



General Giving

**St.
John's
United
Church
of Christ**



Delicious

401 N. Main St.
P. O. Box 794
Belvidere, IL
61008



Amazon List

**Blessing
of the
Animals**

**April 7,
2024**



T-Shirts

**Worship
10:30 A.M.**

St. John's United Church of Christ

WELCOME VISITORS! Thank you for coming! Please sign a pew card to place in the offering plate.

Office Hours: Tues – Thurs, 9am-Noon stjohs401.org
 (815)544-3773 stjohsucc401@gmail.com

Pastor: Rev. Muriel Morley Jahn 815-544-2977
 murielmorley@gmail.com
Pastoral Associate: Beth Carson 815-544-6834
Minister of Music: Mary Albrecht 815-547-7503
Choir Director: Jeanne Anderson 815-985-2652

Nursery: The nursery is open! Please check downstairs and meet with the nursery attendant before leaving your child.

Please Note: St. John's Council Meeting April 11th at 6pm.

You Are Not Alone

The following support groups meet regularly at St. John's

- AL-ANON Thursdays at 7pm on Zoom **Meeting ID:** 3983002123 **Passcode:** 102964
- The Belvidere Group (AA) meets at everyday at Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 1pm & everyday at 7pm. Women's Group meets Mondays 5:30pm
- T.O.P.S. Mondays 11am

Community Ministries

Community Meal: Every 3rd Wednesday from 5p-6p!

Blessing Box: Outside by the Main Street entrance open to all who are hungry 24/7.

Paper Angel Closet: Provides supplies to households in need.

Every 3rd Sunday, St. John's Leads services at **Heritage Woods** at 1 pm. Join after their service for time to talk to socialize with their residents and meet some great people.

Fellowship Meal every second Sunday after worship! April 14th and Special Mother's day Fellowship Meal May 12th.

Fellowship Circle every second Thursday at 1pm. Next gatherings April 11th and May 9th.

Special Events on Page 7

Mark Your Calendar

- ✚ **April 14th** St. John's has the great honor of welcoming **musician, Jim Hendricks** as our worship leader and special speaker. **Fellowship Meal to follow worship.**

Pianist Jim performed has performed with such legends as Dave Brubeck (piano duets), Della Reese, Rita Moreno, The Glenn Miller Orchestra, Tito Puente, Maynard Ferguson, Jack Jones, Louie Bellson, Clark Terry, John Davidson, and many others. Jim has been a featured orchestral soloist performing the piano music of Rachmaninoff, and was granted a music professorship by the age of twenty-five. Hendricks is currently the head of the Piano Division in the Music Department of Chicago State University, and he has performed approximately 1,400 solo piano concerts across the world since 1994.



- ✚ **April 20th** Set aside the day for some family fun during the **Prairie Association Meeting** at Pilgrim Park in Princeton, IL!
- ✚ **April 21st Coffee Hour at 9am** to greet our guest preacher during worship at St. John's will be a Seminary friend of Pastor Muriel and Mike, **Rev. Phiwa Langeni.**



As a queer, Black, trans person from an immigrant family, the Rev. Phiwa Langeni is quite skilled at detecting and decreasing various societal gaps, especially with/for those with multiple minoritized identities. Since ordination in 2011, Phiwa has served in just about every local church setting possible: a thriving progressive church, multi-charge rural churches, a large suburban church, small churches deeply rooted in political and social justice, a new church start/nonprofit hybrid. They currently serve as the Ambassador for Innovation and Engagement in the Center for Analytics, Research & Development, and Data of the United Church of Christ. Phiwa is the solo parent of an adult daughter who challenges them in brilliance and beauty. In their free time, Phiwa enjoys reading, upcycling, 90s R&B, dad jokes, and creating all manner of things.

- ✚ **Rummage Sale May 10th 9am-3pm and May 11th 9am-12pm.** Donation can be brought and put into the Workroom off the kitchen.



**Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.
Amen.**

Scripture Job 12:7-10

Sermon "Who is helping Who?"

Moment for Mission Boone County Habitat for Humanity

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 Thanksgiving

Hymn #237 "In the Garden"

Benediction

May God, who created the animals of this earth,
continue to protect and sustain us all,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

Postlude

Copyright: "A Service for the Blessing of Animals" Copyright © 1992 UMPH.

Prelude

Announcements

Choral Introit "Shout to the Lord" (Refrain)

**Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing
Power and majesty, praise to the King;
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands,
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand;
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.**

Gathering (Leader Speaks Plain Font, All Speak Bold Font)

The animals of God's creation inhabit the skies, the earth, and the sea.
They share in the fortunes of human existence
and have a part in human life.

God, who confers gifts on all living things,
has often used the service of animals
or made them reminders of the gifts of salvation.

Animals were saved from the flood
and afterwards made a part of the covenant with Noah.

(Genesis 9:9-10)

**The paschal lamb recalls the Passover sacrifice
and the deliverance from slavery in Egypt.**

(Exodus 12:3-14)

A giant fish saved Jonah;

(Jonah 2:1-10)

ravens brought bread to Elijah;

(1 Kings 17:6)

animals were included in the repentance of Nineveh;

(Jonah 3:7)

and animals share in Christ's redemption of all God's creation.

We, therefore, invoke God's blessing on these animals.

As we do so, let us praise the Creator

and thank God for setting us as stewards

over all the creatures of the earth.

Responsive Welcome Statement (Leader Speaks Plain Font, All Speak Bold Font)

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!

Prayer

God created us and placed us on the earth

to be stewards of all living things,

therefore let us proclaim the glory of our Creator, saying:

O God, how wonderful are the works of your hands.

Blessed are you, O Lord of the Universe; you create the animals

and give us the ability to train them to help us in our work.

O God, how wonderful are the works of your hands.

Blessed are you, O Lord of the Universe;

you give us food from animals to replenish our energies.

O God, how wonderful are the works of your hands.

Blessed are you, O Lord of the Universe; for the sake of our comfort

you give us domestic animals as companions.

O God, how wonderful are the works of your hands.

Blessed are you, O Lord of the Universe; you care for us

even as you care for the birds of the air.

O God, how wonderful are the works of your hands.

Blessed are you, O Lord of the Universe;

you offered your Son to us as the passover lamb

and in him willed that we should be called your children.

O God, how wonderful are the works of your hands.

Hymn "O God, Your Creatures fill the Earth" (Verses 1,2,4)

("I Sing the Mighty Power of God"; "Hail To the Lord's Anointed")

O God, your creatures fill the earth with wonder and delight,

And every living thing has worth and beauty in your sight.

So playful dolphins dance and swim; Your sheep bow down and graze.

Your songbirds share a morning hymn To offer you their praise.

You made the pets we welcome in — They're wondrous blessings, too.

With paws and whiskers, wings and fins, They offer praise to you.

O Lord, you call us to embrace These creatures in our care.

May we show kindness, love and grace To all pets everywhere.

Your creatures live in every land; They fill the sky and sea. O Lord, you give us your command To love them tenderly. We're called to have dominion here — To care for them always. By loving creatures you hold dear, We offer you our praise.

Childrens Time "All of Creation"

Prayer of Blessing

Bless, O Lord, this (these) creature(s),

and fill our hearts with thanksgiving for its (their) being.

Pastoral Prayer – The Lord's Prayer

Hymn #238 "Now the Green Blade Rises"

UCC Statement of Faith #885

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.