



# 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

## 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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✝ **Meals on Wheels** delivery is October 15.
- ✝ **Community Meal** every third Wednesday of the month from 5p-6pm. Come at 4:30pm for a Community Listening Session with the Hunger Coalition on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Participants will receive a gift card. If you would like to volunteer to help host this special event please speak to Pastor Muriel or go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084FA4A929A2FBCE9-57399621-hunger>
- ✝ **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.
- ✝ **Share Table** please place perishable items here.
- ✝ **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.
- ✝ **Candle Crest Order Forms** can be picked up today from church. We will encourage people to sell from now until September 14th. We will put the official orders in together and have deliveries by beginning to mid October.



Delicious Fundraiser



Amazon List



T-Shirts

**Prayer of Dedication**

Holy, Holy, Holy God, be glorified in our giving.  
 Receive and magnify these gifts so that needs  
 will be met, communities transformed, and lives  
 renewed. We dedicate them in your precious  
 name. Amen.

**Hymn #76 "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"****Benediction**

*Places of Honor: Service Prayers for the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost* was  
 written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology  
 for the United Church of Christ.



General Giving

**Prelude****Announcements**

**Choral Introit "Rain Down"**  
 Rain down, rain down,  
 Rain down your love on your people,  
 Rain down, rain down  
 Rain down your love, God of 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 identity,  
 race, nationality, skin color, culture, differing abilities,  
 age or political affiliations, to participate fully in all as-  
 pects 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 circum- stances,**

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** *(Inspired by Psalm 81 and 112)*

Sing aloud to God our strength; shout for joy to God.

**Happy are those who revere the Holy One. Generation to generation delight in God's blessings.**

Sing aloud to God our righteousness; shout for peace to God.

**We rise from the depths in mercy, grace, and justice.**

Sing aloud to God our hope; shout for love to God.

**Our hearts are steady and secure. Worship the Holy One!**

**Invocation**

**God of Glory, we acknowledge your presence among us as we gather. You have knit us together as a community. In your kingdom, the first will be last and the last will be first. We only exalt you yet you come near to us. Dwell in the praises we voice, in the hope to which we cling, and the love that persists. Reveal yourself to us, Great One, and we will declare and spread your goodness in the land of the living. Amen.**

**Hymn #312 "We Love Your Realm, O God"****UCC Statement of Faith #885****Children's Time****Pastoral Prayer~ The Lord's Prayer****Hymn #313 "Like a Tree"**

(Tune: Come, O Fount of every Blessing)

**Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

**Righteous God, forgive us for the positioning we do. We seek elevated places and too often fail to notice the absences at your table. Our tables are**

**segregated by the ways we diminish the beautiful distinctiveness you celebrate among us. We live in complacency while the world around us weeps in pain, suffering, and despair. Break our hearts, O God, so that we will seek your kingdom more than our own acquittal. As in the days of Jeremiah, we "have changed [our] glory for something that does not profit" and are appalled. Convict our spirits to propel us to reshape the world into your vision of beloved community—repaired, restored, and reconciled. Amen.**

**Words of Grace-Leader**

Beloved, the Holy One is righteous and just as well as compassionate and faithful to forgive the contrite heart. God will give you strength and courage to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly.

**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 14:1, 7-14**

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

**Sermon "Two Dreams"**

Guest Preacher: Jennifer Amy-Dressler

**Moment for Mission~ Pastor's Discretionary Fund****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.**