

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.

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

For our younger guests, Worship Enrichment “*Busy Bags*” are available in the Narthex. These are located at the counter outside of the Chapel Hearth Room. Check in with an usher to organize a bag!

Parents and guardians are also welcome to use Room S3, the Infant Room, to care for their families as needed. There is a television in the room to view the worship service in real time.

Assisted Listening Devices are located at the Sound Board in the back of the Sanctuary. Earpiece and “Induction Loops” for hearing aids are both available. Please ask an usher for assistance in their use.

Please remember to return your name tag on your way home. We will have them waiting for your return next week!

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

Scan this code to access our Online Giving Portal:



We thank you for your continued generous support of St. John UCC.

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.



Faith Formation for All Ages

Our regular faith formation classes for youth take place during the worship hour at 10:00, following the *For the Child in All of Us*.

The Infant and Toddler Room is provided for ages birth to 3 years with age-appropriate activities and equipment in **Room S3**.

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

Whirl welcomes youth 4th Grade to 8th Grade to learn Bible stories, ask questions, and explore their faith together in **Room S8**.

Adult Faith Formation welcomes high school youth and adults of all ages to gather in the Chapel Hearth Room from 9:00-9:45, exploring different topics and formats weekly.

ST. JOHN UCC STAFF

Senior Pastor:

Rev. Henry E. “Hank” Fairman

hank@stjohnuccfreeport.org

mobile: 703-473-3534

Visitation Pastor:

Rev. Ted Michalsen

ted@stjohnuccfreeport.org

mobile: 440-536-1044

Director of Congregational Life:

Pam Wessel

pam@stjohnuccfreeport.org

Creative & Administrative Assistant:

Karla Hardersen

karla@stjohnuccfreeport.org

Digital Media Assistant: Max Gibson

Music Director: Britney Kieselhorst

britney@stjohnuccfreeport.org

Church Musician: Randy Cook

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Donnley Dutcher

1010 South Park Boulevard Freeport, IL 61032

815.235.2824 • www.stjohnuccfreeport.org



EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

October 12, 2025 • 10:00 am

WELCOMING MUSIC and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

I Need Thee Every Hour

arr. Jeff Bennett

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Christina Ables Fairman

One: The God who wove creation’s story
calls out to all people: Come! Be welcome in my tent!

**All: We come to your house to pray, Great Spirit.
Because we have come, we celebrate your creation.**

One: The God who dreams of abundant life
calls out to all nations: Come! Celebrate together!

**All: We come to dream with you, Life Maker.
Because you have called to us, we give thanks.**

One: The God who dances with our ancestors
calls out to the children: Come! Live together in peace!

**All: We come to this circle, People Gatherer.
We dance together, creating unity in our diversity.**

One: God calls to us, and we respond:
We are here! Let us worship!

words based on Kiowa and Cherokee prayers

*HYMN

Many and Great

LACQUIPARLE

WAR #26

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

** 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.*

MOMENT FOR MISSION

VOICES of Stephenson County
Beth Maskell, Executive Director

GATHERING PRAYER

Silent Centering

Congregational Prayer (speaking together)

O Great Spirit, God of all people and every tribe,
through whom all people are related;
call us to the kinship of all your people.

Grant us vision to see through your eyes the brokenness of the past. Help us to listen to one another, in order to heal the wounds of the present. And give us courage, patience, and wisdom to work together for healing and hope with all of your people, now and in the future.

Mend the hoop of our hearts and let us live in justice and peace through Jesus Christ, the One who comes to all people that we might live in dignity.

You envision a world defined by love
rather than class, skin color, political party, gender identity, faith tradition, or land of our ancestors or land of our birth.

Transform us and our community so that we may continually work toward reconciliation and new life.

May it begin with us. May this world begin with me. Amen.

We pray today with words written by Rev. Kurt Huber and Rev. Ellen Huber, superintending presbyters of the Cheyenne River Episcopal Mission

GOD’S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7

NRSV, Updated Edition

FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

Tim Ebbers

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

You Raise Me Up
Allie Daggert

Lovland/Graham
arr. C. Miller

GOD’S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c

NRSV, Updated Edition

MESSAGE

The Land We Call Home

Rev. Hank Fairman

*HYMN

As a Fire is Meant for Burning

BEACH SPRING
WAR #55I

PRESENTING OUR HEARTS AND GIFTS TO GOD

Gathering the Gifts with Praise

Offering Song *Take My Life and Let It Be* Henry R. Cesar Malan
Doxology (CH #48 lyrics, on screen) OLD 100TH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!
Praise Christ, all creatures here below!
Praise Holy Spirit, evermore!
One God, triune, whom we adore. Amen.

SHARING CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

Prayers of the People & Pastoral Prayer

*HYMN

This Path We Walk

O WALY WALY

On screen, © 2016 by S. Curtis Tufts

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE

With Grateful Heart I Thank You, Lord

GRATUS

WAR #720, v. I

*POSTLUDE

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

arr. Daniel Palm

St. John United Church of Christ – Freeport, IL

an Open and Affirming, Racial Justice Congregation,
where God is Still Speaking

ANNOUNCEMENTS



ADULT FORMATION IN OCTOBER

Sundays, 9:00-9:45

Get into the All-Hallows Spirit with some spiritual reflection! Come and see a Halloween film that influences modern movies and to discuss what goes bump in the night. Join Pastor Ted in a crossroads of the *Universal Monsters* and the Gospel’s stories.

10/12 Claude Rains’ *Invisible Man*
and Ephesians 5:8-13

10/19 Lon Chaney, Jr’s *Wolf Man*
and Mark 5:1-20

10/26 Boris Karloff and Colin Clive’s *Frankenstein*
and Proverbs 8:22-31

Excerpts from the films, folk lore and history, and of course, your Bible, will be used to carry class dialogue about monsters that go bump in the night.



YOUTH-LED WORSHIP & TOTENFEST

All Saints’ Sunday, 11/2

Youth of all ages, let your light shine! On All Saints’ Sunday, youth of all ages will be leading Sunday morning worship.

There will be plenty of opportunities for all ages. You can hand out name tags, greet, acolyte, usher, take offerings, read scripture or do the welcome message.

Kelly Priewe and Pastor Hank are organizing the worship leaders. Look for an email from them with a list of ways to share your gifts in the service!

TOTENFEST

Totenfest, the “Festival of the Departed,” will take place on All Saints’ Sunday during morning worship. We will remember our members and friends who have died during this past year.

If you would like to have your loved one’s name read as part of the celebration, please email the church office with their name, photograph, birthday, and date of death by Sunday, 10/26.



YOGA AT ST. JOHN UCC

Mondays, at 6:30 pm

Join yoga instructor Katherine Ray of Hippy Yoga for chair yoga classes every Monday night starting in October. Classes are one hour in length, and held in Fellowship Hall, an accessible space.

Price is \$5 a person, per class.



HEAD START NEEDS OUR HELP!

NICAA (Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency) hosts our area's Head Start programs. We are collecting classroom materials for their 3-5 year-old class. Donations can be placed in the collection cart in the Atrium entryway.



COMING SOON: ANNUAL HOLIDAY PIE SALE

Celebrate the holidays with our traditional pies! Cost is \$12 per pie. Apple, Cherry and Pumpkin Pie orders will be taken from 11/2 until 11/16, with pick up on Wednesday, 11/26, at 12:00 pm. Place your order on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board or by calling the church office.

This Path We Walk

This path we walk, through joy and tears
When life is shared, to - geth - er, free
These gifts we bring, this light we hold,
This life we share, a bless - ing deep;

a liv - ing Way of faith and fears,
we'll grow to be all we can be:
our songs of grace, our stor - ies told,
a prom - ised gift, now ours to keep.

through each step's risk, each sor - row's pain,
a cir - cle wide will call us home,
re - main un - done, told just in part,
God grant our words were spo - ken true,

when walked in love, we'll rise a - gain.
when wrapped in love, we're not a - lone.
till shared in love, and known by heart.
now clothed in life, each day a - new.

Words: S. Curtis Tufts, © 2016,
Tune: O WALY WALY

ANNOUNCEMENTS



SAVE THE DATE: OKTOBERFEST **10/18, 4-7 PM**

Join with the community at St. John UCC in our first-ever Oktoberfest! Dress in your finest German attire and celebrate our community's German roots with great music, food, activities, and silent auction, and so much more!

Tickets will be available at the door:

\$20 for pork chop, brat, spaetzle, sides, and root beer

\$10 for children 10 years & under

**\$10 for a commemorative stein
with unlimited root beer refills**

Come early and stay until the root beer ends!

Prost!



SILENT AUCTION – Help Needed

Oktoberfest is a week away, and we need your help! Could you contribute a donation for our silent auction? If you can't put the basket together (or don't have an actual basket), we'll take care of it. Or you can make a cash donation, and we'll make a basket for you. Help us make the auction a real FUNdraiser for our church!

Please have all items to the church office by Monday, 10/13 (if you need extra time, please let us know!). Thanks for participating, and we'll see you at Oktoberfest!



BUDGET GOALS MEETING

Sunday 10/19, 11:30 am

The Church Council welcomes our community to gather and learn about “the bottom line” of our congregation’s finances, mission, and vision for ministry.



CANDY DONATIONS NEEDED FOR TRICK OR TREAT TRAIL AT KRAPE PARK

We need your help! A group from St. John is participating in the annual Trick or Treat Trail at Krape Park on Saturday, 10/25, 3:00-5:00 pm. Please donate a bag of candy to add to our extravagant “sweet” welcome!

*Please drop off your donations
to the church office by Wednesday, 10/22.*



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED: World Community Day

10/31, 9:30 am / 11/7, 1:30 pm

Church Women United is an ecumenical group of women seeking peace and justice for all of God's children. CWU's Fall Bible Study and Program theme this year is "Be Kind At All Times: Choose Kindness." The Bible Study will take place on Friday, 10/31, at 9:30 am. The Program follows on the next Friday, 11/7, at 1:30 pm. St. John UCC will be hosting both events.

*For more information, contact Linda T-K:
815-233-5276 mslstk@yahoo.com*