
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!

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

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



SUNDAY, 8/30, BEGINNING AT 10:00 AM

Our Rally Day celebration welcomes us back from summer's fun and labors. Come join in morning worship, sharing stories of God's blessings for us all. Stay for the annual Rally Day Pot-Luck Lunch. Bring your family's favorite dish to pass and sample others' faves. Celebrate as the community in Christ at St. John UCC, sharing the radical hospitality of God's all-embracing love!

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex!

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



ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 9th, 2026 • 10:00 am

WELCOMING MUSIC and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

arr. Neil Harmon

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Lisa Schubert

One: Come people of God, Children of many stories.?

All: We come to worship the source of love and life.

One: We know the pain of exclusion and the longing to belong.

All: Yet God's welcome is broader than our boundaries.

One: God's love is not limited by status, achievement, or difference.

All: In God's embrace, each person is beloved.

One: Come, let us gather as one community of grace.

All: Let us worship the Holy One, whose love makes room for all.

*HYMN

Let Us Build a House

TWO OAKS

GTG #301

*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)

Source of life, love, and belonging,
you created each person in your image
and call each one beloved.
Yet we confess
that we are often drawn toward favoritism,
giving attention to some
while overlooking others,
welcoming some
while leaving others at the margins.
Open our eyes to those who feel unseen,
our ears to those whose voices are too often ignored,
our spirits to those who long for community and connection,
and our hands ready to set a table
where that makes space for everyone.
Surround us in your love,
that our worship and our lives may
bear witness to your boundless grace.
Amen.

GOD’S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

NRSV, Updated Edition

A MOMENT FOR ALL AGES

Hank Fairman

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

The Beatitudes
A. H. Malotte
Elliot Fairman with Randy Cook

GOD’S WORD IN SCRIPTURE

Matthew 14:22-33

NRSV, Updated Edition

MESSAGE:

From Betrayal to Purpose
Rev. Ted Michalsen

*HYMN

Help Us Accept Each Other
BECK

WAR #596

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

Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me
, arr. T. C. McKibben

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.

*HYMN

GTG #300

We Are One in the Spirit
THEY’LL KNOW WE. ARE CHRISTIANS

*BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE

With Grateful Heart
GRATUS

WAR #720, v.I

*POSTLUDE

Postlude on “Ellacombe”
Albert L. Travis

ANNOUNCEMENTS



ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL
Wednesday, 8/12 4:30pm-7:00pm

Come enjoy an evening of fun, food and relaxation with friends from the St. John UCC community. Barbecue sandwiches, hot dogs, chips, pasta salad and drinks will be served, along with cake, pie and ice cream to complete your meal! Tickets are available in the church office or on Sundays.

\$8 for BBQ or Hot Dog,
with Chips, Pasta Salad, and Drink

\$5 for Pie or Cake, Ice Cream, and Drink

If you are able to donate a pie or cake, or willing to volunteer your time to serve as cashier, server, kitchen crew, or cleanup crew, please sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Thank you for your help!



2026 BACKPACK BLESSING
SUNDAY, 8/16 10:00 AM

Ring in a new school year with us!
Kids, bring in your backpacks to receive a blessing
and tag as we celebrate you going back to school!

St. John United Church of Christ – Freeport, IL
an Open and Affirming, Racial Justice Congregation,
where God is Still Speaking

Let Us Build a House

All Are Welcome

Capo 3: (A7) (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (Bm)
C7 F C F B^b C Dm

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
 2 Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and words are
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and

(D) (A) (D) (Bm7) (Em) (A)
F C F Dm7 Gm C

safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
 strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek
 wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground
 wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,
 vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed

(Em) (A7) (G) (D) (F#m) (Bm)
Gm C7 B^b F Am Dm

how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

(Em) (A) (D) (G)
Gm C F B^b

vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we
 strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
 laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this

(D) (G) (F#7) (Bm) (Em) (Bm)
F B^b A7 Dm Gm Dm

love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
 share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
 house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:

(F#m) (Em) (D) (Em) (A7) (D) (G) (D)
Am Gm F Gm C7 F B^b F

all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

We Are One in the Spirit

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

Capo 1: (Em) (Bm) (Em)
Fm Cm Fm

1 We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord;
 2 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand;
 3 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side;
 4 All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,

(Am) (Em)
B^bm Fm

we are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord,
 we will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand,
 we will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side,
 and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,

(Am) (Em)
B^bm Fm

and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
 and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
 and we'll guard hu - man dig - ni - ty and save hu - man pride:
 and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

Refrain (C) (Em)
D^b Fm

And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our

(Am) (Em) (Am) (Bm) (Em) (Am/E) (Em)
B^bm Fm B^bm Cm Fm B^bm/F Fm

love; yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

A parish priest at St. Brendan's on the South Side of Chicago in the 1960s was very involved in the local Civil Rights movement and needed something for his youth choir to sing at ecumenical, interracial events. Finding nothing, he wrote this song in a single day.

TEXT and MUSIC: Peter Scholtes, 1966

Text and Music © 1966 F.E.L. Publications, assigned 1991 to The Lorenz Corp.

THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS

7.6.7.6.8.6 with refrain

Although it was written for a church dedication, this text is not about a physical structure but a spiritual one. The building is at best only a vessel for the essential love and hope, life and faith, peace and justice, hospitality and nurture that form the worshipping community.