

The Friendly Call

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST • MANCHESTER, MO



Worship Schedule March 2025

March 2 - Communion
9:30 am Pastor Kevin

March 5 - Ash Wednesday
7:00 pm Pastor Kevin
Music: Sanctuary Choir

March 9
9:30 am Pastor Kevin
Music: Sanctuary Choir

March 16
9:30 am Pastor Kevin

March 23
9:30 am Pastor Kevin
Music: Sanctuary Choir

March 30
9:30 am Pastor Kevin
Music: Bell Choir



LENTEN SERMON SERIES

The upcoming 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 schedule:

Ash Wednesday, March 5 – Intro to series

Sunday, March 9 – Pride

Sunday, March 16 – Lust

Sunday, March 23 – Greed

Sunday, March 30 – Envy

Sunday, April 6 – Gluttony

Palm Sunday, April 13 – Wrath

Maundy Thursday, April 17 – Sloth

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

March 5, 2025 - 7:00 pm

In-Person and streamed

Communion will be
celebrated at this service.



We are coming to the holy season of Lent. Yes, Easter is late this year. The journey to the cross begins with Ash Wednesday on March 5th. You are invited to join in worship that night at 7:00pm. (A side note: there will be no ashes, but we will share in the sacrament of communion.)

As I have mentioned, St. John will make available a devotional book for those who would like spiritual inspiration each day. We also have two adult education classes for folk on Tuesday evening and Sunday morning. (Due to staff shortage, there is no mid-week devotional video. My apologies!)

When I think about the Lenten Season, I reflect on Jesus' prayers. There is the High Priestly prayer "*that they may all be one*" (John 17). I ponder our Lord's agonizing prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, "*not my will but yours be done*" (Luke 22). Jesus offered many prayers and that's the reason we pray in Christianity; although, all faith traditions pray in some form or fashion.

Prayer is our conversation with God. This grants us an opportunity to share an intimate relationship with the divine. It gives us a chance to be honest and open with the Lord about everything going on in our lives. We trust God hears us and works through us. My personal belief is that prayer changes us. By our meditative prayer, we experience comfort or strength or insight that brings about God's good purposes.

We have been given many types of prayers: Praise, Confession, Thanksgiving, Petition, Intercession. It doesn't matter how, though, the most important thing is that we pray. I admit that I get caught up with the pace of life and forget to take time in conversation with God. Perhaps that's why Jesus gave us the Lord's Prayer. It's short and easy to remember. We all have time to offer this model prayer. The trouble, however, is that we spew the words so quickly that they seem to lack significance or meaning anymore. That may have been my motivation – or the Holy Spirit blowing – for the adult education focus on Tuesday night.

The Tuesday group is being intentional about the phrases or sections of the "Our Father" prayer. This invites us to pause and grapple with the words which we don't do during the time of saying it. What was meant by Jesus when he said, "*Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done.*" Rather than assume we know it all, I think it's beneficial to hear what scholars have to say, as well as other church members. In addition, a deeper dive into the Lord's Prayer encourages us to reflect on how God might be speaking to us today. I conclude these gatherings with a different version of the Lord's Prayer.

Maybe that should be a Lenten practice for our congregation. Throughout this holy season, we ought to say an alternate version of the Lord's Prayer in worship. It's an opportunity to engage in this familiar prayer, but at the same time be nudged to hear it and think about it in a new way. On Easter Sunday, we can share the traditional wording once again. I can already sense greater appreciation for this cherished prayer.

The Lenten Season is upon us. My hope and prayer is that whatever we do in this holy time will be meaningful and enrich our journey with Jesus. And may our faith draw us in closer relationship to the God who loves us now and forever.

Your servant in Christ,





Notes from the **February 11, 2025** Council Meeting

The roof on Educational Building is leaking in a couple of places. Dave Gaehle and Craig Lindquist will be putting together a Building & Grounds committee to deal with regular maintenance. They will try to gather people together from this committee for the Capital Campaign.

Ann Picaud will have a meeting with the Cedar Ford Committee to discuss the harvest, signing waivers to visit property and will work on next step for the property. No trespassing signs will be put up because property is a liability.

Looking into purchasing new St. John T-shirts. Company found has free shipping. Cost determined as to number of shirts. Will have a sign up sheet. Suggestion was to have the Church pay for the shirts. After discussion, Council approved the Church pay for the shirts.

The fee for both Mental Health Facilitators is \$1,000 each. The Council approved the Church pay the fee.

Ann Picaud is planning an educational class on the use of essential oils.

Ash Wednesday service is March 5, 2025 at 7:00pm with Communion. Will not have a weekly devotional sent to congregation but will have a daily devotional book. Lay Liturgists will begin during Lent. There is a sign-up sheet.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Jung, Recording Secretary

Financial Report - January 31, 2025

<u>Actual Receipts</u>	<u>Budget Receipts</u>	<u>YTD Actual Receipts</u>	<u>YTD Budget Receipts</u>
\$64,550.25	37,930.61	\$64,550.25	\$37,930.61
<u>Actual Expenditures</u>	<u>Budget Expenditures</u>	<u>YTD Actual Expenditures</u>	<u>YTD Budget Expenditures</u>
\$25,165.79	\$29,101.47	\$25,165.79	\$29,101.47

Members of the Church Council of St. John United Church of Christ, Manchester, meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Hospitality Room of the church (or via Zoom). The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 11, 2025**.





Name	Date	Years
Dean & Nedra Klohr	3/3	46
Jeff & Mira Minnis	3/6	14
Bruce & Char Heyde	3/9	29
Craig & Judy Lindquist	3/21	38
Joseph Karl & Kate Caughlan	3/22	11
Jeff & Cathy Cummings	3/24	35
Tom & Joan James	3/30	62



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

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 **April** issue of the 'Friendly Call' are due on **Friday, March 14, 2025.**

Please place a hard copy of the article in the church office mail slot or email to:

jane@stjohnmanchester.org



Worship Attendance			
Date	In Person	Streaming	TOTAL
February 2	104	N/A	104
February 9	108	60	168
February 16	61	47	108
February 23	91	52	143
NOTE: Streaming count is household so it could include more than one person; count is taken during LIVE streaming.			

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



GREEN TEAM NEWS



The **Green Team** held another sewing event in February. Thanks to all who joined us. On **March 29** work will begin on the framed garden beds. We will meet at church at 10:00. In the spring, the **Green Team** will be busy planting and caring for the garden beds. Circle of Concern also has a garden on their property and are always in need of people to help. More information is located on the Outreach bulletin board. When weather cooperates, we will be walking some of the trails in our area.

We will start with our nature walk and all are encouraged to join us while we walk and enjoy the outdoors. In April we will celebrate **Earth Day** by planting another tree on the church property and cleaning the headstones in the cemetery. Dates and times to be announced. A note of thanks to the members of the church that have been attending the work days at MoVal. Your time at the camp is very much appreciated! Our next meeting will be held on **March 13 at 7:00 pm**.

DID YOU KNOW: Microplastics, miniscule plastic fragments resulting from the breakdown of everyday objects like packaging, containers, clothing, tires, etc., are becoming a concern and research on the health impacts of microplastics in humans is just beginning. The particles have been found in multiple organs and tissues, and more has been found in the brain than in the liver and kidney tissue. Microplastics have also been found in the stomach, lymph nodes, urine, and breastmilk. There are measures we can consider to minimize exposure. Try avoiding nonstick and plastic cookware, wear clothes made of natural fibers, and seek out plastic-free toiletries and cosmetics. Buy food and beverages in glass containers when available and use foil instead of plastic wrap.

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.



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!



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

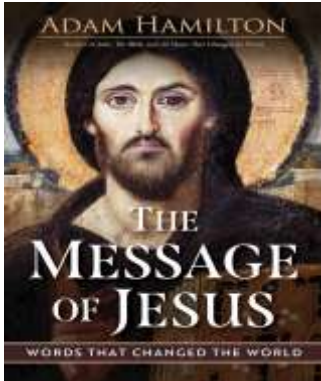
BCE members meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm via ZOOM. The next meeting will be on **Tuesday, March 25, 2025**. We are always looking for new study ideas and help with upcoming projects with the adults and children. Contact Pam Boucher if you have any questions or would like to sign 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 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, 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 7:00-8:00pm. 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 next **Outreach Team** meeting is on **Thursday, March 6, 2025** at 6:30 pm in the Hospitality Room. Please join us!

MARCH OUTREACH CHALLENGE & HELPING HANDS ENVELOPES

The harsh winter weather this season has hit the Shannondale Community and the entire Ozarks region especially hard. Shannondale is in need of items for their **Blessing Box** as follows:



Toilet tissue*

Dog food*

Dish detergent

Shampoo & conditioner

Feminine hygiene products*

Bar soap & body wash

Diapers (children & adult)

Toothbrushes & toothpaste

Laundry detergent*

Deodorant

Paper towels

Disposable Razors

NOTE: *indicates most critical needs.



We will be collecting these items throughout the month of March and then delivering them to Shannondale the first part of April. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please use the Helping Hands envelopes (on the back of the pews) and write Shannondale in the memo line of your check.

St. John has a long and rich history with Shannondale as Rev. Paul Wobus and St. John were instrumental in the founding of this ministry in 1929. Annually a group from St. John makes a weekend trip to Shannondale to provide help with projects needed there.

To find out more information about Shannondale, please visit the conference website at: missourimidsouth.org/shannondale-ministries. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Outreach Team.

We thank you for your support!

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

The Middle and High School youth collected for the Souper Bowl of Caring for Circle of Concern on Sunday, February 9. We are thrilled to announce that **\$610.00** was collected and has been sent to Circle of Concern (via the purchase of Shop 'N Support Gift Cards). Thank you for your generosity and caring! ***Terrific job, St. John Youth!***



LUNCH AT SUNSHINE MINISTRIES

St. John Outreach continues to provide and share a meal each month with the men at the residence center for **Sunshine Ministries**. We will carpool from church at 11:15 am (lunch at noon) and return by 1:15 pm. We need one or two people to help each month. If you are interested in joining us on **March 13**, 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, March 13, 2025**. If you need additional information, please contact Mary Ellen Berg.



SHOP 'N SUPPORT

Gift cards are available for purchase on Sunday before and after the 9:30 am worship service. Cards may be purchased in denominations of \$50 and \$100. You can also give to Circle of Concern by Buying gift cards and they will be delivered to Circle from Church.



In memory of **Willis "Will" Swihart**

Building Fund

Ken & Marty Boucher

Dr. Robert Schrameyer

Technology Fund

Keith Gaertner

A gift in honor of **Dr. Mark Engelhardt** on his retirement was given to the Helping Hands Fund by Cindy Boddy.

A gift to the **Cemetery Association** in memory of **Louis O'Brien** was received from Lois O'Brien.

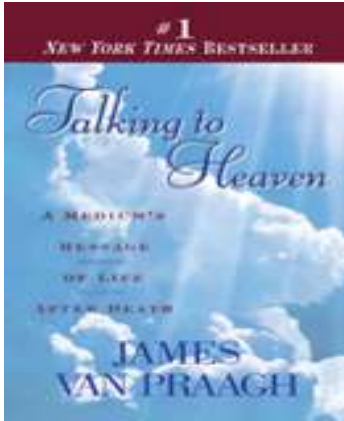


to the family and friends of
Willis 'Will' Swihart
on his passing from this life to
God's eternal care on
February 5, 2025

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 5:00 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 is on the bulletin board across from the church office or call the office to register (636-391-6655).





Women's Fellowship

March 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.

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.

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. 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.



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.



Shannondale
2nd Monday

MoVal
4th Monday



Contact (Call or Text)

Myron Ury, Volunteer Coordinator
(314) 471-2239 myronury@gmail.com.



**CAMP MOVAL SUMMER
REGISTRATION OPEN !**

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



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

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 - Rehab
People in the Middle East
People in Ukraine

AT HOME

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



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



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

Time to Order Easter Lilies

Easter is coming (Sunday, April 20), and that means it's time to order lilies to decorate our Sanctuary. To order a plant in **Honor** or in **Memory** of loved ones. **DEADLINE** for ordering is **Sunday, March 30**. Plants may be taken home after the 9:30 am service on Easter Sunday. Please fill out the form below, enclose your payment, and either place it in the offering plate or return it to the finance office. If you have questions, please call.



Number of Lilies _____ (\$10.50 each)

Total Enclosed \$ _____

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

Of: _____

From: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

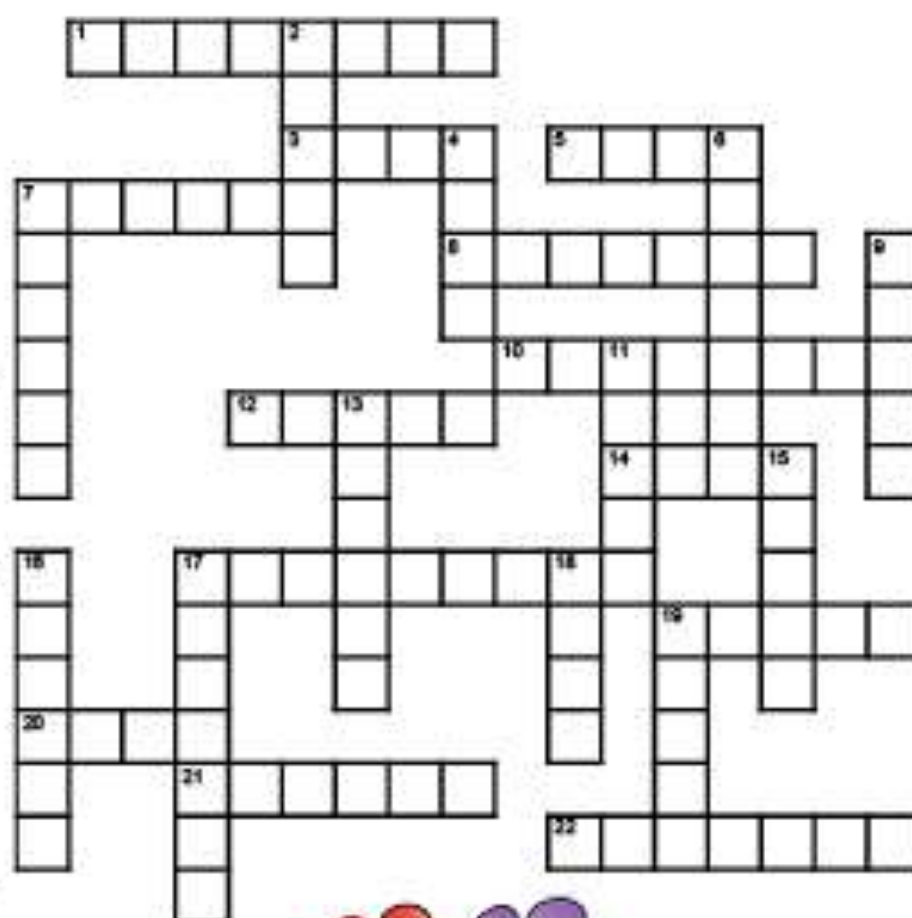
Spring is Here!

Across

1. It warms and brightens everything.
3. Warm up from a freeze.
5. They make honey.
7. Meal in the park.
8. Colorful arc in the sky.
10. It keeps the rain off you.
12. The color of spring grass.
14. Where a bird lives.
17. An adult caterpillar.
19. A baby chicken.
20. What chicks hatch from.
21. It comes after winter.
22. Red insect with black spots.

Down

2. Come out of an egg.
4. Wiggly creature that lives in the ground.
6. Short rainfalls.
7. Small pool of rain.
9. What the lawn is made of.
11. Another name for a rabbit.
13. A spring holiday.
15. Holland is famous for this flower.
16. Just a little wind.
17. Flower on a tree.
18. It is green and on a plant.
19. It might hide the sun.



Word Bank: Bees, Blossom, Breeze, Sunny, Butterfly, Chick, Cloud, Easter, Eggs, Grass, Green, Hatch, Ladybug, Leaf, Nest, Picnic, Puddle, Rainbow, Showers, Spring, Sunshine, Thaw, Tulip, Umbrella, Worm