

Announcements

- ‡ **The Belvidere Group (AA)** meets at everyday at 7pm.
- ‡ **Chair and Mat Yoga** with Katherine Ray is going weekly! Chair yoga at 10 AM and mat yoga at 11:30 AM. No RSVP required and classes are \$5.
- ‡ **Sunday School for Adults and Kids** Sundays at 9am. Check out the upcoming curriculum options for more studies.
- ‡ **Community Meal** 3rd Wednesday of each month.
- ‡ **The Belvidere Group (AA)** meets at everyday at 7pm.

Rummage Sale - April 24-25

Thanks to all who have brought in early donations so far. We have plenty of room in the garage and plenty of time to offer your items on Facebook or eBay.

Your attic, basement, closet, or garage will be happy, the community will be happy to give your extras a new home and the church will be happy to have more funds for our ministries.

If you have an old laptop computer, Ipad, or cell phone sitting around, someone else can use it. Paul has the bleachbit software to wipe out all data. Bring it in and we'll find it a new home.

Betsy (815-222-9323) and Nancy (815-978-3319)



St. John's United Church of Christ

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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.



Delicious Fundraiser



Amazon List



T-Shirts

work, bringing heaven to earth as we follow Jesus in love and justice. Amen.

SERMON "SACRED PROTEST"

MOMENT FOR MISSION~ ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

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 nourishing both our faith community and our neighbors. May each gift of every size bloom with your holy imagination. Amen.

Hymn #191 "Before the Cross of Jesus"

CHARGE

Beloved children of God, as you return to the wild wilderness of everyday life, look around and see all the parades. When you choose which parade or protest to attend, may you find your way among those who are on the side of love and justice. May you disrupt unjust systems and bring down platforms of cruelty.

BENEDICTION

Go out into the world with peace in your hearts to love and serve all. Amen.

away from the hypocrisy of external shows of piety, and toward the quiet places of prayer and service. But our hearts remain divided.

Forgive us for being so easily impressed with the trappings of power and wealth, and for turning our backs on your quiet, persistent working among those on the margins. Forgive us for accepting worldly standards for beauty and status that rely so heavily upon racist and classist tropes. Forgive us for perpetuating lies of worth and value that exist outside your righteous economy of kin(g)dom justice. We focus our endeavors, our appreciation, and our worship around that which you find beautiful and praiseworthy. Help us expand our imaginations to see beauty where you are most glorified. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Beloved in Christ, *God knows we are vulnerable to the glitter and glamor of empire. God sent Jesus to show us a different way to live so we might not be shackled to standards and behaviors that do not reflect Christ's love. Receive God's grace and pardon, and be at peace.*

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

MATTHEW 21:1-17

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God who breathes meaning and inspiration into our sacred scriptures, who crafts stories of redemption, liberation, and love, may these words help us imagine the world you intended. May we receive the challenge to join you in this holy

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #213 "HOSANNA, LOUD HOSANNA"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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 saving grace, you who shout, "Hosanna," you who pray, "save us," you who wave branches to welcome Christ.

In Christ, we gather in celebration.

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 palms and passion, you accompany us as we follow Jesus into Jerusalem and toward the cross. Preserve us in

our rejoicing, forgive us in our betrayals, and empower us to name injustice. Grant us a vision of the cross that reveals to us Christ's unflinching commitment to the work and wonder of love. May our hearts overflow with such love and justice, and may our "hosannas" be our most fervent prayers for the salvation you promise us, through Christ our hope. Amen.

HYMN "THE WORK OF IMAGINATION" (Chorus only)

Deep cries out to deep our spirit joins your song
In the work of imagination to rewrite every wrong
As deed cries out to deep, we pray your kingdom come

In the work of imagination
as deep cries out to deep our spirit joins your song
In the work of imagination to rewrite every wrong
As deed cries out to deep, we pray your kingdom come

In the work of imagination to see your will be done
To see your will be done. To see your will be done.
To see your will be done

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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

We believe disruptions can be good. We believe that without justice, there is no peace. We believe Jesus disrupted the temple because he was bringing chaotic good into a situation of unjust order. We believe Jesus rode into Jerusalem to stir up good trouble— to confront the evil that kept people in bondage. We believe that even though we know acts of disruption can be frightening, God calls us to have courage. We believe the strong must defend the weak, even if this disrupts the system. We believe truth must be spoken, even if it makes people uncomfortable. We believe protest is one language of oppressed people, and voices of protest should be amplified and protected. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME "TRIUMPHAL ENTRIES"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, this world gets us down on our knees and up on our feet. We bow our heads and we beat the pavement. We call for peace and we march our prayers. *We remember the story of your procession, and in this silence, we ask that you would guide our steps today.*

(TIME FOR SILENCE)

You who journey with us,
lead us on paths of justice and liberation.

We remember the story of your turning over tables, and in this silence, we ask that you would harness our passion today.

(TIME FOR SILENCE)

You who kindle the flame in our hearts,
make us burn for truth and righteousness.

We remember the story of your faithfulness to your friends, and in this silence, we lift to you our prayers for those we love.

(TIME FOR SILENCE)

You who never give up on any of us,
deepen our faith in each other.

We remember the story of your love that knows no bounds and in this silence, we lift to you our prayers for all the world.

(TIME FOR SILENCE)

You who took it all into your heart,
send us out to serve and heal the world you so love. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER~ THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN # 216 "ALL GLORY, LAUD AND HONOR"

CALL & PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Siblings in Christ, let us confess our sins to God, for God knows how we become distracted by flashy, impressive production quality, and we forget the simple, humble foundation of our faith in Jesus. God of the manger, the hillside, the farmer's field, and the sheep's pasture, you are no stranger to humble beginnings and simple places. We know the stories. We hear you calling us