>murielmorley@gmail.com</u> or 815/544-2977. Given By:

In Memory of:			
In Honor of:			
Bulb Choice:	Tulip _	Daffodil	Hyacinth

March 9, 2025



Prelude

Announcements

Choral Introit "Change my Heart, O God" Change my heart, O God; make it ever true. Change my heart, O God; may I be like you. You are the potter, I am the clay. Mold me and make me, this is what I pray. Change my heart, O God; make it ever true. Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

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

March 9, 2025

St. John's UCC

Purim Introduction

Purim Prayer

Blessed art Thou, LORD our God, Master of the universe,

who sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us regarding the reading of the Scripture. Amen

Blessed art Thou, LORD our God, Master of the universe,

who performed miracles for our ancestors in those days at this time. Amen.

Blessed art Thou, LORD our God, Master of the universe,

who has kept us alive and has sustained us, and brought us to this season. Amen.

Hymn #211 "Lord Jesus, Who Through 40 Days"

Interactive Reading

<u>Banquet</u>- "Let's Party!" <u>Esther</u>- "oooooo, aahhhhh" <u>Eunuch/s</u>- *clap twice <u>Haman</u>- "BOOOOO" <u>Jew/s</u>- "Children of God" <u>King Ahasuerus</u>- *Trumpet Noises <u>Mordecai</u>- "Praise God" <u>Officials</u>- "Blah, Blah, Blah" <u>Vashti</u>- "No thank you!"

First reading of Esther Chapters 1-3

Hymn #49 "Ask me what Great Things I Know"

Second reading of Esther Chapter 4-7:8

Pastoral Prayer – The Lord's Prayer

Third reading of Esther Chapter 7:9-10

Invitation to Generosity

Moment for Mission One

One Great Hour of Sharing

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

Generous God, with these gifts of time, talent, and treasure. We acknowledge that it may well have been for this time and place we were born. We give thanks for our ability to make changes for the better in our troubled world. Amen.

Hymn #506 "What a Friend"

Benediction

Postlude



Cover Letter: "The Macklin Bible—Esther Accusing Haman" Hamilton, William 1751-1801 ; Bartolozzi, Francesco, 1727—1815 https:// diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/diglib-fulldisplay.pl? SID=20250220431703739&code=act&RC=54115&Row=12

Please join us for a Purim Feast today after worship in the Fellowship Hall.

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