

St. John United Church of Christ
Arlington Heights, Illinois



Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 24, 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

September 24, 2023

Please silence all phones and electronic devices. Thank you.

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather together this day to worship God.

**Some of us come celebrating good things in our lives,
seeing blessings all around us.**

Many of us come hoping to find a blessing here.

**Some of us come straight from the struggles of life; we are limping,
but we are here.**

We gather together this day to worship God.

**We come with joy, we come with pain; we come with laughter, we come
with fears.**

But we come; we come seeking an encounter with the living God.

Meet us here, O God. Help us to find your blessing as we worship together.

*OPENING HYMN #421

“We Gather Together”

*OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

**Holy God, your servant Jacob wrestled with your angel and prevailed.
In honor of his persistence, you gave him a new name. Teach us to
persist in the face of struggle, and call us by name. Hear our prayers,
O God...**

*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!

HISTORICAL WITNESS

Genesis 32.22-30

22 The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. 23 He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. 24 Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. 25 When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. 26 Then he said, 'Let me go, for the day is breaking.' But Jacob said, 'I will not let you go, unless you bless me.' 27 So he said to him, 'What is your name?' And he said, 'Jacob.' 28 Then the man said, 'You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed.' 29 Then Jacob asked him, 'Please tell me your name.' But he said, 'Why is it that you ask my name?' And there he blessed him. 30 So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, 'For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved.'

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS COLLECTION

TIME WITH CHILDREN

MUSICAL OFFERING

CONTEMPORARY WITNESS

"The Struggle is Real"

HYMN OF RESPONSE #510

"Grant Us Wisdom to Perceive You"

TIME OF PRAYER

INVITATION TO OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

Dearest Jesus, We Are Here - David Cherwien

*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**

CCLI Song # 5100718 Gilbert H. Vieira | Jeff Lowery | Thomas Ken © Words: 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) Music: 2007 Lowery, Jeff CCLI License # 326602

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN #82

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

When Morning Gilds the Skies – Dale Wood

*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: Judy Grimes & Dennis Roesslein.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dennis Roesslein. FLOWERS:. COFFEE:. SCRIPTURE READER: Lana Cochran. CALLED TO CARE:. SEXTON: Paul Giambarberee. ALTAR GUILD: Lana Cochran.

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders: GREETERS: Holly Petersen, Dennis Roesslein & Barbara Blye.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Holly Petersen. FLOWERS:. COFFEE:. SCRIPTURE READER: Barbara Blye. CALLED TO CARE: Barbara Blye. SEXTON: Paul Thoms. ALTAR GUILD: Michelle Brinson.

The Week Ahead at St. John

- **Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost** – Sunday, September 24 at 10:00 A.M.
 - **Coffee Hour** - Sunday, September 24 at 11:00 A.M.
 - **PADS Summer Supper** - Sunday, September 24 at 6:30 P.M.
 - **Bible Study** - Tuesday, September 26 at 10:00 A.M.
 - **Special Council Meeting** - Tuesday, September 26 at 6:00 P.M.
 - **Bell Rehearsal** - Tuesday, September 26 at 6:00 P.M.
 - **Worship Band** - Tuesday, September 26 at 6:30 P.M.
 - **St. John Open House** - Wednesday, September 27 at 5:00 P.M.
 - **Brownies Troop Meeting** – Thursday, September 28 at 4:00 P.M.
 - **Choir Rehearsal** – Thursday, September 28 at 6:45 P.M.
 - **Christian Pre-K Prep Open House** – Friday, September 29 at 7:00 P.M.
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Save the Dates: Wednesday, September 27th, 5-8 pm - Community Open House to celebrate the completion of the Capital Campaign work.

Bible Study: Bible Study has resumed on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 AM. We are discussing the Book of James.

Race Discussion Group: The Race Discussion Group will meet on the 1st & 3rd Mondays of each month beginning October 2nd. We meet via Zoom from 7-8pm. Our book for the fall and winter is *Mindful of Race, Transforming Racism from the Inside Out* by Ruth King. We will read the Introduction and Chapter 1 for the October 2nd meeting. If you are interested in joining this conversation, please let either Martha or Tom Mockaitis know, and you'll be added to the Zoom Link. This group is a gathering of people from St. John's and Temple Beth Am. We are happy to have new folks join us as we learn and discuss topics and issues on racism today.

PADS Update: Welcome back for the 23/24 PADS Season! We are eagerly preparing for our PADS season at St. John. We will again be open on Wednesday and Friday evenings to serve the PADS guests. Our first nights will be Wednesday, October 4th and Friday, October 6th.

Journeys is hoping to have 2 sites open every night of the week this season. St. James will also be open on Wednesday nights. Typically the number of guests is lower in October and November, so we will be alternating weeks with St. James. As numbers of guests increase, we will open both sites each week. We are currently the only site scheduled to open on Fridays.

We are looking for volunteers for all shifts on Wednesday / Thursday and Friday / Saturday. We particularly need volunteers for second and third shifts! We will provide training for all shifts! We also need food donations to provide dinner, breakfast and lunch for our guests!

6:30pm - 7:00pm - Set-up Shift
6:30pm - 11:00pm - First Shift
6:30pm - 9:00pm - First Shift
6:30pm - 9:00pm - Meal Servers

10:45pm - 3:00am - Second Shift
2:45am - 7:00am - Third Shift
7:00am - 8:30am - Clean-up Shift

Please see the Sign-ups below! Mark what you are interested in and then hit submit! You can mark multiple items at once. If you would like 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 training, volunteers will complete the 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/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 reach out to any team member with questions!
Thanks so much for all of your support!
The St. John PADS Team

St. John Site Directors:

Kathy Winters (kwinters7@sbcglobal.net, 847-997-4152)
Michelle Johns (mmjohn03@yahoo.com, 630-606-9891)
Dev Mahadev (mhadevsm@gmail.com, 281-433-2587)

Kitchen Coordinators:

Barbara Jo Scott (bjtom@mac.com, 847-302-1099)
Kathy Gannon (kathylynnqannon@gmail.com, 847-361-6850)

St. John Social: Members and guests of our St. John community meet on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 6:00 pm for a potluck dinner and social gathering.

- October 14th join us for **German Fest.**
- November 11th join us for a **Hawaiian Thanksgiving.**
- December 9th join us for the **12 “Dishes” of Christmas.**

Be as creative or traditional as you like. It is 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 2:00 pm at St. John. On September 11th, we will discuss The Only Woman in the Room by Marie Benedict. On October 9th, we will discuss the One Book One Village selection: The Two Lives of Sara by Catherine Adel West. On November 13th, we will discuss Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Pelt. On December 11th, we will share a recent or old favorite holiday theme book/tradition of our choice.

Little Free Pantry: Don't forget about our Little Free Pantry. We are currently collecting athletic socks, sunscreen, deodorant and soap/body wipes. 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: 9/24 – Pasta 1 lb. packages (not lasagna); 10/1 – Canned soup; 10/8 – Canned chicken and tuna; 10/15 – Canned fruit; 10/22 – Canned SpaghettiO's and ravioli, etc.; 10/29 – Peanut butter, 16-28 oz. max. Thanks, Connie & Mission Team

Giving Hope: Registration is now open for FamilyForward's annual fundraiser, **Giving Hope**, this year with an Oktoberfest theme. Please plan to attend as FamilyForward celebrates its 20th anniversary in support of low-income, working families across the northwest suburbs as they move toward financial stability and independence. The event will be held on Sunday, October 15th, from noon-2:30pm at Chevy Chase Country Club, 1000 N. Milwaukee Ave. in Wheeling.

Event highlights include: Gourmet lunch buffet with vegetarian options; Cash bar including German beer selections; Silent auctions and raffles; Entertainment by Die Musikmeisters Band (Oompah!); Family story and live appeal; Special Giving Hope:Oktoberfest gift & more!

Visit family-forward.org/giving-hope to register for this major event in support of hard-working families that need our help to overcome financial challenges. Questions? Contact FamilyForward board members Paul Cochran or Tim Wayman. Hope to see you there!

September 24, 2023

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 16:2-15

Tensions in the Wilderness

American Indian Ministry Sunday

United Samoan Ministries Stewardship Sunday

Today, receive a letter of wisdom and compassion from The Alliance of Associate Conference Ministers of the United Church of Christ and The Council of Conference Ministers of the United Church of Christ. The letter, written earlier this year and excerpted here, is an invitation and a challenge to churches to care for their pastors in a radical way. How can your setting respond to these powerful words?

“...We are aware that there is a particular burden, often unseen by many, that you who serve in authorized ministry carry because of the inherently relational nature of ministry. We see you, and we hear your weariness and often discouragement. We also love you and hold you in our prayers.

As such we are aware that there is a need to tend to the particular needs of you who serve as our authorized ministers so that your spirits may be renewed and so that the long-term health of God's mission manifest in the many expressions of the church may be strengthened. The collective care of all our Conferences and indeed the church in every setting compels us to offer a word of encouragement regarding the need for care in ways that give space for rest and rejuvenation; clarity and the renewal of one's calling.

While we recognize that resources vary widely throughout the settings of our shared life, there are several suggestions we would offer for consideration by local congregations and other settings of ministry.

- First, we urge you to intentionally pray for your leaders and the renewal they may need.
- Second, we encourage you to give permission and blessing for two consecutive weeks away for renewal leave, not counted as vacation time. This time alone will not be enough to process all that has happened or continues to happen in the life of the church, but it will offer space for a new ground to be cultivated to engage in ongoing practices of self-care, necessary for sustained and life-giving ministry.
- Third, we encourage you to trust that your setting of ministry will not be diminished by this time away but rather strengthened by it.

...Grief and loss are inherent in this season. Some of us even feel shame, which is a burden that we need not carry. We are hopeful that this time away helps you reconnect deeply with your call and with God, who loves you.”



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.