



General Giving



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

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

**January  
21, 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, welcome Dan Holmes as our guest musician and speaker.  
Next Sunday, Fred Stevens will fill the pulpit while Pastor Muriel is on vacation January 23-28.

## 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! 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.

## Morning Has Broken

BUNESSAN 5.5.5.4.D.

Gaelic Melody

Harm. by David Evans, 1927

Eleanor Farjeon, 1931

Unison

1. Morn - ing has bro - ken Like the first morn - ing, Black-bird has  
2. Sweet the rain's new fall Sun - lit from heav - en, Like the first  
3. Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing Born of the

spo - ken Like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing!  
dew - fall On the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness  
one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion,

Praise for the morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing Fresh from the Word!  
Of the wet gar - den, Sprung in com - plete - ness Where his feet pass.  
Praise ev - ery morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion Of the new - day!

CCLI License No. 2759755)

**Hymn "Shine On" written by Dan Holmes**

**Benediction**

May the grace of God, the hope of God, and the communion of God rest and abide in you and shine through you as you arise in the world Amen.

**Postlude**

*The Waiting: Service Prayers for the Third Sunday after Epiphany* was written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ.

**Prelude**

**Announcements**

**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 (Inspired by Psalm 62)**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our Mighty Rock. We will not be shaken.**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our hope. We place our trust in you.**

One: Everlasting God, our souls wait for you.

**Many: You are our refuge. We rest in your abiding love.**

**Invocation**

**God of Many Seasons, we enter into your presence with joy and thanksgiving. We acknowledge all the ways that you meet us as we gather in your name. May our songs and prayers be a sweet sound in your ears. May we demonstrate our trust in you through both praise and lament. May our hearts yearn, our spirits stir, and our souls wait in holy hope and expectation. Amen.**

**Hymn "Morning Has Broken" Page 7****Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

Holy One, we can be so impatient. We have become used to instant gratification and have forgotten the holiness of the waiting. Help us to rest in your timing. Encourage us to persevere through struggles and storms. Reveal the unfolding of your kingdom before our eyes and empower us to be agents of transformation in the world as you infuse us with new life. Amen.

**Words of Grace**

Beloved, while we wait, we have grace to love fully, pursue liberty, and seek a just world. The Holy One has given us the blueprint and invitation to the path of new life. Follow Jesus with grace and in truth.

**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.

**NCH # 885 UCC Statement of Faith**

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:  
You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.  
You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.  
You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.  
In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.  
You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.  
You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in

Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

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

**Children's Time****Pastoral Prayer – The Lord's Prayer****Scripture—Psalm 150****Musical Message with Dan Holmes****Moment for Mission****Invitation to Generosity**

Our communities and world rely upon the generosity of those who have received the Creator's abundance. Let us offer our gifts in the knowledge that some wait on us to act, to share, and to give.

**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**

Eternal God, magnify these gifts that we return in gratitude and for your glory. Amen.