

# The Friendly Call

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST • MANCHESTER, MO



## Worship Schedule October 2024

### October 6 - Communion

9:30 am Pastor Kevin  
Musician - Bob Meinz

### October 13

9:30 am Pastor Kevin  
Musician - Bob Meinz

### October 20

9:30 am Pastor Kevin  
Musician - Bob Meinz

### October 27

9:30 am Pastor Kevin  
Musician - Bob Meinz

## TRUNK OR TREAT



Sunday, October 27

4:00 pm

South Parking Lot

Prize for best Trunk and  
best Costume!

Please join us for chili & hotdogs  
immediately following.





I know this may seem early for the stewardship campaign; however, I learned from mentors long ago that stewardship is 365 days a year.

A pastoral colleague and I were talking once about church finances. The pastor shared with me that they didn't get involved with money matters; they left financial stewardship and the church budget up to lay leaders in the congregation. Numbers weren't "their thing," so they stayed out of it. He quoted the 1 Timothy passage: *"The love of money is the root of all evil."* When I asked about meeting budget and affording him, his response was, "If they can't pay me, then I'll move on." That sounded awfully callous.

Pastors and parishioners tend to hold a wide variety of perspectives on finances in relation to faith. Perhaps that's because the Bible has a lot to say about money, and those scripture texts often contradict each other. For instance, Proverbs 30 states: *"Trusting God leads to prosperity."* We like to believe that our wealth comes from being faithful to the Lord. On the other hand, Matthew 6 tells us, *"Store riches in heaven, not earthly possessions."* We should be focused on divine matters rather than worldly pursuits. I could continue to quote passages, but hopefully you get the point.

During my pastoral ministry, I've always been engaged in the finances of the church. For example, I write a newsletter article and preach a stewardship sermon every year. Maybe it's to fulfill that childhood interest I had in becoming an accountant. At the same time, I'd like to believe administrative ministry is a gift of mine. But most of all, I want to see the church flourish, and therefore, I want to do my best to ensure that things go well.

In 2023, the congregation approved a deficit budget for the year. Thanks to your generosity, St. John was able to finish strong with income over expenses. We also approved a deficit budget for 2024. As of the August financial report, we are ahead of projections. My sincere gratitude for your giving, and may we keep this momentum going for the remainder of the year.

Does this article or my involvement make a difference? Is that why our finances are healthy? None of us will ever know. I'd rather not leave it up to chance, though, nor do I think it's faithful to place all the burden on our leaders. It's important that we work together and keep vigilant about this Godly matter that has been entrusted to us. Being deliberate in our financial stewardship makes a difference.

The United Church of Christ stewardship theme this year is 'Imagine Together.' It's interesting that there is no scripture text associated with the theme. That'll grant me flexibility when I preach on Pledge Sunday. The materials we received offered this message: "Together, God calls us into community. The spiritual practice of generosity arises from imaging all that the Lord calls us to do as followers of Jesus. Our giving to the church makes it possible to turn what we imagine into reality."

I hope that we will hold fast as a body of believers, that we will stay united in our mission for Christ. This means "Imagining Together," working with one another, and engaging each other in the faith. Please join me in this ministry of stewardship and let's be intentional about our giving and our service for 2025.

Your fellow steward,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin".



**Notes from the September 10, 2024 Council Meeting**

St. Louis Association will hold a business meeting at Pilgrim UCC, 826 Union Blvd, St. Louis on October 5, 2024 from 9:00am-12:00pm. Please let Pastor Kevin know if interested in attending.

Trivia Night on October 5, 2024. Proceeds will benefit Habitat for Humanity.

Board of Christian Education will have Trunk or Treat at the end of October. Will have sign up sheet. Looking for new Board members.

Cedar Ford timber harvest had begun but had to stop because a cinder block building was located in the northwest corner of our property. It was suggested to send a letter to the people who own the log cabin who likely built the building with a copy of our survey to let them know we intend to harvest trees.

Discussion was held looking at strategies on how to develop a Capital Campaign to solicit contributions to recoup HVAC funding, new roof for the Educational Wing and parking lot.

Ann Picaud stated the WEB did not pass inspection. Need to put banisters on entrances (Patrice Picaud has since completed); wires are exposed and need to put in conduit; main floor bathroom needs GFI. Electrical box is good. Going to sand main floor and seal.

The Church Council approved the job description for a part-time Director of Christian Education.

This was Pastor Tracey’s last Council meeting at St. John.

Respectfully submitted,

*Janice Jung, Recording Secretary*

**Financial Report - August 31, 2024**

<u>Actual Receipts</u>	<u>Budget Receipts</u>	<u>YTD Actual Receipts</u>	<u>YTD Budget Receipts</u>
\$34,124.51	\$29,642.00	\$308,404.35	\$267,711
<u>Actual Expenditures</u>	<u>Budget Expenditures</u>	<u>YTD Actual Expenditures</u>	<u>YTD Budget Expenditures</u>
\$38,199.37	\$32,724.95	\$286,395.99	\$283,076.60

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, October 8, 2024.**







NAME	DATE	YEARS
Roy & Georgia Weihe	10/8	64
Harry & Judy Taub	10/1	62
Dennis & Janet Strader	10/17	60
Walter & Marcia Starck	10/5	39
Tom & Beth Daniels	10/19	32
Curt & Gayle Junge	10/29	29
Darryl & Kathy Stanfield	10/5	27
Rich & Charlotte Gimblett	10/27	22
Scott & Erika Kirn	10/26	21
Kari & Mark Smith	10/29	18
Kevin & Laura Muraski	10/28	17
Adam & Elizabeth Berman	10/24	14
Alicia & Kevin McGrane	10/19	10

Please remember to drop off your contributions for our Thanksgiving food drive benefiting Circle of Concern and Every Child’s Hope (ECH) on or before Sunday, October 6. Circle alone will give over 550 families a box containing holiday food items, including a turkey for their Thanksgiving meal. St. John UCC has committed to filling **60 boxes** this year! Shopping lists of items needed are available in the Narthex or Outreach counter in the Gathering Area.

**ITEMS are due back at church on or before Sunday, October 6th.**

The following are the items for your shopping list.

1. Canned Pumpkin (2 cans)
2. Cranberry Sauce
3. Canned Fruit
4. Chicken, Turkey or Vegetable Broth (32 oz.)
5. Turkey or Chicken Gravy (12-18 oz. jar)
6. Cornbread Mix
7. Boxed Stuffing Mix
8. Instant Mashed Potatoes
9. Canned Corn

For those who would prefer to make a financial contribution, please make checks payable to St. John with “Food Drive” in the memo. We know we can count on our St. John family to give from the heart at this special time.

If questions arise, please call Cindy Boddy (314-307-6114).

## ATTENDANCE

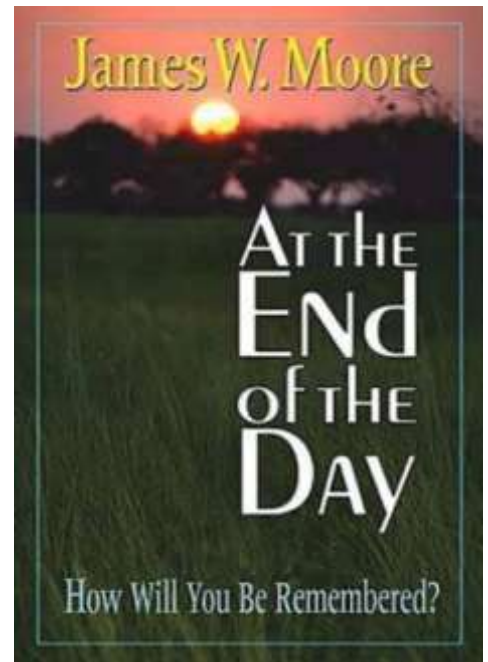
Worship Attendance			
Date	In Person	Streaming	TOTAL
September 1	112	67	179
September 8	91	44	135
September 15	107	63	170
September 22	78	65	143

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

## BIBLE STUDY

### “How Will You Be Remembered?”

The Tuesday evening group has been reading a book by James Moore entitled *At The End of The Day*. As the introduction states, “When all is said and done, in the final analysis, what will be your lasting legacy?” The series discusses various topics, such as, ‘the joy of the journey,’ ‘right from wrong,’ and ‘the battle within.’ Come to hear different perspectives on faith and life. Come to reflect on your walk with God as you seek to make your days count in this world. These gatherings will be from 7:00-8:00 pm on the first and third Tuesday nights in the Hospitality Room or your own living room. People can purchase the book online, share with a friend, or just show up and participate in the conversation. Here’s the remaining schedule:



- ✝ **Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>** – Chapter 5 (...The Power of Compassion) & Chapter 6 (...How to Teach Children?)
- ✝ **Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>** – Chapter 8 (...Right from Wrong?) & Chapter 9 (...The Significance of the Battle Within?)
- ✝ **Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>** – Chapter 10 (...The Power of Words?) & Chapter 12 (...How to be Beautifully Extravagant?)
- ✝ **Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>** – Chapter 13 (...How to be a Real Friend?) & Chapter 14 (...How to Close the Gate?)

***If you prefer to join via Zoom, please find information below:***

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87178121895>

Meeting ID: 871 7812 1895

One tap mobile: +13126266799, 87178121895# US (Chicago)  
+16465588656, 87178121895# US (New York)

Please feel free to attend for one night or all six nights. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to talk with Pastor Kevin. Come join the spiritual enrichment of Christian community!

### ST. JOHN NEWS



The Personnel Team conducted an exit interview with Reverend Harris, had a conversation with Chris Morton, Chair for Board of Christian Education, and spoke with Pastor Kevin. After discussion, the team recommended to the Church Council a change in staff structure. The Council requested a review and revision of all staff job descriptions. As part of that work, Personnel was assigned the task of creating a position for Director of Christian Education. At the September meeting, Council deliberated, revised, and approved this part-time position at St. John. This means we will not be pursuing an

Associate Pastor, but instead, the church will be searching for a Director of Christian Education. If you have any questions about this change, then please speak with Pastor Kevin. Should you know someone who might be interested in the position, feel free to contact the church office (636-391-6655) for more information.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Those of you who heard my message on the Lenten Devotional last spring may remember how important the **County Older Resident Program** is to me and many others. **CORP** provides us with transportation for doctor appointments, haircuts and shopping.

Recently I have learned that the organization is having a a driver shortage. If you, or anyone you know, might be interested in becoming a driver or in just learning more about the program, please contact Laura at 314-297-6419 or [lconners@stlouiscountymo.gov](mailto:lconners@stlouiscountymo.gov). Drivers are reimbursed for mileage. Thanks so much.

Mary Frances Tokar



This year's **Trivia Night and Silent Auction** to benefit **Habitat for Humanity** will take place on Saturday, October 5th. The cost per ticket is \$15.00 (\$120.00 for a table of 8); doors will open at 6:30 pm and play will begin promptly at 7:00 pm. Tickets will go on sale the first Sunday in September (September 1). If you would like to donate an attendance prize or help with the event, please contact a member of the Outreach Team or contact Mark Engelhardt at 636-227-7821. If you would like to donate an item for the Silent Auction or help with the auction, please contact Harry Gaehle at 314-303-8464.

*Thank you very much!*





# Chalk Brigade

Would you like to be part of the **Chalk Brigade**? There is no age requirement. All generations are welcome. The Chalk Brigade goes out once a month (usually a Saturday morning or Sunday after church) to decorate driveways and sidewalks of church members and friends with cheerful chalk art. We would love for you to join us. If you are interested, please let me know and I will add your name to the email list for this wonderful ministry. If you can't make it every time, that is totally fine. Just come when you can!! And lunch and fellowship are part of the fun.

Judy Lindquist  
[cjjslind@charter.net](mailto:cjjslind@charter.net)  
 636-357-5209



In memory of **Terry McDonough**

Music/Choir Fund  
Bob & Carol Ruh

In memory of **Barbara Cooper**

Memorial Fund  
Karen Pennington  
Women's Fellowship  
Ken & Marty Boucher

In memory of **Jenni Weber**

Cemetery Association  
Earl & Ginger Allen  
Memorial Fund  
Don Gaertner  
Dr. Roger & Janet Zacher

In memory of **Kenneth Ruck**

Memorial Fund  
Rev. & Mrs. Allan Mittler

In honor of **Tim Osiek**

Music/Choir Fund  
Karen Pennington  
Chuck & Marilyn Weber

Articles and information for the **November 2024** issue of the 'Friendly Call' are due on **Tuesday, October 15**. Please place a hard copy of the article in the church office mail slot or email to: [jane@stjohnmanchester.org](mailto:jane@stjohnmanchester.org)





## OUTREACH TEAM MEETING

The next **Outreach Team** meeting is on **Thursday, October 3, 2024** at 6:30 pm in the Hospitality Room. Please join us!

## Holiday Adoption Program

**Circle of Concern's** annual Holiday Adoption program for 2024 will soon kick off in the same way as it has been handled for the last few years. To share the joy of the holidays with their clients, their plan is to give gift cards - \$50 per family member. Therefore, while we may miss the fun of shopping for our adopted families, the clients will have the opportunity to shop for gifts for their own families. Circle's plan is to give gift cards to clients for their families in November. That does seem very early, but the folks at **Circle** need time to purchase the gift cards and coordinate their distribution to their clients in time for holiday shopping. Your financial contribution to brighten the holidays for the many families helped by **Circle** will be greatly appreciated! Your donations for this worthy cause need to be received at St. John **by Sunday, October 27th**. Please make a note on your check that it is intended for **Holiday Adoption**. Thank you, in advance, for your generosity during the upcoming season of giving! If you have questions, please call Lynn Sabina (314-680-6808) or Mary Ellen Berg (314-495-1694).



**Please help us keep the red shopping carts full!**

## CURRENT NEEDS:

The most needed items for Circle currently are:

- ◆ Dinner Helpers
- ◆ Dry Pasta
- ◆ Canned Tuna and Chicken
- ◆ Baking Needs
- ◆ Canned Fruit
- ◆ Feminine Care Items





### **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 **October 10**, 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 next visit will be on **Thursday, October 10, 2024**.

If you need additional information, please contact Mary Ellen Berg or Lynn Sabina.



### **Halloween Candy Collection**

**Outreach** is collecting bags of Halloween candy for **Every Child's Hope (ECH)** Trunk or Treat this year. If you are able to provide a bag (or two) of Halloween candy, please bring it to church on any Sunday during the month of October. Please place your donation in the "pumpkin" (in front of the Outreach counter). Previously the Ladies Aid group at ECH provided the candy for their Trunk or Treat but unfortunately, the group disbanded last September so ECH needs help getting candy for this event. If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Boddy.

***Thanks for your help!***



## GREEN TEAM NEWS

We have been very proud of our first attempt with a garden and thank everyone who built the garden beds, planted the vegetables, watered and tended the garden and made two trips to **Circle of Concern** to donate our produce.

Another sewing workshop for making dog and cat beds was held on September 28th. This is always a fun day and a lot is accomplished. Joan and Tom James do a great job of organizing our sewing workshops.

The **Green Team** will tackle the honeysuckle on our church property on November 16th at 9:30 am. We are appreciative of any one who'd like to join us!



### !!! NEW MEETING TIME !!!

Our next meeting will be held on October 10 at **7:00 pm** as we continue to work together to care for the earth God has given us.



A gentle reminder that St. John will **NEVER** ask you to purchase gift cards to be given by any staff member. If we are doing a collection for gift cards (like we do for Circle for the holidays and back to school) an announcement will be in the weekly bulletin and/or the Friendly Call newsletter not via a text message. Thanks for all the calls, texts, and emails during our recent scam attempt. We want you all to be safe from scam attempts as well.

## Fall Work Day ✦ Saturday, October 19

On **Saturday, October 19th from 9:00 am until noon**, we have scheduled our Fall Work Day. We will spruce up and clean the church building and grounds. Supplies and gloves will be provided. Please bring tools and outside equipment such as rakes and shovels. We will have donuts, juice, and coffee in the morning and lunch at noon. Please call Craig Lindquist 314-504-6670 or Dave Gaehle at 314-378-1407 with any questions. We appreciate your assistance in keeping our church looking beautiful. Thanks!!





**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

Tuesday - October 15  
11:30 am

We will be watching the movie  
**"Same Kind Of Different As Me,"**

An inspirational true story that embraces the beauty of the human spirit. A homeless man enters the life of a family, showing how a simple act of kindness can change everything. Bring a sandwich and drink...dessert will be provided. All are welcome, any questions see Marty Boucher

**JOY (Just Older Youth)**

Travelogue - Canada / 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 !



**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, October 17, 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! NAMI Contact at St. John: Angela Kern, [akern@sbcglobal.net](mailto:akern@sbcglobal.net)



## 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  
Mary Jane Belsher - Friendship Village, Sunset Hills

### AT HOME

Betty Fox  
Rufus Sticker  
Tommy Theiss  
Jennifer Weber



**Commander Andrew Brennecke**, Coast Guard, Norfolk, VA, son of Bob & Joy Brennecke  
**Sgt. Codey Burnham**, U.S. Marine Corps, Indian Head, MD, 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

## 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**

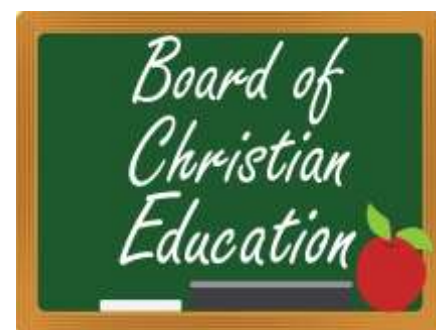
We are using the One Room Sunday School curriculum to explore the stories and lessons taught in the Old and New Testaments. Incorporating games and worksheets, we focus on getting the children acquainted with the Bible and understanding how our families and church are part of a greater community in God's 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, October 3, 2024. We are always looking for new study ideas and help with upcoming projects with the adults and children. Contact Chris Morton if you have any questions or would like to sign up to volunteer.



### ***Tea with Friends***

Enjoy coffee, tea, or your favorite beverage, as you take some time to visit with friends on Wednesdays, at the Panera at 14646 Manchester Road, Ballwin, between 3 and 5 pm to share conversations that lead to community. Kathy Hoadley or Joan James will be the host.

**All generations are invited to stop in!**



The Tuesday evening adult education group – “Bible Study” – is reading and discussing the book At the End of the Day: How Will You Be Remembered? Since not everyone is able to attend these sessions, the thought is to preach on some of the chapters in worship. This will be a short series for the month of October. Here are the topics:

- Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>** – ‘Will You Be Remembered...As One Who Celebrated the Joy of the Journey’
- Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>** – ‘Will You Be Remembered...As One Who Knew the Power of Compassion’
- Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>** – ‘Will You Be Remembered...As One Who Knew the Power of Words’
- Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>** – ‘Will You Be Remembered...As One Who Knew How to Close the Gate’

There are other chapters that sound interesting. Should one of those other chapters be more appropriate, please grant some latitude in making a change. The hope is that people will find these themes relevant to faith and life.

### SAVE THE DATE!

Our Annual Sausage Supper will be held

**Saturday, November 9, 2024**

3:00—6:00 pm

The St. John Men’s Brotherhood is busy planning our annual Sausage Supper. Stay tuned for more details !



### SAVE THE DATE!

Women’s Fellowship Bake Sale

**Saturday, November 9, 2024**

1:00 - 6:00 pm

Women’s Fellowship is sponsoring a bake sale on Saturday, November 9, **SAUSAGE SUPPER!** Hours will be 1-6 pm, in the Gathering area. We are asking for some of those great homemade surprises (especially cookies) our talented bakers provide. Any questions?

Contact: Marty Boucher (636-225-6129).

