

TIDINGS



November 1, 2020

A Regular Sharing of our Mission and Ministry

LOVE
Beloved,

Beloved,
let us love one another,
because love is from God;
everyone who loves
is born of God
and knows God. 1 John 4:7

Annual Giving Campaign 2020

Martin Luther King once called love *"the most durable power in the world."*

As he explained, *"Hatred and bitterness can never cure the disease of fear; only love can do that. Hatred paralyzes life; love releases it. Hatred confuses life; love harmonizes it. Hatred shadows life; love illuminates it."*

Over the now eight months of our world's confrontation with the COVID-19 virus, we have felt, heard, and seen many moments of fear. We have been paralyzed by its impact, and the limits our community's health needs us to meet. We have been confused by the many reports and mitigations that challenge how we see the world.

We cannot pretend that we are carrying on our ministry as usual. We are not. Instead, we have an unique opportunity to articulate the unique way that our faith community will respond in such a time as this. We have felt the Spirit's comforting guidance. We have a continuing mission to embrace love, and to be embraced by love.

We want everyone to hear this clearly: Our commitment to an ever-widening and extravagant welcome and radical hospitality is not diminished by the Coronavirus global pandemic. Rather, this moment creates for us—and for our community—a deep, meaningful invitation to be better connected, to be more responsive, and to celebrate that love that brings us together as one. The community at St. John UCC makes a real difference. And that difference happens because of you, sharing the extravagant welcome that you felt with the world.

This year's Annual Giving Campaign begins on November 1, 2020. Over the next four weeks, we will talk about the ways God calls us to love children, our neighbor, and creation. Each week during worship, we will look at part of our mission and ministry. Each week we will see how our generous sharing of time and resources changes the world. On November 22, 2020 we will celebrate *Commitment Sunday*, blessing our intentions and re-committing to our mission to be the church that God calls us to be in Freeport, our nation, and our world.

As one body, we live out God's love. Our gathered generosity provides the resources our congregation and the wider United Church of Christ need to answer God's call to love. We invite you to begin your prayerful discernment today on the next page, reflecting on the impact of our ministry of sharing God's beloved love.



**Find Our
Extravagant
Welcome**

Join in our streaming
Online Worship every Sunday, 10:00 am:
[facebook.com/stjohnuccfreeport/live](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnuccfreeport/live)



**THANKSGIVING PIES!!
WE WILL BAKE FOR YOU!!**

Orders are due by 11/9

Pick up will be 11/25, 12:00 pm. Cost is \$10/pie.
Contact Pam at the church office 815-235-2824,
or email: pam@stjohnuccfreeport.org.

OUR FAITH PROMISES

LIVING FOR LOVE IN 2021

The first question that gets asked when the Annual Giving Campaign letters arrive in our mailboxes is usually: ***How much?***

How much does our church need to empower the mission and ministry that God calls us to share with Freeport and the world? That is a good question, with many different ways to answer.

Our annual budget will be presented in January. It will include the traditional line items of support for our ministry team; supplies for our ministries; grants and benevolences with our mission partners; and up-keep and enhancement of our church campus.

Different from each of the 173 previous years that our congregation has served the Freeport community, we are planning that 2021 will continue our wilderness adventure as the church, ministering in remote methods and worship celebrations shared online.

Our ministry, though, shows our spirit of generosity beyond the utilities, payroll, and other expenses. Over the past four years, we have worked hard to identify key areas of our ministry that needed enhancing. We have also looked hard at the “real numbers,” ensuring that our budget demonstrates fiscal responsibility and accuracy in our needs.

It was our intention to take a deep spiritual journey focusing on “*Faith and Giving*” in 2020. Like so many plans, the pandemic altered our course. Nevertheless, it is our goal for 2021 to embrace this journey, as we discover our ministry through and beyond the pandemic. 2021 will be a year of creativity and generosity.

How does this all come to be? Another good question, with several different answers. It starts with our *Faith Promises*. These prayerful commitments make furthering our mission and ministry in Freeport and beyond possible. And it ends with our faith, trusting that God will always be with us, guiding us along the way.

BUILDING IN LOVE FOR 2021

We Live in a Spirit of Generosity



To achieve a balanced budget for 2021 we estimate our need to be approximately \$425,000. This includes all ministry and missions expenses.

Our generosity goal for this year’s *Faith Promises* is \$310,000 in pledges, identified gifts, and grants. This goal represents the support we give as part of the community at St. John UCC. Our generosity strengthens our impact and encourages others in our community to come together.

Our Passion is Community



We are committed to enhancing how we share the Gospel within our church and with the community around us. We want to share the story of our ministry, mission work, and community outreach.

Over the months of social distancing, we have found new ways to be the church. We have built stronger ties with our mission partners, and forged new relationships to encourage progress and inclusion. Our connections strengthen our impact and encourage our community to embrace its diversity.

Bound in Love, We Build the Future



We hope you feel the call of our guiding scripture, “***Beloved, Love.***”

Together, we demonstrate the impact of Progressive, engaged Christian faith.

Together, we live out our covenants as a Creation Justice and Open & Affirming congregation.

And together, we will live out our mission to be the church that God is calling us to be in Freeport and beyond. Look for regular updates on Facebook, on our website, in your email, and in your mailbox as we continue in this season of generosity.

OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/04 Stanley Bomgarden	11/19 Vicki Spyrison
11/05 Sally Kahler	11/20 Ryan Piefer
11/06 David Crowell	11/23 Carl Roderick
11/07 Marvin DeBoer	11/25 Carol Smith
Christina Fairman	11/26 Tom Mathews
11/08 Daniel Kreeger	Kathy Moffatt
11/13 Betty Carpenter	Ellen Roderick
11/14 Stan Smith	11/27 Beth Slade
	11/28 Melinda Fruth

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

11/13 Jim & Gwen Drew	11/25 Jeff & Margaret Richardson
11/24 Bill & Ruth Kuntz	11/27 Kenny & Andrea Schrock

AN EASY WAY TO SUPPORT OUR MISSION & MINISTRY

A quick reminder before the holiday shopping and gifting season begins: Did you know that St. John UCC is charity partner with AmazonSMILE?



AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

Here's how it works: First, choose St. John UCC as your AmazonSmile charity by visiting this link:

https://smile.amazon.com/ref=smi_ext_ch_36-2443122

Then, every time you make a purchase at Amazon, remember to go to smile.amazon.com, and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to St. John UCC.

SEPTEMBER FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Income	Actual	Budget	Difference
Pledges/Gifts	\$13,534	\$22,083	(-\$8,549)
Other Income	\$5,201	\$9,703	(-\$4,502)
Total Income	\$18,735	\$31,786	(-\$13,051)
Total Expenses	\$27,263	\$35,419	(-\$8,156)
Month Total	(-\$8,528)	(-\$3,633)	(-\$4,895)
YTD Income	\$223,249	\$286,077	(-\$62,828)
YTD Expenses	\$264,184	\$286,200	(-\$22,016)
YTD Total	(-\$40,935)	(-\$123)	(-\$40,812)

FACC SHELTER & FOOD PANTRY

In November, we will be collecting **Spaghetti**



Please ring the doorbell at the portico doors for access to the drop off carts.

CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor:

Rev. Henry E. "Hank" Fairman
Hank@stjohnuccfreeport.org

703-473-3534

Pastor for Community & Mission:

Rachel Kirk Rachel@stjohnuccfreeport.org
352-215-7135

Director of Congregational Life

Pam Wessel Pam@stjohnuccfreeport.org
815-275-7202

Administrative & Creative Assistant

Lisa Elsner Lisa@stjohnuccfreeport.org
815-520-8701

Youth Ministry Assistant: Madison Riddell

Choir Director: Gina Bertram

Church Musicians: Randy Cook

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Donnley Dutcher

Change Service Requested

**Be Out
Be Proud** 
We Are Open and Affirming



Brighten the Sanctuary with a Family Christmas Tree!

We'll be celebrating December 24 with a special "Christmas Eve at Home" worship service this year. To decorate the sanctuary for the service, our Care and Community Team is hanging the greens in a new way.

Thanks to the idea from a member family, we will fill the outer aisles of the sanctuary with family Christmas trees, sharing our hope, peace, love, and joy.



We're starting with twenty trees. Your family can sponsor a tree for a donation of \$50. Bring decorations from your home and share your family's style with the congregation!

A special socially distant "Decoration Day" will take place on 11/14. Contact the church office to reserve your time and your tree. If you are unable to decorate the tree yourself (or if COVID is keeping you safe at home), volunteers will purchase and decorate for you for an additional \$15.

And if the suggested donation takes away from your Christmas joy and gifting, we've got a secret Santa who will make sure your family will have a tree to decorate. Let the light of the Christ Child shine, as we enter the season of Advent!

COMMUNITY MITTEN TREE

From November to December, our congregation works with Amity's Attic and Kid's Coats and Clothes, collecting mittens, hats, and gloves. Additionally, sweatshirts, sweatpants, sweaters, and heavy socks, coats and boots are appreciated

Donations for these missions, FACC, and the Botlecap Benches can be dropped off weekdays in the Atrium entrance.

