

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

Our regular faith formation classes for youth take place during the worship hour at 10:00, following the *Moment for All Ages*.

The Infant and Toddler Room is provided for ages birth to 3 years with age-appropriate activities and equipment in Room S3.

Godly Play welcomes youth Preschool to 3rd Grade for a play-based faith formation in Room S4.

Whirl welcomes youth 4th Grade to 8th Grade to learn Bible stories, ask questions, and explore their faith together in Room S8.

Adult Faith Formation meetings are on Sunday mornings, from 9:00-9:45. Adults of all ages are welcome to gather in the Chapel Hearth Room, exploring different topics and formats weekly.

- 10/11 The Final Chapter?:
Finding our comfort and naming our questions on the WORD
- 10/18 Celebrate Confirmation Sunday
Explore and discuss the questions youth studied and responded to during their six-month Confirmation Class.

ST. JOHN UCC STAFF

- Senior Pastor:
Rev. Henry E. “Hank” Fairman hank@stjohnuccfreeport.org
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- Church Musician: Randy Cook

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Donnley Dutcher

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INDIGENOUS PEOPLES’ WEEKEND
October 11th, 2026 • 10:00 am

WELCOMING MUSIC and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Let All Things Now Living* arr. Michael Bedford

*CALL TO WORSHIP Christina Fairman

One: To attend the banquet of God
No special qualifications are required,

All: Because all are welcome.

One: No dues, fees, or tickets are purchased,

All: Because all are welcome.

One: No visas, passports, or real Ids are necessary,

All: Because all are welcome.

One: Accept your invitation and discover
you have a seat at the table,

All: Because all are welcome.

*HYMN *Many and Great* LACQUIPARLE
WAR #26

*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)

Gracious God, in this season
of harvest your bounty is pouring in.

You have thrown open the banquet doors.
We can see dishes containing gourds, grains,
and fruit leaving the kitchen.

A table is set, foods are ready to be served
and the bottom of the cup will never be seen.

A feast of grace and mercy is laid out before us.

Let us be present with one another to share
these gifts and experience life lived at its fullest.

May God’s generosity inspire our thanksgiving
and our worship. In the name of Jesus, our host.

Amen

GOD’S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 25:1-9 *NRSV, Updated Edition*

A MOMENT FOR ALL AGES

Tim Ebbers

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

Spirit of God Martyr Haugen
Sounds of the Spirit

GOD’S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

Matthew 22:1-14 *NRSV, Updated Edition*

MESSAGE

God, am I ok? Rev. Ted Michalsen

*HYMN

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

WAR #72I

ST. GEORGE’S WINDSOR

PRESENTING OUR HEARTS +AND GIFTS TO GOD

Gathering the Gifts with Praise

One: Jesus said, “I was hungry, and you gave me food.
All: “I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink.

One: “I was a stranger and you welcomed me,
All: “I was naked and you gave me clothing,

One: “I was sick and you took care of me,
All: “I was in prison and you visited me.”

One: When did I do this?
**All: “Inasmuch as you did to the least of these,
my family and neighbors, you did it to me.”**

One: Let all you do be done in love.

Offering Song *Many and Great* arr. David Schelat

Doxology (CH #48) 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

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

RESIGNATION

GTG #803

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE

Come With Joy

DOVE OF PEACE

WAR #706, v. 5

*POSTLUDE

Again, I Say, Rejoice

Brenda Portman

ANNOUNCEMENTS



CONFIRMATION CELEBRATION
10/18 DURING SERVICE

Join in worship with the Confirmation Class of 2026, celebrating their affirmation of their Baptismal promises and the unity that they share as equal members in our faith community.

Bethany UCC and St. John UCC will hold a joint service on Sunday 10/18 at 10:00 am, hosted in the Sanctuary at St. John UCC. Students who choose to do so will make or affirm their Baptismal promises and join their respective congregation as members of the church.

We offer great thanks to the parents, families, mentors, and adult volunteers who assisted with our process for the past six months. Thanks be to God!



TRICK OR TREAT TRAIL DONATIONS

A Costumed Contingent of Church-folks from St. John UCC will be handing out candy at the annual Trick or Treat Trail at Krape Park on Saturday, 10/24, 3:00-5:00 pm. Please donate a bag of candy to add to our extravagant “sweet” welcome!

Donations needed by Wednesday, 10/21

ANNOUNCEMENTS



TOTENFEST I / I DURING WORSHIP

Totenfest, the “Festival of the Departed,” will take place on Sunday, November 1 during morning worship. We will remember our members and friends who have died during this past year.

If you would like to have your loved one's name read as part of the celebration, please email the church office with their: name, photograph, birthday, and date of death by Sunday, 10/25.


FALL YARD CLEANUP DAY
OCTOBER 24 8:30 AM-2:00 PM

The first Fall Yard Cleanup day is coming up soon, preparing the church property for winter. Come join the fun of working together to keep our church property beautiful for all to enjoy.

The Rain Date will be the following week, October 31, at the same time.

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need 803

(Psalm 23)

1 My shep-herd will sup- ply my need; Je - ho - vah is his name.
 2 When I walk through the shades of death your pres-ence is my stay;
 3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me all my days;

In pas - tures fresh he makes me feed, be - side the liv - ing stream.
 one word of your sup - port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.
 O may your house be my a - bode, and all my work be praise.

He brings my wan - dering spir - it back when I for - sake his ways,
 Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread;
 There would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers go and come;

and leads me, for his mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.
 my cup with bless - ings o - ver - flows; your oil a - noints my head.
 no more a strang - er, or a guest, but like a child at home.

The effectiveness of this beloved paraphrase of Psalm 23 owes much to the flowing shape note melody that serves as a “living stream” to carry the text, which in turn has been given a remarkable clarity and lightness through the poet’s masterful use of single-syllable words.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.

MUSIC: U.S.A. folk melody; Lewis’s *Beauties of Harmony*, 1828; harm. Dale Grotenhuis, 1986
Music Harm. © 1990 Dale Grotenhuis

RESIGNATION

CMD
(alternate harmonization, 74)