

## 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](http://www.stjohnuccfreeport.org)

on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stjohnuccfreeport](http://www.facebook.com/stjohnuccfreeport)

on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/stjohnfreeport](http://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](http://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 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade for a play-based faith formation in **Room S4**.

**Kids' Worship** welcomes youth 4<sup>th</sup> Grade to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade to learn Bible stories, ask questions, and explore their faith together in **Room S8**.

## Service Credits, Copyright, and Streaming Notice

All music and hymns in this service are reprinted, recorded/podcasted, and/or streamed with permission obtained from:

CCLI Copyright License # 2752305, Streaming License # 20105443,  
CCS PERFORMmusic and WORSHIPcast License # 13435,  
or OneLicense Copyright and Podcasting License # A-726513.

Original compositions and arrangements remain the property of the artist, and are used with their express permission for performing, reprinting, recording, and streaming.

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

### This Sunday:

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

### Monday:

9:30 am Staff Meeting  
1:00 pm Great Decisions  
1:00 pm PEO Chapter LI  
6:30 pm PRISM

### Tuesday:

9:30 am Silver Sneakers Exercise Club  
11:00 am Freeport Clergy Group  
6:00 pm Cub Scouts Pack #839

### Wednesday:

9:00 am TOPS

### Thursday:

9:30 am Silver Sneakers Exercise Class  
6:30 pm Bell Choir Practice  
7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop #4  
7:30 pm SOS Ensemble Practice

### Friday & Saturday:

No Scheduled Events

### Next Sunday: Birthday Bank

10:00 am Celebration of Worship with  
Godly Play & Kids' Worship  
11:30 am Safe Church Training

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](http://www.stjohnuccfreeport.org)

on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stjohnuccfreeport](http://www.facebook.com/stjohnuccfreeport)

## ST. JOHN UCC STAFF

Senior Pastor:

Rev. Henry E. "Hank" Fairman [hank@stjohnuccfreeport.org](mailto:hank@stjohnuccfreeport.org)  
mobile: 815-616-5626

Pastor for Community & Mission:

Rachel Kirk [rachel@stjohnuccfreeport.org](mailto:rachel@stjohnuccfreeport.org)  
mobile: 352-215-7135

Director of Congregational Life:

Pam Wessel [pam@stjohnuccfreeport.org](mailto:pam@stjohnuccfreeport.org)

Digital Media Assistant: Paul Guiffre

Church Musician: Randy Cook

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Donnley Dutcher

1010 South Park Boulevard Freeport, IL 61032  
815.235.2824 • [www.stjohnuccfreeport.org](http://www.stjohnuccfreeport.org)



SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
SEASON OF CREATION:  
OIKOEIRINI: PEACEMAKING AS HOME-BUILDING  
September 19, 2021 • 10:00 am

## WELCOMING MUSIC and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *I Sing the Mighty Power of God* arr. Harmon

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Thompson Brandt

One: Through sun and shadow,  
Through torrent and thunder,

**All: God's love will remain.**

One: Through fog and flurries,  
Through breeze and bluster,

**All: God's love will remain.**

One: Through cloudless and clear,  
Through rain and rainbow,

**All: God's love will remain.**

One: Through all that life brings,

**All: God's love will remain.**

One: Come, let us worship God.

HYMN *When Morning Guilds the Skies* LAUDES DOMINI  
(WAR #111, vv. 1, 2, 4)

\* 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)

Holy One,  
God of storms and rainbows,  
God of rain and sunshine,  
God of all creation, we worship and adore you.

We look out in wonder at the beauty of your creation and marvel at stormy skies transformed with the vibrant colors of a rainbow.

We give thanks for everlasting signs of your love and care, for the whole creation thrives in your desire to preserve and not destroy life.

From cloudy nights to sunny afternoons,  
you cradle each of us with remarkable hope.

In the blanket of the mystery of stars and galaxies,  
you wrap each of us in a deep, mysterious love.

Like parched earth blessed by the rains falling,  
you wipe each tear away with infinite gentleness.

You celebrate each of us  
for the one-of-a-kind beauty we each possess.

May we now celebrate these blessings with open spirits and grateful hearts. Amen.

### Words of Affirmation

## GOD'S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

Mark 9:30-37 from the *New Revised Standard Version*  
Psalm 1 with thanks to Chris Brunelle

## FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

Barb Copus

### 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.

## ANTHEM

*To See You*  
The Restoration Project,  
from *UCC National Youth Event 2020*

Tracy Howe

## GOD'S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 from the *New Revised Standard Version*

## MESSAGE

*The Things Kids Say* Rev. Hank Fairman

## HYMN (NCH #323)

*Little Children, Welcome* SAIPAN

## PRESENTING OUR HEARTS AND GIFTS TO GOD

### Gathering the Gifts with Praise

Offering Song *Let Me Be Your Servant* arr. Gillard

### \*Prayer of Dedication (speaking together)

Gracious God, we thank you for your many gifts to us:  
the unfolding of day and night;  
the smell of a meal being prepared;  
the voice of a friend greeting us;  
the feel of a cool breeze against our cheeks.

These, and so many more, fill our days.

We now offer these gifts in response  
as a sign of our gratitude and a gesture of our love. Amen.

## SHARING OUR CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

### Prayers of the People

### Pastoral Prayer

HYMN (CH # 677) *Let There Be Peace on Earth* WORLD PEACE

## \*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace* Temple, arr. Hayes

St. John United Church of Christ – Freeport, IL

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

## 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](mailto: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.

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

