

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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TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 9, 2025 • 10:00 am

WELCOMING MUSIC

WELCOMING and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Holy God, We Praise Your Name* arr. M. Burkhardt

*CALL TO WORSHIP Anita Bicksler

One: Creator in your presence I must confess that...

All: I do not hold the certainty that I claim to have.

One: Your ways are not my ways.

All: I will need new language, new imagination, and a willingness to learn.

One: If I am not willing to be taught then I will not see or know the new thing you are up to.

All: Help us to imagine and think beyond our desires and preconceived notions so we may receive the good news you so deeply want to share with us.

*HYMN *Giver of Life, Where'er They Be* GELOBT SEI GOTT
NCH #603, on screen

*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)

We speak with you in worship
because you will answer, O God.

In these moments both communal and private
incline your ear to me, hear our words,
and wondrously show your steadfast love.

We need this when our lives are swirled up among the chaos.
Power’s unquenchable thirst causes it to squeeze the last
remaining drops of living water from the have-nots. Hear a just
cause O Lord, greed is chocking the life out of everyone.

Guard my life as the apple of your eye and shelter me in the
sanctuary of your wings.

Do not allow wicked intentions to have their day but instead let
your justice roll down like an ever-flowing stream. Amen

GOD’S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

Haggai 1:15-2:9 *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

How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies K. L. Bates/
Sounds of the Spirit M.T. Winter

GOD’S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

Luke 20:27-38 *NRSV, Updated Edition*

MESSAGE

Where does the Sidewalk End Rev. Ted Michalsen

*HYMN

I Know that My Redeemer Lives! DUKE STREET
WAR #414

PRESENTING OUR HEARTS AND GIFTS TO GOD

Moment for Mission Annual Campaign 2025
Gathering the Gifts with Praise
Offering Song *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace* S. Temple
arr. Mark Hayes

Doxology (CH #48 lyrics, on screen) OLD 100TH

SHARING CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

Prayers of the People & Pastoral Prayer

*HYMN

I Want Jesus to Walk With Me WALK WITH ME
WAR #506

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE

With Grateful Heart I Thank You, Lord GRATUS
WAR #720, v. I

*POSTLUDE

Forth in Your Name arr. David Cherwien



WEEKLY PANTRY BAG COLLECTION FOR FACC
hosted by Mission & Outreach Team + HELIX Youth

Mission & Outreach Team and HELIX Youth Outreach are teaming up
to help offset the increased demand on the FACC Kreeger Memorial
Food Pantry during the period while the SNAP program is defunded.

We need your help to provide the items needed for a “typical pantry
bag” available to our community at the FACC Pantry. Beginning this
week, we ask for your generous support providing funds to purchase or
collecting those specific items to create at least ten (10) Pantry Bags every
week.

*That’s our minimum goal: ten Pantry Bags every week.
Help us meet, and exceed the goal!*

Through your generosity, we will make as many as we have supplies, for
as long as this extra is needed to end hunger in our community within
Freeport and beyond. We’ll see how long this will be needed, and plan
for a long game. Here’s how you can help:

- **Make a donation of \$30.** Every \$30 means one more bag!
That’s what one bag costs. And if your generous spirit is able to
share more, please do! You can do this through our Tithe.ly link
below or dropping of cash or check to the church office.
- **Shop for supplies.** Take the list *included in the bulletin* to
the store (shop around for the best deals!). Purchase one of
each item on the list (no additions/substitutions, please!) and
drop off your full bag to the church by Wednesday, 12:00 pm.
- **Purchase a 10-item set of one product on the list.** Your
purchase will be added to those donated by other members of
our community, all working together to fill a bag. Drop off your
full bag to the church by Wednesday, 12:00 pm. Many hands
make light work!



Use your smartphone to jump to:
<https://bit.ly/StJohnTithe>
Every \$30 means one more household is helped!

Find out more at the table in the Narthex!



ANNUAL CAMPAIGN 2026 COMMITMENT SUNDAY, 11/23

For over 175 years, our church has changed lives. Marking our anniversary year with pride and purpose, we take on that commitment anew to be the church God calls us to be in Freeport and beyond. With thanksgiving, we make a connection between our discipleship and our sharing of resources offering our *Faith Promise* Cards for 2026 on Commitment Sunday, 11/23.

*Dream with us what God has yet for us
to share with our community!*



ADULT FAITH FORMATION Sundays, 9:00-9:45

“Dreaming with a Generous Spirit”

Growing a culture of generosity in our congregation requires more than one person, or a small group. *Being faithful in our generosity takes each of us!*

11/9 Generously Dreaming Theologically on Treasure
with Pastor Hank

11/16 Generously Dreaming on an Accounting of Time
with Jan Kunkle

11/23 Generously Dreaming on a Task List of Talents
with Tim Ebbers

Please join us in this spiritual adventure as we consider our call to be the church God needs us to be in Freeport and beyond.

Giver of Life, Where'er They Be

603

Frederick Lucian Hosmer, 1888; alt.

1 Giv - er of life, wher - e'er they be, safe in your own e -
 2 All souls you call, both here and there, do rest with - in your
 3 Your word is true, your ways are just; a - bove the chant - ed
 4 Hap - py are they in God who rest, no more by fear and

ter - ni - ty, now live your chil - dren glo - rious - ly.
 shel - tering care; one prov - i - dence a - like they share:
 "Dust to dust" shall rise our song of grate - ful trust:
 doubt op - pressed; liv - ing or dy - ing they are blessed:

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Frederick Hosmer wrote this hymn for Easter services at the Church of Unity in Cleveland, Ohio, where he served as minister for many years. Hosmer wrote more than fifty hymns.

Tune: GELOBT SEI GOTT 8.8.8. with alleluias
Melchior Vulpius, 1609

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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.



ADVENT BEGINS SUNDAY, 11/30

Advent's light begins shining soon, showing us the way to hope, peace, love, and joy.

Look for more information mid-month in a special Advent TIDINGS!

Hanging of the Greens 11/30, Following Worship

Advent's light begins shining on 11/30 with the Hanging of the Greens. One of the great traditions of sharing our faith across the generations is our preparation for Advent and Christmas.

We will gather for a Soup and Salad luncheon and decorate the church for the season. All ages are warmly invited, with focused activities for our youngest friends.

COMMUNITY COLLECTIONS FOR THE HOLIDAYS



Wellness Ministry: Christmas Stockings

The Wellness Ministry Team will be assembling Christmas Stockings for our aging in place, senior living, and rehabilitation care community members.

If you would like to donate a few items, please place them into the basket in the narthex. Some suggestions might be candies, mints, crackers, pens, lotions, ChapStick, or other small Christmas gifts.

Please drop off your donation no later than Sunday, 12/7. Thank you for spreading some Christmas spirit and brightening someone's day!



Mitten Tree for Amity

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

Please place your donations on the Christmas tree in the entry way or in the baskets surrounding it.