

Worship with

St. John's

United Church of Christ



August 10th, 2026

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 Speaks Bold Font

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Celebration Potluck** After worship today! Join us to share in celebrating August birthday and anniversaries and any other prayers of praise happening around us.

- **MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 20TH!**

We will celebrate St. John's 125th Anniversary. The Rev. Terrill Murf our Conference Minister will be our guest preacher and there will be a meal to follow. Let Pastor Muriel know if you would like to join the planning taskforce.

- **Coffee Hour** September 6th at 9:30 am.

- **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.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT "IN CHRIST ALONE" (Verse 1)

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
this cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stifled, when strivings cease.
My comforter, my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.

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 (inspired by Psalm 105)

O give thanks to the Holy One; call on God's name

Make known God's deeds among the peoples.

Sing of the Holy One's abiding love, grace, compassion, and justice

Rejoice in the God's redemptive power

Seek the Holy One's presence, strength, and wisdom

Remember God's wondrous works. Praise the Holy One!

Invocation

Loving and Wonderful God, you make a home for us. You provide us shelter and sanctuary. You embrace us and uphold us. You come to us and go before us. We come to you now. We search for your presence in this world, in this community, and in this gathering. Let us connect with you and be reminded of the path of full and flourishing life you offer. Let us connect with one another and be reminded that your kingdom comes in us and through us for your glory. Amen.

HYMN #12 "I SING THE MIGHTY POWER OF GOD"

Affirmation of Faith #886

CHILDREN'S TIME

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN #441 "JESUS, SAVIOR PILOT ME"

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Gracious and eternal God, we, like Jacob, struggle when confronted with hard things. We use avoidance to shield us from acknowledging and correcting the wrongs we have done and continue to perpetuate. We, like Joseph, fail to consider the impact we have on others and how we

contribute to making life better or worse for those around us. We, like those jealous siblings, attempt to find our own way and create our own schemes rather than trusting in your love that knows no favorites and embraces us all. Help us to shift our attitude and behaviors toward accountability, reconciliation, and love. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Words of Grace

Inheritors of the kingdom, rest assured that the Holy One's love knows no bounds. Rest assured that God will companion with you when the struggles life presents overwhelm you. We are all capable of confronting hard things and doing the hard work of restoration through recognition, repair, and reconciliation. God is with us on the journey...helping us to carry the burdens and reducing the load. Be made new in Christ Jesus.

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 Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

SERMON *"Lived as an Alien"*

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 of Dedication and Thanksgiving

**Giver of perfect gifts, refine these offerings and our
hearts so that they may bear fruit. Bless each of us with
the joy of gift giving and help us to know the good that
our generosity lends to the world in your Holy and
Precious Name. Amen.**

HYMN #49 “ASK ME WHAT GREAT THINGS I KNOW”

Benediction

*Lived as an Alien: Service Prayers for the Eleventh Sunday after
Pentecost Year A was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay,
Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.*

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

When All Seems Lost**Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28**

Joseph was a dreamer. He was also the child his father loved the most, which didn't sit well with his brothers. So much so, they plotted to kill their younger sibling. But not wanting Joseph's blood on their hands, they threw him in a pit instead. When the pit didn't ease their guilty conscience, they then sold the boy for 20 pieces of silver to a group of Ishmaelites on their way to Egypt.

Yes, Joseph was a dreamer. And yes, he was the family's golden child. But I believe what really spurred the brothers' hatred was that Joseph **dared** to dream.

"Here comes the dreamer," his brothers would say with a biting sarcasm when Joseph approached. Here comes the one with lofty ideas, with bold plans, with a vision that quite honestly isn't enviable but downright frightening because it holds a mirror to our inability to embrace a new way of living.

And that's the thing about dreams. They have the power to unsettle others. A reason why many life coaches advise against sharing too freely our most treasured dreams with everyone, because not everyone will understand and be supportive. Many a dream has been squashed by a naysayer who thought they were listing all the cons out of love and concern for the dreamer.

What a shame it is that in our lives we give too much power to the opinions of others, especially when it comes to our dreams, for those dreams just might be from God who, in the Bible, communicated often in our nocturnal slumbering.

And when a dream is a God dream, they are never then the sole property of the dreamer. They are for the making of a better world, which comes at the price of the old world having to come to an end or at least make some big changes. Thus, why people often seek to kill dreams.

Yes, here comes the dreamer. No, I am not referring to Joseph, but to you, for we all have dreams. Some so big they might seem impossible, but they are not. Some within reach, ready to be grabbed hold of. And all with the ability to change life as we know it.

As Harriet Tubman once said, "Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience and the passion to reach for the stars and to change the world."

If all seems lost right now for you, my dear dreamer, it is not. Keep reaching. Keep believing. God is with you.

Inspiring God, may today we find ourselves daring to dream once again.

May we find the strength to take those forgotten dreams off the dusty shelves of our hearts. May we believe beyond belief, that with You, all things are indeed possible. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's *Sunday Bulletin*.)