

General Synod 35 met in Kansas City from July 11-15, 2025. The UCC assembled in order to worship, conduct business, take prophetic action, reunite with siblings in Christ, connect with the wider church, and so much more. While delegates and visitors attend the gathering onsite, some elements, such as worship, were livestreamed so that the fullness of the United Church of Christ may gather.



Welcome to Worship

July 27, 2025

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

- ✦ **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.
- ✦ **Meals on Wheels** delivery is August 25-29
- ✦ **Community Meal** every third Wednesday of the month from 5p-6pm. Next meal will be August 20th .
- ✦ **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.
- ✦ **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.
- ✦ Congregational Listening Sessions
- ✦ Congregational Meeting to finalize Pastor's Call Letter and review proposed Property Manager position.

Sermon– “Rooted in Christ”**Invitation to Generosity– Leader****Moment for Mission
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– unison

Living and redeeming God, in Christ, you have made us fully alive, setting us free from all that would hold us captive. As we bring these gifts, we do so in gratitude, abounding in thanksgiving for your grace. May these offerings be signs of our rootedness in you, bearing fruit for your kingdom. Let them be used to bring hope, healing, and new life to those in need. Keep us steadfast in Christ, walking in faith and filled with the joy of your transforming love. In the name of the one who makes us whole, we pray. Amen.

Hymn #488– “Be Still My Soul”**Benediction****Postlude**

St. John's Calendar

Prelude**Announcements****Choral Introit– “Seek Ye First”**

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
 And His righteousness;
 And all these things shall be added unto you.
 Allelu, alleluia.

Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
 Seek, and you shall find. Knock, and it shall be
 opened unto you.
 Allelu, alleluia.

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

Children of God, when the journey ahead seems long and hard, full of unknown dangers and all-too-real risks, remember:

Keep the faith. God, who made us alive, is our Guardian and Guide.

When the voices on the side of the road tempt us with their misinformation full of unearned certainty, simple solutions, and quickness to blame and shame those who disagree with them, remember:

Stay the course. God, who made us alive, is our Wisdom and Judge.

When those in power place barriers in our way, making it harder to share the love of God in our communities, trying to convince us it is easier to do nothing than remain firm in God's call to act for the flourishing of all our neighbors, remember:

Do not be afraid. God, who made us alive, is our Strength and our Advocate.

Children of God, come! Let us worship God, whose persistent love empowers us to persevere, to stay the course, to live by faith and not fear.

Come, let us worship God, who makes us alive, through grace to love and serve God and one another.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, February 2025.

Hymn #257– “Alleluia, Sing to Jesus”

The Apostles' Creed: an alternative version #882

Children's Time

Pastoral Prayer – The Lord's Prayer

Hymn #438– “It Is Well With My Soul”

Prayer of Confession

We do not find it easy to speak of how we do not live as your people, but you call us to share our weaknesses and failures with you, Inviting God. Tempted to think your salvation is for a select few, we put up barriers for others. Clinging to all you give to us, we are reluctant to share with those in need. Surrounded by evil and violence, we find it easier to close ranks with those just like us, rather than seeking peace and reconciliation for our world. Forgive us, God of our salvation. Open our hearts to our siblings all around us. Open our minds to the word of hope you speak to us. Open our spirits to the presence of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who flings wide the open doors of your kingdom, that all might find life with you.

Silent prayers of confession.

Words of Grace

Receive the good news, my friends:
Christ came searching for us,
calling us by name,
leading us into God's kingdom.
**In Christ, we become new people:
empty, we are made full;
lost, we are found;
dead in sin, we are made alive.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**



General Giving

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

Colossians 2: 6-19
Luke 11: 1-13