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.

Service Credits, Copyright, and Streaming Notice

All music and hymns in this service are reprinted, recorded/podcasted, and/or streamed with permission obtained from:

CCLI Copyright License # 2752305, Streaming License # 20105443,
CCS PERFORMmusic and WORSHIPcast License # 13435.
or OneLicense Copyright and Podcasting License # A-726513.

Original compositions and arrangements remain the property of the artist, and are used with their express permission for performing, reprinting, recording, and streaming.

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. This month, we'll seek the Spirit's wisdom on this question: *What does it mean to be a generous steward, investing in the mission of today's church?*

We will take time to consider the personal and spiritual side of our commitment that leads us to support a congregation like ours. Inspired by the resources curated at The Salt Project, we'll talk about things like:

11/1 *Inspired by our Ancestors:*
A Legacy of Support for the Future Church

11/8 *Gratitude:*
Expressing our Gratitude (without our wallet)

ST. JOHN UCC STAFF

Senior Pastor:
Rev. Henry E. "Hank" Fairman — hank@stjohnuccfreeport.org, mobile: 703-473-3534

Visitation Pastor:
Rev. Ted Michalsen — ted@stjohnuccfreeport.org

Director of Congregational Life:
Pam Wessel — pam@stjohnuccfreeport.org

Creative & Administrative Assistant:
Myles Halberstadt — myles@stjohnuccfreeport.org

Digital Media Assistants: Max Gibson, Elliot Fairman

Music Director: Britney Kieselhorst — britney@stjohnuccfreeport.org

Church Musician: Randy Cook

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Donnley Dutcher

1010 South Park Boulevard Freeport, IL 61032
815.235.2824 • www.stjohnuccfreeport.org

ST JOHN
United Church of Christ
Freeport, Illinois

TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
ALL SAINT'S DAY | TOTENFEST
November 1, 2026 ● 10:00 am

WELCOMING MUSIC and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Oh, What Their Joy* arr. David Cherwien

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Lisa Schubert

One: Beloved of God, let us gather in worship.
All: Beloved are all who worship and give thanks.
One: Beloved – all who have hungered and who thirst, in body or spirit, let us gather in worship.
All: Beloved – all who grieve and mourn, and strive for healing of the soul, let us gather in worship.
One: Beloved – all who feel meek, who struggle for power and strength in this overwhelming world, let us gather in worship.
All: Beloved – you who have shown mercy, who seek peace, and who stand up for justice, let us gather in worship.
One: Beloved are you who follow Jesus' way.
All: In our worship, let us hear this invitation, to be known and seen by God.
One: Come, let us worship our Beloved God.

***HYMN** *For All the Saints* SINE NOMINE
WAR #529

** 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.

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

GATHERING PRAYER

Silent Centering

Congregational Prayer (speaking together)

God, our world needs prayers.

In a world full of pain and confusion,
we come seeking your healing and clarity.

In a world overwhelmed with information and ideas,
we come seeking guidance about which to choose and listen to.

In a world of diversity and confusion,
we come wanting to celebrate your exuberance,
yet needing your wisdom to understand each other fully.

In a world where creation itself moans for new life,
we come hoping to be guided toward renewal.

Like the multitudes who gathered to listen to Jesus,
we gather to listen to you, Loving God.

Like the thousands hungry for healing and wholeness,
we hunger for meaning and purpose as well.

Like lost sheep in need of direction,
we have come to worship for your guiding love.

Show us the way, we pray.

Amen

GOD'S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 2:1-16 *NRSV, Updated Edition*

A MOMENT FOR ALL AGES 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 *On Wings of Song* Gwyneth Walker
The Chancel Choir

GOD'S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:1-12 *NRSV, Updated Edition*

MESSAGE *At Work In You* Rev. Hank Fairman

TOTENFEST: A Celebration of Life

Reading of the Names and Lighting of Candles

*HYMN *As We Gather At Your Table* BEACH SPRING
WAR #695

PRESENTING OUR HEARTS +AND GIFTS TO GOD

Generosity Moment: Annual Giving Campaign

Gathering the Gifts with Praise

Please join in the blessing on the screen

Offering Song *Peace I Leave With You* Amy Beach
The Chancel Choir

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.

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Sharing Celebrations and Concerns

Invitation to the Table

One: We come to the table for a sacred ritual.

All: Even though we practice this ritual publicly, we don't do it for show. We hear Jesus' challenge not to put on a big display of our faith.

One: Sometimes the only difference between a showy display and a faithful ritual is sincerity and intention.

All: We know that God sees our intentions and gathers our hearts to this feast of love.

St. John United Church of Christ – Freeport, IL

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

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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (speaking together)

Holy God, you have welcomed us to this feast,
and blessed us at this table. There is always more
for our hearts to learn as we strive to be faithful
both in privacy and in community.

You filled our hearts with what they need for today. You challenged our church to set the table with the resources for tomorrow's feast.

Inspire us with your Spirit, so that we find the harmony of gratitude and giving, working together so that all may be blessed. Send us out with the blessings of Jesus, who whispers to our hearts and shouts in all creation, where *your treasure is, there your hearts will be.*

Amen.

*HYMN *Rejoice in God's Saints* HANOVER
WAR #531

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE *Rise Up, O Saints of God!* FESTAL SONG
WAR #590, v. 2

*POSTLUDE *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God* arr. C. Callahan

TOTENFEST: A Celebration of Life

Glenn W Underwood
10/14/1928 – 11/22/2025

Joan Wootan
1/11/1929 – 1/11/2026

Mavis E Clark.
6/30/1934 – 1/14/2026

Anna M Carroll
7/21/1925 – 3/6/2026

Arnold L Eder
9/20/1938 – 5/28/2026

Wayne O Bahn
1/11/1940 – 6/23/2026

Marilyn B Ruthe
1/2/1935 – 9/15/2026

Kenneth E Collin
2/14/1945 – 9/21/2026

Amy Marie (Kleindl) Sierra
6/6/1976 – 9/22/2026

Diana D Fox
8/29/1945 – 9/29/2026

Delores A Stansbury
3/13/1931 – 3/18/2026

Patrick D Cal
11/11/1944 – 4/6/2026

Larry Eilers
8/29/1940 – 9/8/2025



The Memorial Fund

supporting the future of the mission
and growing ministry and outreach
of St. John United Church of Christ

The Memorial Fund at St. John UCC exists to support the mission, ministry, and outreach of the congregation. The Fund was created from the generosity of gifts celebrating the lives and impact of loved ones and family members of the congregation.

In 2018, Church Council received a recommendation from the Memorial and Tangible Gift Team to consolidate the memorial gifts into three designated and one undesignated funds:

Congregational Support Fund

Supports church members and their families in times of financial need. Requests are made to Care & Community Leadership Team.

Worship & Arts Fund

Provides for creative worship and artistic display throughout the church campus. Curated by Worship & Education Leadership Team.

Library Fund

The Laura S. Uthlaut Library Fund supports the collection of resources in the church library. Managed by the Library Volunteers.

Undesignated Gifts Fund

Allows special projects and non-budgeted needs to enhance church life. Coordinated by Church Council Executive Team.

Consider a gift in generous thanks for the memory of your loved one. To make a donation to the Memorial Fund or to ask questions related to the fund, contact Pam Wessel

ST JOHN
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
Freeport, Illinois

ANNOUNCEMENTS



NEW MEMBERS WELCOMING SESSION
TODAY, 11/1 AFTER WORSHIP

Are you interested in learning more about St. John UCC and what it means to be an active part of our church community? Grab a plate of hospitality and meet in the Chapel Hearth Room for an hour on our church's history and ministry. Childcare will be arranged as requests are made.

Questions? Contact Rev. Hank

BUDGET GOALS MEETING
WITH POTATO BAR LUNCH
Sunday 11/8, 11:30 am

The Church Council welcomes our community to gather and learn about "the bottom line" of our congregation's finances, mission, and vision for the coming year. We will sit down for a community meal, review last year's generosity, and dream together all that God is calling us to do and be in 2027 through our ministry in Freeport and beyond. Bring a salad or dessert, and be a part of the conversation.

Sign up on the Narthex Bulletin Board today!



HOLIDAY PIES

Celebrate the holidays with our traditional pies! The cost is $15 per pies. Apple, cherry, and pumpkin pie orders will be taken from 11/1 until 11/15 with pick up on Wednesday, 11/26, at 12:00 pm. Place your order on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board or by calling the church office.

WELLNESS MINISTRY:
CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS



The Wellness Ministry Team will be assembling Christmas stockings for our aging in place, senior living, and rehabilitation care community members.

If you would like to donate a few items, please place them into the basket in the Narthex. Some suggestions might be candies, mints, crackers, pens, lotions, ChapStick, or other small Christmas gifts.

Please drop off your donation no later than Sunday, 12/6. Thank you for spreading some Christmas spirit and brightening someone's day!



MITTEN TREE FOR AMITY

From November to December, our congregation works with Amity's Daycare, collecting mittens, hats, and gloves. Additionally, sweatshirts, sweatpants, sweaters, heavy socks, and boots are appreciated.

Please place your donations on the Christmas tree in the entry way or in the baskets surrounding it.