

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.

This fall, our first Adult Faith Formation series will take the conversation into the history, tradition, and present of the words we use in worship, formation, and mission. Continuing with the topic of :

10/4 DOXA LOGIA

Worship Words and their Way with Us

10/11 The Final Chapter?:

Finding our comfort and naming our questions on the WORD

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WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

October 4th, 2026 • 10:00 am

WELCOMING MUSIC and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Les Commandements de Dieu arr. Groom te Velde

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Allen Buus

One: When the world seems full of division,
When it's hard to love our neighbor,

All: Great Creator, make us one.

One: When walls and borders separate us,
When we close ourselves off to others,

All: Great Creator, make us one.

One: When we get it right,
When we come together,

All: Great Creator, make us one.

One: When we are reminded we are part
of something bigger than ourselves,

All: Great Creator, make us one.

One: When we ask others to join us at this table,

All: Great Creator, make us one.

*HYMN

O God By Your Mercy, We Come to this Place

ST. DENIO

© Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2026

*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.*



ADULT & KID YOGA MONDAYS 4:30-5:00 PM

Starting October 5th, join Katherine Ray of Hippy Yoga for a new yoga class at St. John UCC! Every Monday, we have adult and kids' yoga! Bring the kid(s) in your life for some time to burn off energy and to be silly with you. Please bring comfortable clothes, a yoga mat or blanket, and something to drink. (Waiver forms must be signed, & adults must stay during the entire class.)

\$5 per adult and child.

If you bring more than 1 child, it is an extra \$2 per child.

Cash, Venmo, Cash App, and PayPal are options for payment.

No RSVP required. Drop by as able. If interested in text message reminders, please let Katherine know.

Visit us at www.facebook.com/HippyYogaIL



SPECIAL MISSION OFFERING, 10/4

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States, with one-third of the offering given to the Council for American Indian Ministries and the remaining two-thirds supporting UCC justice ministries.

The funds collected support the work of the UCC's Washington D.C. Office for Public Policy and Advocacy, in partnership with congregations and church members across the nation. The work is shared through collective advocacy, with and for one another.

O God, By Your Mercy, We Come to this Place

ST. DENIO (11.11.11.11)

1. O God, by your mer - cy we come to this place.
2. O Christ, we're not stran - gers or en - em - ies here.
3. Through mis - sions and meet - ings where just - ice is shown,
4. O Spi - rit, we pray that you'll move through the church,

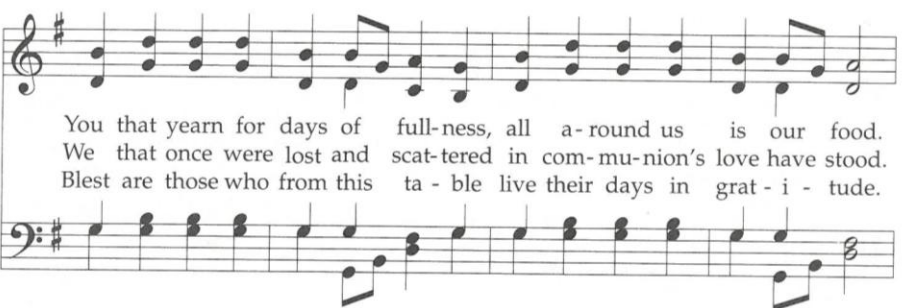
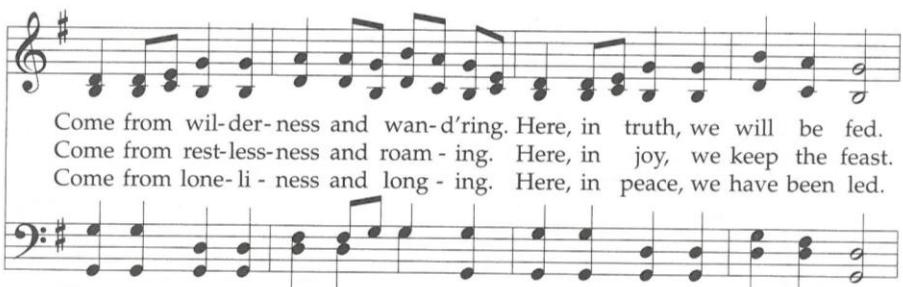
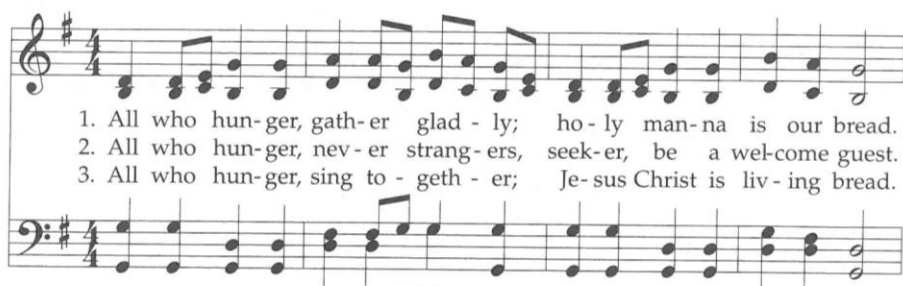
We feast at your ta - ble on gifts of good grace.
For we're at your ta - ble, and you've made it clear:
through co - ops where farm - ers learn they're not a - lone,
till peace, love, and u - nit - y co - ver the earth.

We taste your for - give - ness, then learn what to do:
We all are God's chil - dren, and blessed from a - bove,
through those who are will - ing to try some - thing new,
O God, bless these gifts with your grace from a - bove,

"Do just - ice, love kind - ness, walk hum - bly" with you.
we're glo - bal, con - nect - ed and shaped by your love.
God, make us good part - ners in work - ing with you.
till oth - ers find joy in the feast of your love.

Words: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, Music: Welsh Folk Melody
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419 All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly



WORDS: Sylvia Dunstan, 1990
 MUSIC: William Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825

HOLY MANNA
 87.87D

ANNOUNCEMENTS



TODAY 10/4
REGISTER: 1:00 | WALK: 1:30

Please meet at Debate Square if you wish to walk!



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



TOTENFEST 11/1 DURING WORSHIP

On the first Sunday of November, we celebrate All Saints' Day and Totenfest, the "Festival of the Departed." The community at St. John UCC honors those individuals who have died in the previous year. 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.