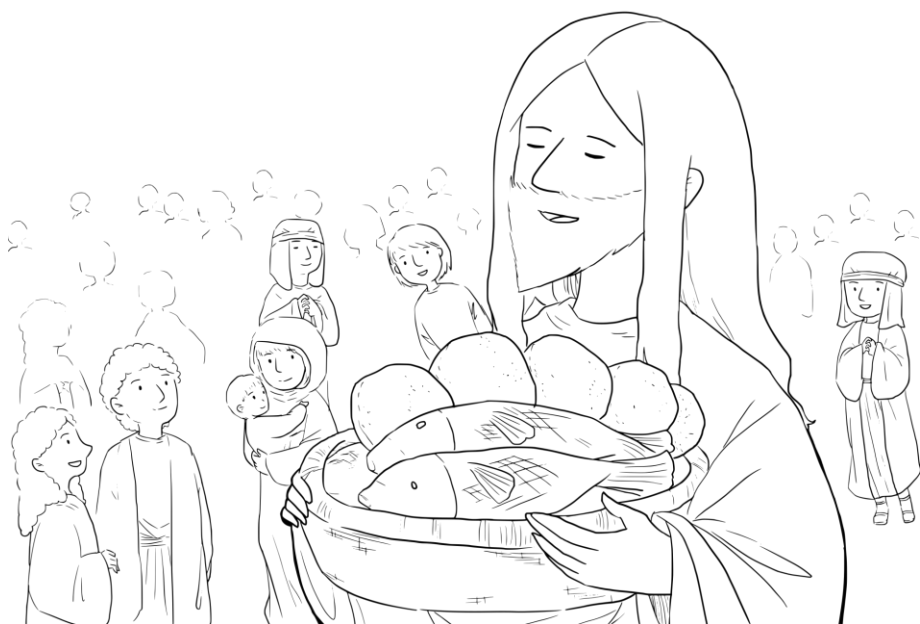


Worship with

St. John's

United Church of Christ



August 2, 2026

St. John's United Church of Christ

P.O. Box 794, 401 N Main Street, Belvidere, IL 61008
stjohns401.org stjohsucc401@gmail.com

Pastor:	Rev. Muriel Morley Jahn	815-544-2977
	<u>murielmorley@gmail.com</u>	
Pastoral Associate:	Beth Carson	815-979-0473
Minister of Music:	Mary Albrecht	224-234-7749
Choir Director:	Jeanne Anderson	815-985-2652
Nursery Attendant:	Hanna Jarvis	815-914-4718

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 Speaks Bold Font

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Fellowship Meal next week after Worship.**
- **Community Garden** is ongoing, feel free to stop by to water, weed or harvest.
- **The Belvidere Group (AA)** meets every day at 7:00 pm
- **Chair and Mat Yoga** with Katherine Ray is going weekly! Chair yoga at 10:00 am and mat yoga at 11:30 am No RSVP required and classes are \$5.00.
- **Community Meal:** 3rd Wednesday of each month.
- **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.
- **125th Anniversary Celebration!** Mark your calendars for September 20th. Details to follow!

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT "SURELY THE PRESENCE"

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;
I can feel His mighty power and His grace.
I can hear the brush of angels' wings,
I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

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 broken hearted.

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

As we gather and as we disperse, as we rise and as we
sleep, as we eat and play and work,

We offer God praise.

As we wash our car, scrub the dishes, rinse the grime of the day from our hands,

We offer God praise.

As we feel the tips of the grass on our feet, the wind against our face, the sun on our backs,

We offer God praise.

Come, let us worship God who creates, redeems, and sustains us to live out our praise in all we do!

We come as people formed by grace to offer God praise with our whole selves now and in all the ordinary moments of our lives! Amen.

INVOCATION

**Awesome and majestic God,
your creative power, your glory and holiness
were experienced by your people of old
as clouds and fire guiding them to freedom.
They believed that no one could see your face and live.
How blessed, therefore, are we,
for you have revealed your face to us in Jesus—
the human face of your love.**

**You also equip us for our journey through life and
beyond, by breathing new and everlasting life into our
very beings, through the gift of the Holy Spirit.
These people of old believed that it was your presence
with them which made them a chosen and special
people.**

**We praise and adore you, O God, for making our lives so
special, by choosing to share your life with us in and
through Jesus.**

**May this time of worship and the service of our lives
reveal our thanksgiving and our wonder that you should
so care for us.**

This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

HYMN #276 "Holy God We Praise Your Name"

UCC Statement of Faith #885

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN #502 "God Embracing Humankind"

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION & NEW LIFE

**O God, listen to our prayer of confession,
for we would speak honestly before You.**

**We confess that we haven't always done what is
right; that some of our attitudes and actions have
hurt others and ourselves, and have grieved You.
Forgive us.**

In Your mercy, look deeply into our hearts.

Examine our thoughts and our actions.

Test our motivations.

**Bring to light all the things in our lives that dishonor
You.**

**We want to follow You with integrity,
to obey the commandments You have given us,
and to walk in ways that bring honor to Your name.**

MOMENT OF SILENCE

WORDS OF GRACE

**Siblings in Christ,
our God never fails to hear us when we call.
Trust in God's forgiveness and unfailing love,
and be at peace,
for God rescues all who take refuge in 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 Romans 9: 1-5
 Matthew 14: 13-21

SERMON “The Heart of God”

SACRAMENT of HOLY COMMUNION

MOMENT FOR MISSION – Northern Illinois Hospice

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

Attentive God, you see us as we are and meet us in the movement of our days. As we bring these gifts, shape our lives to reflect your righteousness—faithful in love, honest in action, steady in compassion. Open our eyes to behold your face in the neighbors we serve and the work we share. Let our giving become praise in motion, a testimony that we seek your presence not only in stillness, but in faithful steps forward. Receive these offerings as signs of our trust and our desire to live in right relationship with you and with one another, until we are satisfied in the likeness of your grace. Amen.

HYMN #81 “God Be With You”

BENEDICTION

Prayers and Responses adapted from:

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/praise-break/week-1-tenth-sunday-after-pentecost-year-a/week-1-tenth-sunday-after-pentecost-year-a-praise-break-offertory-prayers>

How to use a QR code: open the camera on your cellphone. Pretend you are going to take a picture of one of the 4 boxes on this page. The camera will focus on the box. Words will appear on the bottom of the screen. Tap on the words.

Free digital donations can now be made on our website stjohns401.org. Follow the QR code and check out all the possibilities! This means no more buying checks and added security! >>>>>>



General Giving



Amazon List

<<<<<< We use an Amazon List to let people know what St. John's needs for our office and different ministries like the Paper Angel Closet and Community Meals. It is always changing. Check it out.



Tea & Coffee

St. John's also has two on-going fundraisers where you can order items and have them delivered right to your door with a portion of the proceeds supporting our ministries.



T-Shirts

Northern Illinois Hospice



Hospice is highly specialized care for patients – and their families – when the focus turns to comfort and quality of life rather than a cure. Services from Northern Illinois Hospice include expert medical care from doctors and nurses, as well as emotional and spiritual support for the entire family. The guideline for hospice is when doctors believe the patient has about six months or less to live if the illness runs its natural course. But predicting life expectancy is not an exact science. If you or your loved one are experiencing increased pain or other symptoms, more frequent trips to the ER or hospital, or growing needs just to get through each day, call us to see how we can help.

Doctors may say, “There is nothing more we can do” to treat for a cure. But there are still many things Northern Illinois Hospice can do to support the highest quality of life possible! Hospice doesn’t mean giving up – it means taking control to live the rest of your life on your terms.

A growing number of hospice providers are present in the Greater Rockford area. Each is a different organization with differences in their years of experience, services provided, policies for admitting patients, nonprofit versus for-profit status, as well as quality and family satisfaction scores. Northern Illinois Hospice is the region’s first hospice provider with more than 40 years’ experience. We’re also a nonprofit, mission-driven agency.

Information adapted from:

<https://northernillinoishospice.org/support-for-caregivers/faqs/>