

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

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.

Adult Faith Formation will return from its summer break the week following Rally Day, 9/14! We look forward to this coming year, preparing new ways to feed you, body, mind, and spirit!

ST. JOHN UCC STAFF

- Senior Pastor:
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- Creative & Administrative Assistant:
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- Digital Media Assistants: Max Gibson
- Church Musician: Randy Cook Bell and Choir Director: Coming Soon
- Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Donnley Dutcher

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ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 24, 2025 • 10:00 am

WELCOMING MUSIC and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Amazing Grace* John Newton
Carl & Dianna Cole arr. C. Cole

*CALL TO WORSHIP Thompson Brandt

One: All who are bent over with worry,

All: this is a place of sanctuary.

One: All who are burdened with life,

All: this is a house of care.

One: All who are lost to community,

All: this is a place of welcome.

One: All who travel with questions,

All: this is a community of seekers.

One: All who reach out to God,

All: this is a sacred space of worship.

One: Come, all. Let us worship.

*HYMN *Here I Am, Lord* HERE I AM, LORD
(WAR #559)

*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, we have come to this place and time to seek you again.
We want to remind ourselves of your values and to feel your presence with us, guiding our lives. We know that often our impulses do not align with your will for us.

And so we try:

We uphold traditions. We create beautiful worship for you.
We make music and read Scripture and try to be good people.

And we also know that your biggest desire for us
is for us to love:

For us to create justice. For us to look with courage on the suffering of the most vulnerable and oppose it however we can.

All that we do is meaningless without love.

Our world is meaningless without love enacted in the form of justice and mercy.

Give us strength and conviction again today to worry less about being good, and instead focus on doing good,

For all your people and for all creation, we join in prayer. Amen.

GOD’S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 58:9b-14 NRSV, Updated Edition

CONVERSATION WITH THE CHILDREN

Liz Reyes

Blessing of the Backpacks
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

The Blessings Come Down
Carl & Dianna Cole James Moore
arr. C. Cole

GOD’S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

Luke 13:10-17 NRSV, Updated Edition

MESSAGE

Feeling Bookish Rev. Hank Fairman

*HYMN

Let Justice Flow like Streams ST. THOMAS
(NCH #588)

PRESENTING OUR HEARTS AND GIFTS TO GOD

Moment for Mission Anniversary of The March on Washington

Gathering the Gifts with Praise

Offering Song Blessings Belong to Me Spiritual
arr. C. Cole

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

Go Forth for God GENEVA 124
(WAR #708, vv. 1, 2, 4)

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE

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

*POSTLUDE

Blessings Belong to Me (reprise) Spiritual
arr. C. Cole

St. John United Church of Christ – Freeport, IL

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS



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. Everyone is welcome to attend and share in food and fellowship!

Please sign up in the Narthex and let us know you’re coming!



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)



Sunday, 9/7

Our annual Rally Day celebration is arriving soon! Come join in morning worship, sharing stories of God’s blessings for us all and Communion with each other and our Creator.

Stay for the annual Rally Day Pot-Luck Lunch. Bring your family’s favorite dish to pass, and sample others’ faves. Help out with our Empty Bowls Mission Support Project Share for FACC. Celebrate as the community in Christ at St. John UCC, sharing the radical hospitality of God’s all-embracing love!

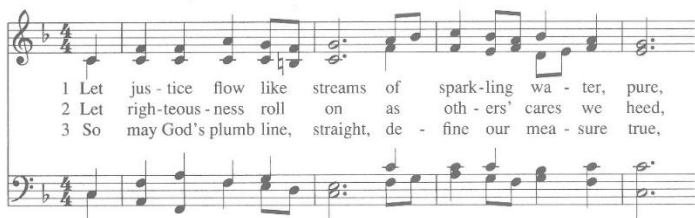
Sign up on the Narthex Bulletin Board to save your seat!

Let Justice Flow like Streams

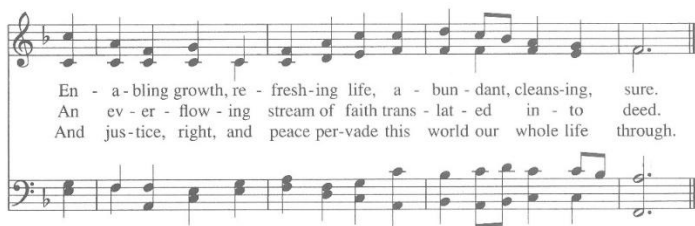
588

Jane Parker Huber, 1984

Amos 5:14-15, 24; 7:7-8



1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spark - ling wa - ter, pure,
2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,
3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,



En - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans - ing, sure.
An ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans - lat - ed in - to deed.
And jus - tice, right, and peace per - vade this world our whole life through.

This is one of two hymns Jane Parker Huber wrote for special events emphasizing economic justice for women at the time of the reunification of two Presbyterian denominations in 1983. The text's brevity underscores the urgency of Amos' pronouncements against injustice.

Tune: ST. THOMAS S.M.
Aaron Williams' New Universal Psalmist, 1770