

The Friendly Call

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST • MANCHESTER, MO



Holy Week Schedule

Worship Schedule March 2024

March 3 - Communion

9:30 am Pastor Kevin

March 10

9:30 am Pastor Tracey

March 17

9:30 am Pastor Kevin

March 24 - Palm Sunday

9:30 am Pastor Kevin

March 28 - Maundy Thursday

7:00 pm Pastor Kevin

March 29 - Good Friday

7:00 pm Tenebrae

March 31 - Easter

7:00 am Pastor Kevin

9:30 am Pastor Kevin

Palm Sunday

March 24 9:30 am Worship & Communion

Maundy Thursday

March 28 7:00 pm Worship & Communion

Good Friday

March 29 7:00 pm Tenebrae Service

Easter Saturday

March 30 1:00 pm Easter Egg Hunt (1 year to 5th grade)

Easter Sunday

March 31 7:00 am Sunrise Service & Communion
(Under the Pavilion)

9:30 am Worship Service & Communion

MARCH



REMEMBER to set your clocks ahead one hour on **Sunday, March 10**

When Daylight Savings Time begins!



It was the week we started Lent. I arrived at the office on Monday morning. My first order of business was to spend time in the sanctuary for prayer. There was a lot to share with God.

First, I prayed for an idea of what to write about in this newsletter article. Should I focus on Lent or Easter or some other topic? The deadline always comes up so quickly. Second, I gave thanks for a good weekend and a wonderful Sunday morning at St. John. Third, I prayed for our congregation. Please help certain members in need; let people have a meaningful Lenten Season. There was more in my communion with God, but you get the picture.

I went back to my office not knowing what to write in this newsletter article. Thus, I opened my devotional book for spiritual sustenance. The scripture text was from Colossians: "*Be persistent in prayer, and keep alert as you pray, giving thanks to God.*" There was a story about a woman who was asked to pray for someone trying to find their pet snake. It had a good message. At the end of my reading, as I closed the book, I decided to write about prayer. That's fitting for this holy season.

As far as I know, all faith traditions pray. We pray in the Christian religion because Jesus prayed frequently to God. He gave us a model to follow in The Lord's Prayer. I believe it's important to note that there are two parts to The Lord's Prayer: one has to do with God and the other has to do with us. In essence, prayer is a conversation with God. This is a time to be in sacred union, to share honestly and openly with the Lord. We have an opportunity to develop our connection with the divine.

We can pray in a church sanctuary, in our homes, in nature. There is no specific place where we must pray; it should be a place where we are comfortable. Furthermore, there is no designated time of when to pray. We can pray with God at all hours of the day or night. Some of us like to fold our hands and close our eyes, while others may stand with arms opened wide looking up to the sky. Simply stated, I don't think there is a right or wrong way to pray, it's about being authentic in our relationship with the Lord.

If we are wanting to know what to talk about with God, then I think the five types of prayer are valuable. **Praise** is giving glory to God. This is our way of acknowledging the Lord's steadfast love and faithfulness in our lives. As one UCC pastor wrote, "We praise God, then, not only because we enjoy God, but in order that our joy may be complete." **Confession** is when we admit that we have not lived up to our best intentions. It's being truthful with us and God. I believe this is a humble and healthy attitude. A prayer of **Thanksgiving** expresses appreciation to the Lord for blessings and gifts. Since we have received such grace and goodness, we let God know how grateful we are for everything in life. **Petition** is an appeal for us. It may be asking for strength or help from the Lord. There is nothing wrong with requesting support in life. The fifth and final type of prayer is **Intercession**. We approach God to intercede on behalf of someone else. It might be for a friend struggling with health problems, or it could be an issue in our world.

I realize that some people pray because they believe God will intervene and answer prayers. My personal feeling is that the Lord doesn't arbitrarily choose what prayers to fulfill. I pray to God so that I might be changed through the experience of that moment. I pray so that I might be molded into being the disciple that Christ Jesus intends for me to be on earth. Whatever you decide, I hope prayer will be part of your spiritual life. May this message help you in your relationship with God and your faith journey this Lent.

Your servant in Christ,





Notes from the February 13, 2024 Council Meeting

Council Members and their roles - Natalie Morton, President: Ann Picaud, Vice President; Janice Jung, Recording Secretary; Karen Benton, Treasurer; Karen Gaertner, Financial Secretary; Dave Gaehle, Building; Craig Lindquist, Grounds; Char Heyde, Liaison-Christian Board of Education; Jen Hughes, Liaison-Worship and Music; Walter Starck, Project Manager; Ken Waters, Project Manager. Still have one vacancy.

Dave Gaehle - No update on the HVAC. Engineering plans are progressing. Completed a few roof repairs. Will have a company to clean out the sewer, drain and garbage disposal.

Council sent a letter to those members not attending church. A few did respond but those that have not responded the Council approved a motion to drop them from the church membership rolls.

Craig Lindquist is pleased to say that after four months the new sign has been properly installed. As of now, Cindy is doing the input.

Board of Christian Education would like to have a safety class for the AED and CPR and inform teachers where to go in case of an emergency. Will work with Pastor Tracey to help coordinate and look to have it during the summer months. Also would like to have youth participate with ushering.

Looking into new church t-shirts. The chalk brigade will design their own t-shirts and looking for someone who would be interested in designing t-shirts for the congregation. We could take orders and use this as a fund raiser for the new HVAC.

Respectfully submitted
Janice Jung
Recording Secretary

Financial Report - January 31, 2024

<u>Actual Receipts</u>	<u>Budget Receipts</u>	<u>YTD Actual Receipts</u>	<u>YTD Budget Receipts</u>
\$50,231.52	\$38,097.00	\$50,231.52	\$38,097.00
<u>Actual Expenditures</u>	<u>Budget Expenditures</u>	<u>YTD Actual Expenditures</u>	<u>YTD Budget Expenditures</u>
\$33,702.90	\$31,502.00	\$33,702.90	\$31,502.00

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, March 12, 2024.**





Name	Date	Years
Dean & Nedra Klohr	3/3	49
Jeff & Mira Minnis	3/6	13
Bruce & Char Heyde	3/9	28
Tracey & Jim Harris	3/20	24
Craig & Judy Lindquist	3/21	37
Joseph Karl & Kate Caughlan	3/22	10
Jeff & Cathy Cummings	3/24	34
Tom & Joan James	3/30	61

SNOW SCHEDULE

If the weather is hazardous on a Sunday morning, please check the following:

Church website:
www.stjohnmanchester.org

FOX 2 Website:
<http://fox2now.com> or

KSDK 5 Website:
www.ksdk.com



MEN'S BROTHERHOOD

The next Men's Brotherhood meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2024 at 7:00 pm



CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
APRIL 1, 2024

Will reopen April 2 at 9:00 am

Worship Attendance

Date	In Person	Streaming	TOTAL
January 28	104	42	146
February 4	116	52	168
February 11	99	35	134
February 14 Ash Wednesday	54	42	96
February 18	83	46	129

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

The Friendly Call

DEADLINE!

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



FROM THE ST. JOHN CEMETERY BOARD

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

CEMETERY ASSOCIATION REQUEST

The church's cemetery is currently addressing a problem that it is having with moles. If anyone is interested in donating any mole traps that they no longer need, please see Bob Ruh, Bob Brennecke, Dave Brooks, or Earl Allen. We will be glad to have them, to help address this serious matter and keep the cemetery grounds looking beautiful. Thank you very much.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

**Tuesday, March 19
11:30 a.m.**

Bring a sandwich...dessert and drink will be provided. We will enjoy the movie "What If". What if GOD gave you a second chance! 5 out of 5 stars from Dove Foundation's family seal of approval. Learn how important Faith and Family are. All Ladies are invited to enjoy a good time and a great movie.



OUTREACH TEAM MEETING

The **Outreach Team** will not meet in March. Please plan on joining us in April !

MARCH OUTREACH CHALLENGE

For the month of **March** Outreach is asking for desperately needed products on the **Circle of Concern** shelves—adult

incontinence and feminine hygiene products. These items are not provided by federally funded public assistance programs, and they are basic needs for individual health and personal dignity. Those living below the poverty level have limited access to them. And because of their “delicate” nature they are overlooked in food drives. Please consider helping with these much needed articles.

For more information on **Circle of Concern**, go to www.circleofconcern.org



HELPING HANDS ENVELOPE for March

During the month of **March, Outreach** has determined that all offerings received through the **Helping Hands Envelopes** will go to **Camp MoVal**.

Camp MoVal was established in 1962 and is located a few miles southwest of Union, MO. MoVal features more than 150 acres of beautiful forests, native prairie, natural streams, and a lake!

To find out more information about Camp MoVal, please visit the conference website at: missourimidsouth.org/camp-moval.

Thanks for your support!



CONGRATULATIONS, Laura Gregory!



Our **heartfelt congratulations** go out to our own **Laura Gregory** on being named Fairway Elementary (Rockwood School District)

Teacher of the Year for 2024.

The announcement was made on Friday, January 26, 2024. Pastor Kevin was able to surprise her at school when the announcement was made. We are so incredibly proud of you and know this recognition is well deserved! Congratulations from your St. John Family!



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

The Middle and High School group collected for the Souper Bowl of Caring for Circle of Concern on Sunday, February 11. We are pleased to announce that **\$600** was collected and has been sent to **Circle of Concern**. Thank you for your generosity and caring!

Great job, St. John Youth!



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 **March 14**, please see Judy Lindquist.

To learn more about the men's outreach of Sunshine Ministries go to: <https://www.sunshineministries.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 March visit will be on **Thursday, March 14, 2024**. If you need additional information, please contact Mary Ellen Berg or Lynn Sabina.



LENTEN SERMON SERIES

Beside(s) Jesus — Of course, **Lent** is all about **Jesus** going to the **cross** and how we're supposed to follow him. At the same time, we are not Jesus, and we usually stop short of going all the way to the cross. Besides Jesus, who else in these Gospel readings can we look to for discipleship during Lent — folks we should imitate or maybe not imitate? Thus, who are the characters beside Jesus in these Lenten stories?



- March 3** - Temple Vendors (John 2:13-22)Pastor Kevin
- March 10** - Nicodemus (John 3:14-21).....Pastor Tracey
- March 17** - Andrew and Philip (John 12:20-33)...Pastor Kevin
- Palm Sunday** - The Crowds (Mark 11:1-11).....Pastor Kevin
- Easter** - Mary, Mary and Salome (Mark 16:1-8)..Pastor Kevin

Please join us on our Lenten Journey this year.

THE LENTEN BIBLE STUDY SERIES

'I AM' STATEMENTS OF JESUS — This series will 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:

- March 5** – John 10:1-18...*the Gate & Good Shepherd*
- March 19** – John 15:1-8...*the True Vine*
- April 2** – John 14:17-44...*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!***



GREEN TEAM NEWS

THE GREEN TEAM'S next meeting will be Thursday, **March 14 at 6:00 pm**. All are welcome!!



The **Green Team** has several projects coming up this spring. On February 24th we will attack the honeysuckle on our property once again. We will meet at 9 and finish up at 12:00. Our confirmands have been asked to join in and help on this project. We appreciate anyone who would like to join us for our activities.

March 9th will be the morning we begin building two raised garden beds. Raised garden beds offer soil control, good drainage, pest protection and they are a little easier on our backs! Vegetables and flowers will be planted and our harvest will be donated to **Circle of Concern**.

In celebration of Earth Day, we will be meeting on **April 20th** 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.

Did you enjoy some Hershey's Kisses this Valentine's Day? More than 20 million Kisses are produced using 133 Square miles of tin foil, all of which can be recycled!

Our **next meeting** will be **March 14th** as we continue our commitment to our environmental ministry.

Remember to Reduce, Recycle, Reuse!



Raised Bed Construction

On Saturday, March 9 at 9:30 am the **Green Team** will meet to construct two raised garden beds on the church property. The beds will be used to plant fresh produce to be donated to Circle of Concern throughout the "growing season." Please plan to join us on our next adventure. Questions? Please see Bob Ruh.



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!

A Note from Pastor Tracey

Welcome to March, a very full month !

We continue our Lenten Study on Sundays, "Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith" through March 24. On March 9, the Green Team will build raised garden beds. Holy week begins with Palm Sunday on March 24. Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be at 1:00 pm on March 30. No Sunday School on Easter, please sit and worship as a family! Look for more Holy Week information in this issue. I wish everyone a wonderful learning and engaging Lenten and Easter Season.

I close with this prayer, Lord of this and every Holy Week, grant me the gift of a tender heart. It is easy to believe that we are all out for ourselves and what we can gain, but you show us another way: the way that leads to true life. Lead us to tenderly reach out to others exactly as you do. Bless us now and always, Amen.

Sending blessings for your continued Lenten Journey and a Beautiful Easter,

Tracey

We are sad to say that a long-standing tradition here at St. John, **Birthdays Calls**, has come to an end. The reasons for saying goodbye to this ministry are many but is mainly due to the fact that we don't always have accurate information in our database to share with the Birthday Callers each month and many of the Birthday Callers have expressed frustration that their calls are seldom answered any longer.

We have "ramped up" our Card Ministry to include birthday cards for all our members 80 and over and those celebrating BIG birthdays (those ending in a zero, i.e., 30, 40, 50, etc.). If you are a birthday caller, please consider joining the card ministry team. If you are interested in doing so, please contact Judy Lindquist. Thanks to all who have served so faithfully as a Birthday Caller. May God continue to bless us as we say goodbye to one ministry but expand another.



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
Tommy Theiss - St. Luke's Hospital



AT HOME

Mary Jane Belsher (son's home in Augusta)
Betty Fox
Roy Sander
Rufus Sticker
Mike Waller
Jennifer Weber



Alex Boothby, Marines, Okinawa Japan, nephew of Elaine Burns

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

CHILDREN'S EASTER EGG HUNT
March 30 - 1:00 PM

Children age 1 year - 5th grade are welcome to join us on **Saturday, March 30**, at 1pm for an egg hunt and games!

Please sign up on the bulletin board outside Pastor Tracey's office so we know how many eggs to fill.



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, March 7, 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.



St. John UCC Manchester
Christian Education



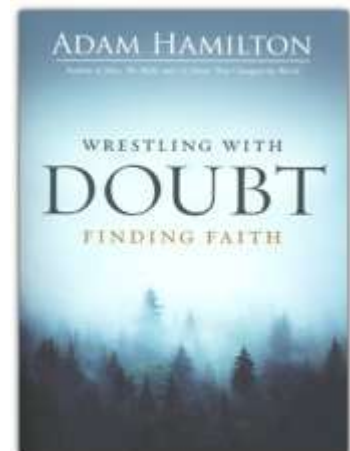
ST. JOHN UCC
Adult Ministry

Sunday Morning Adult Study: After Worship at 10:50 am

For March, Pastor Tracey will be completing the series "Wrestling with Doubt" by **Adam Hamilton**. Mr. Hamilton wrote this book for people who have questions of faith or who wrestle with doubt. The Adult Study is held in the Hospitality Room from 10:50 - 11:30 am. **Join us!**

- ✝ March 3 - Chapter 3 - **Are All Non-Christians Going to Hell?**
- ✝ March 10 - Chapter 4 - **Is Heaven Real?**
- ✝ March 17 - Chapter 5 - **When Prayers Go Unanswered**
- ✝ March 24 - Chapter 6 - **Why Do the Innocent Suffer?**

Questions? Please contact Pastor Tracey.



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

This year's Confirmation Class started in September. The class meets this month on **Wednesday, March 6 and 20** beginning at 6:00 pm in the Hospitality Room. The class meets on the first and third Wednesday of the month. Questions? Please see Pastor Tracey.



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 tharris@stjohnmanchester.org!

All generations are invited to stop in!





In memory of **James Riechman**
Green Team
Ken & Marty Boucher

In memory of **Terrie Hetz**
Memorial Fund
Deborah Burleson

In memory of **Daisy Roberts**
Women's Fellowship
Ken & Marty Boucher

In memory of **Liz Fryman** (Mike Fryman's sister)
Technology Fund
Keith Gaertner



To the family and friends of
Ruth Crocker

On her passing from this life to
God's eternal care on
February 15, 2024

Spring Work Day

Spring will be here before we know it!! Please come celebrate the change of seasons with us at St. John with a **work day** from 8:30 am to Noon, on **Saturday March 23rd**. We'll have donuts and coffee to start your sugar and caffeine high for maximum productivity. Lunch will also be provided around noon, after we have spiffed up the inside and outside of the church. Please consider coming out to enjoy some (hopefully) sunny spring weather and some camaraderie with fellow church members.

Hope to see you there!

Dave Gaehele and Craig Lindquist





EASTER LILIES

Easter is early this year, and that means it's time to order lilies to decorate our Sanctuary. To order a plant in **Honor** or in **Memory** of loved ones.

DEADLINE for ordering is **Sunday, March 10th.**

Plants may be taken home after the 9:30 am service on Easter Sunday. Please fill out the form below, enclose your payment, and either place it in the offering plate or return it to the office.

Number of Lilies _____ (\$10.00 each) Total Enclosed \$ _____

I am purchasing this/these flower(s) in **Honor** or **Memory** (please circle one)

Of: _____

From: _____