

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 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 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 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

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:

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Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Donnley Dutcher

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FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 21, 2026 • 10:00 am

WELCOMING MUSIC and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Our Father, By Whose Name* arr. Keith Kolander

*CALL TO WORSHIP Anita Bicksler

One: Into our wilderness, God comes and says,
"Do not be afraid for I have heard your voice."

**All: Out of the shadows of fear
and into the light of faith, we come, O God.**

One: When we ask for a sign of love,
God comes and provides all that we need.

**All: Out of the shadows of fear
and into the light of faith, we come, O God.**

One: Old ways are discarded
and we are made alive with Christ.

**All: Out of the shadows of fear
and into the light of faith, we come, O God.**

One: Jesus says, "Those who find their life will lose it,
and those who lose their life for my sake will find it."

**All: Out of the shadows of fear
and into the light of faith, we come, O God.**

One: Come, let us worship.

*HYMN *Praise My Soul, the God of Heaven* LAUDA-ANIMA
GTG #619

*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)

God of sparrows and elephants,
of earth and sky, of the great and the small,
wonder with us about transformation and division,
about revolution and unity.

Wonder with us about the peace we imagine and the uniting
love about which Jesus spoke.

Wonder us through every question and possibility, seeking
justice where the world is most broken, and healing where the
heart is torn by hate and division.

Wonder with us today and always, tending for creation and
caring for every person because they are our neighbors.

You have wondered with your church in every generation, and
taught us to value every question, encouraging us to find our
own answers. And so, we are gathered together today.

As we live in your steadfast love, may we live boldly,
faithfully, and joyfully.

Together, one in mind, and heart, and soul, and Spirit,
we pray, in Christ's name. Amen.

GOD'S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

Genesis 21:8-21

NRSV, Updated Edition

A MOMENT FOR ALL AGES

Tim Ebbers

Change for Change Mission Collection

This month's collection will support:
The Northern Illinois Veterans Pantry,
*providing household supplies and general assistance
to veterans living in Stephenson County.*

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

Make My Life a Prayer to You

Melody Green

Diane Jochum

GOD'S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

Matthew 10:24-39

NRSV, Updated Edition

MESSAGE

Family Troubles

Rev. Hank Fairman

*HYMN

All the Colors of the Rainbow

ABBOT'S LEIGH

Words: Carl P. Daw © 2016 / Music: Cyril V. Taylor, © 1970

PRESENTING OUR HEARTS AND GIFTS TO GOD

Moment for Mission

FACC Wednesday Dinners

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 *And Jesus Said / Be Not Afraid*

Alonso & Dufford, arr. Paul A. 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

St. John United Church of Christ – Freeport, IL

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

*HYMN

Set Forth by God's Blessing

ASH GROVE

WAR#712

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE

Go With Us, Lord

TALLIS' CANON

WAR #747

*POSTLUDE

Postlude on Abbot's Leigh

Alan Bullard

ANNOUNCEMENTS

100TH BIRTHDAY OPEN HOUSE

FOR JEAN KOCH

Saturday, 6/27, 1:00-4:00 pm

Please come and shower Jean Koch with cards in the Fellowship Hall at
St. John UCC, as she celebrates her 100th birthday with family and
friends. If you are unable to attend, please send a card to:

Jean Koch
1234 S Park Blvd. #110
Freeport IL 61032

BECOMING WISE FOR MENTAL HEALTH

Next Steps: The Wise Covenant Team,

St. John UCC is walking the path towards being recognized as a
congregation that is WISE for mental health (Welcoming, Inclusive,
Supportive, and Engaged). Our journey began with educational sessions
sharing the UCC Mental Health Network's process for a congregation
to become certified in their welcome for those with mental health
experiences. The feedback from those sessions was to begin the process
to attain that certification at St. John UCC.

Our next step is to form a WISE Covenant writing team. The Wellness
Ministry team is inviting people who have a passion for mental health to
collaborate in this endeavor. This is a six-month commitment that will
begin at the 7/19 meeting following worship.

*To sign up or for more information reach out to Pastor Ted
or a member of the Wellness Ministry*