



General Giving

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



**Fundraiser**

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



Amazon List

**Easter**

**March 24,  
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.

*Thank you to our singers & our instrumentalists  
for adding extra joy to our service today!*

## Easter Flowers

Beth Carson  
Judy Greef  
Gary and Barb Reding

To the Glory of God  
In Memory of Steve Greef  
In Memory of Jennifer Bader  
Dean & Phyllis Reding  
Jim & Pauline Zap

Fred and Bonnie Stevens

In Memory of Steve Greef  
Fred and Virginia Stevens II

Greg & Angie McKee-Umhoefer  
Carol and Alex Von Bosse

To the Glory of God  
In honor of our children and grandchildren



**Ma & Paw's Pet Treat Fundraiser**  
*All natural, professionally baked treats*

**Cheddar Cheese & Bacon**  
Ingredients: Barley flour, palm oil, honey, rolled oats, cheddar cheese, flax, coconut oil, natural bacon flavor.

**Peanut Butter**  
Ingredients: Garbanzo bean flour, potato flour, tapioca starch, flaxseed, peanut butter, quinoa, canola oil, whole dried eggs.

**Duck**  
Ingredients: Duck, pea flour, pea protein, chickpea, coconut glycerin, potato flour, flaxseed, cane molasses, salt, lactic acid, natural smoke flavor, mixed tocopherols

**Pumpkin**  
Ingredients: Barley flour, palm oil, honey, rolled oats, pumpkin, oat flour, flax, coconut oil, chia seeds, cinnamon, ginger, allspice and cloves.

**Kitty Kasserole**  
Ingredients (star shape): Chicken, brown rice, pea flour, sweet potato, brewers yeast, pea protein, coconut oil, alfalfa powder, eggshell calcium, sorbic acid, poultry fat  
(fish shape): Whitefish, brown rice, pea flour, sweet potato, brewer's yeast, pea protein, coconut oil, alfalfa powder, eggshell calcium, sorbic acid, poultry fat

**Made in the USA!**

### Ma and Paws Pet Treats Fundraiser

We are selling Ma and Paw's Pet Treats from now until Easter!  
Put in an order today or take an order form with you and sell to your family and friends!  
Place all orders or order forms in Pastor Muriel's mail slot.

### Giving Bean Fundraiser

Giving Bean is a coffee and Tea online shop who gives a portion of sales to St. John's when you order through this QR code.



## Mark Your Calendar

- ✚ **April 7th** All feathers, fur and scales are welcome to worship for St. John's **Pet Blessing!** Come support Mike Coons as our guest preacher.
- ✚ **April 14th** St. John's has the great honor of welcoming **musician, Jim Hendricks** as our worship leader and special speaker.
- ✚ **April 20th** Set aside the day for some family fun during the **Prairie Association Meeting** at Pilgrim Park in Princeton, IL! We will gather in the morning for worship and then break out into workshops and play shop for all ages. The registration will be around \$35 for adults which includes Lunch. One of the workshop leaders and special speakers will be Rev. Phiwa Langeni a close seminary friend of Rev. Muriel, who now works of the national UCC as Ambassador For Innovation &Engagement.
- ✚ **April 21st** **Rev. Phiwa Langeni** will be St. John's guest preacher during worship.
- ✚ **Meals on Wheels** volunteer opportunities, April 1st-5th and May 20th-24th contact Beth Carson
- ✚ **Fellowship Meal** April 14th & May 12th after services. Bring a dish and join in the fellowship
- ✚ **May 10th and 11th Rummage Sale!** Donation Items can be brought and put in the Work Room off the Kitchen beginning April 1st. Please do not put cloth items in the garage.

## 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.

## Processional Hymn #233 "Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

### 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!**

### Call to Worship (Leader Speaks Plain Font, All Speak Bold Font)

We gather in the presence of God's love to celebrate the best love story ever told.

**The Holy Story of the Risen Christ!**

A story of the Risen Christ who came as a sacrificial lamb to heal a hurting world.

**The Divine sign of God's love and grace.**

The story of three women who rose early to care for Jesus' body in the tomb.

**An act to honor God's loving presence sent to be among us.**

These women arrived and saw an empty tomb; they were shocked and afraid.

**They remembered the symbol of human shame of the old rugged cross.**

But the story did not end with the crucified Jesus. An Angel of God appeared in the empty tomb, and their terror transformed into amazement.

**God's love had once again been revealed.**

The journey of the three women continued; they were asked to go out and spread the Good News of God's love, peace, and justice found in the Risen Christ!

**Today, we receive this Good News; Christ is Risen. He is Risen as He said!**

### Invocation

Resurrecting God, Strengthen in us the will to go out, sharing your Good News of God's redeeming love. Guide us in telling the story of your endless love through our words and deeds. Remind us of your presence. Fill our hearts with your ways of love that bring about peace and justice for all. With your loving embrace, protect us in the face of terror and hateful actions. Bring us your hope found in the excitement of eternal life and saving love exemplified in Jesus, the Risen Christ! Amen.

### Childrens Time

### "Who Told?"

**Pastoral Prayer – The Lord's Prayer****Hymn "Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds" (Verses 1-3)**

Now all the vault of heaven resounds, in praise of love that still abounds:  
 "Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
 Sing, choirs of angels, loud and clear! Repeat their song of glory here:  
 "Christ has triumphed! He is living!" Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Eternal is the gift he brings, therefore our heart with rapture sings:  
 "Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
 Now still he comes to give us life and by his presence stills all strife.  
 "Christ has triumphed! He is living!" Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Oh, fill us, Lord, with dauntless love; set heart and mind on things above  
 that we conquer through your triumph;  
 grant grace sufficient for life's day that by our lives we truly say:  
 Christ has triumphed! He is living! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

Redeeming God, We recognize that your love for all creation is great and unmovable. All that we need on earth has been provided, and yet we struggle to share a portion of our blessings so that all might have enough. You have created an earth vast with land and sea. And yet, we embrace a narrative of scarcity. Believing that somehow there is not enough for everyone to be cared for. But the data proves otherwise. We know there is an overwhelming abundance of resources on the earth you created. Help us to choose a narrative of abundance over scarcity. Give us the strength to help make this world a better place by embracing your agape love of equality for all creation. Let your ancient story of love be our new, innovative, and transformative story of love. The kind of love that transforms hearts, O God, and leads us towards this new way of living. May this new life speak to the kind of prosperity that overflows with your love of peace and justice for all people, everywhere!

**Words of Grace**

God of Grace and Glory, We are humbled by your faithfulness and love. Even if our fears spark terror and doubt, you never leave us. There is no other love greater than yours. You call upon all of creation to spread the Good News of your love and glorious light. Reminding us that your love is sweeter than the honey in the honeycomb. Comforting us even in the bitterness of life as we embrace the loving assurance of forgiveness found in Jesus Christ, whose grace and mercy bless us still.

**Gloria Patri**

**Scripture** Psalm 118:1-2,14-24

**Sermon** "Why Are You Weeping?"

**Service of Communion**

**Moment for Mission** Pastor's Discretionary Fund

**Announcements****Invitation to Generosity**

Loving God, the abundance of your generosity is exemplified in the dawning of the sun.

**Thank you for the joy and hope of new mercies found in the morning sun.**  
 Even in moments when we are showered by the rain, remind us that your love never fails.

**Rain down your abundant love and redeeming grace upon us.**

Let us give our offerings with generosity and joy to the One who has faithfully and generously given to us love, grace, and mercy.

**Musical Offering****Doxology****Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Let us remember that weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes early in the morning. May these gifts of blessing be a sign of the love, light, and glory of our redeeming God who has created a world of abundance with all that we need. May we remain thankful for your generosity, O God, as we dedicate these offerings to you and your beloved creation.

**Hymn #301 "Crown with Your Richest Crowns" (Verses 1-3)**

**Benediction****Postlude**

***Terror and Amazement: Service Prayers for Resurrection Sunday Year B** was written by The Rev. Dr. Sheila Harvey, Pastor of Union Congregational United Church of Christ.*