

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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2026 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 2/1, 11:30 AM

All members of St. John United Church of Christ are called to the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 1, at 11:30 am in accordance with Article V of the Constitution and Article I of the Bylaws of St. John UCC.

The business conducted shall be:

- The receipt of the 2025 ministry, financial, and endowment reports
- The report of the Property Management Team on Sanctuary Renovations and Organ Renewal
- The report of the Worship & Education Team, and action on, revisions to the Safe Church /Safe Conduct policy
- The approval of the 2026 ministry & operations budget and any business deemed appropriate by Church Council.

Signed,

/s/ Jill Gastel, Clerk of Council

Copies of the annual ministry and financial reports and budget will be available one week prior to the meeting. Watch for information on in-person and hybrid meeting closer to the day of the meeting.

ST. JOHN UCC STAFF

Senior Pastor:

Rev. Henry E. "Hank" Fairman

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Visitation Pastor:

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Church Musician: Randy Cook

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Donnley Dutcher

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THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 25, 2026 • 10:00 am

WELCOMING MUSIC and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Jesus is the Light

Carl & Dianna Cole

Spiritual

arr. C. Cole

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Diane Jochum

One: Rise and shine all you people of God.

All: We have seen a great light cutting through the darkness.

One: The light of God embraced the wilderness.

All: It has worked its way into homes, villages, towns and cities.

One: May all living things sense the light and feel it's warmth.

*HYMN

The Summons

KELVINGROVE

WAR #350

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

CELEBRATION OF BIRTHDAYS AND GIFTS

** 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)

Wanderer of seashores and sidewalks,
you call us away from our ports of call and safe havens.

You stir our wanderlust by inviting us to the open waters once again.

The gravel under our travel will bring us to roads less taken and new destinations.

We can leave right away because whatever we might need we can learn it or pick it up along the way.

And so, with your grace alongside me go I. Amen

GOD’S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9:1-4 NRSV, Updated Edition

FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

Jan Kunkle

Change for Change Mission Collection

This month’s collection will support:
Summer Camp Scholarships for children and youth attending Outdoor Ministries Programs in the Illinois Conference UCC

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

Walk in the Light J.V. Coombs
Carl & Dianna Cole arr. C. Cole

GOD’S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

Matthew 4:12-23 NRSV, Updated Edition

MESSAGE

Discipleship Rev. Ted Michalsen

*HYMN Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore PESCADOR DE
WAR #347 HOMBRES

PRESENTING OUR HEARTS AND GIFTS TO GOD

Gathering the Gifts with Praise
Offering Song God Can Do Anything 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 Here I Am, Lord HERE I AM, LORD
WAR #559

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE Arise, Your Light is Come! FESTAL SONG
WAR #231, vv. 1, 4

*POSTLUDE Jesus is the Light (reprise) Spiritual; arr. C. Cole

ANNOUNCEMENTS



SAVE THE DATE: MARDI GRAS POTLUCK AND BINGO
2/7, 4-7 PM

Come enjoy an evening of food and fellowship at Mardi Gras Potluck and Bingo night, on Saturday, 2/7, from 4-7 pm, or until the bingo prizes run out! There will be jambalaya, gumbo, dirty rice, king cakes, and more! Pick your favorite Cajun dish (or any other dish!) and bring enough to share at the potluck.

After the meal, we will have an evening of bingo, complete with prizes! If you have any unused gifts from Christmas, or any white elephant prizes that you’d like to donate to our prize box, we will put them to good use! Please bring them to the office by February 1st. We would also encourage you to decorate a shoebox float with a Mardi Gras-theme. If you’d like to build a float, or need an idea, please let the committee know.

If you have any other questions or would like to be part of the planning team, please contact Judi Buus or the office.

“Laissez les bons temps rouler” -
Let the good times roll!



CLIMATE CHANGE SPEAKER SERIES
2/18, 6:30 PM

Mark your calendars! The Green Team invites you to attend the second lecture in the “Cost of Living With Climate Change” series on Wednesday, 2/18, at 6:30 pm at the Freeport Public Library. The featured speaker is Dr. John (Jack) Herrmann, retired local veterinarian, Professor Emeritus from the Center for One Health and School of Public Health at the U of I. Dr. Herrmann has served on the IL State Board of Health for the past 12 years and will speak on the health impacts of climate change. Refreshments will be provided.



**ADULT FAITH FORMATION:
OUR WHOLE LIVES
Sundays, 9:00-9:45 am**

Adult Faith Formation welcomes adults of all ages to gather in the Chapel Hearth Room from 9:00-9:45, exploring different topics and formats weekly. In February, we will be discussing the Our Whole Lives (OWL) program.

In July at UCC General Synod 34, a resolution was passed celebrating 25 years of the Our Whole Lives (OWL) comprehensive sexuality program—a partnership between the UCC and the Unitarian Universalist Association. Honest, accurate information about sexuality is life-changing. It dismantles stereotypes and assumptions, builds self-acceptance and self-esteem, fosters healthy relationships, improves decision making, and can even be life-saving.

Join OWL facilitators Shawn Killingbeck and Christina Ables Fairman to learn more and to celebrate this program as one way through which we can love our neighbors and ourselves.

2/1/26: What is Our Whole Lives?

2/8/26: Exploring Personal Values

2/15/26: Our Whole Lives at St. John UCC

For these three weeks, high school youth are unable to participate in the adult faith formation offering.

High School youth will be able to rejoin the 9:00 am formation hour on 2/22.