

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

Adult Faith Formation will take 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!

Whirl welcomes youth Kindergarten to 5th Grade to learn Bible stories, ask questions, and explore their faith together in Room S8. This multi-age Summer Sunday School takes place during the 10:00 worship hour, following the Conversation with the Children.

Explore a Bible story together, enjoy the Sunday Funnies, and partner with kids of different ages for crafts and activities.

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.

ST. JOHN UCC STAFF

- Senior Pastor:
Rev. Henry E. “Hank” Fairman hank@stjohnuccfreeport.org
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- Visitation Pastor:
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Pam Wessel pam@stjohnuccfreeport.org
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Karla Hardersen karla@stjohnuccfreeport.org
- Digital Media Assistants: Max Gibson
- Church Musician: Randy Cook Bell and Choir Director: Coming Soon
- Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Donnley Dutcher

1010 South Park Boulevard Freeport, IL 61032
815.235.2824 • www.stjohnuccfreeport.org



SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
July 20, 2025 • 10:00 am

WELCOMING MUSIC and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE Prelude on Repton Ashley Grote

*CALL TO WORSHIP Tim Ebbers

One: In the presence of the faithful,
let us proclaim God’s name.

All: In the presence of the faithful,
let us praise God’s holy name.

One: In times of joy and pain,

All: In the presence of the faithful,
let us praise God’s holy name.

One: Whether serving at table, or in the streets,
or on the mountaintops,

All: In the presence of the faithful,
let us praise God’s holy name.

One: In our learning and teaching, and all of our growing,

All: In the presence of the faithful,
let us praise God’s holy name.

One: Come, faithful ones, let us worship God.

*HYMN Take My Life and Let It Be HENDON
(WAR #466)

*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)

Abiding God, we invite you to inhabit our space.

We long to renew our minds, restore our souls, and rest our presence before you.

Still, we bring the burdens we carry into this gathering. We hold our responsibilities, cares, and concerns. Let us bind ourselves in your love and strength and the community of faithful and curious. We affirm that this time with you and one another equips and fortifies us for the journey and helps us discern the better way.

Be glorified in our worship. Be honored by our praise. Be known by your people, O Creator, Teacher, and Friend, in your many names.

We pray in the image of Jesus, the one who taught us of love, community, and neighborhood.

Amen.

GOD’S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

Genesis 18:1-10-a NRSV, Updated Edition

CONVERSATION WITH THE CHILDREN

Tim Ebbers

Change for Change Mission Collection

This month’s collection will support:
Stephenson County Veterans’ Pantry

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

Tightrope

Benj Pasek/Justin Paul

Allie Daggert

GOD’S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

Luke 10:38-42

NRSV, Updated Edition

MESSAGE

Houseguests

Rev. Hank Fairman

*HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

(WAR #502)

PRESENTING OUR HEARTS AND GIFTS TO GOD

Moment For Mission: Amy Korte, FACC

Gathering the Gifts with Praise

Offering Song

Seek Ye First

Karen Lafferty

arr. Michael Bedford

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

Won’t You Let Me Be Your Servant?

SERVANT SONG

(NCH #539, on screen)

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE

Sing a New Church Into Being

NETTLETON

(WAR #577, v. 4)

*POSTLUDE

Go Your Way with Rejoicing!

Douglas E. Wagner

ANNOUNCEMENTS



IMAGINATION TEAM
Today, After Worship

The Care & Community Leadership Team is forming an event planning committee, the Imagination Team. If you are interested in sharing your gifts of planning and hospitality with others, please join us today following worship.



CHRISTMAS IN JULY and NO BAKE BAKE SALE

Our Mid-Summer Stewardship Drive will have us dreaming of tinsel all July long!

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!



AMITY UNDERWEAR DRIVE

There is a great need for new children’s underwear for underprivileged households in our community. We are called to reach out and let them know that we care. A laundry basket can be found in the Atrium for your donations of sizes 8-18 underwear of all types.

Please send in your donation by 8/1.

St. John United Church of Christ – Freeport, IL

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

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

539

Richard Gillard, 1977; alt.

Rom. 12:9-18; Col. 1:24-29

1 & 6 Won't you let me be your ser-vant, let me be as Christ to you?
2 We are pil-grims on a jour-ney, we are trav-ers on the road;
3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shad-ow of your fear;
4 I will weep when you are weep-ing; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
5 When we sing to God in heav-en we shall find such har-mo-ny,

Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser-vant, too.
We are here to help each oth-er go the mile and bear the load.
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
I will share your joy and sor-row till we've seen this jour-ney through.
Born of all we've known to-gether of Christ's love and ag-o-ny.

(repeat stanza 1)

Richard Gillard was born in England and later made his home in New Zealand. Largely self-taught, Gillard has described his musical style as "folk." This is the best known of his many songs in the United States.

Tune: SERVANT SONG 8.7.8.7.
Richard Gillard, 1977
Arr. Betty Carr Pulkingham, 1977; adapt.

St. John UCC Ice Cream Social

Wednesday,
August 13, 2025
4:30~7:00p.m.

**\$5 for PIE or CAKE
& ICE CREAM, and a drink**

**\$7 for BBQ or HOT DOG, pasta
salad, chips and a drink**

**Tickets available in advance
at the church office,
or at the door.**



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UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
Freeport, Illinois

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