



General Giving



Delicious



Amazon List



T-Shirts

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

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

**February  
4, 2024**

**Christian  
Education**

**9:00 A.M.**

**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 [stjohns401.org](http://stjohns401.org)  
(815)544-3773 [stjohnsucc401@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsucc401@gmail.com)

**Pastor:** Rev. Muriel Morley Jahn 815-544-2977  
[murielmorley@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**Today, we thank our guest preacher, the Rev. Kathy Lawes!**

**Sunday, February 11th is Scout Sunday, followed by our annual Soup-or-Bowl! Create your tastiest soups, stews or chilis and we will all reap the benefits! Can you beat our reigning champion, Atchara Scott? We hope you take part in this fun fellowship!**

## *You Are Not Alone*

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

- AL-ANON Thursdays at 7pm. at church & on Zoom **Meeting ID:** 3983002123  
**Passcode:** 102964
- Anxiety Support Group Tuesdays at church & on Zoom at 6pm. **Meeting ID:** 862 9227 0691 **Passcode:** 915601
- Open & Affirming Meet Up LGBTQIA+ & Allies welcome! To help plan the next meet up, speak to Pastor Muriel.
- The Belvidere Group (AA) meets at everyday at 1pm & 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.

**Hymn #349** "I Come with Joy" (continued)

**3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud division ends.  
The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends,  
And strangers now are friends.**

**4 And thus we meet, and better know the Presence, ever near,  
And join our hearts and sing with joy that Christ is risen here,  
That Christ is risen here.**

**5 Together met, together bound, in friendship we will stay,  
And go with joy to love the world and live the way we pray,  
And live the way we pray.**

**Benediction**

May God lift up your spirit, bind up your soul, and renew your strength. Go with hope in the steadfast love of God. Amen.

**Postlude**

*"Service Prayers for the Fifth Sunday after Epiphany Year B" was written by The Rev. Stephanie Perdew, PhD, Director, The Damascus Project, Shared Theological Education Ministry of the Wisconsin & Minnesota Conferences of the United Church of Christ and made available through Worship Ways on the UCC website: ucc.org  
This resource is made possible by your generous support of Our Church's Wider Mission.  
Thank you!*

**Prelude****Announcements****Choral Introit #283 "Spirit of the Living God"**

**1 Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

**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** (based on 147: 1-11, 20c and Isaiah 40: 21-31)

To whom can we compare you, O Holy One?

**We lift up our eyes,**

We wait upon the Eternal our God.

**How good it is to sing praises to our God.**

A song of praise is fitting!

**Let us worship God together.****Invocation**

**Everlasting God, Creator of the ends of the earth, you who spread the heavens like a curtain, and make us a tent to live in: gather us in the shelter of your love, and renew our strength, that with wings as eagles we might not grow weary as we walk with you. We pray in the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Hymn #22****"Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped"**

**1 Sing praise to God, who has shaped and sustains all creation!  
Sing praise, my soul, in profound and complete adoration!  
Gladsome rejoice—organ and trumpet and voice—  
Joining God's great congregation.**

**2 Praise God, our guardian, who lovingly offers correction,  
Who, as on eagle's wings, saves us from sinful dejection.  
Have you observed, how we are always preserved  
By God's parental affection?**

**3. Sing praise, my soul, the great name of your high God commending.  
All that have life and breath join you, their notes sweetly blending.  
God is your light! Soul, ever keep this in sight:  
Amen, amen never ending.**

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

#### **Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

God invites us to come to worship as our whole selves: God offers us a new beginning day by day and week by week. Trusting in God, we pray for transformation and new life:

**Holy One, we trust in your steadfast love, bringing our broken hearts and our wounded spirits. Make us aware of the hearts we break, the spirits we wound, of those we treat as outcasts, of those we tread down. Renew us in your grace, we pray, renew us in your strength. Amen.**

#### **Words of Grace**

#### **Hymn #400 "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"**

**1 Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone,  
chosen of our God and precious, binding all the Church in one;  
Holy Zion's help forever, and our confidence alone.**

**2 To this temple where we call you, come, O God of Hosts, today!  
With your constant, loving kindness hear your people as they pray.  
Give your fullest benediction: grace to follow Christ the Way.**

**3 Here renew your servants' vision, that by faith they may attain  
Peace and hope, renewed compassion, strength to comfort those in pain,  
Tears and grief transformed to gladness in your everlasting reign.**

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

**Scripture Isaiah 40: 21-31  
Mark 1: 29-39**

**Sermon "Sorting It Out"**

**Moment for Mission**

**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.**

**Offertory Prayer**

**Holy One, we bring our gifts and pray that they may be for the building up and lifting up of your people, for the binding of wounds and the healing of hearts, for shelter and for covering and clothing for those in need. With these gifts we offer our songs of praise as we trust in your steadfast love. Amen.**

**Hymn #349 "I Come with Joy"**

**1 I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free  
The life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me,  
In love laid down for me.**

**2 I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,  
The new community of love in Christ's communion bread,  
In Christ's communion bread.**

**Celebration of Holy Communion**

**Invitation**

**Blessing of the Elements**

**Receiving the Bread and Cup**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**