

TIDINGS



July-August 2025

A Regular Sharing of our Mission and Ministry



CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Our Mid-Summer Stewardship Drive will have us dreaming of tinsel all July long! A special Christmas Card is on the way with your invitation for generosity and joy!

This year, our *Christmas in July* campaign is an imaginative, fun, and tasty "No Bake Bake Sale." Consider what the cost of ingredients, time, and utilities would be to make your favorite holiday treat. Or consider what God is calling us to do and be in our ministry right now, and what support we need to be "*That Church*" for Freeport. Contribute that amount in support of our congregation's mission all year long!

Our goal with this campaign is to match our December 2024 offerings - \$22,000!

We will celebrate the shared resources at our *Christmas in July* Worship Celebration on 7/27. O, *Come, all ye faithful*, and share in the season!

SAVE THE DATE:

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

7/27, 10:00 am

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

8/13, 4:30-7:00 pm

PAINT THE PORT

8/22, 4:00-8:00 pm

LABOR DAY

HYMN SING

8/31, 10:00 am

RALLY DAY

9/7, 10:00 am

SAFE CHURCH

TRAINING

9/14, 11:30-1:30



ICE CREAM SOCIAL

8/13, 4:30-7:00 pm

Come enjoy an evening of fun, food and relaxation with friends from the St. John UCC community. Barbecue sandwiches, hot dogs, chips, pasta salad and drink will be served, along with cake, pie and ice cream to complete your meal! Tickets are available in the church office or on Sundays.

**\$7 for BBQ or Hot Dog,
with Chips, Pasta Salad, and Drink**

\$5 for Pie or Cake, Ice Cream, and Drink



WELLNESS MINISTRY: GRIEF GROUP SUMMER PICNIC

8/27, 11:00am - 1:00pm

Join the St. John UCC Wellness Ministry Team's Grief Group for a Summer Picnic on Wednesday, 8/27. This gathering will be a time of sharing and nurturing for those experiencing grief as well as those who wish to show their support. You are welcome to bring and share your favorite summer comfort food.

Please join in community and gather with us!



**Find Our
Extravagant
Welcome**

Come together in the Sanctuary or share in our streaming Online Worship every Sunday, 10:00 am:
facebook.com/stjohnuccfreeport/live

Wherever you are on life's journey, worship as one community every Sunday

OUR MINISTRY TOGETHER




SUMMER MUSIC MINISTRY: A Celebration of Sharing

Our Summer Music Ministry starts off with a great Pentecost Spirit! Each Sunday, soloists and ensembles will celebrate worship by incorporating different creative expressions that embody a sense of curiosity, inclusion, and engagement.

7/6 Thompson Brandt	8/3 Diane Jochum
7/13 Colin Ebbers	8/10 Michal Urban
7/20 Allie Daggert	8/17 Sounds of the Spirit
7/27 Carl & Dianna Cole	8/24 Carl & Dianna Cole
	8/31 Taylor Bastian

Come and give thanks to the many joyful songs, and the music ministers that share them!

 MAY & YTD FINANCIAL SUMMARY			
Income	Actual	Budget	Difference
Pledges/Gifts	\$17,156	\$27,083	\$ -9,927
Monthly Income	\$50,095	\$38,267	\$11,828
Monthly Expenses	\$47,090	\$38,956	\$6,834
YTD Pledges/Gifts	\$73,828	\$108,333	\$ -34,506
YTD Income	\$154,673	\$191,333	\$ -36,660
YTD Expenses	\$202,505	\$199,302	\$3,203
YTD Total	\$ -47,832	\$ -7,969	\$ -39,863

Stewardship Note: Pledged gifts remain behind, the largest driver of our lower-than-expected income. The increase in general income represents our annual draw-down from the St. John Endowment.

Expenses were higher than budgeted, but expected. Our staff is compensated every two weeks. This means that twice a year, we have three-paycheck months. May was the first of 2025. Without the third pay period, May expenses would be \$20 UNDER budget.

Thank you for your continuing support of our mission and ministry.



FACC FOOD PANTRY

Our congregation’s generous support of the Food Pantry at FACC and its clients offers us a way to spread care and compassion throughout the year.


In July we are asked to collect **Cereal**:



In August we are asked to collect **Macaroni and Cheese**:



Donations can be placed in the collection carts in the Atrium entryway.

GREEN ENERGY REPORT 			
Month	Generated	Used	Difference
March	3,345 kWh	5,051 kWh	1,706 kWh
April	3,969 kWh	4,080 kWh	111 kWh
May	5,414 kWh	2,753 kWh	-2661 kWh

Green Team Note: We generated almost twice as much electricity as the church campus used in May! Just wait to see what the Summer months will generate! Last year, we “banked” enough to last until January! Say a prayer of joy for our Creation Justice Ministry!

OUR WIDER CHURCH:

A VIEW FROM GENERAL SYNOD

Supporting our mutual ministry as the United Church of Christ, delegates from each regional Conference gather in its widest setting at *General Synod*. Beginning in 1953, this biennial gathering of representatives of each conference is chosen from local churches of the United Church of Christ. This summer General Synod 35 will take place from 7/11-7/15 Kansas City, Missouri.

What happens at the meeting? A whole lot of worship celebration, a whole lot of Gospel engagement, and a whole lot of church discernment! Different from other Christian denominations, the UCC holds that:

General Synod speaks to, and not on behalf of the congregations of the United Church of Christ.

This year, Pastor Hank and Christina Fairman are members of the Delegates for the Illinois Conference UCC. In addition to this service, both shared in leadership roles in our wider UCC:

- Pastor Hank served as a Committee Chair for the Synod Resolutions (his second time!).
- Christina led a workshop on how to implement the *Our Whole Lives* sexuality and faith curriculum, sharing her passion and wisdom in this program.

They sent back these pictures as a photo journal to help us be part of the wider church's great gathering.

Get connected with General Synod for yourself at:
www.generalsynod.org

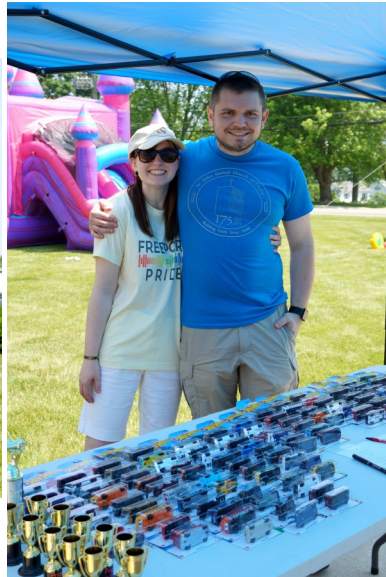
2025 GENERAL SYNOD



OUR SUMMER AT ST. JOHN UCC



FREEPORT PRIDE PICNIC



FAITH FORMATION FOR ALL AGES



SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL: WHIRL K—5TH GRADE

Our multi-age Summer Sunday School will take place during the 10:00 worship hour, following the *Conversation with the Children*. Get ready to explore a Bible story together, enjoy the *Sunday Funnies*, and partner with kids of different ages for crafts and activities. June's offerings will include:

- 7/6 Harvest: Mission of the Seventy (Luke 10:1-20)
- 7/13 Neighbor: The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)
- 7/20 Distractions: Martha and Mary (Luke 10:38-42)
- 7/27 Ask: The Lord's Prayer (Luke 11:1-13)

- 8/3 Renew: New Life in Christ (Colossians 3:1-11)
- 8/10 Faith: Meaning of Faith (Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16)
- 8/17 Heroes: Heroes' Faith (Hebrews 11:29-12:2)
- 8/24 Sabbath: Healing on the Sabbath (Luke 13:10-17)
- 8/31 Humble: Humility and Hospitality (Luke 14:1-14)

Youth in sixth grade and up are invited to sign up to be a Youth Helper for the class, serving as mentors to their younger peers. See the schedule on the bulletin board or contact Pastor Hank to sign up.



ADULT FAITH FORMATION On Summer Break

Adult Faith Formation is on a summer break in July and August. We hope that our new meeting time this year has fed you, body, mind, and spirit! Look for a wrap-up/planning survey in your email inbox soon!



CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

St. John UCC celebrates these members and friends who graduate this spring. Congratulations, all!

Rachel Busker, Freeport High School
Cooper Hathaway Freeport High School
Maxen Hughes, Freeport High School
Angeline Walsh, Freeport High School

Sarah Priewe, St. Ambrose University, BS

And from our wider community:

Jackson Garkey, grandson of Denny and Judy Garkey, from his high school in California
Eden Corcoran, granddaughter of Rick and Karla Hendee graduated from St Charles East High School.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS:

The Kampmeier Fund in the St. John Church Endowment was created to extend the generous spirit of our members and friends for educational scholarships. Members of our church community with acceptance to college are invited to apply.

While a specific amount of award cannot be determined until all applications are received, applicants should anticipate assistance with books and supplies.

Applications are available from the church office, or by emailing pam@stjohnuccfreeport.org.

Deadline for Applications is Sunday August 10th.



SAFE CHURCH TRAINING: SAVE THE DATE: 9/14, 11:30am -1:30pm

OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

JULY BIRTHDAYS

7/02 Addisyn Shaffer Levi Graybill	7/13 Vanessa Hughes 7/19 Jim Drew
7/03 Terry Atz Dylan Holbert Linda Heidenreich	7/21 Ann Carroll 7/27 Mike Simler
7/06 Dale Priewe	7/28 Ryan Shaffer
7/10 Martha Cowan	7/29 William Kreeger
7/12 Jeff Williams	7/30 Wessel Young

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

7/06 Larry & Mary Frazee	7/29 Thompson & Dagny Brandt
7/10 Peter & Joan Flynn	7/24 Perry & Martha Cowan,
7/12 Daniel King & Robert Mayfield	Hugh & Sarah Knapp
7/19 Tim & Tom Campbell-Outcalt	

SHARING OUR GIFTS:

Online Giving and Automatic Donations

To honor our Faith Commitment to St. John UCC, you can donate electronically. Here is a direct link to our Online Giving Portal:

www.bit.ly/GiveToStJohnUCC



If you prefer, you can always send a check in the mail. You can also sign up for ACH transactions, automatic deductions from your checking or savings accounts. Speak with Pam in the church office.

Thank you for your continued generous support of St. John UCC!

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8/4 Dorothy McGregor	8/17 Donna Polhill
8/5 Lyle Krug	8/18 Anita Bicksler
8/6 Rachel Wilkinson Shawn Killingbeck	8/20 Jane Krug
8/8 Kathy Skwara	8/23 Carla Meyer James Priewe
8/10 Pam Manus	8/24 Greg Ware
8/12 Tom Campbell- Outcalt	8/29 Diana Fox Ann Young
8/13 Stephen Kreeger	8/31 Suzanne Cook
8/14 Clara Hansen	

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

8/02 Robert & Barbara Luedeke	8/14 Bill & Lisa Condie
8/02 Carl & Ellen Roderick	8/15 Jeff & Dana Williams
8/11 Ray & Jeri Nieman Denairic & Karla Hardersen	8/18 Stan & Carol Smith
8/13 Dan & Pam Wessel	8/20 Andrew & Laura Hartman
	8/26 Jim & Marilyn Klever



A CUP OF FELLOWSHIP

Thank you to those who have volunteered to bring weekly treats and host a Sunday. Hosts are needed to prepare treats and share in our extravagant welcome.

*Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex
or call the church office to reserve your week.*



1010 South Park Boulevard

Freeport, IL 61032

www.stjohnuccfreeport.org

Change Service Requested

Place
Stamp
Here



ONE MORE THOUGHT: JULY IS DISABILITY PRIDE MONTH

Having a differently-abled body is not something for which to be ashamed. Euphemisms deny the existence of disability and reinforce the stigma surrounding disability rather than embracing it as a valued aspect of diversity.

Disability Pride month occurs worldwide, usually in July. Disability Pride Month celebrates people with disabilities, their identities, their culture and their contributions to society. It also seeks to change the way people think about and define disability, to end the stigma of disability and to promote the belief that disability is a natural part of human diversity in which people living with disabilities can celebrate and take pride in being just as God made them to be.

Disability Pride has evolved from a day of celebration to a month-long event. It originated in the United States to commemorate the passing of the landmark *Americans With Disability Act (ADA)* on July 26, 1990. Members of the United Church of Christ were part of the coalition that helped the ADA become law. Disabled people make up 15% of the world's population, representing all ages, races, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, religions, and socio-economic backgrounds.

Disability is not a dirty word. Rather, we are called to love one another with equality and respect for everyone's personhood. Celebrate the diversity God has woven in us!



**The UCC is called
to be a church
that is or A2A:
"Accessible to All,"**

**Find out more
about our mission
of accessibility at:**

uccdm.org/a2a