

The Friendly Call

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST • MANCHESTER, MO



Worship Schedule June 2026

June 7

9:30 am Pastor Kevin
Music: Alan Stephenson &
Dick Scharnhorst,
vocals

June 14

9:30 am Pastor Kevin
Music: Kelly Lashley

June 21

9:30 am Rev. Dr. Nichole
Torbitzky
Music: Judy Lindquist

June 28

9:30 am Pastor Kevin
Music: Judy Lindquist, violin

Worship Schedule July 2026

July 5

9:30 am Pastor Kevin
Music: Judy Lindquist

July 12

9:30 am Pastor Kevin
Music: Bell Choir

July 19

9:30 am Pastor Kevin
Music: Judy Lindquist

July 26

9:30 am Pastor Kevin
Music: Phyllis Jaudes,
Judy Lindquist, &
Carol Ruh, vocals



Save the Date!

2026 St. John UCC Vacation Bible School
July 13 – 16, 2026 5:00 – 8:00 pm
(a light dinner will be provided each evening)

In a world filled with worry and confusion, kids need to know there is a God who cares for them. At **Emerald Crossing VBS**, they'll journey through Ireland's lush landscapes, exploring the powerful words of Psalm 23. They'll discover the life of the shepherd-king David and will learn how to cross from anxiety to peace, from fear to faith, and from uncertainty to a firm foundation in God's Word through a relationship with the Good Shepherd. Get your passport ready for Ireland and join the adventure!

Registration information can be found on page 13. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Mock, our Christian Education Coordinator, at julie@stjohnmanchester.org.



This is the summer issue of The Friendly Call. I often preach a sermon in the summer about slowing up the pace and finding a little “R&R.” Isn’t that what Jesus taught in the story of Mary and Martha? In Mark 2, Jesus states, *“The sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the sabbath.”* There’s a Commandment about the sabbath in Hebrew Scripture. *“Observe the sabbath day and keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work.”*



I facilitate boundary training for pastors in the Missouri Mid-South Conference. The purpose of boundary training is to maintain healthy relationships personally and professionally. In our training, there is a section on self-care. We often talk about self-care as honoring sabbath rest. (I feel guilty leading this portion because I’m not exactly a faithful model for self-care.) However, I got to thinking about self-care and sabbath on the ride home, and how we tend to use the terms interchangeably. We believe the two words mean the same thing.

Sabbath is a time to engage with God personally, to feel the Lord’s presence, to share God’s joy with our hearts, souls, and voices. According to scripture, sabbath is a day of remembrance, a day of celebration, for God worked hard to bring about Creation in six days. The Lord blessed and hallowed the seventh day because all was good. Self-care, on the other hand, is being intentional about habits that support our well-being. We need time away from work so that we can engage in activities that nurture our lives. If we don’t find time to step back from our labors, then we are vulnerable to fatigue and burnout. So, sabbath day isn’t just our day off from work to sleep in, get some “me time” – Sunday Funday! Even though our culture has reduced the sabbath day to a kind of self-care philosophy, the two are actually very different concepts.

The Lord’s Day – sabbath – is more than just the absence of labor. It’s a day of holy worship, of glorious praise, of being in relationship with God to provide much needed renewal for our soul. Self-care is when we pause or break from the hectic pace of life to nourish our emotional wellbeing, to appreciate personal relationships, to enjoy activities that provide much needed rest for our own health.

By time you receive this newsletter, I’ll be in Boston visiting my son, Samuel. Laura and I are taking a long overdue vacation. This is self-care, not sabbath rest. Besides Samuel’s graduation, we are planning to see the area where our son has been living for the past four years, as well as check out some historic sites. Our time there will be short, so I don’t know if the trip will include sabbath at Old South. I trust the Lord will understand should we decide not to worship.

Sabbath and self-care are not the same thing; although, there are similarities between them. Should we be truly devoted and intentional, then we may experience both at the same time. At least, now, I have a clearer perspective on the matter, which helps me this summer and in my faith. I hope and pray that each of you will be renewed through sabbath this summer, while also taking time for self-care, to be refreshed during these beautiful days.

Have a blessed couple of months!

Kevin



Notes from the May 12, 2026 Council Meeting:

Calendar of Events:

- May 16:** The WISE/Green Team Walk will be at Faust Park in Chesterfield.
- May 17:** Youth Sunday/Recognition of Graduates
- May 24:** Pentecost Sunday (Wear Red.)
- May 25 – June 1:** Pastor Kevin on vacation
- May 3:** Rev. Don Frandsen preaching and providing coverage for congregational needs during the week of Pastor Kevin’s vacation.
- June 6:** Habitat for Humanity Build Volunteers needed.

Electric bills continue to be over budget. Please be sure that lights are turned off and thermostats are returned to not-in-use positions when your meeting or gathering ends. Doors and windows should be securely closed upon departure

The **HVAC system is being checked and past utility bills** are being compared to current utility bills.

The **North Parking Lot** will be repaired soon. The **masonry portion of the electronic sign** will be done by mid-June.

Grant Cole from Zag’s Roofing provided an overview of their recommendations for the Educational Building’s roof. A bid has been submitted. Dave Gaehele will solicit a couple more bids.

St. John has changed insurance companies – Glatfelter Insurance. This policy will include a higher cyber theft coverage.

Rev. David Bennett would like to talk with St. John leadership about **Manchester’s Comprehensive Plan**. He is the faith community representative from the mayor’s team. We will invite him to our June meeting.

Cedar Ford Property – negotiations will move forward to sell the .24 acre of disputed property.

Music & Ministry committee is studying alternative possibilities to relieve Pastor Kevin by using lay volunteers.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Ramin
Recording Secretary

Financial Report - April 30, 2026

<u>Actual Receipts</u>	<u>Budget Receipts</u>	<u>YTD Actual Receipts</u>	<u>YTD Budget Receipts</u>
\$43,855.48	\$32,656.00	\$183,402.30	\$147,624.00
<u>Actual Expenditures</u>	<u>Budget Expenditures</u>	<u>YTD Actual Expenditures</u>	<u>YTD Budget Expenditures</u>
\$29,504.74	\$29,722.75	\$132,350.03	\$135,058.00

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, June 9**. The Council will **not** meet in July.



It is time to sign up for Summer Camp at MoVal!

Camp MoVal has been welcoming all ages to participate in a wide variety of programs and activities since 1962. They ensure an amazing and unique camp experience in a safe and fun atmosphere for everyone, no matter their age.

Sessions for 2026 include:

June 21-26	High School Camp (completed 8th-12grades)
June 28 - July 2	Family Camp (all ages)
July 5-10	All Ages Camp #1 (grades 3-9)
July 12-17	All Ages Camp #2 (grades 3-9)
July 19-23	Adventures in Community (ages 18+)



For more information and to register, please go online at: missourimidsouth.org/camp-moval
If you have any questions, please contact Julie Mock, Christian Education Coordinator at julie@stjohnmanchester.org St. John offers assistance with the cost of the camp.

GREEN TEAM NEWS

- ♥ Vegetable Garden Update: veggies planted, watering schedule set, compost bin added
- ♥ Gardeners are needed for church grounds
- ♥ Update given on trees planted on church grounds
- ♥ Green Team members will be constructing a landscape wall around a garden at the SE corner of the Education Building. The team will repurpose landscape stones formerly placed around the church sign.
- ♥ The City of Manchester has collected 1,065 lbs. of plastic as of May 6th toward their 2026 goal of 2000 lbs.! Thanks for your help!
- ♥ The Green Team has many 5-gallon buckets available to anyone on a first come first serve basis. Contact Bob Ruh if you're interested.
- ♥ There's a glass recycling bin (purple/white) for Ripple Glass Co., a local business, on the parking lot of St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 15764 Clayton Road, Ellisville.
- ♥ Discussions were held and info shared on many topics; The 4th Annual Earth Day Summit, micro and nanoplastics, and the WISE/Green Team Walk on June 13 at Minnie Ha Ha Park in Sunset Hills.



Our next **Green Team** meeting is on **Thursday, June 11**, at 7:00 pm.

Hint for the Month

"Rise Against Hunger" Meal Packing Event, Saturday, June 20 at 10 am, at St. Mark Presbyterian Church, 601 Claymont Dr., Ballwin. Sign up to volunteer and/or donate on the St. Mark website: <https://www.discoverstmark.org/>



J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth)

J.O.Y. will not be meeting in June. Please stay tuned to your bulletin for scheduling updates. Enjoy your summer!



Christian Education

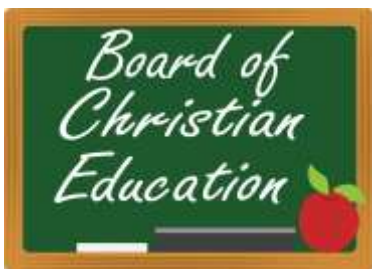
Youth Christian Education & Sunday School



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 meets on the **third Tuesday** of the month at 6:00 pm via ZOOM. Our next two meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, June 16 and Tuesday, July 21. 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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR VBS

We are in need of volunteers for Vacation Bible School in July. If you would like to volunteer to help, please contact Julie Mock, Christian Education coordinator (julie@stjohnmanchester.org) or sign up on the Christian Education Bulletin Board. It's a great time!






NAME	DATE	YEARS
Doug & Leslee Soebbing	6/5	61
Mike & Debbie Boucher	6/6	39
Roger & Janet Zacher	6/12	61
Bob & Joy Brennecke	6/13	57
Karl & Marge Kenkel	6/14	46
Tim & Brenda Lakebrink	6/14	51
Earl & Ginger Allen	6/17	65
Kenny & Elizabeth Elkins	6/19	16
Brad & Renee Ziegler	6/19	6
Don & Norma Brown	6/23	64
Mike & Jean O'Neil	6/24	49
Ron & Joanne Carr	6/25	66
Brandon & Lauren Wisdom	6/25	15
Stephen & Colleen Young	6/28	29
John & Janice Jung	6/29	58

NAME	DATE	YEARS
Jeff & Sue Simon	7/2	38
Jeff & Katie Martin	7/5	25
Bill & Kelly Lashley	7/6	41
Steven & Robyn Schneebeli	7/8	31
Christopher & Emily Kadel	7/9	21
Rick & Linda Ramin	7/10	22
Dick & Mary Lages	7/13	38
Kent & Karla Merriman	7/14	42
Bob & Carol Ruh	7/14	53
John & Brenda Forbis	7/17	50
Jack & Carol Edwards	7/25	45
Michael & Susan McDonald	7/27	41
Christopher & Kaylan Polk	7/31	16



Worship Attendance			
Date	In Person	Streaming	TOTAL
April 26	88	51	139
May 3	97	56	153
May 10 Mothers Day	98	50	148
May 17 Youth Sunday	91	45	136
May 24 Pentecost	98	54	152

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



Church Office Closed

The Church Office will be closed on **Friday, July 3**, in observance of **Independence Day**. The office will reopen on Monday, July 6

Articles and information for the **August** issue of The 'Friendly Call' are due on Wednesday, **July 15, 2026**. Please place a hard copy of the article in the church office mail slot or email to:

jane@stjohnmanchester.org



St. John Outreach

Back-to-School Collection

The calendar may say that summer is just around the corner, but guess what?? It's time for our annual Back-to-School collection! Again this year, Circle of Concern will be distributing \$50 gift cards for each school-age child in their clients' families. Since the "Tax-Free Weekend" is the first weekend in August, Circle would like to be able to give out the gift cards during the month of July when each family comes in on their scheduled food pickup day. Approximately 500 school age children are served by Circle, and in order for us to help meet their needs, it will be necessary for us to have our Back-to-School collection again this year beginning June 7th through July 26th. As in the past, a portion of the money collected will be shared with ECH for their children's school supplies, as well. Please make your checks payable to St. John with "Back-to-School" in the memo line.



We thank you for your generosity in making sure each child is prepared for success in the new school year!



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

You can also order items for **Circle** online at:

- ◆ Amazon Wish List
- ◆ Walmart
- ◆ Target



- ♥ Condiments
- ♥ Cereal/Oatmeal
- ♥ Snacks (8-12 servings)



and they will be delivered directly to **Circle of Concern**

OR

by buying Dierberg gift cards (denominations of \$50 or \$100) through our own Shop N Support program. See Harry Gaehle on a Sunday morning.

Thanks for your help keeping our red shopping carts full!



The Outreach Team of St. John will not be meeting in June or July. Our next meeting will be **Thursday, August 6th at 6:30 pm** in the Hospitality Room. All are welcome to attend.

Recently, there have been two Outreach related matters that have come to our attention that we felt we needed to provide an update to the congregation.

First, the media has been highlighting the fact that a year has gone by since the devastating tornado hit St. Louis and the situation is still very grim for many of the people who were impacted so horribly. The Outreach Team has reached a consensus that, since we have the resources available in our account, we will be making a \$1,000 donation to the Urban League as they continue to be the agency that is still working hard to make a difference in that area.

Second, at our May meeting we discussed Darlene Sowell's retirement from her leadership position at UP (Unleashing Potential) and wondered about plans to honor her. In honor of her service and leadership, a contribution to UP from St. John seems appropriate. A donation in the amount of \$285 has been sent to UP in honor of Darlene. This donation covers the cost of sending one child to camp this summer.

Because Outreach is blessed to have the funds available to help with these two worthy causes, it seems that moving forward immediately is the best plan. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to Lynn Sabina or a member of the Outreach Committee.



St. John Outreach Team

FONTANA FRIENDS

The Outreach Team continues monthly visits to our **Fontana Friends** in their home. Visits are on the **second Thursday of the month from about 3:30 to 4:30 pm**. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board across from the offices. We meet at church at 3:00 pm and carpool to Fontana. Our next two visits will be on **Thursday, June 11 and July 9, 2026**. If you need additional information, please contact Mary Ellen Berg.



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 **June 11 and/or July 9, 2026**, please see Judy Lindquist. To learn more about the men's outreach of Sunshine Ministries go to: <https://www.sunshineministries.org/men-s-outreach> .

WALK AT MINNIE HA HA PARK

The **WISE/Green Team** nature walk will be on Saturday, June 13th, at 10:00 am. This mental health walk will be held at **Minnie Ha Ha Park** in Sunset Hills. The address is: 801 Old Gravois Road, St. Louis, MO 63127. If you are interested, please sign up on the sheet across from the church office. Should you have questions, feel free to talk with Carol Ruh or Pastor Kevin.



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!**



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY Workday - Saturday, June 6



Would you like to help build an affordable home for a deserving family? Sign up to volunteer with our church. A Habitat Leader will instruct us on simple tasks. The only requirements are:

- ◆ Meet at church at 7:15 am to carpool
- ◆ Wear closed toe shoes
- ◆ Bring a sack lunch and water bottle
- ◆ Be prepared to have fun and feel rewarded

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board across from the church offices. Any questions...see Jan Meckfessel.



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 two meetings are scheduled for **June 18 and July 16, 2026**. 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.

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

St. John Weekend at SHANNONDALE - June 26-28

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! Home-made ice cream and foil packs are a tradition! 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!**



Rally Day Sunday, August 23rd

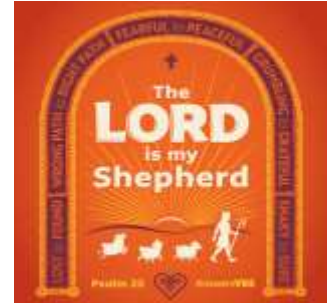
Mark your calendars and plan to join us for a full morning of FUN at our Annual Rally Day! We will begin the morning in worship where backpacks and portable technology will be blessed. Following worship we will "adjourn" to Fellowship Hall for a BBQ lunch of hamburgers and hot dogs (generously provided by the St. John Men's Brotherhood) along with sides, dessert, and beverages.

Wear your St. John t-shirt on Rally Day!



In memory of **Pauline Ostermeyer**
(Sandy Ostermeyer's sister-in-law)
Memorial Fund
Betty Fox

2026 St. John UCC Vacation Bible School
July 13 - 16, 2026 5:00-8:00 pm



REGISTRATION FORM

Held at St. John UCC in Manchester JULY 13-16, 2026 Mon-Thurs 5:00-8:00 pm
Classes for children ages 3 years of age through 5th grade (including recent 5th grade graduates)

Registration form fields including: PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S) NAME(S), Address, Telephone #'s, e-mail, checkboxes for Member of St. John and Non-Member, and three child registration sections (Child's Name, Date of Birth, Age, Grade completed, Gender, T-shirt size, Health concerns).



Questions?



Please contact Julie Mock @ 636-391-6655 or julie@stjohnmanchester.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

Landon Weber - Houston, Texas
Nancee Miller - Clarendale Clayton
Carol Matthews - Brooking Park
Elaine Van Gels - Lake St. Charles Senior Center
Harry Taub - Dolan Memory Care (Lyon Manor)
Annette Owings - Promenade Senior Living
Michele Dahlem - The Fountains in West County
People in the Middle East
People in Ukraine

AT HOME

Ron Carr	Betty Fox
Frank & Lois Leahy	Diane Olano
Laura Waller	James & Jennifer Weber
Aiden White-Lenard & Family	
Laurie Smit	Mike 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, son of Dawn (Martin) Dorris
E Sgt. Bryan Milberg, Fort Campbell, KY, grandson of Derald & Donna Forbis
Sgt. Matt Starck, Marines, Camp Lejeune, NC, son of Walter & Marcia Starck
E-7 Master Sergeant Chris Dwiggin, U.S. Air Force, Scott AFB, Nephew of Lisa and Jeff Karl