

The Friendly Call

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST • MANCHESTER, MO



Worship Schedule April 2024

April 7 - Communion
9:30 am Pastor Tracey

April 14
9:30 am Pastor Kevin

April 21
9:30 am Reverend
Damien Lake

April 28
9:30 am Pastor Kevin

Reverend Damien Lake, Associate Conference Minister

Worship Leader
Sunday, April 21st at 9:30 am

Please join us for worship on Sunday, April 21st as our Associate Conference Minister comes to lead the service and preach that morning. Reverend Lake has served three churches as a settled pastor, two congregations as an interim minister, and worked with churches as a coach, helping them through the search and call process, as well as working with new church starts. He has helped churches revitalize their ministry in the local community and remains committed to helping churches grow, rethink church, and continue to focus on the “Still Speaking Voice of God.” Damien has a strong dedication to serving God and the Church and a deep faith that is always growing and expanding in new directions. He believes in the importance of answering the call of God to stand up for social justice, help those who are hurting, and “Be the Church.” It’s exciting to welcome our Missouri Mid-South Conference staff member and hope you will be present that day as we praise the Lord. Please extend a warm St. John welcome to **Reverend Damien Lake** on **Sunday, April 21**.



Missouri Mid-South Conference

It's Eastertide! This is the season when we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior. We give thanks for the new life that comes from God's victory over the grave. The joyous good news fills us with faith and courage.

That's easy for us Christians in the twenty-first century. For those earliest followers, though, this time after the resurrection was not so glorious. Most of them were hiding for fear of persecution. At some point, the first century followers of Christ had to ask themselves: "What do I stand for?"



As I preached in a recent sermon, the Apostle Peter died by crucifixion upside down. We hear Paul write, *"I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified."* Paul was supposedly beheaded. Both men took a stand, which cost them their lives.

We don't have to worry about being crucified for our faith; although, there are those who do endure suffering, and even die for their religion today. That's a sad situation. It's understandable that we will disagree with others, but we must remain civil in our relationships. We can claim a conviction without belittling and hurting one another. There is a way we can take a stand for what we believe which reflects the ministry of Jesus.

Some time back I was talking with a woman. She had to purchase craft items. I made the comment, "Are you going to run over to Hobby Lobby?" The woman responded, "I'd never go to Hobby Lobby. I always shop at Michaels." That led to a conversation about the values and positions of each company. One is extremely conservative while the other is very liberal. This is becoming more pronounced in our country regarding restaurants and businesses. Organizations are taking a firm stance and letting people know it. At the same time, people are doing the same thing by only giving their business to places that align with their beliefs. That's one way to take a stand.

In a recent clergy gathering, the group discussed an article entitled 'Harmful people with helpful ideas.' The premise of the piece had to do with people who made significant contributions to humanity, but their conduct and lives were less than appropriate. I think about the creativity and advancement of things in our world. If we look deep enough into the lives of musicians, artists, inventors, leaders, then we'd probably find attitudes and actions with which we disagree. Is it possible to set aside the behavior and positions of others because their contributions are good?

As Christians, where is judgement and grace in these matters? What about accountability and forgiveness? How do these issues fit in the framework of our Christian conviction? I think each of us, in our time and place, will need to ask these difficult questions and decide: What do I stand for? My prayer is that whatever stance we take and whatever conviction we hold that we will be respectful of others, especially when we don't agree. I believe that's the good news Jesus lived and taught throughout his ministry. It's the unconditional love revealed by God in the resurrection of Christ our Lord.

What are some healthy ways to take a stand? How do you reconcile troublesome behavior or actions of other people, even if they had a worthwhile impact? I wrestle with these concerns and hope God can help me through them. Perhaps taking our business elsewhere is the best we can do. Above all, may we be gracious in claiming our faith and show understanding towards our neighbor.

He is Risen! Alleluia!

Kevin



Notes from the March 12, 2024 Council Meeting

Dave Gaehle had the hot water heater repaired in the coffee area. In the Theater, the condensing unit needs to be replaced. There are two areas on the roof to be repaired. Looking at options. No update on the HVAC. Shamrock Sewer and Drain Service cleaned out garbage disposal grease trap and snaked about 100 ft. from women's restroom and from the clean-out outside.

We are looking for one person to fill a vacancy on the Church Council. Please consider. If interested, please contact Natalie Morton, Council President, or Pastor Kevin.

The pastors gave a presentation about being a WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged) Congregation for Mental Health. There will be more information on this topic.

Outreach Team has scheduled a trip to Shannondale June 7-9, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Jung
Recording Secretary

Financial Report - February 29, 2024

| <u>Actual Receipts</u> | <u>Budget Receipts</u> | <u>YTD Actual Receipts</u> | <u>YTD Budget Receipts</u> |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| \$40,158.40 | \$31,502.00 | \$90,389.92 | \$69,599.00 |
| <u>Actual Expenditures</u> | <u>Budget Expenditures</u> | <u>YTD Actual Expenditures</u> | <u>YTD Budget Expenditures</u> |
| \$33,782.84 | \$34,334.95 | \$67,485.74 | \$67,462.90 |

Members of the Church Council of St. John United Church of Christ, Manchester, meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Hospitality Room of the church (or via Zoom). The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 9, 2024.**





The Church Office will be closed on **Monday, April 1**

The Office will reopen **April 2 at 9:00 am**



Worship Attendance

| NAME | DATE | YEARS | Date | In Person | Streaming | TOTAL |
|--------------------------------|------|-------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| Dick & Ilene Scharnhorst | 4/1 | 12 | February 25 | 112 | 43 | 155 |
| Rich & Barb Lovan | 4/6 | 67 | March 3 | 124 | 35 | 159 |
| Todd & Nancy VanCardo | 4/10 | 25 | March 10 | 106 | 34 | 140 |
| Ed & Beverly Thiele | 4/20 | 50 | March 17 | 92 | 47 | 139 |
| Clinton & Judy Cummings | 4/21 | 62 | March 24 Palm Sunday | 125 | 38 | 163 |
| Maurice & Nancy Van Buskirk | 4/26 | 55 | | | | |
| Bill & Nancy Gamewell | 4/29 | 28 | | | | |
| Roger & Deborah Abraham- Wells | 4/29 | 17 | | | | |

NOTE: Streaming count is household so it could include more than one person; count is taken during LIVE streaming.

Membership Class

We will offer a session for those interested in membership. The meeting will be **Sunday, April 28**, immediately after worship service (approximately 10:45 am). This will be held in the Hospitality Room with Pastors Kevin and Tracey.



Please call the church office (636-391-6655) to let us know if you will be attending. Should you be unable to make it, then contact us so that other arrangements can be made. The intent is to receive new members on Sunday, May 5 and/or Sunday, May 12.

Hope to hear from folks!



Heartfelt congratulations to *Ed & Beverly Thiele* As they celebrate 50 years of marriage on *April 20*

St. John Men's Brotherhood - Chicken Dinner



May 19, 2024
11:00 am to 1:00 pm

TICKETS:

Adults - \$15.00
Children - 6-12 - \$7.50
Children under 6 - Free

We will start selling tickets
Sunday, April 20.
May 5 is last day to
purchase tickets.

All proceeds will go toward the
new HVAC System



J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth) **Saturday, April 13** **Noon - 3:30 pm**

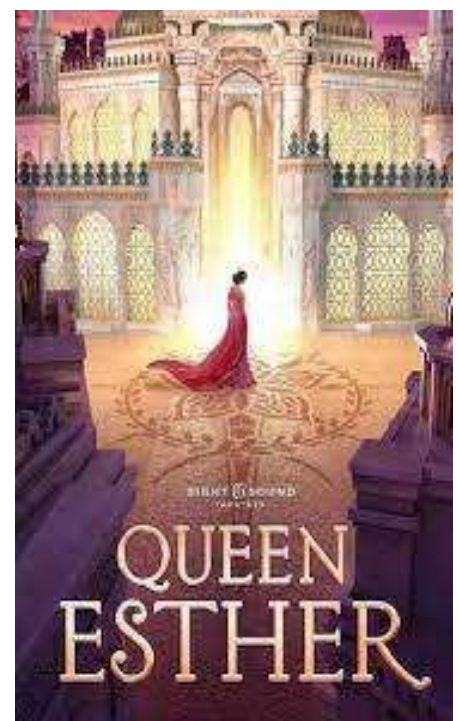
Enjoy a light lunch (provided) with great fellowship, after lunch we'll adjourn to the theater to enjoy a Sights and Sounds production of **Queen Esther**.

Set in the opulent yet perilous Persian Empire, **QUEEN ESTHER** is a captivating tale of beauty and bravery. Esther's ordinary life changed forever when she was taken through the palace doors, entering a new world of royalty and risk. With a crown on her head and a secret in her heart, can she find the courage to trust in God's plan and believe that she was made for such a time as this?

Experience one of the most riveting Bible stories of the Old Testament as it comes to life with magnificent sets, special effects, and live animals in this original stage production!

Sign-up sheet is on bulletin board across from church offices.

Questions: Contact Betty Anton



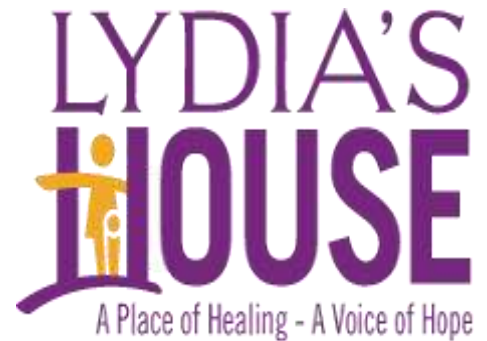


OUTREACH TEAM MEETING

The **Outreach Team** will meet on Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 6:30 pm in the Hospitality Room. Please join us!

April Outreach - Lydia's House

Every 9 seconds a woman is assaulted or beaten, and every day more than 3 women are murdered by their husbands, boyfriends, or partners. 10 million children witness some form of domestic violence annually. Domestic violence is the third leading cause of homelessness. Lydia's House is a safe haven for these families and because of their help, women can find their voice, become gainfully employed, financially support themselves, and regain self-esteem!



How can you get involved? By donating! Kitchen towels, and washcloths, bath towel sets, face, hand, body)-new only, **neutral** colors, twin size sheet sets (new only), mattress covers (zippered plastic & waterproof), **twin only**, heavy-duty flashlights, pot holders, Suave Naturals shampoo and conditioner, Eco Styler hair gel, Herbal Essences, Hello Hydration shampoo and conditioner, pots and pans (new), 13-gallon trash cans, small dish drainers, dish soap, kitchen mops and buckets (rag style only), brooms and dust pans, laundry detergent, Pine-sol, paper towels, toilet paper, latex gloves, CFL Bulbs (60 w/100w), diapers (sizes 4 & 5), pull ups all sizes, Gift cards: Schnuck's, Aldi, Target, Walmart, Home Depot, or Lowe's. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please use the Helping Hands envelope in your pew or simply write "Lydia's House" in the memo field of your check.

To read more about this long-time mission partner of ours, visit www.lydiashouse.org.

Thank you for your support!



HELPING HANDS ENVELOPES for April

During the month of April, the Helping Hands Envelopes will go to **Lydia's House**. Lydia's House makes a difference for survivors of domestic violence in many ways; here are just a few:



- ♥ Providing safe, confidentially located, fully furnished apartments for up to two years.
- ♥ Helping residents create and implement long-term goals for a hopeful future.
- ♥ Empowering women with job skills and employment at Lydia's Ladle.
- ♥ Creating awareness about domestic violence

Thanks for your help!

We, your Outreach Team, asked and you, our St. John Family, responded. The March Outreach Challenge for **Circle of Concern** included adult incontinence and feminine hygiene products. You have generously supplied these much-needed products for clients at **Circle of Concern**. The requested products are not provided by federally funded public assistance programs. Thank you so very much for your awesome and continued support.

Outreach Team



Lunch at Sunshine Ministries



St. John Outreach continues to provide and share a meal each month with the men at the residence center for Sunshine Ministries. We will carpool from church at 11:15 am (lunch at noon) and return by 1:15 pm. We need one or two people to help each month. If you are interested in joining us on April 11, please see Judy Lindquist.

To learn more about the men's outreach of Sunshine Ministries go to: <https://www.sunshineminstries.org/men-s-outreach>

Fontana Friends

The Outreach Team continues monthly visits to our Fontana Friends in their home. We visit on the **second Thursday of the month from about 3:00 to 4:00 pm**. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board across from the offices. We meet at church at 2:40 pm and carpool to Fontana. Our April visit will be on **Thursday, April 11, 2024**. If you need additional information, please contact Mary Ellen Berg or Lynn Sabina.



Graduate Recognition



Traditionally we highlight our graduates in the May edition of the Friendly Call. To that end we are asking parents (and grandparents) to send us information about our St. John young adults who will be graduating from high school, college, graduate school, etc. this May or June including a recent photo. We will also be honoring our graduates during worship service on **Sunday, June 2, 2024**. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Tracey.

THE LENTEN BIBLE STUDY SERIES

‘I AM’ STATEMENTS OF JESUS – This series continues to reflect on the ‘I AM’ sayings in the **Gospel of John**. We will read and discuss what Jesus may have meant and how the earliest followers might have understood them. The challenge will be to relate this good news to our own faith in the 21st century. Here is the remaining schedule:

April 2 – John 11:17-44...*the Resurrection & the Life*

April 16 – John 14:1-7...*the Way, the Truth, & the Life*

The scripture passages are available should people want to read them prior to the session. Pastor Kevin will be leading these **Tuesday** evenings from **7:00-8:00 pm**. Gatherings will be hybrid (in person and online) for those who are interested.

The link for online is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84585122850>

If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email

Pastor Kevin. ***Come join this Lenten journey!***



The Friendly Call

DEADLINE!

Articles and information for the **May 2024** issue of the **‘Friendly Call’** are due on **Monday, April 15**. Please place a hard copy of the article in the church office mail slot or email to: jane@stjohnmanchester.org

GREEN TEAM NEWS

THE GREEN TEAM'S next meeting will be Thursday, **April 11** at **6:00 pm** in the Gathering Area. All are welcome!!



In celebration of **Earth Day**, we will be meeting on **Saturday, April 20 at 9:30** to plant a London Plane Tree. This hardy tree was the type chosen to replace the Rosehill Ash trees on the Gateway Arch Grounds. Recently, Carol and Bob Ruh planted some white pines on our property. We look forward to the growth of all the new trees.



THE GREEN TEAM continues to collect used eyeglasses to be donated to the Lion's Club. The collection box is located in the Gathering Area. Thank you for your help!

FROM THE ST. JOHN CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

We are compiling a book of biographies of the people buried in our cemetery and would like to include photographs, especially of people from the early years of the church. If you have anything you would like to share of your family history at St. John, we would appreciate it. If you have questions, please contact Judy Lindquist.

Thank you for considering.



We have received word from **Anita Baldwin** that her move to Blue Eye, MO (on Table Rock Lake) went smoothly. Anita is doing well and she and her cat are adjusting to their new surroundings. If you need contact information for Anita, please contact the church office. She would love to stay in touch with as many friends from St. John as possible.



I hope each of you enjoyed a blessed Easter. Thanks to all who donated candy, helped stuff and hide Easter Eggs for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. We are so thankful to get to watch joy-filled children find the eggs.

On April 6, both Confirmation students and mentors will journey to Camp MoVal and be there from 9 am to 5 pm. Please wear long pants and clothes that can get dirty! Parents are also welcome. Please RSVP to Pastor Tracey by April 3. Questions? Please see Pastor Tracey or Bob Ruh. The day will be a mission trip/fun day. Please come.

Earth Day is April 22 but we will celebrate on April 20 at 9:30 am by planting a tree and having some children's crafts. The UCC has an Art Contest, Climate Hope Art Contest. going on for all under the age of 18. Ask Deb Burleson or Pastor Tracey for a form to draw on.

Enjoy the following prayer from a book called, *"Prayers for Children"*

"We thank You, dear God, for all lovely things: for the pretty flowers and the little birds that sing; for the butterflies, the green grass, and the trees; For the big shining sun, twinkling stars, and silver moon; For sunset colors in the sky And for the fleecy clouds; We thank You, dear God, for all these lovely things". E.B.D.

Peace and love to all,

Pastor Tracey



NAMI St. Louis
1810 Craig Road, Suite 124
St. Louis, MO 63146
info@namistl.org
HelpLine: 314-962-4670

St. John UCC Manchester holds a NAMI Support group meeting the third Thursday of each month. The group meets in the Hospitality Room at 6:30 pm. Please note that you must go to the NAMI website to sign up to attend the meeting prior to arrival. Everyone is welcome to join us !

PRAYER REQUESTS

You will find **PRAYER REQUEST** cards in the pews. A box is located on the table in the Gathering Area for completed cards to be deposited. There are times when we all need an extra prayer said for us and where better than from our friends at St John !



KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Willie Mertz at Garden View in Chesterfield
Landon Weber - Houston, Texas
Barb Cooper at St. Andrew's Francis Place, Eureka
Mary Jane Belsher - Friendship Village, Sunset Hills
Chris Albrecht - Mercy Hospital

AT HOME

Betty Fox
Rufus Sticker
Tommy Theiss
Mike Waller
Jennifer Weber



Commander Andrew Brennecke, Coast Guard, Norfolk, VA, son of Bob & Joy Brennecke
Sgt. Codey Burnham, U.S. Marine Corps, Camp Lejeune, NC, grandson of Betty & Howard Anton
Sgt. First Class Douglas Krohn, United States Army Recruiting Command, Quincy, IL
Staff Sgt. Michael Kargauer, Eielson AFB, Alaska, grandson of Jack Martin
E Sgt. Bryan Milberg, Fort Campbell, KY, grandson of Derald & Donna Forbis
4PO Richard Livingstone, Navy, Camp Gordon, GA, grandson of Ken & Marty Boucher
Sgt. Matt Starck, Marines, Camp Pendleton, CA, son of Walter & Marcia Starck



Board of Christian Education

BCE members meet on the first Thursday of the month at 6:00 pm. The next meeting will be on **Thursday, April 4, 2024**. We are always looking for new study ideas and help with upcoming projects with the adults and children. Contact Pastor Tracey if you have any questions or would like to sign up to volunteer.

WORK DAY THANK YOU

Many thanks to the great group of people who turned out to help us “shine up” the church buildings and grounds on Saturday March 23rd. It was a fantastic turn out and people put in a really good morning’s work while enjoying the time of fellowship on a chilly day. We are grateful for your support of buildings and grounds here at St. John.

Thanks again,
Dave Gaehle and Craig Lindquist



Women's Fellowship

will meet on
Tuesday, April 16
11:30 a.m.

Bring a sandwich and drink...dessert is provided.
More info to follow. All ladies are invited. Any questions,
contact Marty Boucher (636) 225-6129



A gift to the **General Fund and Cemetery Association** was received from William E. Tarter in memory of **Thomas Johnson and Bob & Susan Harlan.**

A gift to the **Memorial Fund** was received from Bob & Carol Ruh in memory of **Terrie Hetz.**

Youth Christian Education & Sunday School



CHILDCARE FOR NURSERY and TODDLERS

is available at the 9:30 am service. Also, for your convenience, a Family Assistance Room is located at the rear of the sanctuary.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Our youngest group introduces kids to Sunday School in an age-appropriate classroom setting. We will incorporate Bible story time with games, arts and crafts, and free play. Students should come to the sanctuary for the 9:30 am service with their families and will be dismissed to their classes.

ELEMENTARY SUNDAY SCHOOL - GRADES K-5

We are using the One Room Sunday School curriculum to explore the stories and lessons taught in the Old and New Testaments. Incorporating games and worksheets, we focus on getting the children acquainted with the Bible and understanding how our families and church are part of a greater community in God's world. Students should come to the sanctuary for the 9:30 am service with their families and will be dismissed to their classes.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation Class started meeting in September. The class meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month beginning at 6:00 pm in the Hospitality Room. Meeting dates for April are: **Wednesday, April 3 and April 17**. In addition to our regular sessions, on **April 6, BOTH Confirmation students and mentors** will journey to Camp MoVal from 9 am to 5 pm. Those attending should wear long pants and clothes that can get dirty! Parents are also welcome. Please **RSVP** to Pastor Tracey by **April 3**. Questions? Please see Pastor Tracey or Bob Ruh. The day will be a mission trip/fun day. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.



MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS & FRIENDS

The Youth Group (Middle & High School Sunday School) class will meet at 9:30 am in the classroom. A mix of formal lessons and open discussion is focused on understanding our faith and how it relates to our church and God's creation around us. We strive to get youth involved in church groups and activities, as well as community service events. We invite you to tell your friends to join us. Be part of this group of young people making a difference!

Tea with Pastor Tracey



Enjoy coffee, tea, or your favorite beverage, as you take some time to visit with Pastor Tracey Harris. You can find Pastor Tracey hanging out on Wednesdays, at the Panera at 14646 Manchester Road, Ballwin, between 3 and 5 pm to share conversations that lead to community.

Questions? Call or email Pastor Tracey at harris@stjohnmanchester.org

All generations are invited to stop in!

Summer Camp Programs at MoVal

Camp MoVal has been welcoming all ages to participate in a wide variety of programs and activities since 1962. We ensure an amazing and unique camp experience in a safe and fun atmosphere for everyone, no matter their age.



2024 SUMMER CAMPS

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| May 29 - June 2 | Young Adult Camp | ages 18 - 30 |
| June 9 - June 12 | Mini Camp Session | ages 7 - 9 |
| June 9 - June 14 | Leadership Camp | ages 14 - 17 |
| June 16 - June 21 | All Ages Camp | ages 8 - 15 |
| June 23 - June 28 | All Ages Camp | ages 8 - 15 |
| June 23 - June 28 | PRIDE Summer Camp | ages 8 - 17 |
| June 30 - July 4 | Family Camp | all ages |
| July 7 - July 12 | All Ages Camp | ages 8 - 15 |
| July 7 - July 12 | M.A.D.D. Camp | ages 8 - 17 |
| July 14 - July 19 | All Ages Camp | ages 8 - 15 |
| July 14 - July 19 | S.T.E.M. Summer Camp | ages 8 - 17 |
| August 4 - August 9 | Adventures in Community | ages 18+ |

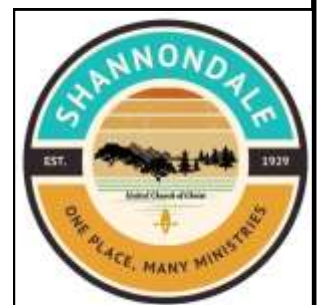
Go online at: <https://missourimidsouth.org/camp-moval> to register. Questions? Please speak with Pastor Tracey.

JOIN THE FUN – REGISTER TODAY!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! Shannondale Weekend

This year's Shannondale Weekend is scheduled for the weekend of June 7-9, 2024. Please join us for outstanding fellowship, food and fun as we complete some work projects at Shannondale!

There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board across from the church offices soon. Questions? Please see Dave Gaehle.



**Sunshine Ministries
Eagle Lodge, Foristell, Missouri
Sunday, April 14**



Located on 100 beautifully wooded acres with a great boating lake, Eagle Lodge is the perfect place to give the Sunshine kids a life-changing summer camping experience! St. John is going out to the Lodge on

Sunday, April 14, immediately following worship to help prepare the Lodge for the summer activities. There will be yard work as well as inside cleaning (vacuuming, window washing, cleaning of bathrooms, etc.) that needs to be accomplished that day. If you are interested in helping, please let Judy Lindquist know. Bring a sack lunch; dessert and beverage will be provided. We will make carpooling arrangements leaving from church if you so desire.

We promise a fun afternoon!

Shannondale - Men's Retreat

Return to the Wilderness

Shannondale Christian Men's
Ozarks Getaway & Retreat
May 3rd - May 5th, 2024

Cost - \$95.00 per person
Includes lodging & food

**\$20 deposit due by
April 22nd
Venmo:**

@Jonathan-Jones-689

or

**Make check payable to
Jonathan Jones
mail to:**

**1542 Candish Lane
Chesterfield, MO 63017**



What is the Retreat All About?

PURPOSE:
Spiritual Growth
Fellowship
Mentoring Opportunities
Recreation & Fun
Great Eating
Service to Community
Opportunity to Recharge

Check your weekly bulletin for additional information about this event. Questions? Please see Bob Brennecke