

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

- ✚ **Fellowship Meal** today after worship. Come and share in food and conversation.
- ✚ **Chair and Mat Yoga** with Katherine Ray every Saturday in November. Chair yoga at 10 AM and mat yoga at 11:30 AM. No RSVP required, classes are \$5 a piece per person.
- ✚ **November 23rd Decorate for Advent** we are looking for a creative contact person to plan the decor and organize the volunteers after worship.
- ✚ **Coffee Hour** was hosted by Paul and Betsy Mollway today. Thank You! We will be gathering every first Sunday at 9:30am for this fellowship. You can sign up to host in the Narthex.
- ✚ **Community Meal** every third Wednesday of the month from 5p-6pm.
- ✚ **Blessing Box** non-perishable are welcome.
- ✚ **Share Table** please place perishable items here. We will be shutting it down this month in preparation for snow.
- ✚ **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.



Delicious Fundraiser



Amazon List



T-Shirts

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.



General Giving

Prayer of Dedication

God of Infinite Love,
 Through our gifts, we create glimmers here on this side of Heaven. Through our treasures, time, and talents, we nurture your Realm. We provide for our neighbors who lack basic necessities and who look for inclusion of their souls. May Heaven be a place that we can experience throughout our lives as we breathe the invigorating air of your Spirit. With gratitude, we celebrate our gifts from you and dedicate our gifts to bring peace to this earth. Amen.

Hymn #425 "For the Fruit of all Creation"**Benediction**

As we abide together on this side of Heaven,
 May the Christ of Hope lead us to righteousness and justice,
 May the Spirit of Strength fill our hearts with courage,
 May God, our Joyful Creator, graciously settle our hearts with peace.
 May we find ourselves on journeys seeking glimmers of paradise and the presence of the Divine among us. Amen.

God of the Living: Service Prayers for the Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost was written by Rev. Michelle L. Torigian, an ordained UCC minister in Belleville, Illinois.

Prelude**Announcements****Choral Introit "In my Life, Lord, be Glorified"**

In my life Lord, be glorified, be glorified.
 In my life Lord, be glorified today.

In my song Lord, be glorified, be glorified.
 In my song Lord, be glorified today

In Your church Lord, be glorified, be glorified
 In Your church Lord, be glorified today.

In my heart Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
 In my heart Lord, be glorified today.

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 (Inspired by Psalm 17)

Guard me as the apple of your eye, O God.

You wondrously show us your steadfast peace

Hide me in the shadow of your wings, Divine Spirit.

You wondrously show us your steadfast strength.

I behold your face in righteousness, Christ of Hope.

You wondrously show us your steadfast love.

Invocation

God of Love, Divine Traveler,

We see only a fraction of your presence, God. We know you only in part, as we experience this

world with our senses, our experiences, and what is tangibly in front of us. How does the sa-

credness of each earthly breath draw us closer to your presence on this side of Heaven? May we

grasp the beauty of this world, even on the

gloomy days. May we cherish our relationships here on earth even when times are challenging.

May we know that God is forever present with us

and will care for us as we arrive at our eternal

home on the other side of Heaven. Amen.

Hymn #565 "God, whose giving knows no Ending"
(Verses 1, 2, and 4)

Affirmation of Faith #886

Children's Time "Heaven on Earth"

Pastoral Prayer~ The Lord's Prayer

Hymn #448 "Take my Life, God, let it Be"

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

God of the Heavenly Winds and Earthy Air,

So often, we concern ourselves about the after-life. We wonder who will be there, what we need

to believe, and more. Yet, on this side of heaven,

in your earthly Realm, there are many still hurting from the pains accumulated in this life. From illnesses to poverty, and from the lack of kindness to the overwhelming injustices, we overlook the needs of our siblings. Open our hearts to the gaps happening in our world. Allow us to be more compassionate and less judgmental about our neighbors who need additional help. Help us to set aside our worries about the afterlife as we know you will care for us there and then. Amen.

Words of Grace

Even when we are overwhelmed by our thoughts of life after death, God shares hope. May God's grace transform us here in this world as we build the Realm of God here on earth. 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 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5,13-17

Sermon "Hold on to Faith"

Moment for Mission~ Remedies

Invitation to Generosity

We have our minds set to our time after this life. Yet God is calling us to care for our communities and churches here on this side of Heaven. May we name the ways we can create Heaven on earth for our neighbors. By using our talents, treasures, and time, may we seek to build safety and sanctuary for all of God's children.