

The Friendly Call

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST • MANCHESTER, MO



Worship Schedule August 2026

August 2 - Communion

9:30 am Pastor Kevin
Music: Kelly Lashley

August 9

9:30 am Pastor Kevin
Music: Judy Lindquist

August 16

9:30 am Rev. Damien Lake
Music: Kelly Lashley

August 23 - Rally Day

9:30 am Pastor Kevin
Music: Judy Lindquist

August 30

9:30 am Pastor Kevin
Music: Kelly Lashley



Sunday, August 23rd

Please join us for a **FULL**
morning of fun at our Annual

Rally Day.

During worship we will have
a "*Blessing of the Backpacks
or Portable Technology.*"



Following worship, everyone is
invited down to Fellowship Hall
for BBQ of hamburgers and
hot dogs (and sides)
graciously provided by the
St. John Men's Brotherhood.



There will be games and activities for
the youth and plenty of fellowship for
our "**older**" young people.

ALL are welcome!

The new program year will begin soon. This season will look like past years, but there are a few items to note. Let me highlight them now.

As usual, we will start the year with Rally Day on August 23rd. Our worship service will have a blessing of backpacks, as well as recognition of our members who give of their time and talents to our children and youth. After the service, there will be a picnic in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to join!



At the beginning of September, a new season of bible study will start. The focus has not been determined, but an announcement will be posted in the bulletin once that is finalized. What is important is that the day and time of bible study has changed. Due to various factors, the group will meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 1:00pm in the Hospitality Room. This will be quite a shift from the past 19 years. I understand the change may preclude some people who work; on the other hand, it may allow others who don't drive at night to participate. This was a tough decision that was discussed thoroughly. If you have questions, please come and talk to me.

There will be a Confirmation class this year. I will be leading the program for middle school youth. The sessions will meet on Sunday mornings. It's been 20 years since I've conducted a Confirmation class, so this will be interesting and exciting. The class will sometimes meet during worship and other times after worship. My hope is to have a lay member work with me to help co-teach. Due to worship responsibilities, I'd like to have another adult to assist with the program. Should you be curious about this opportunity, I'd be happy to share more information with you.

For the first time in over a decade, St. John UCC Manchester will be hosting the St. Louis Association Business Meeting on Saturday, October 3rd. Registration begins at 8:30am with events starting at 9:00am. Clergy and lay delegates from UCC churches in the area will come here for worship, education, and the business affairs of our Association. The meeting will finish around 1:00pm. This is a great chance for our congregation to experience the wider church in action. Our role as host church will be to provide refreshments, as well as help guests who may need assistance. I look forward to this event. It gives us an opportunity to show our sister churches what's going on here at St. John. We should be proud of our ministry, and this Association Meeting allows us to display that faithfulness. My hope is that you will want to be part of the morning.

That's probably enough for the fall season. I pray that members and friends rejoice in the ministry of our congregation. St. John is a good and trustworthy community of faith. Please take time to learn what is happening and to get involved. As always, my door is open and I want the very best for you in your spiritual journey.

Your fellow disciple in Christ,



Notes from the June 9, 2026 Council Meeting:

Rev. David Bennett is the faith community representative from the mayor's team. He represented the City of Manchester leadership and spoke to the Council about Manchester's Comprehensive Plan for the city's future. Council gave feedback for the Comprehensive Plan. A public hearing will be held on June 17 at Schroeder Park.

The Council received and approved a proposal from Five Star Roofing to install a rubberized coating with no seams. It is a 20 year warranted product which goes over the current roof on the Educational Building.

Our Cedar Ford neighbor has agreed to purchase the <.25 acre of disputed property for \$2000. An agreement will be drawn up to allow Pastor Kevin to sign off on the sale.

St. John UCC will be hosting the fall business meeting of the St. Louis Association on Saturday, October 3, from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. We will serve a continental breakfast in the Gathering Area. Volunteers will be needed to help with coffee and juice, and to act as guides.

Joan James suggested a possible fundraiser at Panera Bread. Ann Picaud will follow up with Joan regarding details.

The Green Team has requested that we no longer serve plastic water bottles at church-sponsored events. Council agreed that was a good idea. This will be communicated to the appropriate people.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Ramin
Recording Secretary

Financial Report - June 30, 2026

<u>Actual Receipts</u>	<u>Budget Receipts</u>	<u>YTD Actual Receipts</u>	<u>YTD Budget Receipts</u>
\$41,326.97	\$32,656.00	\$271,949.22	\$214,436.00
<u>Actual Expenditures</u>	<u>Budget Expenditures</u>	<u>YTD Actual Expenditures</u>	<u>YTD Budget Expenditures</u>
\$32,840.54	\$43,972.75	\$200,696.93	\$208,128.50

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, August 11, 2026.**





We are thrilled to share that we have a beautiful new bench at the south entrance (educational wing) at St. John, thanks to the generosity of Pauline Bair and family in memory of **Earl Bair**. The bench is made from 100% reclaimed barnwood and finished with an all natural, rustic look. The cushion was made in Earl's favorite color, **BLUE**, and fits perfectly. Both the bench and cushion were made in the U.S. This is a lovely addition to the south entrance and we are extremely grateful to Pauline and her family for this gorgeous addition to the church. **Stop by and sit a spell!**

In addition, we now have a beautiful hardscape for our electronic sign near Sulphur Spring Road. This structure was recently completed and enhances the sign greatly. This enhancement was also possible thanks to the generosity of Pauline Bair and family in memory of **Earl Bair**.

Thank you Pauline and family for remembering Earl in such meaningful ways!



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!



VBS 2026 has come and gone. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make VBS a success. Many hands were needed to guide our young people in their faith. Your time, effort, and energy are appreciated. The week was filled with fun, games, food, crafts, and music. We learned about Psalm 23 as we adventured through the Emerald Isle of Ireland. Being a sheep in God's fold is a vital component of our faith and guides us to follow Him on the right path. Don't worry...the journey continues in Summer 2027!

GREEN TEAM NEWS

- ♥ Our vegetable gardens look great! Please consider helping to maintain our lovely flower beds on the church grounds.
- ♥ The City of Manchester is very close to their goal of 2,000 lbs. of plastic. Sunday, August 9, will be the last day to drop off plastic at church. Thank you for helping Manchester achieve their goal!
- ♥ Operation Clean Stream will be held on August 22nd. Watch for further information.



Our next **Green Team** meeting will be held on **Thursday, August 13th** at 7:00 pm.



Christian Education

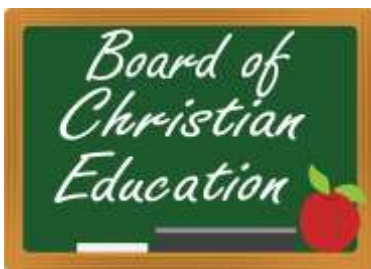
Youth Christian Education & Sunday School



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 third Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm via ZOOM. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 18. 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.

BOOK CLUB COMING SOON!

A Book Club is being formed at church. Please sign up on the appropriate sheet on the bulletin board with your name, phone number, and email address. An informational meeting will be held after church on Sunday, August 30 beginning at 10:45 am. Any immediate questions—contact Carol Ruh or Marianne Kaempfe. *We look forward to a fun and engaging time!*





Worship Attendance

Date	In Person	Streaming	TOTAL
June 7	115	51	166
June 14	88	48	136
June 21	87	45	132
June 28	91	52	143
July 5	96	48	144
July 12	97	31	128
July 19	108	47	155
July 26	89	42	131

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

COUPLES

DATE YEARS

Frank & Lois Leahy	8/25	53
Mike & Gail Schneider	8/10	52
Mark & Barbara Kohring	8/22	46
Ron & Linda Francois	8/1	34
Kevin & Laura Gregory	8/5	31
Jeannette & Scott Musgrave	8/11	26
Kyle & Christina Williams	8/15	17
Dustin & Jessica Orf	8/14	16
Jason & Elaine Burns	8/4	14
Andrea Ruh & Michael Blumeyer	8/9	3



OPERATION CLEAN STREAM 2026

Saturday, August 22

Stay tuned for more information!



We have been informed by St. Louis County that road construction on Sulphur Spring Road (between

Manchester Rd. and Big Bend Rd.) will be starting soon. The work will consist of roadway resurfacing,

signal improvements, sidewalk replacement, etc.

The St. Louis County electronic sign indicates construction will begin the week of August 3rd. The project is expected to be completed in December 2026.

For more info please check the website:

<https://bit.ly/4aBn81V>.



Articles and information for the **September** issue of The 'Friendly Call' are due on Friday, **August 14, 2026**. Please place a hard copy of the article in the church office mail slot or email to: jane@stjohnmanchester.org.



OUTREACH TEAM MEETING

The **Outreach Team** will meet on **Thursday, August 6, 2026** at 6:30 pm in the Hospitality Room. Please join us!

HELP FOR NATURAL DISASTERS NEAR AND FAR

Earthquakes in Venezuela and floods in southern Missouri... means it's time to ramp up our disaster relief for both. The Outreach Team is pledging \$1,000.00 from our Helping Hands funds and asking you, the members and friends of St. John UCC Manchester, to match that figure. We will be collecting for both disasters throughout the entire month of August. Please write "Disaster Relief" in the memo portion of your check. If you have any questions, please see a member of the Outreach Team. We thank you for any and all support you can provide.



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

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.



- ♥ pasta sauce
- ♥ canned chicken
- ♥ Canned corn
- ♥ canned mixed vegetables
- ♥ boxed potatoes
- ♥ rice
- ♥ baby wipes



BACK-TO-SCHOOL THANK YOU

Our final collection for back-to-school this year totaled **\$2,245.00**. Funds have been sent to Circle of Concern and Every Child's Hope to help children have the supplies they need to be successful in school. **Thank you, St. John,** once again, you have outdone yourself! We appreciate your support.

St. John Outreach Team



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 **August 13, 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> .



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 scheduled for **August 20, 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>

J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth)

Summer Salad & Game Day!

Saturday, August 8, 2026

Noon until 3:00 pm

Please bring:

- ♣ Your favorite summer salad or dessert to share
- ♣ Your favorite board or card game for everyone to enjoy

Come hungry, bring your game face, and get ready for a wonderful afternoon of laughter, friendship, and great memories. We can't wait to see you there! Questions? See Betty Anton.



LAUMEIER SCULPTURE PARK WALK

The **WISE/Green Team** nature walk will be on Saturday, August 8th, at 10:00 am. This mental health walk will be held at Laumeier Sculpture Park in Sunset Hills, 12580 Rott Road. Take 141 South, then I-44 East to S. Geyer Road (Exit 277A) then follow South Geyer to Rott Road. We will meet near the main entrance in the parking lots at the intersection of South Geyer and Rott. 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.



St. John Cemetery is divided into three sections. The two oldest sections, known as “1860” and “1910” are at the bottom of the hill near the site of the original church buildings. Among others, several Civil War veterans are buried in those two sections. The Cemetery Board has applied to the Veterans Administration for, and have received, headstones for three of the Civil War veterans who were laid to rest without a grave marker. They are:

PAPENDORF, HENRY (1910)
(August 17, 1848 - June 27, 1919)

Henry was the son of Henry and Unk. Papendorf. He was born in Brunswick, Germany and immigrated to the United States on December 2, 1852, arriving in New Orleans. On August 17, 1867, he was confirmed at St. Paul’s Lutheran in Des Peres. He married Wilhelmine Schoettler on February 13, 1871, at St. Paul’s Lutheran, and they had two children: Edward and Minnie. Henry served in District’s Missouri Infantry during the Civil War.

RIES, JOHN WILLIAM (1860)
(August 19, 1830 – 1903)

Johann Wilhelm was a charter member of St. John and was born in Hanover, Germany. After coming to the United States, he was confirmed at the age of 26 at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Ellisville. Wilhelm was a farmer and served as a corporal in the Missouri Militia during the Civil War.



WOERTHER, GEORGE PHILIP (1910)
(November 11, 1830 - March 13, 1914)

George was born in Bavaria, Germany to Johann and Margaret Woerther. He arrived in the United States in 1839 at the age of 9. On December 24, 1857, he married Sophia Migneron and they had nine children: Kate (Gronholz), George, George, Jr., Mary (Hils), Margaretha (Weidner), Sophia (Wolf), Josephine (Simenon), John and Edward. He served in Dietrich’s Infantry during the Civil War. George worked as a Cooper.



The new government-issued headstones will ensure that these veterans’ service and sacrifice are properly recognized and preserved for future generations.



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!***





LAY LITURGIST - The Worship & Music Team is once again asking for lay liturgists for Sunday morning giving people the opportunity to be part of worship leadership. Those who participate will share the Call to Worship, Unison Prayer, and Scripture reading. We would like to encourage people to sign-up for a month. That means people would be in worship leadership for all the Sundays. The hope is that people might feel more comfortable as we move throughout the month. Should you have to miss a Sunday because of a conflict, then please don't let that deter you from signing up. We can certainly work around that with people. There is a sign-up sheet for September on the bulletin board across from the church offices. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Pastor Kevin.

CHOIR MEMBERS NEEDED!

Do you enjoy singing? We'd love to have you join our choir as we begin a new season of music and worship!

Whether you're an experienced singer or simply enjoy lifting your voice in praise, there's a place for you. Rehearsals are a wonderful time of fellowship as we prepare music to enhance our worship services throughout the year.

If you're unable to make a long-term commitment, please consider joining us for our **Christmas Cantata**. Seasonal singers are always welcome, and your participation can help make this special celebration even more meaningful.

Come share your gift of music! For more information or to join the choir, please speak with Judy Lindquist or contact the church office.



SHANNONDALE WEEKEND

A number of St. John members traveled to Shannondale for a work weekend (June 26-28). As always, great fellowship and food was shared. The weather was hot and rainy but we were still able to accomplish several projects including installation of three windows, two doors, kitchen organization, and we began the process of redoing the floors in the shower building (because of the rain, we were only able to complete the primer coat on the floors).

The improvements that have been made the last few years are noticeable everywhere you look. Following lunch on Saturday some traveled to Sinking Creek and others remained at the lodge for rest and relaxation. Camp fires were enjoyed both Friday and Saturday nights and Dottie Gaehle's homemade ice cream recipe was made by Dave and enjoyed by all. Laughter was in abundance and games were played. Worship on Sunday morning was inspiring. Of course economy stimulation (shopping) was enjoyed by all at the Wobus Craft Center. There is a Facebook group called "Friends of Shannondale" for anyone who is interested in joining. Dave has already booked the weekend of June 25-27, 2027 so mark your calendar and plan to join us; you won't be disappointed.

The City of Manchester is very close to their goal of 2,000 lbs. of plastic. Sunday, August 9, will be the last day to drop off plastic at church. As a result of collecting a ton of plastic, Manchester will receive two new composite benches for their parks made from recycled plastics. Please continue to recycle the plastics you have been bringing to church at your local stores that recycle. Also consider using reusable bags for purchases. **Thank you for helping Manchester achieve their goal!**



“OUR CHURCH”

By Mrs. Blanche Hoppe
Written and read for “My Church Day”
at the Gray Summit Methodist Church
July 30, 1944

These many years our church has stood by the side of the road;
Our church, yours and mine, helping us carry the load
Of Life's cares and crosses – too heavy alone to bear,
But without a cross on earth, no crown in heaven would we wear.

Our church that once was new and without a scar,
With doors kept open to teach us all evil we must abhor.
We learned about Abraham and Issac – the sacrifice God bid them make;
Then about Jacob and Eau – the old story of give and take.

All about little Moses hidden among the bulrushes
Just so he'd be safe from old Pharaoh's clutches.
We memorized the Ten Commandments and the Golden Rule;
How we loved the stories of Jesus and his disciples, too.

The little ones that came to hear of Jesus so long ago
Now bring their little ones in His footsteps to grow.
Sunday School without children is like rain without sunshine,
What else could warm our hearts and make life so divine?

Those of us who've grown with our church these twenty-odd years
Humbly agree no other in our hearts could be so dear.
It takes a heap of livin' to make a home; a heap of givin' to make a church
Either by wealth or honest sweat, 'twill be the same where're we search.

If our church could speak today, what memories it would reveal;
Sometimes there'd be laughter and gaiety, sometimes at the altar we'd kneel.
For a church is like a home where both happiness and sorrow abide;
We make the home, we make the church – both must work side by side.

Yes, our church has known good times and bad,
Mostly remembering the good, I guess, and not half the sad.
Good times like bazaars, quilting, sock socials, chicken dinners and such.
And could we forget the lovely weddings and wee baby showers – well, not much.

Our church hasn't been without quarrels and many a hurt feeling –
Harsh words that made more wounds than a surgeon could be healing.
Although not all is forgotten, most all is forgiven,
And we've found a better way to keep on livin'.

Better because we know little quarrels can big ones make
And we want peace for all God's children's sake.
So that when all this trouble is over and we put down the load,
Our loved ones can come home to the church by the side of the road.

(We hope you will keep this as a remembrance of “My Church Day”)



Pat Migneco recently shared this with us and asked if we might include it in a Friendly Call. Her family found it in some papers kept by Pat's mom. We hope you enjoy reading this...seems as if there is still much relevance in today's world. Thanks, Pat for sharing this with us!

TIME TO UPDATE OUR LIST OF MEMBERS SERVING IN THE MILITARY

It's been a few years since we have updated our list of members serving in our country's military services. We're looking for any new members serving of course as well as any changes to the existing members we have listed on our prayer list such as their location and rank and with which branch they're serving. Please complete the form below and return to the church office. Your help is greatly appreciated!



**Members
Serving
in the
U.S. Military**

Name of Member Serving: _____

Rank: _____

Branch of Military: _____

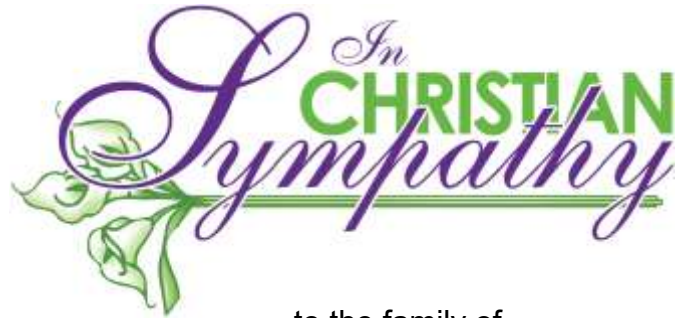
Base location: _____

Information submitted by: _____

Phone and/or email address: _____

Date of Submittal: _____

Thanks again for your help!



to the family of

Donald “Rocky” Allen, Jr.

on his passing from this life to God’s eternal care on June 3, 2026.

Please keep Julie and her family and friends in your prayers.

Donald Allen, Jr.

Memorial Fund

Earl & Ginger Allen

Rocky Allen

Music Fund

Craig & Judy Lindquist

Technology Fund

Keith Gaertner

Dan Peterson (Maureen Richter’s Son)

Technology Fund

Keith Gaertner

St. John Prayer List

The most basic definition of prayer is “talking to God.” It’s the communication of the human soul with the Lord who created that soul. Prayer is the primary way for us to communicate and fellowship with God. Did you know that we have a prayer list here at St. John that is updated and shared regularly with caring members? This is a more “extensive” list than the one included in the weekly bulletins and Friendly Call. The list is shared with members via email and copies can be found on the information table in the Gathering Area. If you are interested in being added to the list of recipients, please contact Mary Ellen Berg

(maryellenberg126@gmail.com). Prayer request cards are located in the pews. Completed cards should be placed in the box located on the information table in the Gathering Area.

There are times when each of us could use an extra prayer said for us. **Prayer is powerful!**



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 - Brookings 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

People in Venezuela



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 Dwiggins, U.S. Air Force, Scott AFB, Nephew of Lisa and Jeff Karl