

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.

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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

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SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

October 5, 2025 • 10:00 am

WELCOMING MUSIC and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Laudate Dominum

W.A. Mozart

Michal Urban

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Thompson Brandt

One: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me,

All: From the top of my head all the way to my tinniest toe I will Bless God’s Holy Name.

One: Bless the Lord, O my soul,

All: I could never forget the grace of a do over. Neither could I count the times I have been restored.

One: Bless the Lord, O my soul.

All: My God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounds in steadfast love.

One: Bless the Lord, O my Soul!

*HYMN

Great is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

WAR #72

*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.*

GATHERING PRAYER

Silent Centering

Congregational Prayer (speaking together)

God of our formation,

It has been said that Sunday is our most segregated and divided day of the week.

It was Christ who prayed that all people might be one as he was one with you the Spirit.

On this World Communion Sunday we reach over the walls we have erected and the lines we have drawn in the sand to represent that perfect vision.

We join with all our siblings in faith to give you praise.

In the name of Christ, the Cornerstone of your Church, Amen.

GOD’S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 NRSV, Updated Edition

FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

Jan Kunkle

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

Celebration No. 4 in F Michael R. Keller
The Bell Choir

GOD’S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

Luke 17:5-10 NRSV, Updated Edition

MESSAGE

Faith like a mustard seed Rev. Ted Michalsen
or Tenacious faith?

*HYMN

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

DENNIS

WAR #393

PRESENTING OUR HEARTS AND GIFTS TO GOD

Moment for Mission

Neighbors in Need Special Offering

Gathering the Gifts with Praise

Offering Song

We Bow Down

Paris, arr. Bettcher

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.

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Written by the Global Ministries,-Disciples of Christ and United Church of Christ

Sharing Celebrations and Concerns

Invitation to the Table

One: Like a sower, God scatters, and God will give growth.

All: God scatters life across the earth.

One: God scatters people in every land and nation.

All: God scatters disciples far and wide.

One: Like a shepherd, God gathers.

All: God gathers people into families of faith.

One: God gathers people into communities of love.

All: God gathers people into the body of Christ.

One: Today, on this World Communion Sunday, God gathers us at one table with disciples of every language, culture, and tradition.

From cathedrals and chapels, from huts and houses, from fields and cities, God gathers us in many places and makes us one in Christ.

At this table, we remember the cost of discipleship and rejoice in the richness of Christ’s gifts poured out for the whole world.

Communion Prayer

Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine

Sharing the Elements

Christ’s table is open to all who wish to participate.

Red Wine and White Grape juice and all bread is gluten free meeting the personal and dietary needs of every person.

Please take a serving cup and wait to join everyone gathered in the Sanctuary and at home in communion as one body in Christ’s extravagant welcome and love.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (speaking together)

We thank you, generous God, for the nourishment of this table and the living presence of Christ among us.

We thank you for the gift of growth and grace in this life-renewing feast.

We thank you for the company of your great cloud of witnesses, here in this place, in every land, and throughout the generations.

Take your gathered people and scatter us again into the world—renewed, invigorated, and committed—that, so nourished, we may take root and bear life-giving fruit to feed, heal, clothe, and comfort, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

*HYMN

Now Let Us from This Table Rise

TALLIS’ CANON

WAR #715

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE

Go Now in Peace

TALLIS’ CANON

WAR #717, v. I

*POSTLUDE

Casta Diva

Vincenzo Bellini
arr. Frédéric Chopin

St. John United Church of Christ – Freeport, IL

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



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.



HEADS UP!

HEAD START NEEDS OUR HELP!

NICAA (Northwestern Illinois Community Action Agency) hosts our area’s Head Start programs. They provide comprehensive developmental, educational, and nutritional services to our children as well as providing support to the parents. Through classrooms located in Freeport they serve 190 children and families. We are collecting classroom materials for their 3-5 year-old class:

sand for sand box age-appropriate toys art supplies
playdough cars Barbies Duplo blocks action figures
baby doll clothes baby blankets puzzles books
baby doll bottles bean bag chairs washcloths towels

Visit NICAA Head Start for more information on their programs:
nicaa.org/service/head-start/

***Donations can be placed in the collection cart
in the Atrium entryway.***

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.

10/5 Bela Lugosi’s *Dracula*
and 1 Corinthians 10:23-24

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.



TODAY! Register 1:00 pm • Walk 1:30 pm

The Hunger Crop Walk will gather today at Debate Square, with registration at 1:00 pm and kickoff at 1:30 pm. This fundraiser keeps 25% of donations right here in our community; the remainder goes to fight hunger worldwide.



YOGA AT ST. JOHN UCC

Mondays, starting 10/6 at 6:30 pm

Bless your spiritual and physical self with yoga at St. John UCC. 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.

Chairs are provided.

Bring cushions or a blanket for your comfort.

Wear loose, comfortable clothing.

Price is \$5 a person, per class.

Cash, PayPal, Venmo, and Cash App accepted

*Visit Hippy Yoga on Facebook for more class information,
or contact the office for more details.*



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. A Costumed Contingent of Church-folks will be handing out candy to the hundreds of children and families who participate. 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.*



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! We hope this event will be a fun-filled event for St. John UCC and the whole Freeport community!

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!



Scan this code for more
Oktoberfest information.



OKTOBERFEST SILENT AUCTION

A reminder that all items being donated for our Oktoberfest silent auction must be in the office no later than Monday, 10/13. Thank you for your contributions!

If you have questions, please see Jan Kunkle