St. John's

United Church of Christ

November 8th, 2026



St. John's United Church of Christ

P.O. Box 794, 401 N Main Street, Belvidere, IL 61008
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Pastor:	**Rev. Muriel Morley Jahn**	**815-544-2977**
	murielmorley@gmail.com	
Pastoral Associate:	**Beth Carson**	**815-979-0473**
Minister of Music:	**Mary Albrecht**	**224-234-7749**
Choir Director:	**Jeanne Anderson**	**815-985-2652**
Nursery Attendant:	**Hanna Jarvis**	**815-914-4718**

Notes About Worship

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

WHAT DO I WEAR? PJs or prom dress, come as you are.

WHAT'S MY LINE? During worship, Leaders speak Plain Font**, YOU & everyone else speaks Bold Font**

WHEN DO I STAND/ WHAT IF I CAN'T STAND? Certain postures help our voices carry, for some that is standing. We welcome all bodies in whatever ability you have. When you see the congregation stand you are invited to check in with your body and decide what posture would allow you to best be in the moment. To know when you might want to change posture, look for the (*) beside the titles or listen for an invitation by the speaker.

WHAT ABOUT THE KIDS? Children are welcome in all aspects of worship. There are **activity bags** in the Narthex as you come into the sanctuary and **soft toys** in the back of the sanctuary for anyone needing to calm busy bodies. The **nursery** provides an alternative space so kids and parents can both get what they need from worship. Children are encouraged to check in with their adult before going downstairs with the nursery attendant.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Celebration Potluck today after worship!** Let's celebrate all our November Birthdays, Anniversaries and other Mile Markers!
- **Fellowship Circle** All ladies are invited to join in fellowship and a treat on Thursday, November 12th at 11:30 in the Conference room.
- **Council Meeting** Thursday, November 12th at 6pm. All items to come before council must be given to Church Clerck, Ben Stucky (bwstucky@gmail.com) at least 24 hours ahead of time. Written reports are also highly encouraged ahead of time.
- **Clothing and Cookie Swap** hosted by True Colors Community Alliance on November 21st 4pm-7pm in Fellowship Hall.
- **Gratitude Sunday** November 22nd. Please fill out a the gratitude form on the back of your bulletin and place it in the Suggestion Box next to the church office.
- **Advent Begins** November 29th. There are at home devotionals and family practices to go with this year's worships and opportunities to help lead worship. Tell Pastor Muriel if you would like to participate.
- **The Belvidere Group (AA)** meets every day at 7:00 pm
- **NA Not Alone Group** Everyday at 5:30pm.

***CHORAL INTROIT "LIKE A HEALING STREAM"**

Like a healing stream in a barren desert,
Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth,
God is trickling through our lives as in a dream unfolding,
Promising revival and rebirth – like a healing stream.

Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons,
Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,
God is working in our hearts to shape a new tomorrow:
God will always challenge and provide! Like a mighty sea.

***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 broken hearted.

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 78)

Set your hope in God, who is worthy of our trust.

We remember the glorious deeds of the Holy One.

Set your hope in God, who orders our days and redeems our lives.

We rejoice in the wonders the Holy One has done.

Set your hope in God, who leads us.

We recommit to the ways of the Holy One. Our hope is in God!

***INVOCATION**

Holy One, we come before you with praise and thanksgiving. We invite you to inhabit our praise as we honor your precious name. Bind us together and refresh

us as a community with justice and righteousness overflowing like a stream. Open our minds and hearts to be receptive to your still speaking voice. Make yourself known among us. You are our God, and we are your people. Amen.

***HYMN #312 "WE LOVE YOUR REALM, O GOD"**
(Verse 1-4)

YOUNG & YOUNG AT HEART "Water of Life"

BAPTISM OF CYRUS EVANS

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

***HYMN #313 "LIKE A TREE"**
Verses 1-2 Tune: "COME, O FOUNT"

*** PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE**

Wise and just God, we do not want to come before you with empty words and meaningless acts. We know that your love has the power to transform us with compassion. We declare that your truth can liberate us and renew us as liberators in the world. In the midst of a world too often guided by the pursuit of power, privilege, and prestige, soften our hearts. Help us reject the othering of our neighbors and your beloved. Help us reflect your goodness and good news through our lives, in word and deed. Amen.

***MOMENT OF SILENCE**

***WORDS OF GRACE**

Beloved, when we turn toward the Holy One, we find the Holy One has turned toward us. The God of compassion and grace will meet you in your hopes for a new life, will bring strength and power in your struggle, and will release you

from actions and attitudes of the past. Receive God's forgiveness and invitation to embrace a new way going forward.

***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 Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

SERMON *"We Will Serve"*

MOMENT FOR MISSION – *Remedies Renewing Lives*

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

***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 AND THANKSGIVING**

Loving God, accept our offerings as a testament to our love, faith, and hope. Magnify them for your glory and to meet the needs of the community. Expand our reach and glorify your name through our giving, O God. Amen.

***HYMN "WILL YOU COME AND FOLLOW ME?"**

"Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"

"Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?

Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?"

"Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found—to reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go—where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

BENEDICTION

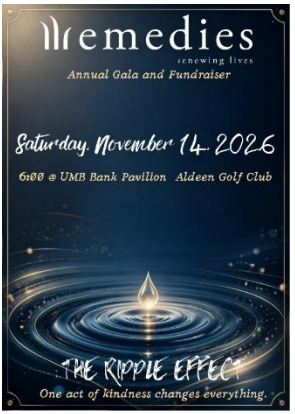
We Will Serve: Service Prayers for the Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost Year A *was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ.*

How to use a QR code: open the camera on your cellphone. ***Pretend*** you are going to take a picture of one of the 4 boxes on this page. The camera will focus on the box. Words will appear on the bottom of the screen. Tap on the words.

Fee Free digital donations can now be made on our website stjohns401.org. Follow the QR code and check out all the possibilities! This means no more buying checks and added security! >>>>>>>

<<<<<<We use an Amazon List to let people know what St. John's needs for our office and different ministries like the Paper Angel Closet and Community Meals. It is always changing. Check it out.

St. John's also has two on-going fundraisers where you can order items and have them delivered right to your door with a portion of the proceeds supporting our ministries.



Remedies' 2026 Gala & Fundraiser

November 14, 2026
UMB Pavilion at Aldeen 1868 Reid Farm Rd. Rockford, IL
$125 per ticket / $950 table of 8
Join Remedies Renewing Lives for an unforgettable evening of hope, healing, and community. **The Ripple Effect** celebrates the power of compassion and reminds us that one act of kindness can create waves of change that transform lives.

https://www.remediesrenewinglives.org/news/remedies-2026gala

November 22nd is **Gratitude Sunday**

Let's give thanks for all the great people in our lives and all the things they do! Place a name in the Suggestion Box outside the church office with a description of why you are thankful for them.

I am grateful for _____

because _____

_____

_____

_____