

St. John United Church of Christ

Arlington Heights, Illinois

*They are like trees planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season. Psalm 1: 3a*



**Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Stewardship Sunday
October 15, 2023**

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/stjohnuccah

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

October 15, 2023

Please silence all phones and electronic devices. Thank you.

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 1.1-3

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread,
or sit in the seat of scoffers;

**but their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law they meditate day and night.**

They are like trees planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,

**and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.**

*OPENING HYMN #25

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

*OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

**God of our ancestors, we come together in this sacred space today
listening closely for your Word for our lives. We come to hear and to
meditate on your Word. We come to be renewed by the living water
you offer, that we might go forth to bear fruit in this time and place.**

**Help us God, to stay grounded firmly in your way, and help us to plant
the seeds of faith in the next generation.**

Hear our prayer....

*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.**

*PRAYER RESPONSE #769

**Hear our prayer, O God; hear our prayer, O God.
Incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.**

*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!

LITANY FOR COMMISSIONING – PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

Invitation

Litany of the Word (1 Corinthians 12)

There are different gifts.

But it is the same Spirit who gives them.

Each one is given a gift by the Spirit,

to be used for the common good.

Address to the Committee Members

Covenant (Committee Members)

Congregational Response

We pledge, a gathered community of faith, to be patient with you and to respect your need to be confidential in your task. We recognize that the work of our search committee is a difficult assignment and will take much effort. We pray for you and offer our support and words of encouragement through this time. These things we promise in the hope and belief that you will be obedient to the guidance of the Holy Spirit as you seek a new pastor to minister with us.

Closing Prayer

MUSICAL OFFERING

Give Thanks – arr. by Susan Geschke

HISTORICAL WITNESS

Deuteronomy 8.1-20

8 This entire commandment that I command you today you must diligently observe, so that you may live and increase, and go in and occupy the land that the Lord promised on oath to your ancestors.² Remember the long way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, in order to humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commandments.³ He humbled you by letting you hunger, then by feeding you with manna, with which neither you nor your ancestors were acquainted, in order to make you understand that one does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. ⁴ The clothes on your back did not wear out and your feet did not swell these forty years. ⁵ Know then in your heart that as a parent disciplines a child so the Lord your God disciplines you. ⁶ Therefore keep the commandments of the Lord your God, by walking in his ways and by fearing him. ⁷ For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, ⁸ a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, ⁹ a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. ¹⁰ You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you. ¹¹ Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God, by failing to keep his commandments, his ordinances, and his statutes, which I am commanding you today. ¹² When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, ¹³ and when your herds and flocks have multiplied, and your silver and gold is

multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied, ¹⁴then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, ¹⁵who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid waste-land with poisonous snakes and scorpions. He made water flow for you from flint rock, ¹⁶and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good. ¹⁷Do not say to yourself, 'My power and the might of my own hand have gained me this wealth.' ¹⁸But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today. ¹⁹If you do forget the Lord your God and follow other gods to serve and worship them, I solemnly warn you today that you shall surely perish. ²⁰Like the nations that the Lord is destroying before you, so shall you perish, because you would not obey the voice of the Lord your God.

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS COLLECTION

TIME WITH CHILDREN

MUSICAL OFFERING

"I Will Follow"

CONTEMPORARY WITNESS

"Don't Forget to Remember"

HYMN #451

"Be Now My Vision"

TIME OF PRAYER

INVITATION TO OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

Air from the Water Music Suite – G.F. Handel

*DOXOLOGY

Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN (#17)

**Praise God from Whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Alleluia, alleluia
Praise God the source of all our gifts
Praise Jesus Christ Whose power uplifts
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit
Alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia**

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*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN #448

"Take My Life, God, Let It Be"

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Festival Toccata – Percy Fletcher

*Indicates when congregation may stand.

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

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This Sunday's Worship Leaders: GREETERS: Dave Landeweer & Barbara Blye.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dennis Roesslein. FLOWERS: Blye's for their 18th Wedding Anniversary.

COFFEE: Blye's for their 18th Wedding Anniversary. SCRIPTURE READER: Paul Thoms. CALLED TO CARE: Corrie Roesslein. SEXTON: Paul Thoms. ALTAR GUILD: Michelle Brinson.

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders: GREETERS: Judy Grimes & Holly Petersen. ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dennis Roesslein. FLOWERS: Giambarberee's. SCRIPTURE READER: Lisa Zwilling. CALLED TO CARE: SEXTON: Paul Giambarberee. ALTAR GUILD: Michelle Brinson.

THE PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE is in place! This Sunday, we will be commissioning our Pastoral Search Committee during the worship service. Please come and show your support as they begin their important work!

The Week Ahead at St. John:

- **St. John Social** – Saturday, October 14 at 6:00 P.M.
 - **Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost/Stewardship Sunday** - Sunday, October 15 at 10:00 A.M.
 - **Coffee Hour** - Sunday, October 15 at 11:00 A.M.
 - **Pastoral Search Committee Meeting** - Sunday, October 15 at 11:15 A.M.
 - **Bible Study** - Tuesday, October 17 at 10:00 A.M.
 - **Bell Rehearsal** - Tuesday, October 17 at 6:00 P.M.
 - **Stewardship Committee Meeting** - Tuesday, October 17 at 7:00 P.M.
 - **Choir Rehearsal** - Wednesday, October 18 at 6:45 P.M.
 - **PADS** - Wednesday, October 18 at 7:00 P.M.
 - **Cards** – Thursday, October 19 at 1:00 P.M.
 - **Girl Scout Troop Meeting** – Thursday, October 19 at 4:00 P.M.
 - **PADS** - Friday, October 20 at 7:00 P.M.
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Student Care Packages: Do you have a student that is attending college or trade school? Would they like to receive a care package from St. John? If so, please send your student's address (home or school) to the church office. Care packages will be sent in late fall. Donations of food or money (for mailings) can be left in the large blue box in Fellowship Hall. Deadline Sunday, October 29. Questions? Contact Mary Santi at maryfs2154@sbcglobal.net or 847-907-1586 (call or text).

Holiday Greenery: St. John will again be selling holiday greenery. Wreaths and swags and more will be on sale from October 7th-28th each Sunday in fellowship hall after the church service, or see Julie Kurka for a brochure. Orders will be ready for pick up on Saturday November 18th after 10am.

Cookies for Sailors: As in years past, the American Legion Halls in Arlington Heights and Mt. Prospect will be hosting sailor recruits for Thanksgiving Dinner. I received calls asking if our church would donate cookies again this year. I said yes because our congregation has always been generous with their baking talents in the past. If you can, please bake a batch for the sailor recruits and drop them in Fellowship Hall prior to service on November 19. Thank You in advance. Any Questions, please call Dee Koontz at 847-870-7972.

Women's Spirituality Group at St. John: Thank you to those who attended our Women's Spirituality gathering. The book, *Dance of the Spirit: Seven Steps to Women's Spirituality* by Martha Harris has seven chapters. The group meets every other week, discussing one chapter a week, as follows: October 26-Chapter 4; November 9-Chapter 5; November 30-Chapter 6; December 14-Chapter 7. We meet in Fellowship Hall from 6:30pm-8:30pm. Please feel free to bring your dinner. Questions, contact Holly Petersen, Martha Ross-Mockaitis or Barbara Blye.

Race Discussion Group: The Race Discussion Group meets on the 1st & 3rd Mondays of the month via Zoom from 7-8pm. Our book is *Mindful of Race, Transforming Racism from the Inside Out* by Ruth King. If you are interested in joining, please let Martha or Tom Mockaitis know, and you'll be added to the Zoom Link. The group is a gathering of people from St. John's & Temple Beth Am. We are happy to have new folks join as we learn and discuss topics and issues on racism today.

PADS Update: We will again be open on Wednesday & Friday evenings to serve PADS guests. Our first nights will be October 4 and 6. We are looking for volunteers for all shifts on Wednesday / Thursday and Friday / Saturday and particularly need volunteers for 2nd & 3rd shifts both nights! We provide training for all shifts! We also need food donations to provide dinner, breakfast & lunch for our guests! Please see the Sign-ups below! Mark what you are interested in and hit submit! You can mark multiple items at once. If you need assistance with Sign-up genius we are glad to help! New and returning volunteers who have not already completed it are required to complete a brief on-line training provided by Journeys The Road Home. At the end of the training, volunteers will complete a form for a background check and a volunteer information sheet. All 3 steps must be completed.

<https://www.journeystheroadhome.org/VolunteerOrientation.html>

Wednesday Shifts Sign-up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e45adaa28a7f4ce9-pads1#/>

Wednesday Food/M meal Servers Sign-up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e45adaa28a7f4ce9-202320241#/>

Friday Shifts Sign-up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e45adaa28a7f4ce9-pads2#/>

Friday Food/meal Servers Sign-up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e45adaa28a7f4ce9-202320242#/>

Please let us know if you have questions! Thanks for your continued support! St. John PADS Team

St. John Social: Members & guests of our St. John community meet on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 6pm for a potluck dinner and social gathering: November 11 join us for a **Hawaiian Thanksgiving**. December 9 join us for the **12 "Dishes" of Christmas**. Be creative or traditional. It's always fun to see what people bring to share. Hope to see you and remember all are welcome!

St. John Book Club: We meet on the 2nd Monday of the month at 2pm at St. John. On November 13, we will discuss *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Pelt. On December 11, we will share a recent or old favorite holiday theme book/tradition of our choice.

Little Free Pantry: With cooler weather on its way, we need socks, gloves and hats for the little free pantry. Sign up to help for a 2-week commitment at <https://tinyurl.com/2uzc4tdf>. Contact Jay Virchow or Jenn Borrell with questions.

Food Pantry Focus: The Lutheran Church of the Cross Food Pantry is thankful for our weekly donations. The following items are needed: 10/15 – Canned fruit; 10/22 – Canned SpaghettiO's and ravioli, etc.; 10/29 – Peanut butter, 16-28 oz. max. Thanks, Connie & Mission Team

October 15, 2023 / **Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost** / Philippians 4:1-9
Praiseworthy Living / *Children's Sabbath* / *Laity Sunday*

Today is Laity Sunday, the day we celebrate the many astounding gifts of people who are not authorized or ordained ministers, and yet serve the church in manifold ways. On this day, we remember that the priesthood of all believers means that every person has a vital part to play in the life of local congregations.

Laity Sunday is a day of joy, a day to remember that when we focus on standing with one another, even as we maintain a variety of perspectives or behaviors, we are living God's dream for us. Laity Sunday is a day to remember the gladness of giving into the spaciousness of God's call and purpose for all people. Laity Sunday is a day to focus on, as the letter writer exhorts in the epistle to the Philippians, "whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise."

Laity Sunday is a day to remember that this journey can be full of wonder and bursting with possibility. In short, Laity Sunday is a perfect day to play together. If you haven't already, it's a good day to check out "*Grow Your Church: A Board Game for Engaging the Marks of Faithful and Vital Local Congregations*".

This game is designed to get people talking about church vitality through the Marks of Faithful and Vital Local Churches. It will help deepen relationships with each other and with the congregation's covenantal partners while laughing, thinking creatively and having critical conversations.

This game is for the decision makers and strategic thinkers. It's for the board room and the dining room table. It's for the flower arranging committee and the deacons. This game is for people who love their church and want to experience it grow in vitality and faithfulness. Roll the dice and move about a garden path with your church friends!

You can learn more about the "*Grow Your Church: A Board Game for Engaging the Marks of Faithful and Vital Local Congregations*", and order one for your own congregation at uccresources.org.



ST. JOHN
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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.