

COVID-19 UPDATE: REGATHERING TOGETHER

We are living in *Phase 4* of the *Restore Illinois* plan! With the guidance from Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), the church council has assembled a *Regathering Team* to review all of the rules and guidelines for religious communities, for meetings and social events, and for theaters and performing arts. Yes, a church is all of these and more!

Beginning on July 7, the campus will begin its “slow and steady” opening for small meetings. These will be limited to business-related gatherings for our congregation and community partners. ***Strict screening and social distancing guidelines*** will be in place. This will include temperature screenings, a contact-tracing questionnaire, and informed participation agreements for all groups.

Phase 4 still requires masks for every person at all times while visiting the church campus.

The Regathering Team recommends waiting on opening the sanctuary for worship or gatherings until the Stephenson County infection rate holds at zero for a period of fourteen days.

Continued on p. 2

LIVING OUR FAITH AS A RACIAL JUSTICE CHURCH

The death of George Floyd has again raised our national dialogue on race, justice, and our society. As the tensions increase in our community and our nation on issues of racial and social justice, we have received many questions from our members and friends:

"How do we engage the issues of Racial Justice?"

"How do I learn about racism?"

"Where do I begin to understand the issues of white privilege?"

It begins when faith communities like ours increase our attention on our mission to live our faith out loud as Multiracial/Multicultural anti-Racist Church.

Beginning on Wednesday July 8, at 6:30 pm we will join in a four-week, online hybrid discussion series on ***"White Fragility"*** by Robin DiAngelo. DiAngelo's book is one of the newest and most accessible starting points for a discussion. We will gather in our Zoom meeting space, using the same credentials as our weekly Coffee Hour.

This is our second engaged series on Racial Justice, following the UCC's curriculum for guided discussions, *"White Privilege: Let's Talk."*

Continued on p. 2



Find Our
Extravagant
Welcome

Join in our streaming
Online Worship every Sunday, 10:00 am:
[facebook.com/stjohnuccfreeport/live](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnuccfreeport/live)

And in our Virtual Coffee Hour
on ZOOM at 11:00 am.

Meeting Room number :929-784-5943
Access Code 2824.

See you in our Virtual Worship Place!



GOT MASKS? WE DO!

During Phase 4 of the *Restore Illinois plan*, ***EVERY PERSON*** is required to wear a mask when in a public place where they can't maintain a six-foot social distance. Need a mask? Call Pam - 815-275-7202

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday 9:00am—2:00pm
Office Phone 815-235-2824

CHURCH LIFE IN PHASE 4

COVID UPDATE (continued)

They will be working on three areas to help understand the effect of the extended Coronavirus to our ministry during Phase 4 and beyond. First, we will monitor the IDPH and Stephenson County Health Department's publications and guidelines.

Second, we will be surveying every member household over the month of July to understand the opinions, fears, and desires of our members, friends, and community related. The Care Teams will be adding these questions to their calls.

Third, we will seek out our members and friends who have not been able to connect with our online worship and fellowship opportunities. We have had a great response from the residents in our senior living communities, and we want to make sure that continues!

In all that we do, please know that we are working with due precaution and appropriate speed to regather.

YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL SUMMARY

As we reach the halfway point of the year, we rejoice in the spirit of generosity in our community.

Our Faith Promise commitments received from January to June were \$108,303, 82% of YTD anticipated pledges. Total income was \$159,202, 84% of YTD budget. Total expenses were \$185,109, 101% of YTD budget and 48% of the 2020 Annual Budget.

Your continuing support has ensured that our staff remains fully present and compensated during the Coronavirus period. Also, we have planned for the Illinois living-wage increase on July 1, and are proud to say, as a Fair Wage employer, our compensation for every employee exceeds that mandated minimum level of support.

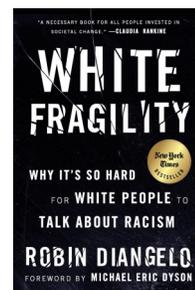
Thank you, friends, for all that you offer in support of the mission and ministry at St. John UCC.

RACIAL JUSTICE (continued)

That first series exposed our minds to the unseen issues of systemic racism that may not be apparent in our daily lives—especially if we grew up white and economically privileged. Our discussion demonstrated the impact of our spiritual journey, the “norms” of whiteness, the economic realities and disparities that exist, and our participation in becoming allies in racial equity.

DiAngelo's text will take us deeper in to this participation, offering reflections and perspectives on the challenges of talking about Racism and its history; how race shapes the lives of white people; the “good/bad” binary and anti-Blackness; and white fragility, its depths, and dilemmas, and with more understanding of the continuing work of antiracism, what we can do as individuals and communities to address the systemic impact of racism.

There will be a limited number of copies of the book available for purchase at the church. Contact Lisa Elsner at the church office. The book can also be purchased online in paperback and e-reader. Contact Rev. Hank Fairman with questions or items for discussion.



MAY FINANCIAL SUMMARY			
Income	Actual	Budget	Difference
Pledges/Gifts	\$20,818	\$22,083	(-\$1,265)
Other Income	\$5,566	\$9,703	(-\$4,137)
Total Income	\$26,384	\$31,786	(-\$5,402)
Total Expenses	\$26,231	\$31,473	(-\$5,242)
Month Total	\$154	\$313	(-\$159)
YTD Income	\$133,668	\$158,932	(-\$25,264)
YTD Expenses	\$148,099	\$154,433	(-\$6,334)
YTD Total	(-\$14,431)	\$4,499	(-\$18,930)





1010 South Park Boulevard
Freeport, IL 61032
www.stjohnucfreeport.org

Place
Stamp
Here

Change Service Requested



**Be Out
Be Proud** 
We Are Open and Affirming

ONE MORE THOUGHT:

SOLAR POWERED, SPIRIT INSPIRED

An update on the Solar Renewable Energy Project

Summer’s sun has been warm and welcoming for the past weeks. With the solstice on June 20, we saw our longest “day,” with 14 hours and 49 minutes of sunlight. What a great time of year to review our Creation Justice commitments through our Solar Renewable Energy Project.

The solar power system has been in full operation in March. Because of the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic precautions, the certifications and inspections by Commonwealth Edison and the Freeport Building Inspector were delayed several months. On May 11, Com Ed certified the system for solar generation. On June 25, we received the final inspection approval from the City of Freeport. With those two items in place, the installation of our Solar Energy Project is complete!

We have generated *over 19 megawatt hours* of clean, non-carbon, non-nuclear energy in four months—the equivalent of removing 11 tons of coal, planting 278 trees, or the equivalent of 50,000 miles of car travel!



GREEN ENERGY REPORT

Month	Generated
March	3,645 kWh
April	4,574 kWh
May	3,775 kWh
June	7,250 kWh
Total kWh	19,245 kWh