

Second Mile Offering SecondFirst Overnight Café

ROCKFORD OVERNIGHT CAFE is in its 9th year!

The 2026 Season began January 4th.

Overnight Cafe is a seasonal shelter open during the coldest months of the year. It provides a warm, safe place for the unhoused in our community where they find welcome, a hot meal, and space to sleep out of the elements.

Volunteers welcome and register guests beginning at 6:00pm, and our overnight staff is on-site from 7:00pm to 7:00am.

The Cafe houses both men and women; up to 60 men in the SecondFirst gym, and up to 12 women at the Jubilee Center (413 North Court Street).

Members of the LGBTQIA+ community may stay in the location that matches their gender expression.

Doors open at 6:00pm and guests leave each morning by 7:00am.

Church office number: (815) 963-8431

How Can You Help?

It costs around \$6,000 to provide a week of shelter to our neighbors-most of which funds our overnight staff. Although we receive grant funding, your tax deductible **donations** are always welcome. Financial donations are the most effective way to support this important work.



February 22, 2026

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.

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



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.
- ✚ **Community Meal** every third Wednesday of the month from 5p-6pm.
- ✚ **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. No canned items or items in water until we are out of the freezing temperatures.
- ✚ **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.



St. John’s Calendar

Scripture

Romans 5: 12-19
Matthew 4: 1-11

Character Narrative

Sermon “Rooted Resistance”

Invitation to Generosity– Leader

Moment for Mission– Second First Overnight Cafe

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 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 nour
ishing both our faith community and our neigh
bors. May each gift of every size bloom with your
holy imagination. Amen**

Hymn #77– Lord Dismiss Us, With Your Blessing

Benediction

Go out into the world, living in the realm of God’s
holy imagination, where heaven and earth meet.
Amen.

Postlude

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 iden
tity, 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 cir
cumstances,**

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– Responsively

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 presence, you who live in this wide and wild world, navigating beauty and uncertainty, temptation and trial.

In Christ, we gather as children of God.

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– unison

God of the wildness, you claim us and embrace us in love: we are yours. When we face uncertainties and temptations that cause us to question your provision, doubt our belovedness, or exploit our faith for worldly gain, lead us back, again and again, to words of scripture, and to the living Word, Jesus Christ. May we hold fast in faith and serve you with our whole hearts, this day and always. Amen.

Hymn #211– Lord Jesus, Who Through Forty Days

Affirmation of Faith

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

All: We believe no wilderness is so dense that the Good Shepherd cannot find us.

We believe no ocean is so vast that we cannot be saved from its depths.

We believe no enemy is so strong that we cannot be rescued from its grasp.

We believe no shame is so great that our liberator cannot free us.

We believe no law is so rigid that it keeps us from grace.

We believe no person is so powerful that they can rob us of our dignity.

We believe no situation is so dire that we cannot find hope together, in community.

We believe we are wholly loved, worthy of care, and safe in the palm of God's hand.

Children's Time

Pastoral Prayer – The Lord's Prayer

Hymn #438– When Peace Like a River

Prayer of Confession- unison

Siblings in Christ, let us confess our sins to God, for God knows our weaknesses and choices, and yet imagines for us a life of wholeness and peace. Loving God, we confess that when the wildness feels too chaotic, and the earth beneath our feet seems to shift with change, we fall easily into despair.

We forget to hope. We neglect to dream. We imagine paths of doom instead of journeys to glory. We panic, even as your Spirit holds steady within and around us. Help us to trust, to hope, to dream, and to walk forward in faith. And when the fears set in, help us to find support in the strength of community. Amen.



[General Giving](#)

Assurance of Pardon

Beloved, God knows our anxiety, our aversion to discomfort, and our fears about the future. God equips us with hope to carry us through. Receive this free gift of grace and be at peace. 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.