

The Friendly Call

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST • MANCHESTER, MO



Worship Schedule April 2025

April 6 - Communion

9:30 am Pastor Kevin
Music: Bob Mainz

April 13 - Palm Sunday

7:00 pm Pastor Kevin
Music: Sanctuary Choir

April 20 - EASTER

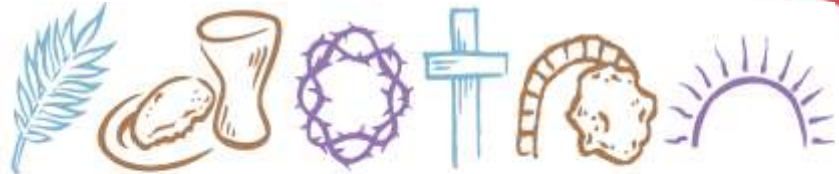
7:00 am Pastor Kevin
9:30 am Pastor Kevin
Music: Sanctuary Choir

April 27

9:30 am Rev. Cliff Aerie
Music: Oikos Ensemble



April 2025



Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday

April 13 9:30 am Worship & Communion
10:30 am Easter Egg Hunt
(1 yr. - 5th grade)
10:45 am Pancake Breakfast

Maundy Thursday

April 17 7:00 pm Worship & Communion

Good Friday

April 18 7:00 pm Tenebrae Service

Easter Sunday

April 20 7:00 am Sunrise Service & Communion
(Under the Pavilion)
9:30 am Worship Service & Communion



The most meaningful time of the year – Holy Week – will be here soon. I have always found the varied worship experiences during this sacred week to be moving. Thus, allow me to share with you the services and events of Holy Week.

We begin with the celebration of Palm Sunday (April 13th). This is the service in which we hold a processional waving palm branches while the congregation shouts “Hosanna in the highest!” After worship, we will have our egg hunt for children, as well as a pancake breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. The purpose is to unite the congregation as we enter this sacred week.



We will join again for worship on Maundy Thursday (April 17th). This solemn event not only recognizes the Last Supper that Jesus shared with his disciples, but we also recall the agony of Jesus' betrayal by Judas Iscariot. In the Gospel of John, the focus is on Jesus washing the feet of his disciples. He also offers them a new commandment: “Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” That's where the word Maundy comes from; it's from the Latin word *mandatum* or mandate. Jesus mandates a new commandment.

On Good Friday (April 18th), we take our place at the foot of the cross. This worship experience, if we turn ourselves over to God, has the power to be deeply emotional. I find the somber hymns to be some of the most powerful music in our Christian tradition. We will hear the story and listen to the choir sing. As painful as it may be, and as difficult as it may be to understand, the death of Jesus on the cross is important to our faith for Easter to have any significance or truth in our lives.

One of my favorite quotes is by New Testament professor, Charles Cousar, who wrote: “A theology that rings loudly the joyful note of Easter without the sobering, dissonant sounds of Good Friday inevitably leads to triumphalism”. Triumphalism – an attitude of power and dominance over others is not following the path of our humble, crucified Savior.

We will gather together for God's glorious victory over death on Easter (April 20th). We praise the Lord that suffering and death did not have the final word, but that Jesus Christ's resurrection grants us new and everlasting life. There are two services that morning: a sunrise experience at 7:00 am under the pavilion and a traditional worship experience at 9:30 am in the sanctuary.

For decades, the sanctuary has always been filled for Christmas and Easter. People had to arrive early and save seats. I have told staff and the Worship & Music Team that our attendance has been low on these two high holy days. Folk don't seem to be showing up for these services. I could take a couple of guesses, but that doesn't do any good. My hope is that people will make Holy Week and the worship of God a priority. Should you do that, may you experience the true joy of Easter and the new life of our Christian faith.

Blessings,

Kevin

Notes from **March 11, 2025** Council Meeting

Workday, April 5 from 8:00 am -12:00 pm. Craig Lindquist contacted the scouts to help. Dave Gaehle is putting a list together.

Holy Week - April 13, Palm Sunday Service at 9:30 am. Easter egg hunt at 10:30 am followed with Pancake Breakfast; April 17, Maundy Thursday Worship service with communion at 7:00 pm; Friday, April 18 Tenebrae Service and Cantata at 7:00 pm; Saturday, April 19 will put up Easter lilies; April 20, Easter Sunday, will have two services, Sunrise service at 7:00 am (outdoor) and 9:30 am with Communion.

Dave is trying to find replacement lights for Sanctuary. Working on the controls for the HVAC system.

Char has not heard from the City of Manchester to schedule a refresher class for AED.

No trespassing signs have been installed at Cedar Ford.

Boy Scouts would like to hold a Court of Honor in the Fellowship Hall. Another scout is looking for an Eagle project. Kevin was notified Troop 387 (which we have been sponsoring for a long time) will be disbanding in May and told the boys they can join The O'Neil's (Mike and Jean) Troop.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Jung, Recording Secretary

Financial Report - February 28, 2025

<u>Actual Receipts</u>	<u>Budget Receipts</u>	<u>YTD Actual Receipts</u>	<u>YTD Budget Receipts</u>
\$34,521.53	\$31,430.61	\$99,071.78	\$69,361.22
<u>Actual Expenditures</u>	<u>Budget Expenditures</u>	<u>YTD Actual Expenditures</u>	<u>YTD Budget Expenditures</u>
\$30,034.20	\$31,101.47	\$55,199.99	\$60,202.94

Members of the Church Council of St. John United Church of Christ, Manchester, meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Hospitality Room of the church (or via Zoom). The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 8, 2025.**





Church Office Closed

The Church Office will be closed on **Monday, April 21** (Easter Monday). The office will reopen on Tuesday, April 22 at 9:00 am.



NAME	DATE	YEARS
Dick & Ilene Scharnhorst	4/1	13
Rich & Barb Lovan	4/6	68
Todd & Nancy Van Cardo	4/10	26
Ed & Beverly Thiele	4/20	51
Clinton & Judy Cummings	4/21	63
Maurice & Nancy Van Buskirk	4/26	56
Bill & Nancy Gamewell	4/29	29
Roger & Deborah Abraham- Wells	4/29	18



St. John UCC Manchester holds a **NAMI Support group** meeting the third Thursday of each month. Our next meeting is **Thursday, April 17, 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

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

Website: <https://www.namistl.org>

Articles and information for the **May** issue of the 'Friendly Call' are due on **Tuesday, April 15, 2025.** Please place a hard copy of the article in the church office mail slot or email to: jane@stjohnmanchester.org

The Friendly Call



Worship Attendance

Date	In Person	Streaming	TOTAL
March 2	108	62	170
March 5 - Ash Wednesday	53	—	53
March 9	97	61	158
March 16	86	58	144
March 23	76	82	158

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

PERSONNEL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Church & Ministry (Personnel) Committee and Church Council are excited to announce that the Music position has been filled by three church members who will be doing a “job share” for the position. Beginning April 28, 2025 the Music Ministry program at St. John will be overseen as follows:

1. Judy Lindquist, Director of Music
2. Dr. Bruce Carvell, Choir Conductor
3. Kelly Lashley, Church Musician



We are excited about the possibilities this staffing model provides St. John as we move forward. If you have any questions regarding specific “duties” for these positions, please see Pastor Kevin. We want to thank the congregation for their patience and understanding during the period between Tim Osiek’s departure and the beginning of this job share. We also want to thank Judy, Bruce, and Robert “Bob” Mainz for their hard work during the interim period. **Welcome aboard, Judy, Bruce, and Kelly!**



LENTEN SERMON SERIES

The sermon series for this holy season will be **‘The Seven Deadly Sins: A Call to Spiritual Awareness.’** During Lent, we will unpack each of these timeless vices, exploring their impact on our lives and spiritual well-being. The purpose is not to cause people guilt, but rather to reflect on the challenges we face and the power of grace. Please join the community of faith as we seek to grow in wisdom, self-awareness, and closer fellowship with God. Here’s the remaining schedule:

Sunday, April 6 – Gluttony
Palm Sunday, April 13 – Wrath
Maundy Thursday, April 17 – Sloth

GREEN TEAM NEWS

- ♥ **On Saturday, March 29**, we constructed two more raised beds for vegetables for Circle of Concern.
- ♥ **Thursday, April 10**, 7 pm, is the next Green Team meeting.
- ♥ **Saturday, April 26**, Green Team will plant another tree.



Our tip for the month is the recycling day that takes place at Schroeder Park from 8–11 am, the third Saturday of each odd-numbered month. Check out their website for items included in their “Electronics/Metal” Drop-off.

<https://www.manchestermo.gov/434/ElectronicsMetal-Recycling>



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, April 22, 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.

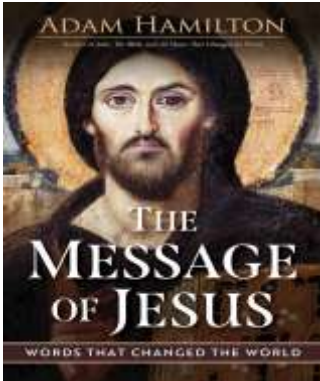


TEA WITH FRIENDS

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 at 10:45 am as they continue their Adult Study for Lent: **The Message of Jesus: Words that Changed the World** by Adam Hamilton. The study is 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 following worship service in the Hospitality Room. Copies of the book are available.

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 remaining sessions:

**Tuesday, April 1** – "And lead us..."**Tuesday, April 15** – "For thine is..."

The gatherings will be in the Hospitality Room from 7:00-8:00pm. 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!

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

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87852628353>

Meeting ID: 878 5262 8353

One tap mobile: +13126266799,,87852628353# US (Chicago)
+16465588656,,87852628353# US (New York)



OUTREACH TEAM MEETING

The **Outreach Team will NOT** meet in April. The next meeting will be on **Thursday, May 1, 2025** at 6:30 pm in the Hospitality Room. Please join us!

April Outreach - Lydia's House



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

How can you get involved? By donating! Kitchen towels and dishcloths, bath towel sets, (face, hand, body) **new only**, natural colors, twin size sheet sets (new only), mattress covers (zippered plastic & waterproof), **twin only**, heavy-duty flashlights, pot holders, Suave Naturals shampoo and conditioner, Eco Styler hair gel, Herbal Essences, Hello Hydration shampoo and conditioner, pots and pans (new), 13-gallon trash cans, Small dish drainers, dish soap, kitchen mops and buckets (rag style only), brooms and dust pans, laundry detergent, Pine-sol, paper towels, toilet paper, latex gloves, CFL bulbs (60 w/100w), diapers (4,5), pull ups all sizes, Gift cards: Schnuck's, Aldi's, Target or Walmart, Home Depot or Lowe's. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please use the Helping Hands envelope in your pew or simply write "**Lydia's House**" in the memo field of your check. ***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 **April 10**, 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, April 10, 2025**. If you need additional information, please contact Mary Ellen Berg.

This year the March Outreach Challenge was to offer items for the **Blessing Box at Shannondale**. Our friends in the area experienced an exceptionally harsh winter and were in need of many items to help them out. Once again, you have blown us away with your generous giving (both in items and in \$\$\$) and compassionate response to our plea! And most of the collection took place **PRIOR** to Pastor Kevin's sermon on Greed!! Thank you so very much for your awesome response and continued support.

St. John Outreach Team



In addition to the items shown above, we collected \$915.00 and shipped approximately 300 pounds of dog food directly to Shannondale.

CURRENT NEEDS: The most needed items for **Circle of Concern** currently are:



- ♦ dinner helpers
- ♦ pasta sauce
- ♦ canned fruit
- ♦ condiments
- ♦ tomato products
- ♦ diaper wipes
- ♦ adult wipes
- ♦ razors
- ♦ shaving cream

Thanks for your help keeping the red shopping carts full!



Gifts to the **Cemetery Association**
were received from:

1. June Breen
2. Keith Gaertner
3. Kevin Webb



to the family and friends of

Carol Jaudes

on her passing from this life to
God's eternal care on

March 18, 2025

Please keep Carol's family and friends
in your prayers.

J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth)

Saturday, April 12, Noon - 3:00 pm
Hospitality Room

Enjoy a light lunch (provided - donation collected) with great fellowship. After lunch, we'll adjourn to the theater to enjoy the screening of "**David**" (a Sights and Sounds live stage production). David was the master poet, fearless warrior, anointed King. We will watch as this young shepherd proceeds on his journey to become a man after God's own heart. King David is one of the most prominent figures in the Bible.

A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board across from our pastor's office.
Questions? See Betty Anton



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

will meet on

Tuesday, April 15

11:30 a.m.

Hospitality Room

Let's learn the Importance of Women in the Bible, the influence women have on those around them! (Yes, YOU are important!). Bring a sandwich... dessert and drinks provided. All are welcome, any questions see Marty Boucher



SPRING WORK DAY

Spring will be here before we know it! And this year it can't arrive quickly enough! Please come celebrate the change of seasons with us at St. John with a work day from 8:30 am to Noon, on **Saturday, April 5**. 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 Gaehle and Craig Lindquist

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Palm Sunday (April 13) morning immediately following worship (approximately 10:30 am). We will begin in the Gathering Area and the egg hunts will start from there. The groups will be divided as follows:

- ✦ Toddlers (courtyard)
- ✦ Pre-Kindergarten - 2nd grade
(south side of the education wing)
- ✦ 3rd - 5th graders
(north side of the education wing)



Please sign up for the annual Easter Egg hunt on the bulletin board as you enter the education wing from the south parking lot. We invite you to bring children, grandchildren, neighbors, and other friends for this fun event. **PLEASE** sign up so we can plan accordingly. We also need some adults to help supervise the egg hunts, so please look for that sign-up sheet as well.

Plan to join us immediately following the Egg hunt for the Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. **ALL are welcome!**



Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast

Please join us immediately after worship on **Sunday, April 13** for a **"Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast!"** Plan to attend and join in for great food and wonderful fellowship! For those interested, a special visit and photo opportunity with the Easter Bunny will be available at that time as well. Mark your calendar! **Everyone is welcome!** The more the merrier! A free will offering will be collected.

Graduate Recognition

We highlight our graduates in the May edition of the Friendly Call each year. To that end we are asking parents (and grandparents) to send us information about our St. John young adults who will be graduating from high school, college, graduate school, etc. this May or June including a recent photo. Send information to Jane Suozzi in the church office (jane@stjohnmanchester.org) by **Tuesday, April 15**. We will also be honoring our graduates during worship service on **Sunday, May 18, 2025**. If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Boddy.



LAY LITURGIST – The Worship & Music Team has reintroduced 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. There's a sign-up 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.

CALLERY PEAR TREE BUYBACK

The Missouri Department of Conservation is partnering with other agencies to host a Callery Pear Tree Buyback event on April 22 from 3:00-6:00 pm. If you are interested, then you will need to register between March 17 and April 17. Here is the website to register: moinvasives.org/2025/01/31/2025-callery-pear-buyback/. The website also has information on how to identify Callery pear trees, a list of native tree species offered, and pick up locations with specific addresses. Those who participate will receive a free replacement native tree. Should you have any questions, please contact Bob and Carol Ruh.



St. John Weekend at SHANNONDALE - June 27-29



Mark your calendar for a wonderful weekend at **Shannondale**. We'll eat, work, eat, play, eat, relax, eat, have fellowship, and then eat some more! Additional information will be available as we get closer to the event as well as a sign-up sheet. The lodge is air-conditioned! If you have any questions, see Dave Gaehle. Please plan to join us; you won't be disappointed you did!

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
Nancee Miller - Clarendale Clayton
People in the Middle East
People in Ukraine

AT HOME

Betty Fox Rufus Sticker
Jennifer Weber Harry & Judy Taub
Frank & Lois Leahy Laura Waller
Earl Bair



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

Membership Class



We will offer a session for those interested in membership. The meeting will be **Sunday, April 27** immediately after worship service (approximately 10:45 am). This will be held in the Hospitality Room with Pastor Kevin.

Please call the church office (636-391-6655) to let us know if you will be attending. Should you be unable to make it, then contact us so that other arrangements can be made. The intent is to receive new members on Sunday, May 4.

Hope to hear from folks!

On **Sunday, April 27, 2025** the **OIKOS Ensemble** will be presenting worship that day. This will be a celebratory service with uplifting **jazz** music. We appreciate OIKOS sharing their time and talents with us this day as we continue to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Please plan to join us for this special service. **All are welcome!**



OIKOS ENSEMBLE
Sunday, April 27

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Brendan Boucher & Addie Ackley

who were united in marriage on

March 15, 2025

in Springfield, Missouri

Proud parents of the groom are:

Mike & Debbie Boucher



Camp MoVal is located at

2659 Camp MoVal Road

Union, MO 63084

(636) 583-2730

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

[\(missourimidsouth.org\)](https://missourimidsouth.org)

Summer Registration



Open !



Return to the Wilderness

Shannondale Christian Men's Ozarks Getaway & Retreat

May 2nd- May 4th, 2025

Cost - \$100.00 per person - Includes lodging & food

Rediscover Your Soul in Nature!

Mark 6:31

Jesus said to them,

**"Come away with me. Let us go alone to a
quiet place and rest for a while."**

Friday:

- Arrive at Shannondale when you can
- 9:00 p.m. Orientation meeting, welcomes and sharing

Saturday:

- 7:00am Breakfast
- 8:00am Service projects at Shannondale
- 12:00pm Lunch and Afternoon Activities:
 - Canoeing - (\$40 extra cost)
 - Golf - (extra cost)
 - Hiking, Relaxing & conversation

- 6:00pm Steak Dinner
- Bonfire / star-gazing / conversation
- Hiking, relaxing & conversation

Sunday:

- Breakfast and Clean-up
- 10:00am Church at Shannondale UCC
- 11:00am Travel home

What is this retreat all about?

PURPOSE:

Spiritual Growth

Fellowship

Mentoring Opportunities

Recreation & Fun

Great Eating

Service to Community

Opportunity to Recharge

**\$20 deposit due
by April 19th**

Venmo:

@Jonathan-Jones-689

or

Make check payable to

Jonathan Jones

Mail to:

1542 Candish Ln.

Chesterfield, MO 63017

**Contact Jonathan Jones for info
314-608-0783**

**Sign Up Here or
Use the QR Code**



bit.ly/3BQuuAA

