
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

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Pam Wessel

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Creative & Administrative Assistant:

Karla Hardersen

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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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815.235.2824 • www.stjohnuccfreeport.org



EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 3, 2025 • 10:00 am

WELCOMING MUSIC and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above arr. Neil Harmon

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Thompson Brandt

One: What is it that we humans do?

All: Our days are spent with a toil in the soil of our various fields.

One: What becomes of the fruit of our labors when our time for work ends?

All: We hand over the shape of our soil so that the next generation may begin their toil.

One: The soil we are tending will be handed over to the generation of our children.

All: Let us nurture the soil well so that it will provide them food for life.

*HYMN

Christ, You Are the Fullness

ARIRANG

(PH #346, 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)

Empowering Spirit, when fatigue causes us to create comfortable routines as church, shake my bones and stir me from complacency.

When my hubris has me thinking that I know perfectly God’s mind and word on some issue, disrupt us with fresh insight and new revelation that reminds us we are not God.

When we as church think that we have done all that there is to do on our Christian pilgrimage, lead us into new territory, restoring again our sense of adventure for discipleship. Amen.

GOD’S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23 *NRSV, Updated Edition*

CONVERSATION WITH THE CHILDREN Anita Bicksler

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 *Loving God, Loving Each Other* William & Gloria Gaither
Diane Jochum

GOD’S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 12:1-11 *NRSV, Updated Edition*

MESSAGE *Star Belly or Plain Belly;* Rev. Ted Michalsen
it does not matter because The Spirit gifts us all

*HYMN *How Clear is Our Vocation, Lord* REPTON
(WAR #573)

PRESENTING OUR HEARTS AND GIFTS TO GOD

Gathering the Gifts with Praise

Offering Song *Be Thou my Vision* arr. Jeff Bennett

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.

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Sharing Celebrations and Concerns

Invitation to the Table

One: Ordinary bread made by ordinary people
is holy when we take and eat and remember.

 Ordinary grapes taken by ordinary people
are holy when we hold the cup and drink and remember.

All: **In this bread, we remember the wisdom and way.**

In this cup, we remember the hope and the promise.

We share our lives, as Christ challenged us to share.

Communion Prayer

Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine

Sharing the Elements

Christ’s table is open to all who wish to participate.
*Red Wine and White Grape juice and **all bread is gluten free***
meeting the personal and dietary needs of every person.

Please take a serving cup and wait to join everyone gathered in the Sanctuary
and at home in communion as one body in Christ’s extravagant welcome and love.

St. John United Church of Christ – Freeport, IL

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving (speaking together)

adapted from the Lutheran Church in Australia

Jesus our Christ, by eating this bread and drinking this cup we have proclaimed your death and anticipate your resurrection.

Help us to wait for you, to wish for you, and to watch for you, so that when you come again you will find us ready.

For you live and reign with the Creator and the Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*HYMN *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* CWM RHONDDA
(WAR #501)

*BENEDICTION

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

*POSTLUDE *In Christ There Is No East or West* arr. Matthew H. Corl

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

If you are able to donate a pie or cake, or willing to volunteer your time to serve as cashier, server, kitchen crew, or cleanup crew, please sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Thank you for your help!



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.



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!



OFFICE CLOSED

Monday, 8/4

The church office will be closed on Monday, 8/4. We will be open as usual on Wednesday and Friday, and Thursday by appointment.



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!

Christ, You Are the Fullness

ARIRANG Irregular

Vers. Bert Polman, 1986

Korean melody
Harm. Dale Grotenhuis, 1986

1. Christ, You are the full - ness of God, first-born of ev - ery-thing.
2. Since we have been raised with You, Lord, help keep our hearts and minds
3. Help us live in peace as true mem - bers of Your bod - y.

For by You all things were made; You hold them up.
Pure and set on things that build Your rule o'er all the earth.
Let Your word dwell rich - ly in us as we teach and sing.

You are head of the church, which is Your bod - y.
All our life is now hid - den with You in God.
Thanks and praise be to God through You, Lord Je - sus.

LIFE IN CHRIST

First - born from the dead, You in all things are su - preme!
When You come a - gain, we will share Your glo - ry.
In what-e'er we do let Your name re - ceive the praise!