

WELCOME TO WORSHIP TODAY!

We are delighted that you are here in celebration and worship at St. John UCC. The members and friends of our faith community hope that you will encounter God in a meaningful and profound way, and that God's Spirit will inspire you today to live your faith out loud.

Our congregation remains committed to the proactive practices that support community health and wellness to end the Coronavirus pandemic. **Masks are still a Must in all public areas.**

Assisted Listening Devices are available. Please ask an usher.

Please remember to return your name tag on your way out.

We will have them waiting for your return next week!

We hope that you want to discover more about the congregation and its ministry in the community of Freeport, across our state and nation, and around the world. Please ask one of our ushers or visit:

us on the Web: www.stjohnuccfreeport.org
on Facebook: www.facebook.com/stjohnuccfreeport
on Twitter: www.twitter.com/stjohnfreeport

If you cannot join us in person, you will always have a front row seat on our live-stream at facebook.com/stjohnuccfreeport/live.

FOR OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The Infant and Toddler Room is provided for ages birth to 3 years with age-appropriate activities and equipment in **Room S3**. (Please note: the Infant Room is not staffed at this time.)

Following the *Conversation with Children*, we welcome children of all ages to join in faith formation or to continue in worship.

Godly Play welcomes youth Preschool to 3rd Grade for a play-based faith formation in **Room S4**.

Kids' Worship welcomes youth 4th Grade to 8th Grade for a mixture of worship, music, storytelling, and creativity in **Room S8**.

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THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

This Sunday: Rally Day

10:00 am Celebration of Worship with
Godly Play & Kids' Worship
11:30 am Rally Day Picnic and Games

Monday: 9:30 am Staff Meeting
6:30 pm Church Council

Tuesday: 9:30 am Silver Sneakers Exercise Club
6:00 pm Camera Club
6:00 pm Cub Scouts Pack #839
6:30 pm Audubon Board Meeting

Wednesday: 9:00 am TOPS
3:00 pm HELIX Youth Outreach
6:30 pm Property Management

Thursday: 9:30 am Silver Sneakers Exercise Class
6:00 pm FACC Delegate Assembly
7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop #4

Friday & Saturday: No Scheduled Events

Next Sunday:

10:00 am Celebration of Worship with
Godly Play & Kids' Worship

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ST. JOHN UCC STAFF

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SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – RALLY DAY

September 12, 2021 • 10:00 am

WELCOMING MUSIC and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *For the Beauty of the Earth* arr. Burkhardt

*CALL TO WORSHIP Christina Fairman

One: We are joined to every grain of sand:

All: Earth does not belong to us – we belong to Earth.

One: We are joined to every shining leaf:

All: Earth does not belong to us – we belong to Earth.

One: We are joined to every drop of rain:

All: Earth does not belong to us – we belong to Earth.

One: We are joined to every creature's breath:

All: Earth does not belong to us – we belong to Earth.

One: We are joined to every beam of light:

All: Earth does not belong to us – we belong to Earth.

One: We are joined to every particle of creation.

All: Earth does not belong to us – we belong to Earth.

One: We are joined forever to God's remarkable love
which brings us to a place of healing and action.

All: **Through this love, we can live out these words:
Earth does not belong to us – we belong to Earth.**

HYMN (WAR #649)

Gather Us In

GATHER US IN

* An asterisk is an invitation to rise as one is able (in body or spirit).
Please silence your mobile devices before the beginning of worship.

GATHERING PRAYER

Silent Centering

Congregational Prayer (speaking together)

God of all, you give us life,
and in your generosity you give us freedom
to help heal the broken places and the displaced people,
to hope for others, and a future full of peace with justice,
to care for creation, and mend the impact of human living
or to turn away and turn to dust and despair.

This is not a choice that we make easily,
because to be the change our world needs
means to be the healers of the breaches
that have come from our comfort and our ease.

But we are up to the challenge, and we make the choice:
May our words, our thoughts, and our actions
bring the change that unites creation in its beloved diversity.

Fill us with your love, for ourselves, for others, and for creation,
that we would listen to the voices of creation,
that we would follow your way of love,
and we would walk together in new fullness of life for all,
whatever our future together brings to life.
Amen.

Words of Affirmation

GOD'S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

Genesis 9:8-17 from the *New Revised Standard Version*
Psalm 8 with thanks to Jason Silver

FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

Tim Ebbers

ANTHEM

Rooted in Your Love

Amy Sens

The Church on the Square-Baltimore Music Ministry
from the *Opening Worship of UCC General Synod 33, 7/11, 2021*

GOD'S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

Mark 10:35-45 from *The Message*

MESSAGE

Welcome Home, Again!

Rev. Hank Fairman

HYMN (WAR#515)

Hymn of Promise

PROMISE

PRESENTING OUR HEARTS AND GIFTS TO GOD

Gathering the Gifts with Praise

Offering Song *You Are Our God; We Are Your People*
arr. Burkhardt

*Prayer of Dedication (speaking together)

Merciful God, your love and grace sustain us day by day.
May we offer these gifts with gratitude and offer our own gifts
with the generosity like that which you have shown to us.

May our gifts of self and treasure, of time and care
bring healing to the earth and our global community.
Amen.

SHARING OF CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

Prayers of the People

A Time of Remembrance: on the 20th anniversary of 9/11

Pastoral Prayer

The Prayer of Our Savior

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread,
and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever.
Amen.

HYMN (WAR #748)

Lord, Dismiss Us

SICILIAN MARINERS

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

arr. Bedford

ANNOUNCEMENTS IN-PERSON WORSHIP

Welcome to the Sanctuary for in-person worship. We hope that you find a safe place here and celebrate with you in the spirit of praise today.

- Sanctuary seating is every-other-row, and social distancing is still encouraged. Each person can choose where they will sit for worship in the Sanctuary.
- For those more comfortable with social distancing, there is an area set with 6-foot distancing in the Choir Loft.

Masks are still a must in the Church Building.

SAFE CHURCH TRAINING Sunday, September 26, 11:30am

Church members who work with children or youth should attend a Safe Church Training to review our policies for protecting young people in our care. Lunch provided. Please RSVP to rachel@stjohnuccfreeport.org

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY Sunday, October 3, 10:00am

The first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday. Beginning in 1933, Christian faith communities across the world, and across the lines of denomination and theological interpretations of bread and cup come together on this day, every year to be "One in Christ, and One in Mission."

NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING Taken Sunday, October 3

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

CROP WALK Sunday, October 3 Registration 1:00pm - Kickoff: 1:30 pm

This Autumn's CROP Walk to end hunger is coming up fast! Sign up to walk or to be a sponsor at the table in the Narthex

St. John United Church of Christ – Freeport, IL

an Open and Affirming congregation,
where God is Still Speaking,

**CREATION JUSTICE UPDATE:
Clean Renewable Solar Energy
Produced Last Week: 443.84 kWh**

