

The Friendly Call

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST • MANCHESTER, MO



Worship Schedule August 2024

August 4 - Communion

9:30 am Pastor Kevin

August 12

9:30 am Hymn Sing

August 18 - Rally Day

9:30 am Pastor Tracey

August 25 - Tim's Farewell

9:30 am Pastor Kevin



August 18

Please join us for a day of fun at

St. John UCC Rally Day !!!

The "Blessing of the Backpacks or Portable Technology" will happen during worship followed by games and food after worship. We're welcoming in the new church year!



2024



Over the weekend, there was an assassination attempt on former President Donald Trump. It's, unfortunately, not a surprise considering the political tension and gun violence in our nation. I am deeply concerned as we move forward towards the Primaries and the Presidential election. We must denounce such horrific acts in our country. Let us all pray for civility in the political process and devote ourselves to peaceful behavior.

This got me to thinking about the political situation in our nation. I don't often venture into this area because I know just enough to sound foolish. Please permit me some latitude in revealing my foolishness.

There's been a lot of conversation, especially after President Joe Biden's debate performance, about the age of our two Presidential candidates. Some people question the cognitive ability to serve in this demanding role at an advanced stage in life. I am not qualified to determine whether there is a particular age at which someone is or is not mentally capable of serving as a leader; at the same time, I do believe that more elected officials are hanging on when they should step down. We only need to look at Mitch McConnell and Dianne Feinstein to recognize that too many politicians are unwilling to graciously conclude their service. It's like an athlete who doesn't know when to retire. (On a side note, retirement doesn't mean that a person is put out to pasture. Retirement ought to be an opportunity to volunteer and to make a difference in a new way. Look at Jimmy Carter teaching Sunday School and working with Habitat for Humanity.)

I think politicians who remain in office too long hurt our democracy. For one thing, when leaders are in positions for 20, 30, and 40 years, then they become so entrenched in the political system that it tends towards rigid ideologies and polarization. Second, when elected officials stay in office too long, then it unconsciously communicates the message that we have no new leaders, no fresh people, no one else who can guide our country. I consider how that appears to a younger generation and to other world leaders. It doesn't reflect highly on the United States.

My personal belief is that such positions – Senators, Members of the House, Supreme Court Justices – ought not be a lifelong career. I think we need to have term limits for all these positions. If Congress knew they only had a certain amount of time in office, then they might get something accomplished rather than holding out for their personal ideologies. Leaders seem more interested in re-election and agendas than addressing problems that impact our nation. There's certainly someone much smarter who could argue why terms limits wouldn't work, but how will we ever know if we don't try.

There was a different ending to this article. After submitting my message, we received news that President Biden would not continue as a presidential candidate. I am grateful that he has come to terms with his situation and that he will conclude his service. Even though we have heard it said many times already, that is a sign of patriotism. Biden is putting country over his own self-interest. I still believe Trump ought to do the same. For those who were concerned about Biden, if Trump wins, then he will be older than Biden is now when he finishes his term. Sadly, though, I can't foresee that happening. It's hard to convince a 'cult of personality' to do what's right and what's faithful for the whole.

As we move forward in the months ahead, I pray for peace to prevail, and I will do my best to be civil during this process. I hope that all of you will join me in doing the same.

Peace of Christ,



Notes from the June 11, 2024 Council Meeting

(Previously published in the June 16 Bulletin)

- ✝ HVAC will be completed the week of June 24th.
- ✝ The contract with Cedar Ford has been signed so the harvesting of timber can begin.
- ✝ More information on the WEB forum will be forthcoming in a future e-blast, as well as the August Friendly Call.
- ✝ The Council will not be meeting in July. Next Council meeting will be August 13, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Jung, Recording Secretary

Financial Report - June 30, 2024

<u>Actual Receipts</u>	<u>Budget Receipts</u>	<u>YTD Actual Receipts</u>	<u>YTD Budget Receipts</u>
\$33,363.96	\$32,137.00	\$236,858.96	\$206,432.00
<u>Actual Expenditures</u>	<u>Budget Expenditures</u>	<u>YTD Actual Expenditures</u>	<u>YTD Budget Expenditures</u>
\$40,446.06	\$40,781.45	\$216,248.94	\$217,248.70

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, August 13, 2024.**





COUPLES	DATE	YEARS
Frank & Lois Leahy	8/25	51
Mike & Gail Schneider	8/10	50
Mark & Barbara Kohring	8/22	44
Jim & Denise Eschenbrenner	8/13	41
Ron & Linda Francois	8/1	32
Kevin & Laura Gregory	8/5	29
Jeannette & Scott Musgrave	8/11	24
Kyle & Christina Williams	8/15	15
Dustin & Jessica Orf	8/14	14
Jason & Elaine Burns	8/4	12
Mike & Mayerlis Davis	8/3	8
Andrea Ruh & Michael Blumeyer	8/9	1



ATTENDANCE

Worship Attendance			
Date	In Person	Streaming	TOTAL
June 2	102	41	143
June 9	101	44	145
June 16	94	38	132
June 23	102	42	144
June 30	98	38	136
July 7	91	51	142
July 14	98	48	146
July 21	92	118	210

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

SCAM ALERT – Please be cautious when responding to texts or emails. There are many fraudulent requests being made in the name of staff, family members, and friends. The most common these days is called “phishing.” A deceitful person will use a fictitious address such as: gregorypastor21@yahoo.com They are hoping that you’re not paying attention, and therefore, answer them. If you are uncertain, then feel free to call the church or the appropriate person directly. Also, it’s important to know legitimate numbers and emails so you can identify a phishing scam. The best thing to do is click delete.

Let's help each other out!



CONGRATULATIONS !

TO

Mike & Gail Schneider

On their 50th Wedding Anniversary !

August 10, 1974

You may be aware that St. John has a card outreach team. We have sent cards to graduates, new members, confirmands, folks celebrating special birthdays, anniversaries (50 and over), and to those who may need extra support from their church family.

The card “stash” has been depleted, so we will be holding our second card-making workshop on

Saturday, August 10 at 10:00 am
Confirmation Room

We will create cards to be used in this ministry. No previous experience or skills required! Supplies will be provided and sample cards will be on display for “inspiration.” You are welcome to bring your own scissors and glue if you would like. We will also accept donations of ready-made cards and postage.

If you have any questions, please contact Judy Lindquist at 636-357-5209, or cjjslind@charter.net



Please join us on August 10 for a morning of crafting and fellowship.



OUTREACH TEAM MEETING

The next **Outreach Team** meeting is on **Thursday, August 1, 2024** at 6:30 pm in the Hospitality Room. Please join us!



AUGUST OUTREACH CHALLENGE

Caroline Mission – Baby Shower



Caroline Mission is a licensed and accredited Early Childhood Education Facility operated by UP (Unleashing Potential formerly known as Neighborhood Houses, one of our Mission Partners). Their mission is to provide quality affordable child care for working parents. To show our support for this community outreach program, we are having our

annual **"Baby Shower"** during the month of **August**. **NEW** or gently used baby clothes and equipment, and **NEW** supplies are needed:

Clothing - Sleepers, onesies, play clothes for newborn to 24 months

Pull-ups - Size 6

diapers, wipes and diaper rash ointment

toddlers underwear

rattles and toys

pumpkin & bouncer seats, bassinets, swings and strollers

Donations will be collected in the Gathering Area throughout the month of **AUGUST**. The need is greater than ever. Please go to www.upstl.org for further information about our longtime mission partner. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please feel free to do so. Please make checks payable to St. John UCC and write Baby Shower or Caroline Mission in the memo portion of your check. If you have any questions please call Lynn Sabina (314) 680-6808 or Cindy Boddy (314) 307-6114.

Thank you for your support !!



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 **August 8**, 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 next visit will be on **Thursday, August 8, 2024**. If you need additional information, please contact Mary Ellen Berg or Lynn Sabina.



A simple "Thank You" doesn't seem sufficient, but will have to do. Our May Outreach Challenge was for Shannondale, one of our longest-standing mission partners. We collected \$555.00 which has already been sent to help the Shannondale Community. In addition, thanks to an anonymous donor, and contributions made by those attending the Shannondale weekend (June 14-16) many non-perishable items were placed on the shelves at Shannondale for their "Baskets of Blessings" given to those in need in the area. Also a great many laundry products were donated for those doing laundry at the Lodge.

During May we also collected condiments for Circle of Concern. As always, you responded generously with an abundance of items. Circle was **thrilled** to receive all the ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, salad dressings, BBQ sauce, etc. Thank you, St. John for your willingness to support the Outreach Team and its projects.

June and July found us collecting for Back-to-School for Circle of Concern and ECH (Every Child's Hope). Through Sunday, July 14, we have collected \$1,749.00. Thank you for your continued support.

The Outreach Team



GREEN TEAM NEWS



The **Green Team** will continue taking orders for Hardy Mums grown by Wiethop's Nursery until Sunday, August 25. The mums are a perennial garden variety and will come back each year under normal circumstances. Cost is \$10 each and all proceeds will go to future **Green Team** projects. Mums are in a 9" pot, with a spread of 12" - 16". Please find order form below (and at church).

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

St. John UCC Green Team Mum Fundraiser

Buyer's Name:		
Phone:		
Email:		
<i>Color of Mum</i>	<i>Number Ordered</i>	<i>Dollar Amount</i>
Yellow		\$
Red		\$
White		\$
Purple / Pink		\$
Orange		\$
Total Amount		\$

Payment is taken at the time of order. Please make checks payable to St. John UCC with "Mums" on the memo line. Mums will be available for pick up at church the beginning of September. Date to be announced.

Forms may be mailed with payment to:

St. John UCC
332 Old Sulphur Spring Road
Manchester, MO 63021

All orders must be received by August 25

The Green Team thanks you!

SAVE THE DATE !

Saturday, August 24

OPERATION CLEAN STREAM

The Green Team & St. John Outreach

are supporting this mission.

Michelle Patterson is the St. John coordinator for this event. Look for more detailed information to come!

Thanks Michelle!



HVAC Project

The Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall air conditioning and heating project has been completed. I would like to thank all of those individuals who gave of their time and talents during this project.



The system is fully functional and we are wrapping up our understanding of the controls so we can best program the system for our needs. While the original estimated project came in on budget, we did have two contingency projects which added to the scope of work. We do not have the final invoice as of yet but expect the total project to come in slightly under \$230,000.

I would like to thank those individuals and organizations that have contributed to funding the project and wish to mention that we will continue to accept donations into the Building Fund earmarked to the HVAC Project.

Thank you,
David W. Gaehle
Building Chair



Please join us for a
Farewell Celebration
HONORING
Tim Osiek

Sunday, August 25, 2024
immediately following worship
in the Gathering Area

Plan to stop by to wish Tim well and thank
him for his dedication and service
over the last twenty-one years

JOY (Just Older Youth)

SAVE THE DATE!

Travel Log - Alaska
Presented by Linda Riggs

Saturday, October 12
12:00 - 3:00 pm

Please bring a favorite casserole,
salad or dessert. Drinks will be
provided. There will be a signup sheet
posted closer to the event.

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

AT HOME

Betty Fox
Rufus Sticker
Tommy Theiss
Jennifer Weber
Chris Albrecht



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
Technical 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

A Note from Pastor Tracey

I know everyone has been enjoying these summer days. We have had some wild weather with extreme heat, big rains and wind. God has also blessed us with abundant beautiful days as well. Many of you know that I was one of the shepherds for Family Camp at MoVal. We are blessed to have a great church camp facility close to us. Did you also know we had students from our church attend camp? Better yet we have an adult who went to be a counselor at camp and also volunteers to do other work at MoVal? The person who is so dedicated as to stay in a cabin with youth is our very own, Bob Ruh. I hope you will thank him for giving his time to the camp program.

July 22-25 we had Camp FireLight here at St John as our VBS Program. VBS could not happen without all the wonderful volunteers! Thanks so very much for the blessing you are for the children!

Wonder of wonders, August 18 is already Rally Day! Weather Permitting, we will have food and fun under the pavilion!!! Come join in the fun and let's "Welcome Back!" our St. John friends and families as we get ready for the summer to begin winding down and school to start. Plan to bring a friend with you!

Peace to all,



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. Our next meeting is Thursday, August 15, 2024. 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!

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.

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!

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, August 1, 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.



Tea with Pastor Tracey



TEA TEA TEA TEA 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 tharris@stjohnmanchester.org

All generations are invited to stop in!

Name: _____

Back 2

School



BACKPACK
BELL
BOOKS
CLASSROOM
ENGLISH
GYM
HISTORY
HOMEWORK
LOCKER
LUNCH

MATH
PAPER
PENCIL
PRINCIPAL
QUIZ
RECESS
REPORT CARD
SCHOOL BUS
SCIENCE
TEACHER

SCHOOL

K O U E C F R M U Q N G Y Y V J S A R V
F C X Q L Z L G Y M C F Y S E L G G D H
Y X D H A B I L O C K E R U I I X M G C
E Q N O V E L Q I D Q O H E F V L B E O
N W U G G L Y R H Z S O L J E J F T K E
G G C O E L C P S R E C E S S Q G C X I
L B Z I Y N R E P O R T C A R D K P S Q
I B Q T E A C H E R Y F B F V F U K X Q
S G Z I V B G V O M A T H M E H M U Z P
H S C H O O L B U S S C I E N C E H E V
C L A S S R O O M Z P L U N C H Q M M Z
P N V F J O D S Y R V X G P E N C I L O
V Z T L Y K O I P R I N C I P A L Z N M
T I E B Z P B Q X J R I N P T E R M A X
L T Q O Z A N E F B A C K P A C K X G N
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A Y F K U E O O E P Q U I Z N J F C J U
P P U A Y R H T P H O M E W O R K M Q N
Q Y F C Q E E E J T H I S T O R Y H D J
Q D G M Q B L Y P M M A K R Z F H N P G