

*St. John United Church of Christ
301 S. Market Street
New Athens, Illinois 62264*



Today Jesus, his disciples,
and a startled but confident Samaritan woman
all learn a lesson about
the unexpected blessings of God.

*The Twenty-Third Sunday
After Pentecost*

October 28, 2018

Worship and Grow Today

*Traditional Worship
8 am*

*Contemporary Worship
9:15 am*

Sunday School Classes, 9 am

Learn More About Us
stjohnuccnewathens.com

Contact Our Staff

*Bob Koch, Pastor
stjohnucc@att.net*

*Tarrah Vaupel, Student Pastor
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*Deb Scherle,
Beth Buettner,
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new-beginnings@att.net
475-2969*

*Church Office Phone
(618) 475-2947*

Please fill out and tear off your Attendance/Prayer Concern slip before worship begins. Pass it to the center aisle while the church calendar is being discussed. Our ushers will collect it there.

Please note that large print bulletins and hearing assistance devices are available from our ushers.

New members are welcome and received regularly at St. John's. If you or someone you know is interested in joining our worshiping family, speak to Pastor Koch as you leave today, or check the appropriate box on your attendance card.

If this is a Communion Sunday (generally the first Sunday of each month) we invite all Christians welcome at Christ's table in their own family of faith to join us here. The inner circle in each tray of glasses contains grape juice.

Children are always welcome in worship at St. John's. Live closed circuit TV broadcasts of our services are available in the foyer fellowship room, though, for parents who may decide that their child needs a break from worship temporarily.

Pastor Koch is always available to help those seeking answers, comfort, or guidance. He is usually in his office all day Monday, and at various other times throughout the week. If you'd like to see him, feel free to stop by, or call the church office at 475-2947 to make an appointment.

We cordially invite all members and guests to participate in the on-going ministries of St. John church. If you have any questions, feel free to contact our church office, which is open Tuesday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. till Noon and 1 p.m. till 3 p.m. It is staffed through the week by Deb Scherle.

Please join us for coffee, juice, and doughnuts in the foyer after our 8 and 9:15 am services.

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Marlin Albert and Lloyd McDonald, and in honor of Sadie and Andrew's wedding by Mark and Evonne Albert and Family.

Gathering Together

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

"Open My Eyes" (Vs. 1)

Beginning five minutes prior to worship

Pew Booklet, p. 36

THE CHURCH CALENDAR

(Please pass your Attendance/Prayer Concern slips to the center aisle.)

THE MORNING PRELUDE, CALL OF THE BELL

Seeking God's Presence

CALL TO WORSHIP

(From Psalm 65)

O God, to you we owe hymns of praise in Zion; to you our vows must be fulfilled, you who hear our prayers and before whom all living things must stand.

You answer us with powerful deeds of justice, God our Deliverer.

The ends of the earth and the farthest seas all put their trust in you.

You nourish and water the land—greatly you've enriched it.

The streams of God are full of water; you provide us with grain as you ordained.

So you've prepared the land: drenching its furrows, breaking up its clods, softening it with showers, blessing its yield.

You've crowned the year with your bounty

and your paths overflow with a rich harvest;

the untilled meadows overflow with abundance, and rejoicing clothes the hills.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**By rights, holy God, they never should have met at all,
the teacher from Nazareth and the Samaritan woman.**

**Their people never mixed, preferring instead
to nurse long-standing grudges, even hatred.**

**Yet there they were, the teacher and the woman,
sharing a conversation, a drink, and then the gift of salvation itself.**

**As we gather for worship, we pray for a discerning faith
that can overcome prejudices and barriers in our world today,
many of which we've helped build and even strengthen. Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN**

"Praise Ye the Lord"

Hymnal, No. 8

Asking God's Forgiveness

CALL TO CONFESSION

Time of Silent Confession

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Together

What a strange story only John shares, holy God.
It tells how the one who gives us living water was himself thirsty.
It tells how a woman whom Jesus never should have met,
let alone spoken to, becomes the only person in John's gospel
to whom Jesus reveals that he is the promised Messiah.
As the two of them discover they need each other,
community grows and, from it, faith and understanding.
We confess that we're more likely to turn away
from those who are different from us
rather than engage in conversation
that risks opening us to new ways of seeing
as well as an awareness of our shared need.
Forgive us. In an era of labels, name-calling,
and barriers of race, nation, gender,
sexual orientation, political party, and even faith,
make us voices of compassionate sanity,
those who speak for the one who still offers living water
to those whose souls are parched and hope is gone. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon
Gloria Patri
Passing the Peace

Hymnal, No. 493

Hearing God's Word

THE MORNING COLLECT

Together

In our scripture lesson today, holy God, an unexpected meeting leads
to an even more unexpected faith. So it was, and so it still is today.
May the power of your word open our hearts and minds
to new ways of seeing not just the world around us,
but also the brothers and sisters who share that world with us. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 4:5-26, 28-30, 39-42

CHILDREN'S TIME

THE SERMON

"What Will We Leave Behind?"

***OUR UCC STATEMENT OF FAITH**

Together, Words on Screen

HYMN

"When, Like the Woman At the Well"

Bulletin, p. 6

Responding With Our Prayers

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF OUR WORSHIPING FAMILY

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord be with you.

And with you also.

Let us pray....

Pastoral Prayer, Silent Prayer

Our Lord's Prayer

Together, Words on Screen

RESPONSE

"Hear Our Prayer"

Hymnal, No. 501

Responding With Our Gifts

MORNING MISSION MOMENT, OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**

Hymnal, No. 551

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Of all the gifts we can give, generous God,
an open heart is perhaps the most precious.**

**May our offerings serve people whose needs we cannot imagine,
but whose hunger and thirst for righteousness we ourselves share. Amen.**

Responding With Faithful Service in the World

BENEDICTION

HYMN

"Standing On the Promises"

Pew Booklet, p. 40

POSTLUDE



When, Like the Woman At the Well

Edith Sinclair Downing, 1992

(Tune: "According to Thy Gracious Word")

When, like the woman at the well, I lived with broken dreams,
Christ came to me, good news to tell, of ever-living streams.

Christ knew my heart, my wayward ways, yet gave me hope, not fear.
The God I once thought far away, I could approach, draw near.

I learned I could forever live and worship God aright,
Could trust the power the Spirit gives to guide me in truth's light.

Each day I lift my cup above, and I again receive
The living water of God's love, revealed for my belief.

Since now I am in grace immersed, set free, forgiven, whole,
I share with those who are athirst the well-springs of my soul!

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On Stewardship Sunday, November 4, everyone is invited to Nuernberger farm for a potluck lunch and chili dump beginning around Noon. We'll be joined by the "Sofa Kings," a musical group from Columbia. This is a bring your own lawn chair and your own beverage event. Don't forget to bring your lottery tickets for "scratch off Sunday!"

The Board of the New Athens Home for the Aged is sponsoring a chicken and beer benefit dance from 5:30-11:30 pm on November 10 at the St. Clair County Event Center. Music will be by "Boulderdash." A silent auction and 50/50 drawing will be held as well. Tickets are available for purchase now, and it's not too late to donate a basket! Cost is \$25 a person or \$40 per couple.

Celebrate 140 years of ministry along the Kaskaskia on November 18. We'll hold one worship service at 10:30 am, then head down to the Bullpen for a buffet meal and a concert from "Red" Lehr and friends. Baby pictures for the matching contest can be brought in at any time. They'll be copied and returned. Sign up in the foyer now. *There will be cake!*

We'll remember those who passed into God's care during the last church year with ***our annual observance of Totenfest at the 8 am worship service on November 25***.



UCC Higher Education Sunday

Bartimaeus must have gotten asked quite often if there was anything anybody could bring him, or help him across the street, or in some way aid him but only once did the Lord of Life ask him what he wanted. Only once did someone who could change things ask him what he wanted.

What would you say – if asked what do you want by someone who could give it to you?

A person struggling to pay for their education, especially theological education, would know what to ask for. The average Seminarian debt these days hovers between 30 and 40,000 dollars. That's a lot of debt to incur preparing for a career that doesn't have a high salary return. The United Church of Christ has many scholarship funds for Theological students. There are funds for people going into military chaplaincy, funds for disabled students, funds for LGBTQ students, Latino and Latina students, African American students and more. If you know somebody planning to go into ministry who is a member in discernment in the UCC let them know that there is help by going to ucc.org and searching for scholarships.

Many Conferences in the UCC have all manner of scholarships. And congregations, too, have set up a variety of scholarships. In Cloverdale, California they have a scholarship for a graduate of the local High School who is the first in their family to go to college. Heidelberg University in Ohio has a scholarship for members of UCC congregations. Chapman University in Orange, California is another school with scholarships for UCC students. Cable Congregational UCC in Cable, Wisconsin has a small scholarship in the name of a former pastor.

The average monthly student loan payment (for borrower aged 20 to 30 years): \$411 [based on average debt at 39,000 dollars (WSJ: Test Your Smarts on Student Debt, March 4, 2018)]. That is a huge amount of debt to follow a recent graduate. Wouldn't it be great to help lessen that burden—to be someone who gives what a person wants? Think about how much Higher Education means to a young person and what kind of a difference even a small scholarship could make. Many churches and conferences have set up funds. Your church probably has a memorial fund for your congregation's future. What about building a different kind of security for the people in your church? What about a scholarship fund for the children of members of your congregation?

*Please fill out this slip, noting prayer concerns on the back.
Legible handwriting or printing is much appreciated!
If you're a visitor with us today, we hope you'll come again!*

Date _____

Your Name _____

- Member Visitor Child/Youth Looking for a Church Home
 Desire a Call

Visitors--if you're comfortable doing so, please give us your address and phone.

Street Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

**We want to know
what you think!
Please include
comments, suggestions,
or other feedback below:**





Pastor

Dr. Robert Koch

Student Pastor

Tarrah Vaupel

Organist

Julie Daab

Ushers

Ryan Kinzinger
Eric Benedick
Brandon Schatte

Acolyte

Brandon Schatte

Prayer Joys and Concerns

Please pray for:

- Mention this joy/concern during morning prayers.
- Please pray for this joy/concern silently.

When you pray please remember those who are now or have recently been hospitalized:

Kamden Newman
Vickie Luter

Cardinal Glennon
Memorial

Remember, too, the congregations, pastors, and friends who are part of today's prayer calendars:

From the Illinois South Conference:

St. John, Summerfield
St. Paul, Tower Hill

Supply Pastor
Steve Nance

Remember these members and friends of St. John's:

Sandy and Steve Cummins
Dawn Cummins and Kevin and Kristian Kammermeyer
Hannah, Levi, Jeff and Julie Daab
Chad Dachsteiner
Jamie, Christopher, Joyce Degenhardt
Marsha Diecker
Jordan, Julia, Amy and Tom Drake
Dan, Joyce and Don Dudeck
Bailey, Theodore, Carol and Brent Dudeck

Low-cost, Christian counseling is available through Family Care Ministries. Contact Pastor Koch or the church office to schedule an appointment. All inquiries are strictly confidential.



Sign me up for the following:

- Prayer Partners
- "Doughnut time" helper

I'm interested in these opportunities to serve and grow:

- Usher
- Teach Sunday School
- Youth group volunteer
- Attend Bible study
- Serve on a committee
- Join "Prayer Partners"