

**Christ Is Alive!**  
**(Tune: Lift Up Your Heads, You Might Gates)**

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. His cross stands empty  
to the sky.

Let streets and homes with praises ring. His love in death  
shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Pales-  
tine, he comes to claim the here and now and dwell in every  
place and time.

Not throned afar, remotely high, untouched, unmoved by  
human pains, but daily, in the midst of life, our Savior in the  
Godhead reigns.

In every insult, rift, and war, where color, scorn or wealth  
divide, he suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives though  
ever crucified.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and  
every age, till earth and all creation ring with joy, justice,  
love and praise.

*Welcome to  
Worship*

June 28, 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 so kids and parents

## *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. July meal is barbecue sandwiches, chips, fruit, dessert, and beverages.
- ✚ **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. If you see non-perishable items on the Share Table, please feel free to locate them to the Blessing Box.
- ✚ **Paper Angel Closet** needs Kleenex and dish soap.
- ✚ **Menards Ministry:** If you have unused Menards rebates, or even receipts. We use these rebates for projects around the church.



St. John's Calendar

## Sermon "From Slavery to Freedom, From Welcome to Belonging"

### Invitation to Generosity

### Moment for Mission– Strengthen the Church

### 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

God of abundance, receive these gifts as seeds  
of holy resistance. Let them grow into shelter for  
those who have been cast out. Let them grow in  
to courage for churches learning to speak. Let  
them grow into care for LGBTQ people who need  
more than words.

Let them grow into justice, joy, safety, and be  
loved community. Bless what we give. Bless  
what we hold. Bless what we build together.  
Please root our generosity in love, justice, and  
affirmation, so that your people may flourish.  
Amen.

### Hymn "Christ is Alive!"

*Back cover*

### Benediction

### Postlude

Worship Resources adapted from: <https://www.ucc.org/5-ways-churches-can-celebrate-pride-month-resources-to-worship-witness-love-loudly/>

## Prelude

## Announcements

### Choral Introit– "Lord I Offer My Life to You"

Lord, I offer my life to You,  
Everything I've been through,  
use it for your glory;  
Lord, I offer my days to You,  
lifting my praise to You as a pleasing sacrifice.  
Lord I offer You my life.

### 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

Beloved, some of us came here tired, or carrying  
grief.

#### **But we are still here.**

Some of us came with joy in our bones and rainbows

in our spirit.

**And we are still here.**

In a world that tries to erase queer stories,

**We shall not be moved.**

In a time when trans and nonbinary lives are targeted,

**We shall not be moved.**

When fear tells us to be silent,

**We shall not be moved.**

When shame tries to pull us from the truth of who God made us to be,

**We shall not be moved.**

We are rooted in love.

**We are rooted in justice.**

We are rooted in affirmation.

**We are rooted in God.**

Like trees planted by living water,

**We shall not be moved.**

Come, let us worship the God who sees the vulnerable, strengthens the weary, and calls the church into holy courage.

**Rooted in love, justice, and affirmation, we worship with joy. We worship with courage. We worship together.**

**Hymn #448 "Take My Life, God, Let It Be"**

**A New Creed #887**

**Young and Young at Heart Time**

**Pastoral Prayer – The Lord's Prayer**

**Hymn #498 "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love"**

**Prayer For Transformation and New Life**

God of love and justice,

**We confess that we have not always loved as you call us to love.**

**We confess the harm done in your name, especially to LGBTQ+ people:**

**the exclusion, shame, silence, and fear that have wounded your beloved children.**

**We confess, too, the ways we all fall short: choosing comfort over courage, silence over justice, and fear over love.**

**Forgive us.**

**Transform us.**

**Root us again in love, justice, and affirmation.**

**Make us a church where all people are safe, celebrated, and truly belong.**

**In the name of Jesus, who welcomed all with courageous love, we pray. Amen.**

*A time of silence for personal confession*

**Words of Grace– Leader**

Beloved, hear this good news: God does not abandon us to shame. God does not leave us in the wilderness. God does not ask us to sacrifice our beloved-ness in order to be faithful. In Christ, the old powers do not get the final word. Fear does not get the final word. Exclusion does not get the final word. Bad theology that rejects does not get the final word. God's grace is still rising. God's Spirit is still making the church new. So stand tall, beloved. Breathe deep. You are forgiven. You are beloved. You are free. Thanks be to God.

**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 6: 12-23

Matthew 10: 40-42