

# The Friendly Call

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST • MANCHESTER, MO



## Worship Schedule May 2025

### May 4 - Communion

9:30 am Pastor Kevin  
Music: Judy Lindquist

### May 11 - Mother's Day

9:30 am Rev. Don  
Frandsen  
Music: Sanctuary Choir

### May 18 Youth Sunday/ Graduation Sunday

9:30 am Youth  
Music: Bell Choir

### May 25 Memorial Day Weekend

9:30 am Pastor Kevin  
Music: Sanctuary Choir



# 2025



## ST. JOHN GRADUATES

**Congratulations Graduates!** We are very proud of you! Good luck and much success in your future endeavors. We will be honoring our High School and College graduates at our worship service on May 18. Graduate Bios are enclosed in this *Friendly Call*.

### High School Graduates:

*Halie Milan*

*Olivia Picaud*

*Robert Torbitzky-Przekop*

*Aiden White-Lenard*

*Nolan Zink*

### College Graduates:

*Greg Dreisewerd*

*Lily Gregory*

*Ashleigh Martin*

This month is Mental Health Awareness. That means we observe and emphasize mental wellbeing in our communities. It's been happening since 1949. Thus, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight what we've done since the establishment of our WISE Team, as well as where we are going in our ministry.

As you may recall, W.I.S.E. is an acronym for Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged. The purpose is to be a congregation that encourages individuals and families living with mental health challenges. What is mental health? According to The World Health Organization,

mental health is "a state of wellbeing in which the individual can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to their community."



Why is that important? First, Jesus regularly reached out to people (e.g. Jesus heals the Gerasene Demoniac) dealing with issues of mental health. Our Lord believed that all people are children of God and ought to be treated with dignity and respect. He wanted to help people be healthy and whole in body, mind, and spirit. Second, the statistics reveal that 1 in 5 Americans experience a mental health condition. This can be depression and anxiety or an eating disorder or a personality disorder or a trauma-related event. It's imperative that the community of Christ journey with people on these difficult roads. We must let individuals and families know that they are not alone and that the church cares deeply.

The WISE Team has been meeting each month to lead our congregation through this process. (Members: Karen Benton, Randy Engelhardt, Sandi Frandsen, Rev. Don Frandsen, Jaclyn Morton, Jeannette Musgrave, and myself.) We started with a mental health survey for the community. Thanks to everyone who filled out a form! Jaclyn surveyed our youth group and peers at her high school. The information gathered is helping us develop ways to connect with the congregation.

In March, we hosted a first aid training for mental health facilitated by the National Council for Mental Wellbeing. There were 14 members who gathered for an all-day session to learn about the ALGEE action plan for mental health. ALGEE stands for: Approach the situation, Listen nonjudgmentally, Give reassurance and information, Encourage appropriate help, and Encourage other support strategies. For those who would like to know more, manuals have been placed in the Hospitality Room for people to peruse.

There are a few things that the WISE Team is intending to implement. Beginning in May, we are partnering with the Green Team to start a walking group. Please read the announcement in the newsletter and bulletin. Folks have found nature and exercise to be a healthy initiative to strengthen mental wellbeing. In addition, we plan to have a designated section in our Friendly Call each month to share reliable facts and resources.

The Team is also looking ahead to a book study. We want to offer small group settings for people to read and to participate in conversations around mental health. Furthermore, there is the hope of working with the behavioral health systems in our area to hold a "lecture series," where we have professionals speak on various topics related to mental health. The point of this ministry is to overcome the stigma surrounding mental health and to engage in supportive relationships. After all, I believe this is what God is calling us to do through our Christian faith. May we take this opportunity to equip ourselves as WISE servants of our Lord and Savior.

Grace and Peace,

*Kevin*



Notes from **April 8, 2025** Council Meeting

Outside landscaping has been rescheduled for May 3, 2025 at 8:30am

Essential Oils class will be held on the fourth Tuesday of April, May, and June at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Board of Christian Education talked about Vacation Bible School using the Space theme that was used before.

There has been wind damage to the steeple and Dave Gaehle is in the process of contacting a roofer.

Council agreed that any announcements received not related to the church or Mid-South Conference will be posted on the Community Board.

There are 21 windows to be replaced at the WEB. Ann Picaud received a bid from Alenco for \$40,000, second bid from Window Nation was \$32,000. Patrice got the bid from his vendor and the total cost is \$5,016.34. Patrice would do the installation.

Some months ago, a member asked if the church would like a one-of-a-kind painting. The council accepted the kind offer. After careful deliberation, leadership decided not to display the painting due to lack of appropriate space.

Respectfully submitted,

*Janice Jung, Recording Secretary*

### Financial Report - March 31, 2025

<u>Actual Receipts</u>	<u>Budget Receipts</u>	<u>YTD Actual Receipts</u>	<u>YTD Budget Receipts</u>
\$54,975.90	\$38,930.61	\$154,047.68	\$108,291.83
<u>Actual Expenditures</u>	<u>Budget Expenditures</u>	<u>YTD Actual Expenditures</u>	<u>YTD Budget Expenditures</u>
\$31,056.8	\$44,444.97	\$86,256.79	\$104,647.91

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, May 13, 2025.**







Congratulations to  
*Rick & Patti Siefert*

celebrating their 50th Anniversary  
on May 17, 2025

NAME	DATE	YEARS
Marcella & Lance Armstrong	5/7	48
Mary Ellen & Tom Berg	5/8	54
John & Jennifer Forbis	5/10	17
Jason & Kimberly Derucki	5/13	25
Gary & Linda Kalin	5/14	42
Tim & Tonya Osiek	5/16	16
Rick & Patti Siefert	5/17	50
Diane & Joe Beckerle	5/19	35
Chris & Natalie Morton	5/20	19
Paul & Stephanie Allen	5/23	33

## Yardwork - Saturday, May 3rd



Outdoor work at the church (spreading mulch, raking, etc.) couldn't be accomplished on our regular workday scheduled earlier in April because of rain. We have rescheduled the outside work to **Saturday, May 3rd**. We will

begin at **8:30 am**, weather permitting. There is plenty of work to be completed and we all know...

*"many hands make light work."* If you have any questions, please see Craig Lindquist.

**Looking forward to seeing you on May 3rd.**



## Worship Attendance

Date	In Person	Streaming	TOTAL
March 30	102	56	158
April 6	108	68	176
April 13 Palm Sunday	136	67	203
April 17 Maundy Thursday	44	58	102
April 18 Good Friday	58	71	129
April 20-Easter Sunrise Service	11	N/A	11
April 20-Easter Worship Service	164	91	255

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

Articles and information for the **June** issue of the 'Friendly Call' are due on **Thursday, May 15, 2025**.

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

[jane@stjohnmanchester.org](mailto:jane@stjohnmanchester.org)

The Friendly Call



## Church Office Closed

The Church Office will be closed on

**Monday, May 26**

in observance of

**Memorial Day.**

The office will reopen on Tuesday, **May 27 at 9:00 am.**



## WALK AT SCHROEDER PARK

The **WISE** and **Green Teams** are jointly sponsoring a group walk at **Schroeder Park** beginning at **10:00 am** on **Saturday, May 10th**. The group will meet at the small parking lot as you enter the park off Hanna Road. It's an excellent way to get a little



exercise, enjoy the company of other members, and experience the great outdoors. Snacks will be provided but remember to bring a water bottle. A sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board across from the church offices. This event is open to everyone. ***We hope you will join us!***



## THE 74TH ANNUAL NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025

**Manchester Police Station**  
**Noon - 1:00 pm**



## GREEN TEAM NEWS

- ♥ **Thursday, May 8 at 7:00 pm**, we'll hold our regular meeting in the Gathering Area
- ♥ On **Saturday, May 10 at 10:00 am** the first **WISE/Green Teams** sponsored group walk will take place at Schroeder Park.

***Everyone is always welcome at any of our events!***

**Reminder Tip - "Electronics/Metal" Recycling Day** takes place at Schroeder Park on **May 10 from 8 – 11 am**. 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!!



## YOUTH SUNDAY

We will celebrate ***Youth Sunday*** here at St. John United Church of Christ, Manchester on ***Sunday, May 18***. The Youth will be leading the worship service that day. It promises to be a great service and a wonderful way to support the fantastic young people we have in the church. Mark your calendar and plan to be in attendance. We will also be recognizing our graduates during the service. Plan to join us on this special day!

## **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, May 27, 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.





**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL***"To Mars and Beyond"***Monday - Thursday****July 21 - 24****5:00 pm - 8:00 pm**

This year's Vacation Bible School theme is **"To Mars and Beyond"**. Any one who would like to volunteer to help, please contact Pam Boucher or Cindy Boddy. Look in the June-July *Friendly Call* for registration information

**SAVE THE DATE!****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. There's a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board across from the church offices. 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!**

**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.

**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!**



## OUTREACH TEAM MEETING

The **Outreach Team** will meet on **Thursday, May 1, 2025** at 6:30 pm in the Hospitality Room. Please join us!



## HELPING HANDS ENVELOPES for May

During the month of May, Outreach has determined that all offerings received through the Helping Hands Envelopes will go to Camp MoVal. Camp MoVal was established in 1962 and is located a few miles southwest of Union, MO. MoVal features more than 150 acres of beautiful forests, native prairie, natural streams, and a lake! Many youth and families here at St. John have had wonderful church camp experiences at Camp MoVal throughout the years. To find out more information about Camp MoVal, please visit the conference website at: [missourimidsouth.org/camp-moval](https://missourimidsouth.org/camp-moval). Thanks 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 **May 8**, please see Judy Lindquist.

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

## FONTANA FRIENDS

The Outreach Team continues monthly visits to our **Fontana Friends** in their home. We visit on the **second Thursday of the month from about 3:00 to 4:00 pm**. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board across from the offices. We meet at church at 2:40 pm and carpool to Fontana. Our next visit will be on **Thursday, May 8, 2025**. If you need additional information, please contact Mary Ellen Berg.





## ECH (Every Child's Hope) Movie Night

The Residential Program at ECH (Every Child's Hope) has started offering a movie night once a month for their clients. If they have earned the privilege to go to the movies, they are given a ticket for attendance and play money to purchase movie theater snacks. They are seeking contributions of candy and soft drinks (water, Gatorade, soda, etc.). In addition, they offer those in attendance a "Popcorn Bar" and are asking for items such as bite-sized candies, popcorn flavoring (cheese, butter, etc.). Outreach will be collecting these items throughout the month of May. Please bring your contribution and place it on the Outreach counter in the Gathering Area. If you have questions, please see Cindy Boddy or any member of the Outreach Team. Thanks for your support!



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



Circle of Concern  
FOOD PANTRY

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- ♦ dinner helpers
- ♦ pasta sauce
- ♦ canned fruit
- ♦ condiments
- ♦ snacks (8-12 servings/pkg.)
- ♦ size 5 & 6 diapers
- ♦ diaper wipes

***your help keeping the red shopping carts full!***



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, May 15, 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](mailto:akern@sbcglobal.net)

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



A gift to the **Memorial Fund** in memory of **Terry McDonough** was received from Laura McDonough

A gift to the **Cemetery Association** was received from Pat Door

Two red maple trees to be planted on church property were received from Ken & Marty Boucher



to the family and friends of

**Mary Lou Minnis**

on her passing from this life to  
God's eternal care on  
April 6, 2025

Please keep Mary Lou's family and  
friends in your prayers.



**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**  
**Tuesday, May 20**  
**Llywelyn's Pub**

**St. John Women's Fellowship** will hold its last meeting (until September) on **Tuesday, May 20**. We will meet at the church at 10:30 am, to carpool for lunch to Main Street St. Charles where we will eat lunch at Llywelyn's Pub (100 N Main Street). We invite all ladies to join us for a fun day! Main Street St. Charles is also a great place to shop! Some women will be staying to check that out. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board across the hall from the church offices. Please sign up by **May 11**; indicating whether or not you want to shop. Any questions, please see Marty Boucher.

## 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

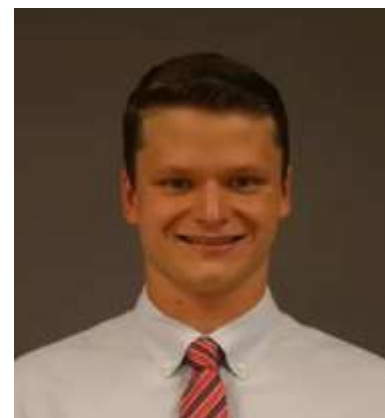


# OUR 2025 GRADUATES



## **Greg Dreisewerd**

Greg is graduating on May 17th from Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla with a degree in mechanical engineering. He has accepted a job upon graduation with Counsilman-Hunsaker in Des Peres, where he will help design and engineer competition swimming pools throughout the country. Greg is the son of Sherry and the late Dan Dreisewerd.



## **Lily Gregory**

Lily is graduating from Carroll University (Waukesha, WI) with her Bachelor of Science in Nursing and a Minor in Psychology. Lily's honors include Magna Cum Laude, Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honors, and Psi Chi Psychology Honors. She has also received three faculty nominations for The Outstanding Senior Award in her class. After graduation, Lily plans on coming back to St. Louis to work as a bedside nurse before working towards her dream of being a psychiatric nurse. Lily is the daughter of Pastor Kevin and Laura Gregory.



## **Ashleigh Elizabeth Martin**

Ashleigh will graduate summa cum laude from the University of Central Missouri on May 10, 2025 with a degree in speech-language pathology with a minor in child development. Ashleigh played on the UCM soccer team all four years. Her senior year they were First team All MIAA (Mid-American Intercollegiate Athletics Association) and won the MIAA Championship. They were also first team all Central Region. Ashleigh received All Academic district honors. Ashleigh was the lone MIAA selection by United Soccer Coaches 2024; NCAA Division II All American team forward. Ashleigh led the Jennies and MIAA with 10 goals scored and added 6 assists for the team and MIAA high 26 points in 22 matches. Ashleigh was named All American of all DII schools at the United Soccer convention in Chicago; one of only 14 girls in the country. Ashleigh will attend graduate school at UCM in the fall and has accepted the position of Graduate Assistant for the UCM soccer team for the next two years. Ashleigh is the daughter of Katie and Jeffrey Martin and the granddaughter of Joan and John Walker.



**Halie Milan**

Halie Milan, 18, is graduating from Marquette High School with a creative spirit and a passion for artistic expression. While she's not heading to college just yet, Halie is excited to explore opportunities that allow her to grow as an artist and turn her love for creativity into a meaningful path. Halie is the daughter of Jason & Elaine Burns and big sister to Michael.

**Olivia Marie Louise Picaud**

Olivia Marie Louise Picaud will be graduating from Parkway West on May 17, 2025. She is planning on attending Missouri State University in the Fall where she is going to major in Behavioral Neuroscience. She is also planning on rushing and joining a sorority. Olivia is really excited about this next step in life and is looking forward to meeting new people and having new experiences during her undergraduate degree program. Olivia will also be leaving her parents, Ann and Patrice Picaud, empty nesters.....an experience they are excited to experience!!

**Robert Torbitzky-Przekop**

Robert is a senior at St. Charles High School in St. Charles, Missouri, son of Nichole Torbitzky, and grandson of Susan and the late David Torbitzky. He has been a dedicated cheerleader throughout all four years of high school, including three seasons on the varsity squad. Outside of school spirit activities, he works as an apprentice machinist at Patriot Machines, gaining practical experience in precision machining. After graduation, Robert will continue developing his skills by pursuing a machining degree at Ranken Technical College. In his free time, he explores the art of blacksmithing, combining his technical skills with his creativity in metalworking.



**Aiden White-Lenard**

Aiden is an honors graduate of Rockwood Summit High School, a member of the National Honors Society, and A+ Program, Aiden Noah White-Lenard is excited to embark on the next chapter, with plans to attend Meramec College pursuing an AS in Criminal Justice and then transferring to Maryville University where he will pursue his BS in Forensic Science. For four years, Aiden was a proud member of the award winning Rockwood Summit High School Marching Band where he learned the importance of teamwork, perseverance, and dedication. Aiden is looking forward to what the future holds!" Aiden is the son of Mike Lenard.

**Nolan Zink**

Nolan Zink will graduate from Marquette High School where he was recently celebrated for being named a National Merit Finalist. Nolan will be attending Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in upstate New York and double majoring in computer science and cybersecurity. He was early accepted into their accelerated bachelor/masters program and was invited to participate in their honors program. Nolan is the son of Doug and Laura Zink.

**GRADUATE  
RECOGNITION**

Sunday - May 18, 2025

St. John will recognize all youth graduating from high school and college this spring during the worship service on **Sunday, May 18 (also Youth Sunday)**. We are proud of each and every one of our young men and women graduating this Spring. Please plan to join us for this special worship service. A reception for the graduates will follow the service. Try to stop by to wish the graduates well.