

February 2026

*A Regular Sharing of our Mission and Ministry*



## THE SEASON OF LENT

Lent was originally a season for new converts to learn and prepare for their baptism on Easter. During that time, they would study what was central to Christianity. This year, we will focus our Lenten discipline on what was central to Jesus' life and ministry: radical welcome, love for neighbor, care for the vulnerable, nourishment for the hungry, nonviolence in the face of injustice. We will center ourselves in the good news of Christ's love.

Rooted in resources gathered by our friends at *A Sanctified Art*, our worship, formation, devotion, and reflections will seek out the Gospel's powerfully moving hope, guiding us as look to the most broken places, and find our part in bringing healing:

*"The Good News is alive in the world" - which is very good news for us all.*



## 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.

Following the potluck, we will have an evening of bingo, complete with prizes! We would also encourage you to decorate a shoebox float, with a Mardi Gras theme, and bring it to the party!

*"Laissez les bons temps rouler" -*

*Let the good times roll!*



## Ash Wednesday, 2/18, 6:00 pm

Begin your Lenten Journey with the St. John UCC community on Ash Wednesday, 2/18. A community meal will be served at 6:00 pm, provided by our Care and Community Leadership Team. Ash Wednesday worship will begin at 7:00 pm. We will celebrate Communion and the Imposition of Ashes as we prepare our hearts for this season of reflection and community.

## Sunday Formation, Wednesday Series, and Daily Devotionals

Enter Lent's days of faithful focus through the gates of our Spirit-centering, Faith Forming offerings: a Sunday series inspired by the work of Kate Bowler; a Wednesday meal and discussion guided by *A Sanctified Art's* "Tell Me Something Good"; and a pair of seasonal devotionals to guide your meditations.

*Jump to pages 5-6  
for all the "goods" on our Lenten Journey*



**Find Our  
Extravagant  
Welcome**

Come together in the Sanctuary or share in our streaming Online Worship every Sunday, 10:00 am:

**[facebook.com/stjohnuccfreeport/live](https://facebook.com/stjohnuccfreeport/live)**

*Wherever you are on life's journey, worship as one community every Sunday*

# A MONTH AT A GLANCE

## What's going on at church in February?

It's a pretty common question heard in the church office: *What meetings are going on this month?* The St. John UCC campus is busy six days and nights a week (and often there's something on the seventh day, too!) See what's happening this month, and discover a new way to share your time, talents and treasures. Help us be the church God is calling us to be in Freeport and beyond!

### Weekly Church & Community Activities

**Sunday:** Worship, Fellowship, & Faith Formation

9:00 am Adult Formation  
 10:00 am Worship &  
 Youth Faith Formation  
 11:00 am Fellowship Hour

**Monday:** Girl Scouts Troop #832, 5:30 pm

Hippy Yoga  
 5:15 pm Mat Yoga  
 6:30 pm Chair Yoga

**Tuesday:** Music Ministry

6:30 pm Bell Choir  
 7:30 pm Chancel Choir

**Wednesday:** HELIX Youth Outreach, 3:00 pm

**Thursday:**

Boy Scouts Troop #4, 7:00 pm

### Week of 2/1-2/7

2/1 11:30 am Annual Meeting  
 2/4 6:00 pm Care & Community Team  
 2/7 8:00 am Men's Ministry Group  
 2/7 4:00 pm Mardi Gras Potluck & Bingo

### Week of 2/8-2/14

2/10 6:00 pm Church Council  
 2/11 10:00 am Wellness Ministry Team  
 6:30 pm Property Management Team

### Week of 2/15-2/21

2/16 **Office Closed for Presidents' Day**  
 6:30 pm Mission & Outreach Team  
 2/17 6:30 pm Subversive Book Group  
 2/18 6:00 pm Ash Wednesday Dinner  
 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service  
 2/19 6:00 pm FACC Delegate Meeting  
 2/21 8:30 am Church Leadership Retreat

### Week of 2/22-2/28

2/22 11:30 am Worship & Education Team  
 2/25 6:00 pm Lenten Supper & Discussion  
 2/26 6:00 pm Girl Scouts

**SAVE THE DATE!!**



**SAFE CONDUCT  
 TRAINING  
 Sunday, 3/1  
 11:30-2:00 pm**

# OUR GOVERNANCE AND MINISTRY

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## Highlights from the 2026 Annual Meeting

The meeting was called to order by Church Council President Lisa Ebbers. with an in-person and online attendance that surpassed our quorum requirement of 50 members.

The Minutes of the Congregational Meeting held in 2025 and the written Reports from the Church Council, Ministry Staff Team and Leadership Teams as printed in the booklet were presented and accepted.

Each of our three Leadership Teams challenged us and cheered us into celebrating the many faces of our ministry together. Each welcomed every friend, guest, and member of the congregation to join in the fun of actively sharing their gifts in ministry together.

Lisa Ebbers, as Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the three positions of the Executive Committee to be elected at this meeting. The nominations were received, and passed unanimously.

Then we got down to some exciting planning for our ministry in 2026 and beyond!

The Property Management Team announced four initiatives for Sanctuary Renewal, Organ Renewal, the replacement of the Sanctuary Projector, and several “Curb Appeal” Projects across the church campus. *You can read about each of these on the next page.*

In agreement with our Bylaws, any item non-budgeted item exceeding \$5,000 requires the congregation’s approval. Each of the initiatives were moved and affirmed by the congregation, and Property Team empowered to move forward as funds allow.

In addition to the announcing the initiatives, the Property Team asked permission to begin a capital campaign to ensure funding for all projects. The base goal for this campaign in \$275,000. The congregation affirmed this, with a high level of excitement to see each initiative be fulfilled as soon as can happen.

Tim Ebbers, representing the Property Team and Worship & Education Teams, announced that the Organ Renewal Project had received a generous gift to *fully fund* the project, and a schedule for the work is in development with Buzard Pipe Organ Builders of Champaign, Illinois. The project is expected to begin this summer, and be complete well-before Christmas!

Christina Fairman, representing the Safe Church Team, presented on upcoming revisions to our Safe Conduct policy. Last revised in 2017, the UCC’s Insurance Board has issued updated guidance for churches to consider. A congregational meeting will be called near the end of the spring to affirm the policy changes for the coming program year.

Denairic Hardersen, representing the Mission & Outreach Leadership Team, presented a project to install a Peace Pole on the Park Boulevard lawn, near the flag pole. The Peace Pole Project is an international grassroots movement to spread the universal message “*May Peace Prevail on Earth,*” a fitting message for our world today. A motion to affirm its installation as described passed unanimously. Plans will be made to install and dedicate the pole in April of this year.

Treasurer Jeff Williams presented an overview of the 2025 Financial Reports and the 2026 Ministry Budget. The Financial Reports were received subject to audit. The reports and budget are available on the church website.

Lisa Schubert was welcomed to present annual report for the St. John Church Endowment. There have been many changed to the Directors for the endowment this year, and the new and renewing officers were presented for election. The motion passed, and the nominees are accepted.

There being no other business, Lisa Ebbers made the motion to adjourn by consensus.

# PROPERTY MANAGEMENT TEAM: BIG PLANS!

The Property Management Team is a committee of our Church Council, whose mission is to attend to the maintenance needs of, and future planning for, the church campus and its appointments. In 2025, the Team took a step back, to look at the long-term needs of the physical property. They identified five key areas of focus for their work over the next 3-5 years, and want to engage the whole St. John UCC community in bringing these plans to completion. These were presented at the Annual Meeting, and affirmed for implementation and the planning of a capital campaign to fund the many projects. Have a look at the many ways we seek to make our church campus safer and more welcoming!

## The Sanctuary Projector

**\$30,000**

*Note: Insurance Claim is still in process*



The Sanctuary Projector failed due to an electrical surge in November 2025. Originally installed in 2006 as part of the BOLD Initiative, the Sanyo PLC-XF60A served brightly for 19.5 years (three times its expected service life!)

The Sanctuary Projector enhances our worship services by increasing congregation engagement, displaying song lyrics, and visually supporting our sacred experience with scripture or imagery.

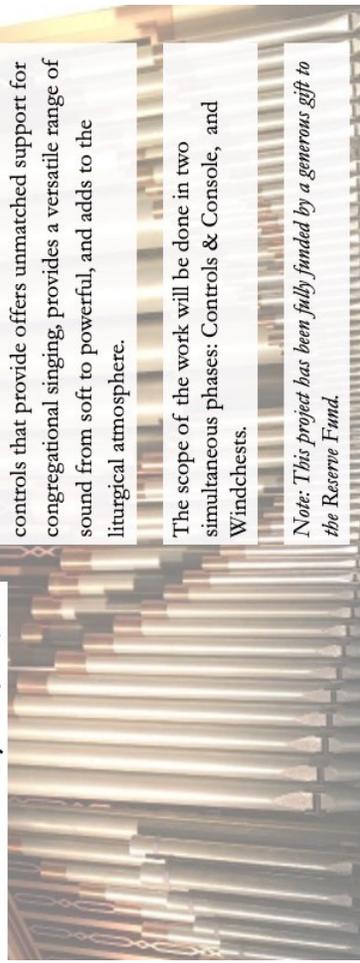
The new Vivitek DU8053Z projector will share a sharper, three-times brighter image, allowing for an more accessible use of the screen (even on the brightest of days).

## Organ Refurbishment

**Phase 1: \$117,625**

**Phase 2: \$66,000**

**Total Project: \$185,000**



The Wicks/Walker Organ was installed during the 1958 construction of the building. While regularly maintained, it is time to refurbish the console and controls that provide unmatched support for congregational singing, provides a versatile range of sound from soft to powerful, and adds to the liturgical atmosphere.

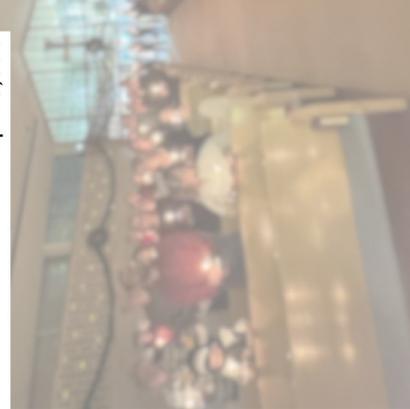
The scope of the work will be done in two simultaneous phases: Controls & Console, and Windchests.

*Note: This project has been fully funded by a generous gift to the Reserve Fund.*

## Sanctuary Pews and Flooring

**Capital Campaign Goal:**

**\$175,000**



Comfortable and accessible seating has always been a hallmark of our 66-year old Sanctuary. Repainting and recarpeting in the 1980s and 1990s has maintained its *Prairie Style* features central to the architect's design. It is time to enhance that comfort, and "dress" the Sanctuary for the next half-century.

All tiled surfaces will be sealed and retiled. All carpeted surfaces will be re-carpeted. A potential leveling "step" will be installed for the Bell Choir area. Pews will be repaired or replaced depending on the best cost/impact, working to accent the *Prairie Style* architecture

*Note: Still soliciting vendors and bids for projects.*

## "Curb Appeal" Projects

**Heat Mats, \$14,000**

**Keyless Entry, \$16,000**

**Blinds, \$14,000**

**Outdoor Sign, \$35,000**



Heat mats will be installed on the North Wing walkways and steps, used by the CareerTEC and SACC youth. This will replace our yearly snow blowing costs of \$2,000 related to those doors.

Keyless electronic locks will be installed on the Atrium and Front Entrance doors. This provides safety of the children and groups sharing our campus, and record of who is accessing the building at all hours.

Vertical blinds in the Main and South wings of the church will be replaced with a modern, safer design.

Digital sign on Park Blvd will be replaced, due to its end of lifespan and parts/service. New sign will show tremendous *curb appeal* with more current technology and better image quality.

# OUR LENTEN JOURNEY



At the heart of Jesus' teachings, we find good news. *Good News for Everyone!* In Christ's Way, we find liberation, love, mercy, and grace—all of which are meant to be very good news for us all.

Our friends at *A Sanctified Art* put it this way:

*Jesus' ministry can be described as "radical" which comes from the Latin word radicalis, meaning "root" or "ground." So our reading and embodying the stories of Jesus in our faith practices should bring us back to our roots. Emulating Jesus and embodying his teachings should ground us in who God created us to be.*

Can we be "good news" people in a world too often burdened by bad news? That's certainly one hard test of our faith. But we can. And we do. Even when our social media and daily news weighs heavy on our spirits, we know that God is working - and working hard - to bring light and hope and love to the top of our feeds.

This Lent, let us remember that the good news really is good news. It is joyful—like fine wine saved for celebration. It grows like a mustard seed and smells like perfume poured from an alabaster jar. It tastes like bread passed endlessly through a hungry crowd. It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy. The good news is alive in the world.

This Lent, let the teachings of Jesus lead us forward. May the good news inspire us to take action in a world desperate to hear, see, and taste what is good.

## A Week-to-Week Good News Preview

- 2/18 Ash Wednesday  
The good news is... all are invited  
*Luke 14: 15-24: The Wedding Banquet*
- 2/22 First Week of Lent  
The good news is... so good it catches us by surprise  
*John 2:1-11: The wedding at Cana*
- 3/1 Second Week of Lent  
The good news is... great love for God and neighbor  
*Matthew 25:35-40: "...whatever you did for the least of these..."*
- 3/8 Third Week of Lent  
The good news is... together, the impossible is possible:  
*Mark 6:32-44: The feeding of the five thousand*
- 3/15 Fourth Week of Lent  
The good news is... protection and care for the vulnerable  
*Matthew 19:13-15: Jesus blesses the children*
- 3/22 Fifth Week of Lent  
The good news is... rooted in justice, mercy, and faithfulness  
*John 8:2-11; Jesus refuses to condemn*

You are invited to journey together through the six weeks of Lent. Come share in Adult formation at 9:00, or Youth Formation at 10:00. Fuel your spirit in our weekly celebration in Sunday Worship.

Come hungry on Wednesdays for the Suppers and Discussion series (6:00 for the meal, 6:30 for the series).

Pick up one of the devotionals, and take in the good news at your own pace. There is graphic art, written reflections, poetry, and songs to ground you in the good news. Let each of your God-blessed senses take in the good.



Learn more about their work at: [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)

*A Sanctified Art* is our partner in this year's Lent liturgy, devotionals and reflection. This is a collective of artists who create resources for worshipping communities. The *A Sanctified Art* team works collaboratively to bring scripture and theological themes to life through film, visual art, curriculum, coloring pages, liturgy, graphic designs, and more. Their mission is to empower churches with resources to inspire creativity in worship and beyond. Driven by the connective and prophetic power of art, they believe that art helps us connect our hearts with our hands, our faith with our lives, and our mess with our God.

# OUR LENTEN JOURNEY



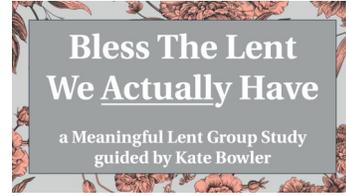
## Lenten Supper and Discussion Series Wednesdays in Lent

Share a meal that feeds the body, and a discussion that nourishes the soul. Over the five middle weeks of Lent, we will reflect on A Sanctified Art's Lenten resources, *Tell me something good: Grounded in the good news this Lent*. Rev. Hank will blend the spiritual resources with examples of our lived-out faith witnessed in the real-world living of our days (*Yes, there is good news to be heard and shared!*).

Each week, we'll talk through the parallels, following along with the Bible stories told in on the Sunday before.

The stories, like all good stories, will build on each other. But please feel our extravagant welcome to come as you can. Each week is its own journey, too, and you'll be fed just the same!

*We'll gather for our meal and study  
in the Chapel Hearth Room. Come hungry and leave fed!*



## Adult Faith Formation Series Sundays in Lent

Come join the Sunday morning Adult Faith Formation group as we walk through Lent's long road together. Each week we will journey alongside one another with Kate Bowler's *Bless The Lent We Actually Have* as our guide.

In Dr. Bowler's words:

*"Frankly, Lent is my favorite part of the church calendar because it is a time when the whole church is on the losing team. A time when we all get a minute to tell the truth: Life is so beautiful and life is so hard. For everyone."*

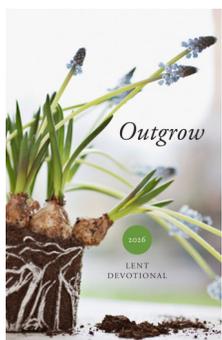
*"...and the reality of suffering that so many of our circumstances reflect too—our own pain and grief and despair. Easter is coming, yes. But for now, we sit in the ashes of our broken dreams and broken hearts, knowing that God sits here with us."*

Each week, we will reflect together on sacred scripture and personal reflections. Because when we do the hard part, something else happens: we get to the good part.

Please join us for one, two, three, or all four weeks of this conversation. And when you can't be there, or if you'd like to engage in additional Lenten devotional time on your own, you can also explore *Bless this Lent* personal devotional, available to pick up in the Narthex, or to download for free at:

[https://katebowler.com/seasonal\\_devotional/blessthislent/](https://katebowler.com/seasonal_devotional/blessthislent/)

*We can't wait to see you on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am  
in the Chapel Hearth Room!*



## UCC WRITERS GROUP 2026 LENT DEVOTIONAL

From the writers of the popular online *UCC Daily Devotional*, this year's devotional, *Outgrow*, includes a biblical text, reflection, and prayer for each day of Lent.

*Copies available in the Narthex.*

# OUR COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY



## 2026 BLACK HISTORY MONTH THEME: A CENTURY OF BLACK HISTORY COMMEMORATIONS

The 2026 Black History Month theme is “A Century of Black History Commemorations,” honoring the 100th anniversary of its founding by Dr. Carter G. Woodson in 1926. This milestone theme examines the evolution, impact, and importance of celebrating Black history in shaping American identity, fostering pride, and advancing equality.

“For our 100th theme, the founders of Black History Month urge us to explore the impact and meaning of Black history and life commemorations in transforming the status of Black peoples in the modern world.”

*Excerpt from the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH®), the organization that founded of Black History Month.*

*For more information, go to [asalh.org](http://asalh.org)*

GREEN ENERGY REPORT			
Month	Generated	Used	Difference
October	2,313 kWh	4,940 kWh	2,627 kWh
November	866 kWh	6,707 kWh	5,841 kWh
December	649 kWh	6,505 kWh	6,006 kWh

**Green Team Note:** Our Net Metering “Bank” rollover is now empty. We used the last 3,735 kWh in December. We will be paying market rate for electricity, until the Eastertide “raises” the number of clear and sunny days again!



## FACC FOOD PANTRY

Our congregation’s generous support of the Food Pantry at FACC and its clients offers us a way to spread care and compassion throughout the year. In February we are asked to collect:



### Crackers and Cookies

*Donations can be placed in the collection carts in the Atrium entryway.*

## CHICAGO AVENUE MISSION DINNER PROGRAM

Help provide some joy by preparing a Wednesday meal for the Chicago Avenue Mission. Prepare the way yourself, or gather a group of friends! Please sign up on the bulletin board if you can help with a meal, or contact Marla Kreeger or Pam Wessel.



## REBUILDING TOGETHER Big News for National Rebuilding Month

Rebuilding Together Stephenson County welcomes everyone to their “Annual-ish Meeting” and Volunteer Night, 2/26 at 5:00 in St. John UCC’s Chapel Hearth Room. Yes, snacks will be had, and *BIG EXITING NEWS* for this April’s National Rebuilding Month will be shared! See you there, Rebuilders!

# COMMUNITY LIFE & MINISTRY



## LEADERSHIP RETREAT 2/21, 8:30 am-12:00 pm

The Church Council, Leadership Teams, and Task Groups will meet for the annual leadership retreat with the joyful task for the day: *seeking where God is calling us to serve in 2026 and beyond.*



## SAFE CONDUCT TRAINING Sunday, 3/1, 11:30-2:00 pm

Church members who work with children, youth, or vulnerable adults and church leadership should attend a Safe Church/Safe Conduct Training every three years to review our policies for protecting people in our care. Lunch is provided.

Please RSVP for the training by Sunday, 2/22, and include special dietary restrictions or food allergies, and accessibility needs to:

[safechurch@stjohnuccfreeport.org](mailto:safechurch@stjohnuccfreeport.org)



## A CUP OF FELLOWSHIP

Thank you to those who have volunteered to bring weekly treats and host a Sunday. We really do appreciate you. Hosts are needed to prepare treats and share in our extravagant welcome.

*Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex.*



## a contest of musical proportions!

Through the end of February, we will be doing a survey, gathering our favorite hymns and songs to sing in worship.

- What hymns do you love singing?
- What songs do you wish we would add?
- What hymns connect you to God's presence?
- What songs do you find yourself humming during the week in prayer?

All of the hymns and songs submitted will be tallied up and placed into a NCAA single-elimination tournament *March Madness* - style bracket.

Once the brackets are complete, we'll have the "Hymn Play-offs" all March long. Each week, you will get a chance to vote for your favorite hymn of a set of paired hymns. For an example of how the bracket works:

- Week 1 will start with 32 pairs to choose one song over its pair.
- Week 2, 16 pairs
- Week 3, 8 pairs
- Week 4, the "Final Four"
- Week 5, the "Fave!"

Need some help finding your favorite hymn's names? Follow these links to our "Fave" Hymnals, hosted at Hymnary.org:

*Glory to God* - [hymnary.org/hymnal/GG2013](http://hymnary.org/hymnal/GG2013)

*New Century Hymnal* - [hymnary.org/hymnal/NCH1995](http://hymnary.org/hymnal/NCH1995)

Or borrow a pew hymnal for a quick look at the index!

# FAITH FORMATION FOR ALL AGES



## GODLY PLAY—PRE-K-3<sup>RD</sup> GRADES

*Godly Play* is a Montessori-style learning environment focused on the needs of children at this place on life's journey. This year, we're launching a new series of stories that focus on sharing our Bible from different and diverse places within the stories:

- 2/1 ***Everyone in Church Sunday***
- 2/8 Parable of the Sower
- 2/15 Parable of the Leaven
- 2/23 Mystery of Easter

This set of stories shares more inclusive and expansive witness of the Bible's many people. Ask a youth what the most important part of this week's story was in their hearing and understanding!



## WHIRL—4<sup>TH</sup>-8<sup>TH</sup> GRADES

*Whirl* is a multi-age approach older elementary and middle school youth begin to connect the dots between Biblical stories and their own experiences of God, using the *Whirl* characters and curriculum.

- 2/1 ***Everyone in Church Sunday***
- 2/8 *Help*: Worship and Justice
- 2/15 *Glory*: Glory on the Mountain
- 2/23 *Consequences*: Adam and Eve

*Whirl* encourages children to ask questions, interpret Scripture in community, and connect with God and one another.



## HELIX—5<sup>TH</sup>-8<sup>TH</sup> GRADES

HELIX is an after school program sponsored and hosted by St. John UCC that focuses on community-building and social-emotional learning. HELIX meets each Wednesday from 3:00 to 5:00 pm.

### February Schedule

- 2/4 Practicing Rest
- 2/11 Dealing with Uncertainty
- 2/18 Learning Small Talk
- 2/25 How to Disagree

[helix@stjohnuccfreeport.org](mailto:helix@stjohnuccfreeport.org)  
[www.stjohnuccfreeport.org/helix](http://www.stjohnuccfreeport.org/helix)



## PRAIRE ASSOCIATION "UNITED" CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation is the historic process by which youth affirm the promises made at their baptism, and take on the role of full participation in the church. This year, a group of our Prairie Association UCC churches across northwest Illinois will be gathering for a "united church" Confirmation experience, beginning later this month. *How good it is when we join together in Christ!*

Parents of youth ages 13-18, please look for an invitation email, welcoming your youth into this year's class. Please save the afternoon of Sunday, February 25 for an informational meeting on the class structure, expectations, and purpose.

*Please contact Rev. Hank for more information.*

# COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP



## **MAT & CHAIR YOGA AT ST. JOHN UCC MONDAYS STARTING AT 5:15 PM**

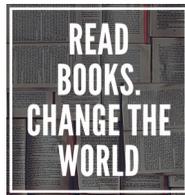
Bless your spiritual and physical self with yoga at St. John UCC. Join yoga instructor Katherine Ray of *Hippy Yoga* for a one hour session of mat yoga starting at 5:15 pm. Chair yoga will follow at 6:30 pm.

**Bring your own mat. Chairs are provided.  
Bring cushions or a blanket for your comfort.**

**Wear loose, comfortable clothing.**

**Price is \$5 a person, per class.**

Cash, PayPal, Venmo, and Cash App accepted



## **SUBVERSIVE BOOK GROUP 2/17, 6:30 pm**

Our next meeting is Tuesday, 2/17, beginning at 6:30 pm. Information about the chosen book can be found in the Book Group mail slot outside the church office or by contacting [sbgfpt@gmail.com](mailto:sbgfpt@gmail.com).

*Happy Reading!*



## **First Saturdays, 8:00 am**

Come join the next gathering of the Men's Ministry. Join the lively group in the Chapel Hearth Room.



## **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. 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.*





Place  
Stamp  
Here

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

Change Service Requested



## THE SEASON OF LENT AT ST. JOHN UCC

# Grounding ourselves in the good news this Lent



### A Week-to-Week Good News Preview

2/18 Ash Wednesday      Community Meal, 6:00 pm | Worship, 7:00 pm  
The good news is... all are invited  
Luke 14: 15-24: *The Wedding Banquet*

2/22 First Week of Lent  
The good news is... so good it catches us by surprise  
John 2:1-11: *The wedding at Cana*

3/1 Second Week of Lent  
The good news is... great love for God and neighbor  
Matthew 25:35-40: "...whatever you did for the least of these..."

3/8 Third Week of Lent  
The good news is... together, the impossible is possible:  
Mark 6:32-44: *The feeding of the five thousand*

3/15 Fourth Week of Lent  
The good news is... protection and care for the vulnerable  
Matthew 19:13-15: *Jesus blesses the children*

3/22 Fifth Week of Lent  
The good news is... rooted in justice, mercy, and faithfulness  
John 8:2-11: *Jesus refuses to condemn*

### Holy Week

2/18 Palm / Passion Sunday  
The good news is... inspiring us to at  
Mark 11:1-11: *Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem*

4/2 Maundy Thursday, *Tenebrae*      Worship, 7:00 pm  
The good news is... Even Judas gets his feet washed  
John 2:1-11: *The wedding at Cana*

4/3 Good Friday  
The good news is... revealed through nonviolence  
Luke 22-23: *The journey to the Cross*

4/5 Easter /Resurrection Sunday  
Easter Sunrise, 6:00 am  
Celebration Service, 10:00 am

The good news is... alive in the world:  
Matthew 28:1-10: *"Do not be afraid; go and tell...; there they will see me."*  
The Sunrise Service will take place on the church lawn (weather permitting).  
Communion will be served at both services.