

## 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](http://www.stjohnuccfreeport.org)

on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stjohnuccfreeport](https://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](https://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 5<sup>th</sup> 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

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## NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 10, 2025 • 10:00 am

## WELCOMING MUSIC and ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

*Prelude no. 1 in C* Johann Sebastian Bach

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Lisa Schubert

One: What is a way that the Lord our God chooses to communicate?

**All: God said, “I reveal myself in vision and speak in dreams.”**

One: What did the prophet Amos dream about?

**All: A time when people would do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.**

One: What did Jesus dream about?

**All: A time when all people would live as one.**

One: What is it that you dream about?

### \*HYMN

*I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*

GRAND ISLE

(NCH #295, 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)

Lord Jesus, you tell us not to worry about tomorrow because it will worry about itself. But we do worry.

We worry about our loved ones and friends. We worry about circumstances. We worry about big stuff and little tickles.

A mind burdened by worry does not see possibility.

When worrying consumes so much of our time there is none left for dreaming. Let us know the peace of the birds who do not sow and yet are fed.

Help us to understand that worry will not add time to our life.

Aid us in embracing your wisdom by seeking the kingdom and dream about what is possible with you. Amen.

GOD’S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

Genesis 15:1-6 NRSV, Updated Edition

CONVERSATION WITH THE CHILDREN

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

GOD’S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

Luke 12:32-40 NRSV, Updated Edition

MESSAGE

What will you create with your purple crayon?

Rev. Ted Michalsen

\*HYMN Let Us Build a House (All Are Welcome) TWO OAKS  
(GTG #301, on screen)

PRESENTING OUR HEARTS AND GIFTS TO GOD

Gathering the Gifts with Praise  
Offering Song Meditation on “Spirit” 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 This is My Song FINLANDIA  
(NCH #591, on screen)

\*BENEDICTION

\*RESPONSE Sing a New Church Into Being NETTLETON  
(WAR #577, v. 4)

\*POSTLUDE Song Without Words no. 6 in F Minor Felix Mendelssohn

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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



IMAGINATION TEAM  
8/17, 11:30 am

The next meeting of the Imagination Team, St. John UCC’s event planning committee, will be held on Sunday, 8/17, following worship. If you are interested in sharing your gifts of planning and hospitality with others, please join us! Please sign up in the Narthex and let us know you’ll be attending!



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.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



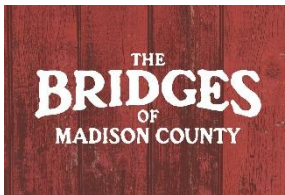
### SAVE THE DATE:

#### Rally Day Celebration with Empty Bowls Project

9/7, 10:00 am

Come share in our extravagant welcome as we return from summer's days of fun! Join in worship, sharing stories of God's blessings for us all. Stay for the annual Rally Day Potluck and Empty Bowls Project, benefiting FACC's Kreeger Memorial Food Pantry!

*Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks!*



### JOIN US AT THE THEATER!

#### Timberlake Playhouse in Mt. Carroll, IL

9/21, 2:00 pm

We have reserved a block of 20 tickets at \$30 each (we need at least 10 going to receive the group rate). Please sign up on the Narthex board by 9/7. We plan to meet at church at 12:45pm to carpool down.

*Questions and payments to Lisa Ebberts (815-275-3106) please.*

295

## I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

*Lesbia Scott, 1929; alt.*

Unison

1 I sing a song of the saints of God, . . . faith-ful their whole lives  
2 They loved their God and they lived that love. It was lov-ing that made them  
3 They lived not on-ly in a- ges past, there are hun-dreds of thou-sands

through, who brave-ly la-bored, lived, and died for the God they  
strong. They did what was right, for Je-sus' sake, lived just-ly their  
still. The world is filled with liv-ing saints who choose to

loved and knew. And one was a doc-tor, and one was a queen, and an-  
whole lives long. And one was a proph-et, and one was a priest, and an-  
do God's will. You can meet them in school, on the road, or at sea, in a

oth-er a shep-herd in pas-tures green: they were saints of God, if you  
oth-er was slain by a fierce wild beast: there is no earth-ly rea-son,  
church, in a train, in a shop, or at tea: for the saints are folk like

know what I mean. God, help me to be one, too.  
none in the least, why I should-n't be one, too.  
you and like me, and I mean to be one, too.

*This text was included in Lesbia Scott's Everyday Hymns for Little Children with her original words, music, and illustrations. A native of Britain, Scott was also the author of six published plays and enjoyed painting until her death in 1986.*

*Tune: GRAND ISLE Irr.  
John H. Hopkins, 1940*



## Let Us Build a House

All Are Welcome

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can  
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are  
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa-ter,  
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be-yond the  
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and

safe-ly live, a place where saints and chil-dren tell  
 strong and true, where all God's chil-dren dare to seek  
 wine, and wheat; a ban-quet hall on ho-ly ground  
 wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,  
 vi-sions heard and loved and trea-sured, taught and claimed

how hearts learn to for-give. Built of hopes and dreams and  
 to dream God's reign a-new. Here the cross shall stand as  
 where peace and jus-tice meet. Here the love of God, through  
 and live the Word they've known. Here the out-cast and the  
 as words with-in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

vi-sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the  
 wit-ness and as sym-bol of God's grace; here as  
 Je-sus, is re-vealed in time and space; as we  
 strang-er bear the im-age of God's face; let us  
 laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this

love of Christ shall end di-vi-sions:  
 one we claim the faith of Je-sus:  
 share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel-come;  
 bring an end to fear and dan-ger:  
 house pro-claim from floor to raf-ter:

all are wel-come; all are wel-come in this place.

Although it was written for a church dedication, this text is not about a physical structure but a spiritual one. The building is at best only a vessel for the essential love and hope, life and faith, peace and justice, hospitality and nurture that form the worshiping community.

## This Is My Song

Ps. 82:8

Lloyd Stone, 1934

1 This is my song, O God of all the na-tions, a song of  
 2 My coun-try's skies are blu-er than the o-cean, and sun-light

peace for lands a-far and mine. This is my home, the  
 beams on clo-ver-leaf and pine; But oth-er lands have

coun-try where my heart is; here are my hopes, my  
 sun-light, too, and clo-ver, and skies are ev-ery-

dreams, my ho-ly shrine; But oth-er hearts in oth-er lands are  
 where as blue as mine. O hear my song, O God of all the

beat-ing with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.  
 na-tions, a song of peace for their land and for mine.

These stanzas, published during the period between the two world wars, express a hope for lasting peace among all nations, races, and cultures. Finlandia is derived from a "tone poem" of the same name by Finnish composer Jean Sibelius.

Tune: FINLANDIA 10.10.10.10.10.10.  
 Jean Sibelius, 1899  
 Arr. for The Hymnal, 1933