

## 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://www.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!

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

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!*



### AMITY UNDERWEAR DRIVE

There is a great need for new children's underwear for underprivileged households in our community. We are called to reach out and let them know that we care. Starting in July, a laundry basket will be placed in the Atrium for your donations of sizes 8-18 underwear of all types.

### ST. JOHN UCC STAFF

Senior Pastor:

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Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Donnley Dutcher

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FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 28, 2026 • 10:00 am

### WELCOMING MUSIC and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*Your Grace and Mercy*

Williams; arr. C. Cole

Carl & Dianna Cole

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Lisa Schubert

One: Welcome! In the name of God, welcome!

**All: God's love stretches wide,  
ready to embrace all with love.**

One: You who are thirsty for the presence of God, welcome.

**All: May your thirst be satisfied.**

**All: You who long for a caring touch, welcome.**

**All: May you know God's love  
through the care of this community.**

One: In the name of God, welcome to all!

**All: Let us drink deeply of God's presence  
and share this grace with one another.**

One: Come, let us worship!

\*HYMN

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

CWM RHONDDA

WAR #569

\*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)

God of steadfast love,  
today remember Jesus' words:

“Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me,  
and anyone who welcomes me  
welcomes the one who sent me.”

Jesus taught what it means to welcome and showed a beautiful  
and beloved community where there is room for all.

We pray to welcome the outcast as we would welcome you, to  
do what you can to provide water to the stranger, and to trust  
always that you will be there.

We pray to know that kindness is brave, but always worthwhile,  
and that where love is, there you are.

May we extend the welcome we receive through your Spirit,  
and may we remember that in the holy act of welcoming others,  
we welcome you. Amen.

## CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

Sophia Mae Wilkinson  
child of Tanner & Rachel Wilkinson

### Congregational Welcome

One: Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament,  
promise your love, support, and care to the ones about  
to be baptized, as they live and grow in Christ?

**All: We promise our love, support, and care.**

Baptism Song *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise* STUTTGART  
NCH #325, vv. 1,3

Child of blessing, child of promise,  
baptized with the Spirit's sign,  
with this water God has sealed you  
unto love and grace divine.

Child of joy, our dearest treasure,  
God's you are; from God you came.  
Back to God we humbly give you:  
live as one who bears Christ's name.

## GOD'S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

Genesis 22:1-14

*NRSV, Updated Edition*

### FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

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

*Because of Who You Are* Spiritual; arr. C. Cole  
Carl & Dianna Cole

## GOD'S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

Matthew 10:40-42

*NRSV, Updated Edition*

### MESSAGE

*The Bad Moment* Rev. Hank Fairman

### \*HYMN

*God's Eye is on the Sparrow* SPARROW  
NCH #475

### 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.

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**St. John United Church of Christ – Freeport, IL**

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

### Offering Song

*Amazing Grace* Newton; arr. C. Cole  
Carl & Dianna Cole

### 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

*O God, in Christ You Call Us* AURELIA  
Words: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette © 2010

### \*BENEDICTION

### \*RESPONSE

*Go With Us, Lord* TALLIS' CANON

WAR #747

### \*POSTLUDE

*Amazing Grace (Reprise)* arr. C. Cole

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Today's Sanctuary Flowers** are given  
in honor of Jean Koch's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday, given by her family;  
and in honor of Sophia Wilkinson's Baptism, given by her family

### 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 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*