

Northern Illinois Hospice Association

Putting families like yours first has always been the inspiration that drives Northern Illinois Hospice. Founded in 1979 *by the community* to serve the community, Northern Illinois Hospice functions on the simple principle that terminally ill patients and their families deserve extraordinary, compassionate care that provides the utmost in comfort, dignity and peace of mind. We focus on honoring your needs and wishes first – so that you can experience life's final months with the quality of life you find most fulfilling. We continue as the region's first hospice provider still fully focused on our local community. Our staff is your neighbors who live here, too – and we're always only a phone call away to respond to your needs first.

Information from: <https://northernillinoishospice.org/about-us/>



Faith

Welcome to Worship

August 10, 2025

St. John's United Church of Christ

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

Sunday Christian Education 9am Worship 10:30
Office Hours: Tues – Thurs, 9am-Noon stjohs401.org
(815)544-2977 stjohsucc401@gmail.com

Pastor: Rev. Muriel Morley Jahn 815-544-2977
 murielmorley@gmail.com
Pastoral Associate: Beth Carson 815-979-0473
Minister of Music: Mary Albrecht 815-547-7503
Choir Director: Jeanne Anderson 815-985-2652

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

WORSHIP: When reading this bulletin Leader Speaks Plain Font, Everyone Speak Bold Font

Nursery: Children are welcome in all aspects of worship. 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.

You Are Not Alone

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

- The Belvidere Group (AA) meets at everyday at 7pm.
- Women's Group meets Mondays 5:30pm
- T.O.P.S. Mondays 11am



Delicious Fundraiser



Amazon List



T-Shirts

Announcements

- ✦ **Listening Session** Sunday, August 17th after worship. Come with questions and concern to share in a safe and open environment. We will also have the listening space open for those of us who would like to join on Zoom. [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83745466380?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83745466380?pwd=WvtL9sJMu42BL2IVwEFLiJW2z1OliY.1) Meeting ID: 837 4546 6380 Passcode: 965169
- ✦ **Every 3rd Sunday of the month**, St. John's leads services at **Heritage Woods** at 3 pm. Join after their service for time to socialize with the residents and meet some great people.
- ✦ **Meals on Wheels** next delivery is August 25-29
- ✦ **Community Meal** every third Wednesday of the month from 5p-6pm. Next meal will be August 20th .
- ✦ **Blessing Box** non perishable are welcome. Make sure any items in cardboard have an inner layer of protection to prevent creatures from contaminating the food.
- ✦ **Share Table** please place perishable items here.
- ✦ **Paper Angel Closet** needs toilet paper, paper towels, women's deodorant, bleach, shampoo, and dish soap.
- ✦ **Menards Ministry:** If you have unused Menards rebates, or even receipts. We use these rebates for projects around the church.
- ✦ **Open Door Fundraiser:** We are still collecting money to upgrade our parking lot doors. Our goal is to collect enough money to automate the doors and make it a double entry to hold the temperature in the office area.

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— unison

Faithful and Gracious God, you have called us to be a people of hope, to trust in what we cannot see. As we bring these gifts before you, we offer not only our resources but also our faith -- faith that you are at work in our giving, building a future of justice, mercy, and love. Bless these offerings, that they may be signs of our longing for your kingdom and our trust in your promises. May our generosity inspire others to live with courage and conviction, seeking that better country you have prepared for us. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

Hymn #381— "Faith of the Martyrs"**Benediction****Postlude****Prelude****Announcements****Choral Introit— "Lord, I Offer My Life to You"**

Lord, I offer my life to You,
 Everything I've been through,
 Use it for your glory;
 Lord, I offer my days to You,
 lifting my praise to You as a pleasing sacrifice.
 Lord I offer You my life.

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 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— Responsively

Beloved, we gather today as inheritors of faith in God's salvific work, a faith handed down to us over generations that we claim and proclaim today in this community.

By faith, we follow God's call as we journey toward a better country.

By faith, our grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles, neighbors, and friends shared God's love with us, a love that longs to draw us all as members of the Body of Christ.

By faith, we follow God's call as we journey toward a better country.

By faith, we remember the story today, the story of God's desire for all creation to be reconciled to God and one another.

By faith, we follow God's call as we journey toward a better country.

By faith, we carry the faith forward, building a community of belonging, provision, and care as we journey with God toward a better country.

By faith, we gather to nourish and encourage one another on the journey toward a better country as we build God's already-but-not-yet kingdom here and now. Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, February 2024.

Hymn #18- "Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer"

The Apostles' Creed: an alternative version #882

Children's Time

Pastoral Prayer – The Lord's Prayer

**Hymn #407– "How Firm A Foundation"
Verses 1, 2, 5**

Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

We must admit, Loving God, that if faith is a trust which cannot be confirmed, it is easier not to trust. Of if faith is the gut feeling that hope is just around the corner, we prefer to keep our eyes closed. And surely, if faith is to be lived out

in difficult moments, we often leave it behind at home.

Call us into your backyard, God of wonder, to point up to the stars and remind us that we can not begin to imagine, or count, how many times you will forgive us. Give us the trust to have faith in you, the faith to hope in you, and the assurance you will surround us with the grace, hope, and wonder shared with us through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Words of Grace

Like our grandparents in the faith, we can dare to trust in the promises of God, even without any actual proof staring us in the face. This is the good news of God's love.

We will trust in those things that last, in the grace, which counts, in the mercy no one can take away from us. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.



General Giving

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

Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16
Luke 12: 32-40

Sermon– "By Faith"

Invitation to Generosity– Leader

**Moment for Mission
Northern Illinois Hospice**

Musical Offering