

*St. John United Church of Christ
Arlington Heights, Illinois*

*Created
to Care*



*Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
June 23, 2024*

Welcome to St. John

Welcome Thank you for joining us for in-person worship today!

Livestreaming All of St. John's worship services are now livestreamed. You can watch the service live or at another time by going to our website, www.stjah.org or our Vimeo page, www.vimeo.com/stjah.

Holy Communion All are welcome to participate in Holy Communion at St. John. We believe that Jesus welcomed all to his mission of love and all are welcome to the table. We celebrate Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month. All are invited to come forward, row by row. If you cannot come forward, a server will bring communion to you.

A gluten-free option is available. White Grape Juice or Red Wine are available in the trays.

Giving Offering plates are passed during worship. You can also give by going to www.stjah.org and clicking the "GIVE" tab at the top of the page, or by mail. Thank you for your generosity!

Children in Worship Infants and children bring life to our worship and are always welcome. Worship Activity Packets are available for children.

Interested in Membership? Contact the office at office@stjah.org or 847-255-6687.

Open and Affirming We are an ONA church. Please visit our website and see our ONA Statement on the back page of this bulletin for more information.

Wifi Network & Password Guest & StJohnGuest

CONTACT US –

308 N. Evergreen Avenue, Arlington Heights, IL 60004

www.stjah.org | office@stjah.org

facebook.com/stjohnuccah | twitter.com/stjohnuccah | instagram.com/stjohnucc

Office: 847.255.6687

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Monday – Friday

STAFF –

Rev. Judith Wang, Interim Pastor – pastor@stjah.org

Janice Gilligan, Church Administrator – office@stjah.org

Dr. J. Paul Cochran, Organist & Orchestra Director

Linda Styzek, Pianist & Worship Band Coordinator

Alberto Mantovano, Choir Director & Livestream Coordinator

Carin Zachar, Bell Choir Director

June 23, 2024

Please silence all phones and electronic devices. Thank you.

The Music Committee respectfully requests that you refrain from applauding after the musical offerings, as reflective silence is a part of the musical experience. Thank you.

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Leader and **People**)

God promises abundance.

In every season, God provides.

We may not understand how God works,

yet we take our place in God's creation.

The ways of God's world are rooted in God's blessing,

and we want to learn the blessing way.

*OPENING HYMN #558

"O How Glorious, Full of Wonder"

*OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

God of the covenant, you are always paying attention to not only people but also the land and sea and air and sky and creatures great and small.

Teach us to pay attention, too.

You remember the stories of the earth, the love you have infused into creation, the hope of your vision still waiting for fulfilment.

Teach us to remember, too, and to love, and to hope, and to pursue your promise. We pray together in Jesus' name....

*OUR LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*THE PEACE [*Please simply say "Peace be with you" with a nod or wave.*]

The peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

*GLORIA

Hymnal #759

Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three in One.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS COLLECTION

TIME WITH CHILDREN

HISTORICAL WITNESS – Part 1

Leviticus 26.3-13

³ If you follow my statutes and keep my commandments and observe them faithfully, ⁴I will give you your rains in their season, and the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. ⁵Your threshing shall overtake the vintage, and the vintage shall overtake the sowing; you shall eat your bread to the full, and live securely in your land. ⁶And I will grant peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and no one shall make you afraid; I will remove dangerous animals from the land, and no sword shall go through your land. ⁷You shall give chase to your enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword. ⁸Five of you shall give chase to a hundred, and a hundred of you shall give chase to ten thousand; your enemies shall fall before you by the sword. ⁹I will look with favor upon you and make you fruitful and multiply you; and I will maintain my covenant with you. ¹⁰You shall eat old grain long stored, and you shall have to clear out the old to make way for the new. ¹¹I will place my dwelling in your midst, and I shall not abhor you. ¹²And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and you shall be my people. ¹³I am the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be their slaves no more; I have broken the bars of your yoke and made you walk erect.

HYMN #563

“We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky”

HISTORICAL WITNESS – Part 2

Leviticus 26.14-35; 40-45

¹⁴ But if you will not obey me, and do not observe all these commandments, ¹⁵if you spurn my statutes, and abhor my ordinances, so that you will not observe all my commandments, and you break my covenant, ¹⁶I in turn will do this to you: I will bring terror on you; consumption and fever that waste the eyes and cause life to pine away. You shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. ¹⁷I will set my face against you, and you shall be struck down by your enemies; your foes shall rule over you, and you shall flee though no one pursues you. ¹⁸And if in spite of this you will not obey me, I will continue to punish you sevenfold for your sins. ¹⁹I will break your proud glory, and I will make your sky like iron and your earth like copper. ²⁰Your strength shall be spent to no purpose: your land shall not yield its produce, and the trees of the land shall not yield their fruit.

²¹ If you continue hostile to me, and will not obey me, I will continue to plague you sevenfold for your sins. ²²I will let loose wild animals against you, and they shall

bereave you of your children and destroy your livestock; they shall make you few in number, and your roads shall be deserted.

34 Then the land shall enjoy its sabbath years as long as it lies desolate, while you are in the land of your enemies; then the land shall rest, and enjoy its sabbath years. ³⁵As long as it lies desolate, it shall have the rest it did not have on your sabbaths when you were living on it.

40 But if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their ancestors, in that they committed treachery against me and, moreover, that they continued hostile to me— ⁴¹so that I, in turn, continued hostile to them and brought them into the land of their enemies; if then their uncircumcised heart is humbled and they make amends for their iniquity, ⁴²then will I remember my covenant with Jacob; I will remember also my covenant with Isaac and also my covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land. ⁴³For the land shall be deserted by them, and enjoy its sabbath years by lying desolate without them, while they shall make amends for their iniquity, because they dared to spurn my ordinances, and they abhorred my statutes. ⁴⁴Yet for all that, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not spurn them, or abhor them so as to destroy them utterly and break my covenant with them; for I am the LORD their God; ⁴⁵but I will remember in their favor the covenant with their ancestors whom I brought out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations, to be their God: I am the LORD.

CONTEMPORARY WITNESS

“Big IF, Big BUT!”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison) [Written by Rev. Teri Peterson]

Creator God, you made all things to work for good, to provide abundantly and beautifully.

We confess that we have not wanted to live within the system you created.

We allowed ourselves to be formed by the ways of Pharaoh, and we cannot seem to lay aside our addiction to productivity, anxiety, and control.

We cross boundaries and blame other creatures and even the land for becoming dangerous.

We take up more time and space than is ours to occupy.

We use more resources and deplete the land and the rest of creation.

And we confess we do it because we can't seem to imagine another way.

We simply do what feels like it's always been done.

Give us clarity of thought, O God, to recognize the harm we have perpetrated.

Give us humility to own up to our wrongdoing,

and to repent and apologize not only to you, but to our neighbors we have sacrificed and to the whole creation we have abused.

Forgive us, and remember your covenant, O God. Remember and renew us in

your way, that we might at last put you first, even when that seems counter to the world's way. Satisfy our hearts, that we may live peaceably with all your creation. We ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING "Maybe When We're Gone"
Words and Music by Brian McLaren Used with permission, CMP.

TIME OF PRAYER

INVITATION TO OFFERING AND OFFERTORY Be Thou My Vision – Dale Wood

*DOXOLOGY Tune: Hymnal #780

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN #559 "Thank You, God"

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Trumpet Tune in D Major – Henry Purcell

TIP FOR GOING GREEN: Bring reusable cloth bags when you shop. Buy mesh bags to hold your loose produce (or don't use a bag at all if you're getting a single item.). Stop using plastic food storage bags and use glass or reusable plastic containers. Reusable food storage bags are also available; use and wash and reuse.

*Indicates when congregation may stand.

The Call to Worship and Opening Prayer were written by Rev. Teri Peterson.

Bolded text is intended to be read in unison by the whole congregation.

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This Sunday's Worship Leaders: GREETERS: Holly Petersen & Dennis Roesslein. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Judy Grimes. FLOWERS: Laura Janus. COFFEE: PADS Team. CALLED TO CARE: Paris Donehoo. SEXTON: Doug Petersen. ALTAR GUILD: Lana Cochran.

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders: GREETERS: Barbara Blye & Judy Grimes. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dennis Roesslein. FLOWERS: . COFFEE: Penny Donehoo. CALLED TO CARE: Holly Endicott. SEXTON: Doug Petersen. ALTAR GUILD: Lana Cochran.

The Week Ahead at St. John:

- **Fifth Sunday after Pentecost** – Sunday, June 23 at 10:00 A.M.
 - **Coffee Hour** – Sunday, June 23 at 11:00 A.M.
 - **PADS summer Supper** – Sunday, June 23 at 6:30 P.M.
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Yard Signs Promoting Love: Shortly after the Cook County Against Hate event at our church, the Tuesday Bible Study group, inspired by what another church had done some years ago, began to envision yard signs promoting love. These signs are now available. Let Pastor Judy or Mike Wilson know if you would like one. A \$5 donation is suggested, but not mandatory!

Let's spread the word! LOVE!

Sponsoring Flowers: If you are interested in sponsoring flowers for Sunday service, you may now sponsor one bouquet for \$20 or \$40 for both. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall or contact Janice.

St. John Social Potluck: The second Saturday of the month finds Fellowship Hall filled with good food, good friends and good conversation. On 7/13 join us for an All-American Potluck. We meet at 6pm. All are welcome so join us for an evening of fun and community.

St. John Book Club: Come join us as we gather to discuss books we are reading. Book Club meets at 2pm on the 2nd Monday of each month. Book Club is open to all. Join us anytime.

PADS Update / Summer Suppers at St. John: This summer we will again participate in the Summer Suppers program with 16 other faith communities. We will serve dinner to our PADS guests and any other community members who are food insecure. All are welcome. We will serve dinner from 6:30pm - 7:30pm at St. John UCC on the 4th Sunday of the month. We will collect non-perishable items for the guests to take with them as they leave the dinner. **We will also collect new / gently used (washed) sleeping bags & small (1-2 person) tents for our PADS guests who will sleep outside this summer.** Non-perishable items can be dropped off at St. John UCC (308 N. Evergreen Avenue) at the front entrance between 10:00am - 2:00pm on 8/10. Summer Suppers Sign up - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E45ADAA28A7F4CE9-48790449-stjohn#/> Thank you!
Barbara Jo, Kathy and Michelle

June 23, 2024 / Fifth Sunday after Pentecost / “Pushing the Boat Out” / Mark 4:35–41

The United Church of Christ celebrates our 67th anniversary this weekend. These opening paragraphs of our history describe the ways in which very different faith communities prepared to live into the slogan “in essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity.” How does your congregation still live out that slogan today?

On Tuesday, June 25, 1957, at Cleveland, Ohio, the Evangelical and Reformed Church, 23 years old, passionate in its impulse to unity, committed to “liberty of conscience inherent in the Gospel,” and the Congregational Christian Churches, 26 years old, a fellowship of biblical people under a mutual covenant for responsible freedom in Christ, joined together as the United Church of Christ. The new church embodied the essence of both parents, a complement of freedom with order, of the English and European Reformations with the American Awakenings, of separatism with 20th-century ecumenism, of presbyterian with congregational polities, of neoorthodox with liberal theologies. Two million members joined hands...

A message was sent to the churches from the Uniting General Synod, signed by its moderators,

Louis W. Goebel and George B. Hastings, its co-presidents, and co-secretaries Sheldon E. Mackey and Fred S. Buschmeyer. After acknowledging the separate ancestries of the parties to the union and citing ecumenical “relatives” of both denominations, the message stated, “Differences in ecclesiastical procedure, which in sundry places and times have occasioned tensions and disorders, are appointed their secondary place and are divested of evil effect.” The union, the message continued, was possible because the “two companies of Christians hold the same basic belief: that Christ and Christ alone is the head of the Church ... From him [we] derive the understanding of God, ... participation in the same spirit, the doctrines of faith, the influence toward holiness, the duties of divine worship, the apprehension of the significance of baptism and the Lord’s Supper, the observance of church order, the mutual love of Christians and their dedication to the betterment of the world” (“Report on the Uniting General Synod:” Advance, July 12, 1957, p. 22).

You can read more of the story of the birth and early decade of our denomination by navigating to: <https://www.ucc.org/who-we-are/about/history/#united-church>



www.stjah.org

ST. JOHN UCC OPEN & AFFIRMING STATEMENT



The congregation of St. John United Church of Christ rejoices that our community of faith is strengthened by diversity. We declare ourselves to be an open and affirming congregation, extending God’s extravagant welcome to all people regardless of culture, economic status, age, sex, ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, marital status, or physical/mental condition. We invite everyone to join our journey of faith and participate fully in the life of our congregation.