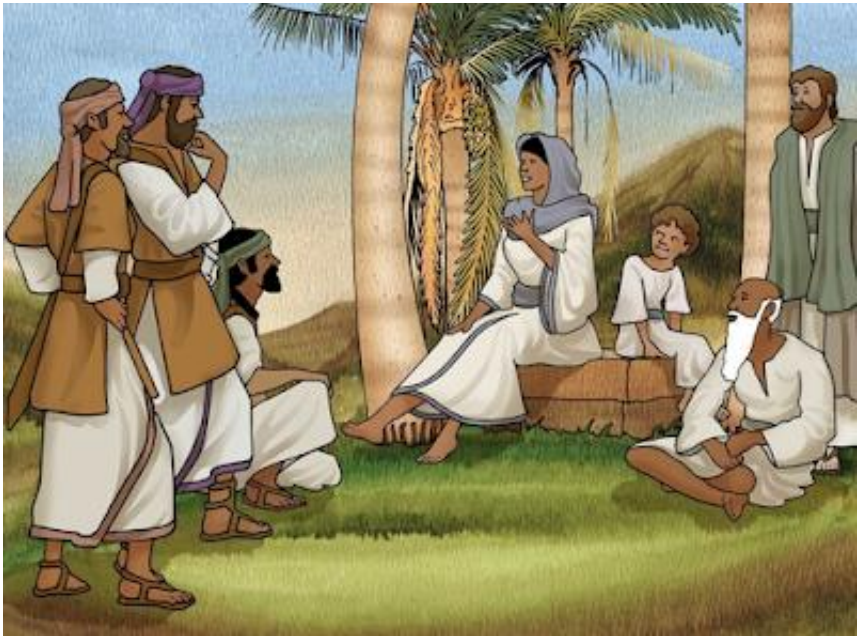
St. John's

United Church of Christ



November 15th, 2026

St. John's United Church of Christ

P.O. Box 794, 401 N Main Street, Belvidere, IL 61008
stjohns401.org stjohnsucc401@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**	**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

- **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 "Lead Me, Guide Me"**

Lead me guide me along the way
For if you lead me I cannot stray
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

***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 Psalms 123 and 90)**
Lift up our spirits to the God enthroned in the heavens!
The Holy One is our dwelling place from generation to generation.
Lift up our hearts to the God who shapes us and guides us.
The Holy One is God, forming the earth, the world, and the universe.
Lift up our worship before the Holy One who is God.
The Holy One teaches us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. Praise God!

***INVOCATION**

Present God, we worship you and honor your name. Open our hearts with thanksgiving, awe, and possibility. Make your word be written on our hearts and your purpose ignite a fire within our souls. As we gather as a community, may our faith be renewed, our trust strengthened, and our courage increased. Be glorified in our midst, O God. Amen.

***HYMN #1 "IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE GOD ONLY WISE"**

YOUNG & YOUNG AT HEART

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

***HYMN #507 "JESUS, THE VERY THOUGHT TO ME"**
Verses 1-3, 5

*** PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE**

Righteous God, too often, we seek positions of privilege and power for our own benefit. We accept the ways of the world in order to receive validation, acceptance, and temporary satisfaction. Transform our hearts and our ways to reflect your kindom. Grant us courage to live as you demonstrate and empower us for your glory and honor. Amen.

***MOMENT OF SILENCE**

***WORDS OF GRACE**

Christ-follower, God is with you. Receive wisdom and power to continue in the way of Jesus through trials and struggle. Find your validation and affirmation in the unconditional and boundless love of God. Embrace the guidance of the Spirit and the companionship of Jesus as you choose justice and righteousness as your position and purpose. Amen.

***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 Judges 4:1-7

SERMON *"Position Yourself"*

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**

Generous God, please receive these gifts from the position of love to elevate the position of our neighbor, our witness, and our faith community. Magnify them and bless us as we give. Amen.

***HYMN #524 "THIS LITTLE LIGHT"**

1. This little light… 2. Everywhere I go… 3. All through the night…

BENEDICTION

Position Yourself: Service Prayers for the Twenty-Fifth 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

renewing lives

Help a Person or Family Escape violence
Feed a Family at Our Shelter
Provide the Resources for Someone Overcoming an Addiction

Make a difference in someone's life by helping us provide the resources to families, survivors and persons struggling with addiction. Every generous donation keeps our shelter open, another person from relapsing and helps provide survivors of an opportunity for a new life free from abuse.

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 _____

_____

_____

_____

_____

I am grateful for _____

because _____

_____

_____

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