

The Friendly Call

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST • MANCHESTER, MO



Worship Schedule February 2025

February 2 - Communion

9:30 am Pastor Kevin
Music: Bob Meinz

February 9

9:30 am Pastor Kevin
Music: Judy Lindquist

February 16

9:30 am Pastor Kevin
Music: Sanctuary Choir

February 23

9:30 am Pastor Kevin
Music: Handbell Choir



February 2025



ADULT EDUCATION

The Tuesday evening study group will focus on 'The Lord's Prayer'. Many contend this is the most important prayer for Christians. Even though Jesus offered a number of prayers, he specifically stated to his disciples, "Pray like this." However, we say **The Lord's Prayer** so often that the words have become rote. This series will look at sections of **The Lord's Prayer** in an effort to gain deeper meaning. We will discuss how these sacred words relate to Scripture, as well as our faith today. Please come participate in this educational opportunity during the season of Lent. Here are the sessions:

Tuesday, February 4 – "Our Father..."

Tuesday, February 18 – "Thy kingdom come..."

Tuesday, March 4 – "Give us this day..."

Tuesday, March 18 – "And forgive us..."

Tuesday, April 1 – "And lead us..."

Tuesday, April 15 – "For thine is..."

The gatherings will be in the Hospitality Room from 7:00-8:00 pm. They will also be offered on Zoom for those who would like to participate from home. At this point, there is no "homework," so just show up. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Kevin. May you take time to nurture your spirit!

When I was interviewing with St. John back in 2007, I distinctly remember one of the questions in the church profile. The congregation was asked to choose the word that best describes how the church consciously identifies with the denomination. The options were: closely, moderately, or nominally. An “x” was marked next to nominally. For a boy rooted in the United Church of Christ (UCC), that gave me pause and trepidation.

I’ve worked over the years to develop our connection with the wider church. It’s remained a slow, uphill trek. Many years ago, the only delegates to the St. Louis Association meeting or Conference Annual Gathering were the clergy from our congregation. That was okay. I recognize that those meetings aren’t the most riveting events.



Some of you know that I’ve served on committees at the Association and Conference level. As a matter of fact, I just went on the St. Louis Association Council. Fortunately, other members of St. John have also started to serve on committees and vote as delegates at meetings. Alan Stephenson was on the Committee on Ministry: Oversight for many years. He was instrumental in setting up the database for clergy forms. Lisa Swift is currently on the Committee on Ministry: Preparation. This group helps guide seminarians as they pursue ordination. Sandi Boller Frandsen is on the Personnel Committee for the Conference. I give thanks that these folks are willing to be part of the wider church and that we are building relationships with the denomination.

In January, we had a special meeting of the Missouri Mid-South Conference. I am pleased to share that St. John had three members attend as delegates: Carol Ruh, Kaylan Polk, and Bob Brennecke. It was a joy to have representatives of our congregation participate at this level. In addition, I am aware of members who regularly help at Shannondale and Camp MoVal. We are getting to know more people from other UCC churches and strengthen the bonds between our communities.

There is also the Outreach Team and their partnerships with local UCC agencies. From Emmaus Homes to Every Childs Hope, we are doing more than simply writing a check to support these ministries; we are connecting with people and being the presence of Christ to folk. My sense is that such relations can only serve as good news for St. John Church and the United Church of Christ.

Since I am giving a “report” on the wider church, St. John should know that this summer the General Synod of the UCC is meeting in Kansas City, Missouri. Both the Missouri Mid-South Conference and the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference are co-hosting this gathering for the denomination. People from across the country will come here for a five-day event that includes worship, fellowship, education, and business. I’ve never been to General Synod. Maybe I’ll take a few days to attend as a visitor and gain experience of the UCC in action.

I’d like to believe that St. John has moved from being nominally connected to the UCC and is at least moderately connected with the denomination now. There are some members in our congregation who would closely identify with the UCC. That is truly a joy for this pastor who has given his life to the denomination. I give thanks for our church, as well as the wider church. My prayer is that we can continue to build relations. Should anyone be interested in learning more or want to serve as a delegate in the future, please reach out to me.

Grace and Peace,



Notes from the **January 14, 2025** Council Meeting

Discussion took place regarding the proposed budget for 2025. Moved a few things around and included the HVAC contract costing \$4,800-\$5,000 a year and lowered some benevolences totaling \$1,200. For utilities took a little more out of gas and moved to electricity. After discussion the Council approved a balanced budget and will be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on January 26, 2025. The meeting will be in-person and on-line. Only those in attendance can vote. As soon as the meeting is finished, the recordings will be taken off the streaming platforms.

Cedar Ford harvest took place and we received a check for \$10,500. The Council approved to have the check deposited in the Building Fund General. For those who visit Cedar Ford, please make sure you follow the proper procedures by signing waivers to use the facilities.

The WEB had a sewer back-up but no tree roots were found. Cost was \$100. Ann will have a mailbox put in next to the church's mailbox.

Chris Morton is stepping down from the Board of Christian Education and Pam Boucher will take the position. Middle and High School students will collect for Super Bowl Sunday. Looking into having safety classes for AED training and intruder guidelines. New members joining the Board of Christian Education are Cindy Boddy, Elizabeth Elkins, Payton White-Lenard and Alicia McGrane.

For WISE Process, Pastor Kevin will be meeting with the team and will recognize them at the Congregational Meeting.

Reorganized the ministries and volunteer opportunities to serve St. John. Hope to announce this at the Annual Meeting.

Karen Benton, Natalie Morton and Dick Scharnhorst have agreed to serve another term. We have one more and hope to have a decision by the Annual Meeting.

Bible Study this Spring will be focused on the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Jung, Recording Secretary

Financial Report - December 31, 2024

<u>Actual Receipts</u>	<u>Budget Receipts</u>	<u>YTD Actual Receipts</u>	<u>YTD Budget Receipts</u>
\$42,736.69	\$46,677.00	\$450,916.76	\$406,064.00
<u>Actual Expenditures</u>	<u>Budget Expenditures</u>	<u>YTD Actual Expenditures</u>	<u>YTD Budget Expenditures</u>
\$38,639.07	\$42,934.33	\$421,697.42	\$432,750.28

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, February 11, 2025.**





Congratulations
 William & Susan Young
 On your 50th Anniversary
 on February 22 !



Name	Date	Years
Steven & Amanda Door	2/9	17
Derald & Donna Forbis	2/14	27
Howard & Betty Anton	2/16	51
William & Susan Young	2/22	50



2025 COMMUNION SCHEDULE

- Sunday, January 5th
- Sunday, February 2nd
- Sunday, March 2nd
- Wednesday, March 5th (Ash Wednesday)
- Sunday, April 6th
- Thursday, April 17th (Maundy Thursday)
- Sunday, April 20th (Easter)
- Sunday, May 4th
- Sunday, June 1st
- Sunday, July 6th
- Sunday, August 3rd
- Sunday, September 7th
- Sunday, October 5th (World Communion)
- Sunday, November 2nd
- Sunday, December 7th
- Wednesday, December 24th (Christmas Eve)

ATTENDANCE

Worship Attendance			
Date	In Person	Streaming	TOTAL
December 1	64	103	167
December 8	103	88	191
December 15	123	86	209
December 22	111	49	160
December 24 5:00 pm	88	76	164
7:00 pm	105	44	149
December 29	88	59	147
January 5	No In-person Winter storm	107	107
January 12	81	76	137
January 19	83	68	151
January 26	104	81	185

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



GREEN TEAM NEWS

The next two **Green Team** meetings are on Thursdays, February 13 and March 13 at 7:00 pm.

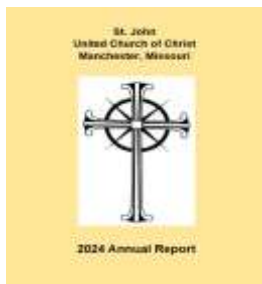
The team has planned a **“Sew-In” Event** for **Saturday, February 22 at 10:00 am.**

Bring a sack lunch and help the team make more cat and dog beds and other items to donate. No sewing skills necessary.

Keeping old medication around your home can be unsafe. Local pharmacies, police stations and fire departments may be sites to dispose of them. Check the following web address for a take back location near you:

<https://www.fda.gov/drugs/safe-disposal-medicines/disposal-unused-medicines-what-you-should-know>

All are welcome!



St. John's Annual Congregational Meeting

was held on Sunday, January 26. A copy of our **2024 Annual Report** was distributed to those present. If you were unable to attend and would like a “hard copy” of the report, they are available in the church office or it can be emailed. If you have any questions about the Annual Report, please see Pastor Kevin.

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

Church website:

www.stjohnmanchester.org

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

KSDK 5 Website: www.ksdk.com



The church office will be closed

Monday, February 17 in observance of **Presidents' Day.**

The office will reopen **Tuesday, February 18.**



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, February 20, 2025.** 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 is Angela Kern, akern@sbcglobal.net



Christian Education

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 and ELEMENTARY SCHOOL We will hear stories and lessons taught in the Old and New Testaments combined with worksheets, games, and crafts to 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 The Youth Group will meet at 9:30 am in the classroom – except on the first Sunday of each month when we will attend church service with our family and friends. A mix of formal lessons and open discussion increases understanding of our faith and how it relates to our church and the world around us. We strive to get youth involved in church groups and activities, as well as community service events. Friends are always welcome!!

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

BCE members meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm via ZOOM. The next meeting will be on **Tuesday, February 24, 2025**. We are always looking for new study ideas and help with upcoming projects with the adults and children. Contact Pam Boucher if you have any questions or would like to sign up to volunteer.



TEA WITH FRIENDS

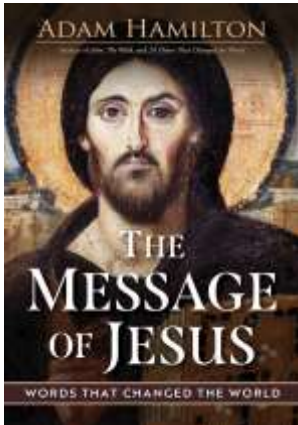
Enjoy coffee, tea, or your favorite beverage, as you take some time to visit with friends on Wednesdays, at the Panera at 14646 Manchester Road, Ballwin, between 3 and 5 pm to share conversations that lead to community. Kathy Hoadley or Joan James will be the host.



All generations are invited to stop in!



ST. JOHN UCC
Adult Ministry



Adult LENT Study

The Message of Jesus: Words That Changed the World

by Adam Hamilton

Please join the adults in the Hospitality Room beginning Sunday, March 2nd at 10:45 am as they begin their Adult Study for Lent: **The Message of Jesus: Words that Changed the World** by Adam Hamilton. The study will be led by lay leaders and will meet for six weeks; Palm Sunday will be the last session. In the study Hamilton explores six of the most important themes in the teachings of Jesus, why they matter, and how they speak to us today. The book explores Jesus's preaching on the Kingdom of God, the Sermon on the Mount,

the parables, the "I am" sayings in John, and more. Jesus's message is not only life-changing, but world-changing. Please join us beginning **Sunday, March 2nd** following worship service in the Hospitality Room. Copies of the book will be available shortly.

LAY LITURGIST – The **Worship & Music Team** would like to reintroduce lay liturgists for Sunday morning. This gives people an opportunity to be part of worship leadership. Those who participate will have the chance to read scripture, lead the unison prayer, or share the call to worship from the lectern. Beginning in February, we will have a signup sheet on the bulletin board across from the church office. People are free to select the Sunday that works best for them. Should you have any questions, please contact Pastor Kevin. We hope this will be another way for folk to share their gifts and abilities with our congregation.



ST. JOHN PERSONNEL NEWS - The leadership of St. John has decided to move in a different direction with staff structure. Rather than an Associate Pastor position, the church will seek a part-time Director of Christian Education. A job description is available upon request. If you know of someone who might be interested, please have them contact Pastor Kevin. Please pray for St. John Church as we work to fill this new position.

As you know, we are also looking for a Director of Music at St. John. This is a part-time position which entails playing organ/piano for worship, as well as directing the sanctuary and hand bell choirs. Again, there is an updated job description for anyone who would like a copy. Should you be aware of someone who might be interested, please have them contact Pastor Kevin. Keep the congregation in your thoughts and prayers as we go through the process of filling this position.

JOY (JUST OLDER YOUTH)

JOY (Just Older Youth) will share the love of Friendship that comes with the month of February.

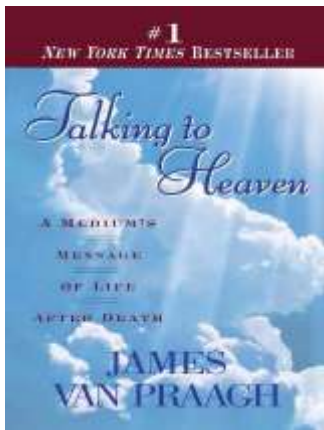
Date: Saturday, February 15, 2025

Time: Noon to 3 pm

Lunch: Soup, Salad, and Dessert



Refresh your memory with the top Love Songs from the 1950's, 1960's, and 1970's as we enjoy a game of "Name that Tune" after lunch. The sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board across from the Pastor's office. Questions, contact Betty Anton.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

February 18, 11:00 am

Hospitality Room

Bring a sandwich, drinks and dessert will be provided. We will be watching the drama film, Talking to Heaven, starring Ted Danson, and Mary Steenburgen. The story of a spiritual medium, James Van Praagh. A man who spent most of his life denying his ability to talk to the dead. He began to have visions from a young forlorn boy, his hands tied. He decided it was time he tried to help this very sad boy.



Missouri Mid-South Conference

Camp MoVal is located at:
2659 Camp MoVal Road
Union, MO 63119
(636) 583-2730

CAMP MOVAL SUMMER REGISTRATION OPEN !



[Camp MoVal Summer Registration Opens – Missouri Mid-South Conference of the United Church of Christ \(missourimidsouth.org\)](http://missourimidsouth.org)



Articles and information for the **March** issue of the 'Friendly Call' are due on **Friday, February 14, 2025.**

Please place a hard copy of the article in the church office mail slot or email to: jane@stjohnmanchester.org

Outdoor Ministry Mission Mondays

Starting February 2025

Join Us for Work, Fellowship, and Purpose!

Mission Mondays is a monthly opportunity to come together in fellowship and service, helping Shannondale and MoVal stay vibrant through necessary upkeep, repairs, and special projects.

Here's How It Works:



- **2nd Monday of Each Month – Shannondale**

- Meet at **Main Street Café** in Salem, MO at 8:30 AM for coffee, breakfast, and fellowship.
- From there, enjoy a 20-minute drive to Shannondale, where we'll spend the day working on projects.
- A simple lunch will be provided.
- We'll wrap up around 3:00 PM and head home.



- **4th Monday of Each Month – MoVal**

- Meet at **White Rose Café** in Union, MO at 7:30 AM for coffee, breakfast, and fellowship.
- From there, it's a quick 10-minute drive to MoVal, where we'll spend the day serving in meaningful ways.
- A simple lunch will be provided.
- We'll finish up around 3:00 PM and return home..

Additional Notes:

- Carpooling is encouraged to save on costs and build friendships.
- All skill levels and experiences are welcome! There's always work to be done that matches your abilities.
- If you'd like to know the specific tasks or projects for an upcoming Mission Monday, please reach out in advance.

Contact:

Myron Ury

Volunteer Coordinator

☎ **314-471-2349 (call or text)**

✉ myronury@gmail.com

Come be part of something meaningful! Your hands, heart, and presence make a difference.



OUTREACH TEAM MEETING

The next **Outreach Team** meeting is on **Thursday, February 6, 2025** at 6:30 pm in the Hospitality Room. Please join us!



FEBRUARY OUTREACH CHALLENGE

In the deep mid-winter, doesn't a bowl of **steaming hot soup** or **stew** sound **great**? In the cold month of **February**, we are collecting cans of soup and stew to help our partners at **Circle of Concern** provide warm, nutritious meals for the families they serve. So, when you do your grocery shopping, please pick up a few extra cans and help us keep the red carts full in the month of February. *Thanks so much for thinking of others, as you always do!*

Your Outreach Team

Valentine Cards for Fontana Friends

Our Fontana Friends: **Gloria, Janet, & Lois** love to receive cards from their friends at St. John. If at all possible, it would be best for each of the ladies to receive individual cards. You can place your cards in the mailbox on the Outreach counter in the Gathering Area by **Sunday, February 9** (we will take them on February 13 for our scheduled visit to their home). Or if you prefer to mail the cards directly, (all cards can be mailed together in one envelope), their address is: **c/o Fontana, 1511 Fontana Drive, St. Louis, MO 63146**. Thanks for making their Valentine's Day a little brighter!



CURRENT NEEDS:

The most needed items for Circle currently are:

- ◆ dinner helpers
- ◆ breakfast cereals
- ◆ pasta sauce
- ◆ dry beans
- ◆ feminine hygiene products
- ◆ shampoo & conditioner
- ◆ body wash & lotion

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





Thank you for your generosity! We asked for monetary donations for the victims of the wildfires ravaging California. Funds were collected from January 12 - January 26. Outreach started the campaign with \$500 from the Helping Hands fund and asked the congregation to meet that amount. Your contributions totaled \$2,500!! That means we were able to send \$3,000 to aid those affected. You truly are an amazing congregation; your unselfish concern for the welfare of those impacted is extraordinary. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Your Outreach Team

Souper Bowl of Caring - Sunday February 9, 2025

The Youth Group (Middle & High School) will be collecting for the Souper Bowl of Caring on **Sunday, February 9** at all exits of the church after the morning's worship service. This is a great way for our youth to collect donations for one of our Mission Partners and have some fun. Thank you for your support of this special collection!



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 **February 13**, please see Judy Lindquist.

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



WISH GLORIA A HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Gloria, one of our Emmaus Fontana friends, is celebrating her birthday on February 24. She really enjoys receiving birthday cards. If you would like to wish Gloria a happy birthday, her address at Fontana is: 1511 Fontana, St. Louis 63146. Thanks for your help with this!



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 visits will be on **Thursday, February 13, 2025**. If you need additional information, please contact Mary Ellen Berg.



Gifts & Memorials

Helping Hands

Tom & Mary Ellen Berg

Memorial Fund

Deborah Burleson

Dr. Mark Engelhardt

Patricia Erickson

Donna Osiek

Karen Pennington

Tommy Theiss

Music/Choir Fund

Earl & Ginger Allen

Jim & Denise Eschenbrenner

Technology Fund

Keith Gaertner

In memory of **Warner Minnis**

Memorial Fund

Greg Sonderman

Technology Fund

Keith Gaertner

A gift to the **Memorial Fund** in memory of all loved ones was received from LaVerne Schnarr.

A gift to the **Building – Roof Fund** in memory of Ross G. Osiek was received from his family, Donna, Todd, and Tim Osiek

In memory of **Nancy Herman**

Music/Choir Fund

Earl & Ginger Allen

Brian & Susan Andrew

Tom & Mary Ellen Berg

Deborah Burleson

Robert & Debra Cutler

Jim & Denise Eschenbrenner

Don Gaertner

Keith Gaertner

James Heeter

Susan Hendricks

John & Janice Jung

Margaret Korvas

Craig & Judy Lindquist

Donna Osiek

Karen Pennington

Bob & Carol Ruh

Nancy Schmitz

Tommy Theiss

Chuck & Marilyn Weber

In memory of **Floyd Krickhahn**

Building Fund

Ken & Marty Boucher

Beth & Jeff Collins

John & Janice Jung (Roof)

Frieda Kaemmerlen

Curt & Mindy Voelkel

Chuck & Marilyn Weber

Cemetery Association

Clarice Beckemeier

Margaret Korvas

Scott & Gayle McBride

Marilyn O'Donnell



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

March 5, 2025

7:00 pm

In-Person and streamed

Communion will be celebrated at this service.



to the family and friends of
Floyd Krickhahn
on his passing from this life to
God's eternal care on
November 27, 2024

to the family and friends of
Mick Harris
on his passing from this life to
God's eternal care on
December 8, 2024

to the family and friends of
Warner Minnis
on his passing from this life to
God's eternal care on
December 10, 2024



FIRST AID FOR MENTAL HEALTH

To start our WISE process, we will host a first aid session for mental health. We hosted this program back in 2021. The facilitators, Karyn and Tony, from the National Council for Mental Wellbeing, will be here again to lead our session. This will be an all day, in person gathering on Saturday, March 8th from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. This is an opportunity to learn and grow in your understanding of mental health. If you attended last time, please feel free to attend as a refresher. Should you have questions, please contact Pastor Kevin. A sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board across from the church office or call the office to register (636-391-6655).



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!

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
People in the Middle East
People in Ukraine

AT HOME

Betty Fox
Jennifer Weber
Howard Anton

Rufus Sticker
Harry & Judy Taub
Frank & Lois Leahy

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



