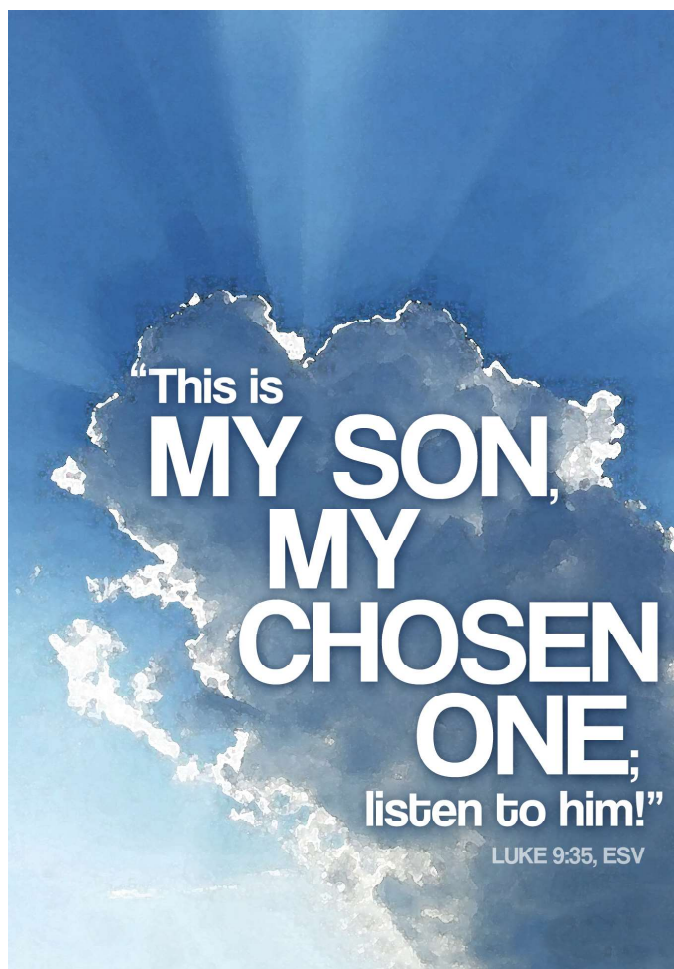


*St. John United Church of Christ  
301 S. Market Street  
New Athens, Illinois 62264*



On this last Sunday before we begin another Lenten pilgrimage, we pause with Peter, John and James on the Mount of the Transfiguration, overwhelmed by the glory of God's presence as we see it in Jesus Christ.

*Transfiguration  
Sunday*

*March 3, 2019*

*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  
tarrahsv@gmail.com*

*Beth Buettner, Office Staff  
stjuccdeskmail@att.net*

*Cindy Vogler,  
Director Christian Education  
dcecindy@att.net*

*Melinda Milligan, Director  
New Beginnings Daycare  
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 Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. till Noon and 1 p.m. till 3 p.m. It is staffed through the week by Beth Buettner.

***Please join us*** for coffee, juice, and doughnuts in the foyer after worship.

***The flowers on the altar*** are given by Paul and Janet Voegtle in honor of Gavin Gallagher's birthday.

***The Flowers on the organ*** are given in memory of Mark Steinwagner by Roy Steinwagner.

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## *Gathering Together*

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### **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**

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## *Seeking God's Presence*

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### **\*OPENING HYMN**

Hymnal, No. 244

"O Light, Whose Beams Illumine" (Tune: "Faith of Our Fathers")

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

Time of Silent Confession

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*Together*

Jesus' Transfiguration is puzzling passage of scripture, holy God.  
We confess that we want easy answers and quick solutions,  
not mountaintop experiences that confound us  
or journeys whose paths and destination we struggle to understand.  
Walk with us when the way forward is uncertain,  
when visions are scarce and your voice,  
so clear on the Mount of Transfiguration,  
is a whisper too easily drowned out by the noise of the world  
and the doubt and confusion in our own hearts. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Gloria Patri

Passing the Peace

Hymnal, No. 493

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## *Hearing God's Word*

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### **SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Luke 9: 28-43a

### **CHILDREN'S TIME**

### **THE SERMON**

"Inbetween Times"

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## *Responding With Our Prayers*

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### 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

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## *Responding With Our Gifts*

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### MORNING MISSION MOMENT, OFFERTORY

#### \*DOXOLOGY

Hymnal, No. 551

#### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

For Jesus' disciples, the temptation was to stay on the mountaintop,  
reveling in the glory of a miracle and worshipping with awe.

Our challenge, generous God, is making our way  
up the mountain in the first place,  
as we struggle to leave behind the things that hold us back.  
Accept these gifts, one way of lightening that spiritual load,  
of inching closer to the glory of your presence  
and the self-giving love of your Son. Amen.

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## *The Sacrament Of Our Lord's Supper*

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#### INVITATION TO THE TABLE

At this table, Jesus Christ is the host; those who wish to serve him must first be served by him.

**Those who want to follow him must first be fed by him.**

Those who would wash his feet must first let him make them clean.

**This is the table where God offers to feed us,  
the time when Christ can make us new.**

Come, all who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, a better life, and a fairer world.

**Jesus Christ, who sat at our tables, now invites us to be guests at his.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Grateful hearts, voices lifted full and joyful – you deserve all this and more, holy God.

**When we were nothing, you made us something.**

When we lost our way or turned away, you didn't leave us.

**When we came back, you opened your arms wide in welcome.**

Now you prepare a table for us offering not just bread and wine, but yourself, that we might be filled, healed, blessed, and made new again. We join with the saints of all times and places in singing our thanks and praise:

*I sing the praise of love unbounded,  
Which God in Christ has shown to earth;  
I sing of love that hath been founded,  
ere yet the twinkling stars saw their birth;  
The love that offers free salvation  
to sinners drawn from every nation.*

Holy God, as we come to the richness of your table, we can't forget how we have mistreated the earth you entrusted to our care.

**Put our prosperity at the service of the world.**

We can't take bread and wine without remembering those who are hungry and thirsty.

**Put our fullness at the service of the empty.**

We can't hear your words of peace without also hearing the drumbeat of hatred and war.

**Show us how to turn weapons into welcome signs  
and the lust for power into the desire for peace.**

We can't celebrate the feast of your family and forget how badly divided we are. We are one in spirit, but not in fact. History and hurt still keep us apart.

**Holy God, heal your church of its brokenness.**

## PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

For us you were born, for us you healed, preached, taught, and showed the way to heaven; for us you were crucified, and for us, after death, you rose again.

**Lord Jesus Christ, present with us now,  
what can we give you in return for all you've given us?**

Our hands are empty, our hearts are often full of lies and deceit. We aren't fit to gather the crumbs from under your table.

**But you're merciful; your love and grace can change even us.**

Send your Holy Spirit as we do in this place what you once did in an upper room. Let these gifts of bread and wine become for us your body and blood—healing, forgiving, and making us whole.

**May we become your body in the world,  
loving and caring until your Kingdom comes.**

Among friends, gathered around a table, Jesus took bread, broke it and said, “This is my body, broken for you.” Later he took the cup of wine and said, “This is the new relationship with God made possible through my death. Take this, all of you, to remember me.”

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are now ready.

#### **SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP**

#### **CLOSING PRAYER**

**Lord Jesus Christ, you have put your life into our hands;  
now we put our lives into yours. Take us, renew us, and remake us.  
What we have been is past; what we shall be calls us into the future.  
Lead us on; take us with you. Amen.**

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### ***Responding With Faithful Service in the World***

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#### **BENEDICTION**

#### **CLOSING HYMN**

"Immortal, Invisible"

Pew Booklet, p. 18

#### **POSTLUDE**



**Astounding Glory**  
**Luke 9:28-36**

***Last Sunday after Epiphany/Transfiguration***  
***UCC Women's Week - March 3-9, 2019***

From time to time it is good to stop talking and listen. Just as an awestruck and babbling Peter was reminded by God, "This is my Child, my Chosen; listen!" we also sometimes need a reminder. How glorious Peter's reminder must have been on that day!

During our days, we consume ourselves with the crush of work, news of the world, and other obligations. We forget the divine is all around us, a still-speaking God who leads and guides us.

Let's commit to listening this week and trying these 7 things:

**Sunday:** Spend some time with God today and commit to letting grace speak through your life.

**Monday:** Ask God to shake off our complacency and forgive us for failing to listen for the Holy One's voice.

**Tuesday:** Spend time with God at the end of the day reflecting on what has happened and examining your thoughts, intentions, and heart.

**Wednesday:** Listen to what God is calling you to do this week: help the elderly, welcome a new friend, volunteer at a women's shelter, clean up the neighborhood.

**Thursday:** Spend time not only seeking God, but sharing God among your circle of friends; find the Holy One's Voice together.

**Friday:** Spend time outdoors listening to the sounds of God's magnificent creation.

**Saturday:** Journal about what gets in the way of hearing God's call for your life.

Look at [ucc.org](http://ucc.org) for word of what is happening with your OPTIC team and see the new logo for General Synod 2019.

This is Women's Week at the United Church of Christ

This week, think of Queen Vashti, who was summoned to an elaborate party by King Xerxes that she refused. Not allowing herself to become objectified, she lost favor and was banned from the King's presence, but maintained something more valuable, her dignity.

7

*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:



*Welcome to Worship!*



**Pastor**

Dr. Robert Koch

**Organist**

Paul Bickel

**Ushers**

Greg Ray  
Keith Reuss

***Please pray for these churches, pastors, and friends:***

**In area hospitals:**

Robert Mueller  
*St. Elizabeth's*

Jan Whaley  
*Memorial*

**From the Illinois South Conference:**

*Friedens, Farina*  
Rev. Zach Garrett  
*Fieldon, Fieldon*  
Rev. Donna Pupillo

**Members and friends of St. John's:**

Karen Bussen  
Jean Claunch  
Lori Conaway and Peyton Werle  
Darleen Conner  
Cameron, Calvin, Sophie, Natalja and Gerald Cooper  
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

***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.



***Prayer Joys and Concerns***

Please pray for:

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



Sign me up for the following:

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

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