

## 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](http://www.stjohnuccfreeport.org)

on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stjohnuccfreeport](http://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](https://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 and adult formation will take a summer break in June, July and August. We hope that this year has fed your body, mind, and spirit! There's still a lot going on in our congregation to feed your faith this summer! Keep reading!

#### Summer Youth Faith Formation: Church on the Go

Are you a family with at least one young person in Grades K-8? Stop by the Narthex beginning 5/31 to pick up your family's Church on the Go box! Inside the box you'll find activities to help you learn, grow in faith, and have lots of fun together – including your very own *Flat Jesus* to join you on all your summer adventures!

#### Bring Flat Jesus with you wherever you go this summer!

Adults and youth: Stop by the Narthex beginning 5/31 to pick up your very own *Flat Jesus*! Be sure to take him along on all your adventures, snap some photos, and send the photos to:

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

*We'll post them in the Sunday School hallway  
so you can see what Flat Jesus has been up to!*

### ST. JOHN UCC STAFF

Senior Pastor:

Rev. Henry E. "Hank" Fairman      [hank@stjohnuccfreeport.org](mailto:hank@stjohnuccfreeport.org)  
mobile: 703-473-3534

Visitation Pastor:

Rev. Ted Michalsen      [ted@stjohnuccfreeport.org](mailto:ted@stjohnuccfreeport.org)  
mobile: 440-536-1044

Director of Congregational Life:

Pam Wessel      [pam@stjohnuccfreeport.org](mailto:pam@stjohnuccfreeport.org)

Digital Media Assistants: Max Gibson, Elliot Fairman

Music Director: Britney Kieselhorst      [britney@stjohnuccfreeport.org](mailto: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](http://www.stjohnuccfreeport.org)



TRINITY SUNDAY / THANK YOU SUNDAY

May 31, 2026 • 10:00 am

### WELCOMING MUSIC and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE      *God, the Spirit, Guide, and Guardian*      arr. Sarah Quartel

\*CALL TO WORSHIP      Tim Ebbers

One: Make a joyful noise to our God, all the earth.

All: Follow the ever-singing One with gladness;  
Enter into God's presence with joyful sing.

One: Know that God is God.

All: God made us  
and we belong to the Creator of note and verse;  
we are their choir,  
and the voices of the great ensemble.

One: Enter God's gates with thanksgiving,  
and the choir lofts with praise.

All: Give thanks to God! Bless God's name!  
For the God's music is good;  
the steadfast rhythm of God's love endures forever,  
and God's harmony of faithfulness  
to all generations.

One: Make a joyful noise! Come, let's worship!

\*HYMN      *Gather Us In*      GATHER US IN  
WAR #649

\*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.*

## CELEBRATION OF BIRTHDAYS AND GIFTS

### GATHERING PRAYER

#### Silent Centering

#### Congregational Prayer (speaking together)

We were made to praise, Great singing God!

Every one of us is sung into being in your image, your music: That thing which engages us, inspires us, connects us, empowers us, soothes us, and fills our spirits to the very brim. That sacred chord that lies within us and surrounds us in our everyday movements. Those songs of the earth that echo in our souls—we carry them in our hearts.

In these ways, your music becomes a part of us. It's a form, an expression, a language that knows no bounds. *When words fail, music speaks.*

We cannot keep silent. So, we sing. We sing about faith and about love and about life in all its joy and struggle. We sing about spring and the change in seasons. We sing about singing. How can we not?

And so, with all that is within us:  
*let all rejoice who have a voice to raise,  
may God give us faith to sing always!  
Alleluia! and Amen!*

### GOD'S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

Psalm 8

*NRSV, Updated Edition*

### FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

Anita Bicksler

#### Celebrating our Graduates and Thanking our Teachers

#### 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

*Processional*  
The Bell Choir

Donald E. Allured

### GOD'S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

Matthew 28:16-20

*NRSV, Updated Edition*

### MESSAGE

*Sing!*

Rev. Hank Fairman

### \*HYMN *Come, O Spirit, with Your Sound* NCH #265

BOUNDLESS MERCY

### 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 *Spirit Blowing through Creation* Haugen, arr. Tate

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 *Go in Grace and Make Disciples* WONDROUS LIGHT GTG #296

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St. John United Church of Christ – Freeport, IL

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

### \*BENEDICTION

### \*POSTLUDE

*Go Ye Into the World*  
The Chancel Choir

Price/Besig

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS



#### PENTECOST POTLUCK PICNIC TODAY, Following Worship

Stay after worship and start the summer off with food and a gathering of friends!



#### HONORING THE 2026 GRADUATES

St. John UCC celebrates with our members and friends who graduate high school, trade school, college, or graduate school this year.



#### COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Kampmeier Fund in the St. John Church Endowment was created to extend the generous spirit of our members and friends for educational scholarships. Members of our church community with acceptance to college are invited to apply.

While a specific amount of award cannot be determined until all applications are received, applicants should anticipate assistance with books and supplies.

Applications are available from the church office, or by emailing Pam Wessel at [pam@stjohnuccfreeport.org](mailto:pam@stjohnuccfreeport.org).

***Deadline for Applications is Sunday, 8/2***



## TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME!

St. John UCC is heading to Beloit, WI for a minor league baseball game between the Beloit Sky Carp and South Bend Cubs!

The game will be on Sunday, 7/5/2026, with gates opening at 12:05 pm and first pitch at 1:05 pm.

**Tickets are \$40** (fans 3 and under are free). This includes your **entry**, **all-you can eat lunch buffet**, and **non-alcoholic beverages**.

*Ticket Orders must be placed by Sunday, 6/21*

And we're getting gameday St. John UCC baseball tees! If you would like to order yours for the game, follow this link to our *CustomInk* Group Order Page:

**\$25 without custom Name / Number**

**\$35 with custom Name / Number**

*Shirt Orders must be placed by 6/14 for delivery before the Big Day*

For Game Tickets,  
follow this link:



[bit.ly/STJSkycarp2026](https://bit.ly/STJSkycarp2026)

For St. John UCC Tees, go to  
our *CustomInk* Group Order



[bit.ly/STJShirts2026](https://bit.ly/STJShirts2026)

*Payment for both tickets and shirts can be made through the church office, or through our online giving portal: <https://bit.ly/GiveToStJohnUCC>*

*Choose "Give to General Fund,"*

*and note "Baseball Trip" in the comments on the second screen.*

## PENTECOST

265

## Come, O Spirit, with Your Sound

Acts 2:1-24, 32-47; Joel 2:28

John A. Dalles, 1983; rev. 1993

1 Come, O Spir - it, with your sound like a wind, quick rush - ing;  
2 Come, O Spir - it, with your flame, leap - ing tongues of fire; . . .  
3 Come, O Spir - it, fill your church, mak - ing strong our mis - sion;

come from heav - en, stir our hearts, each dis - ci - ple touch - ing!  
come, and with your glo - rious light all our thoughts in - spire! . . .  
fill your daugh - ters and your sons with a might - y vi - sion,

Mold our ac - tions to your will, you our ser - vice giv - ing;  
Rest up - on each ser - vant's head till each one is speak - ing  
Till the great and glo - rious day when the whole cre - a - tion

move in our com - mu - ni - ty, trans - form now our liv - ing!  
of our Christ, the Ho - ly One all the earth is seek - ing!  
sings your praise as Sov - ereign One, giv - er of sal - va - tion!

*This hymn text was written for the Pentecost Worship Celebration of Wabash Valley (Indiana) Presbytery in 1983 and was first published in The Presbyterian Hymnal (1990). John A. Dalles, a Presbyterian minister, is a graduate of Lancaster Theological Seminary.*

Tune: BOUNDLESS MERCY 7.6.7.6.D.  
Union Harmony, 1836  
Harm. Hilton Rufy, 1934  
Alternate tune: ST. KEVIN

## 296 Go in Grace and Make Disciples



1 Go in grace and make dis - ci - ples. Bap - tize in God's  
2 Go and fol - low Christ's ex - am - ple, not to van - quish,  
3 Go in Pen - te - cos - tal spir - it, man - y tongues and



ho - ly name. Tell of death and res - ur - rec - tion; Eas - ter's  
but to heal. Mend the wounds of sin's di - vi - sions. Ser - vant  
man - y gifts. Feed the hearts of hun - gry peo - ple. Spread the



vic - tory now pro - claim. Christ's com - mis - sion sends us forth  
love to all re - veal. Roles and ranks shall be re - versed;  
gos - pel that up - lifts. Till the day of Christ's re - turn,



to the na - tions of the earth. Go in grace and  
jus - tice flow for all who thirst. Go and fol - low  
as dis - ci - ples, teach and learn. Go in Pen - te -



make dis - ci - ples, mid - wives for the world's re - birth.  
Christ's ex - am - ple. Forge a world of last made first.  
cos - tal spir - it: let God's flame of wit - ness burn.

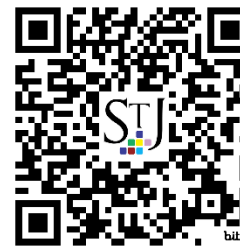
*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

This text based on Jesus' Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) emphasizes that engaging in mission according to the model of Christ's life and ministry inspires service rather than conquest. The gospel message is a gift of life and hope made known in healing, justice, and peace.



*Thank you to all who shared their gifts and time  
in our Music Ministry in 2025-2026!*

As our regular ensembles take a summer break, our Music Director, Britney Kieselhorst is looking for volunteers to provide special music during worship. If you feel called to share your gifts, please take a moment to complete the form linked below:



<https://bit.ly/SJUCC2026SummerMusic>

Britney would love to fill as many of these opportunities as possible! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out. And if you (or someone you know) may be interested in joining the music ministry this fall, please contact Britney ([britney@stjohnuccfreeport.org](mailto:britney@stjohnuccfreeport.org)), or encourage them to reach out and join our email list.

*We are always glad to welcome new participants!*