

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](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.

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 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

*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

mobile: 703-473-3534

Visitation Pastor:

Rev. Ted Michalsen

ted@stjohnuccfreeport.org

mobile: 440-536-1044

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



SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 5, 2026 • 10:00 am

WELCOMING MUSIC and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Will You Come and Follow Me arr. Matthew H. Corl

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Diane Jochum

One: God the potter has granted the created
with the ability to express with the arts

**All: Praise the LORD with music
and with poetry and with art.**

One: Sing to the LORD a new song,

All: sing joyfully with your whole heart!

One: The eyes of the LORD rest upon humanity,

All: on those whose hope is in God's unfailing love.

One: In God, our hearts rejoice
and we find a place for our trust to land.

**All: May God's unfailing love rest upon us,
for we put our hope in you.**

*HYMN

The God of Abraham Praise

LEONI

WAR #16

*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 our Creator and Sustainer,
who gives all good things seen and unseen.
In you alone we put our hope.

Jesus, our rabbi, who teaches us to love as God loves.
In you alone we put our hope.

Spirit, who both comforts and stirs us from placidness.
In you alone we put our hope.

In God revealed and made known in three persons
it is you who has earned our trust.
In you alone we place our hope.

In the name of the One, and the Three, Amen

GOD'S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

Genesis 12:1-9

NRSV, Updated Edition

FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

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

God Help the Outcasts

Menken/Schwartz

Caylie Schubert

GOD'S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

Matthew 9:8-13, 18-26

NRSV, Updated Edition

MESSAGE

What restores life?

Rev. Ted Michalsen

*HYMN

I Danced in the Morning

LORD OF THE DANCE

GTG #157

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 *For Everyone Born, a Place at the Table*

Lori True, 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.

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Sharing Celebrations and Concerns

Invitation to the Table

One: We come to this table thankful that God gives
enough food and forgiveness to go around.

**All: We come, thankful that Jesus shows us the Way
in parable and in story.**

One: This is the way of compassion and hope.

**All: This is the way that the Spirit breathes new life.
The church is renewed in our gathering,
our eating, and our drinking.**

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)

Thank you, God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus,
for gladness in this bread and cup, for love that cannot die.

With gratitude for nourishing us at this table, we dedicate:
our lips to be the voice of Christ to the despairing;
our hands to be Christ's hands,
reaching out to the broken places and people;
our feet to walk with Christ to visit those who are shunned;
our bodies to be Christ's living body to seek and serve the
world, to bring your realm of peace with justice into reality.

Take us. Empower us. Use us.

In Christ's name we pray; in Christ's Way we serve. Amen.

*HYMN

For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

GTG #296

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE

Go With Us, Lord

TALLIS' CANON

WAR #747

*POSTLUDE

The God of Abraham Praise

arr. M. Burkhardt

St. John United Church of Christ – Freeport, IL

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



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

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



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.

JESUS CHRIST: LIFE

157 I Danced in the Morning



1 I danced in the morn-ing when the world was be-gun, and I
2 I danced for the scribe and the Phar - i - see, but
3 I danced on the Sab-bath and I cured the lame. The
4 I danced on a Fri - day when the sky turned black. It's
5 They cut me down and I leapt up high. †



danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I
they would not dance and they would not foll - ow me. I
ho - ly peo - ple said it was a shame. They
hard to dance with the dev - il on your back. They
I am the life that will nev - er, nev - er die. I'll



came down from heav - en and I danced on the earth. At
danced for the fish - er - men, for James and John. They
whipped and they stripped and they hung me high, and
bur - ied my bod - y and they thought I'd gone, but
live in you if you'll live in me, †



Beth - le - hem I had my birth.
came with me and the dance went on.
left me there on a cross to die.
I am the dance and I still go on.
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

This 20th-century ballad-like retelling of the life of Christ, though written for this Shaker tune, has many similarities with the pre-Reformation carol "Tomorrow shall be my dancing day." Such narrative carols were common both at Christmas and as part of medieval mystery plays.

FREERPORT

PRIDE
FREERPORT PRIDE WEEKEND
PRIDE Picnic, 6/13 | 1:00—3:00pm

Celebrate LGBTQ+ Pride in Freeport at an all-ages community picnic sponsored by St. John UCC and community partners. This summer, the event will again take place on St. John UCC Park Blvd. lawn.

There will be food, vendors, games, crafts, and more. Everyone is invited, so come join us, and bring your family and friends.

We are also looking for volunteers to help with the event. We need volunteers to help set-up in the morning, and others to help take down after the event. During the picnic we need to fill two shifts (11 am-1 pm and 1-3pm) of two volunteers to help:

Serve food Lead games Create crafts

If you would like to help before, during, or after the event please email Liz at lizzybeth123@gmail.com.

PRIDE Worship, 6/14

Celebrate Pride Month in worship as we grow together in a safe, affirming, and nurturing community of faith. We strive to demonstrate in all ways that no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Milton House TRIP

Saturday, 6/20 - Depart 8:00 am

A quick reminder about the upcoming visit to the Underground Railroad Museum for those who signed up for the trip. See Diane Jochum with any questions.



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.

Deadline for Applications is Sunday, 8/2