

The Friendly Call

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST • MANCHESTER, MO



Worship Schedule September 2026

September 6 - Communion

9:30 am Pastor Kevin
Music: Judy Lindquist

September 13

9:30 am Pastor Kevin
Music: Judy Lindquist

September 20

9:30 am Pastor Kevin
Music: Kelly Lashley
Choir & Bells

September 27

9:30 am Laity Sunday
Music: Judy Lindquist



BIBLE STUDY

We will begin a new season of studying God's Word. The focus this fall will be the book of Psalms. Over the course of six sessions, the group will look at the different types of Psalms and the Psalter as a whole. During our time, the series will discuss some of the more well known Psalms in the book and how the message provides meaning for our Christian faith. If you should have any questions, feel free to talk with Pastor Kevin. Bible Study meets on a new day and at a new time. The sessions will be on the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 1:00-2:00 pm in the afternoon. The gatherings will be in the Hospitality Room. Everyone is invited to come learn and grow in their relationship with the Lord. Hope to see you!

September 2 – Intro and Instruction, Psalm 1, 19, 119:105-112

September 16 – Confession and Lament, Psalm 3, 13, 51, 130

October 7 – Prayers and Pilgrimage, Psalm 23, 46, 84

October 21 – Royal Liturgy, Psalm 2, 72, 110

November 4 – Praise and Thanksgiving, Psalm 100, 103, 145,
150

November 18 – The Psalms and Jesus Christ, Psalm 22, 29,
91:11-12, 86, 118:19-29



I was sitting with a couple of members recently having a casual conversation. One of them mentioned a United Church of Christ (UCC) congregation in another state. They asked if I knew anything about the church. I looked online and learned one piece of information, which triggered something in me. When I saw pictures, I immediately said, "It's out of the Congregational tradition." The two people remarked, "How do you know that?" My response was, "You can often tell by the appearance of the sanctuary." This turned into a history lesson about the UCC. Thus, I will share with all of you that brief lesson.

The United Church of Christ (UCC) came into being in 1957. It was the result of a merger between two Protestant denominations: the Evangelical and Reformed (E&R) Church and the Congregational Christian Churches. Each of these was the result of a merger between two earlier traditions. So, our UCC is the combination of four predecessor strands rooted in the Protestant Reformation. Allow me to say a word about each of them.

The Evangelical Synod of North America traced its beginnings to the German Evangelical Church in Missouri. Their primary task as Christians was to proclaim the good news of the Gospel in word and deed. That's why it was important to engage in society by serving others. This is the strand of St. John UCC Manchester, and it's the reason for our many mission partnerships. A lot of social service agencies in St. Louis were started by our ancestors.

The Reformed Church was founded in the early 1700s by German settlers in Pennsylvania. These Christians placed an emphasis on theological doctrine and a "high church" atmosphere. Since the Reformed Church shared a heritage with the Evangelical Synod, it's understandable why these two traditions merged in 1934 to establish the "E&R."

The Christian Churches arose in the early 1800s in reaction to the theological and organizational rigidity of other Protestant denominations. Pastors and laity from other traditions – Methodist, Presbyterian and Baptist – formed a new denomination that was more open and receptive to the Living Spirit of God.

The Congregational Churches were organized when the pilgrims – Puritans and Separatists – left England and settled here in the early 1600s. They formed a Christian identity based on the freedom of faith and practice. Each local congregation was autonomous in governance and theological interpretation. In 1931, they merged with sisters and brothers in Christ to start the Congregational Christian tradition. This is most likely where the progressive, social justice thrust comes from in our UCC today. (For those curious to know more, read about *La Amistad* or watch the 1997 film.)

As I mentioned, these predecessor bodies united in 1957 to begin the UCC. Interesting fact, when the E&R voted in favor of the merger at their Synod gathering, all the congregations joined the new denomination as one body. When the Congregational Christian side approached the merger, each individual church voted whether or not to join the UCC (i.e. local autonomy). There were several Congregational Christian Churches that did not join the new denomination, but instead, formed what is still known as the Continuing Congregational Church.

There is a lot more I could share; however, this is enough for now. I hope you enjoyed this short history lesson. Should I not know what to write about next month, maybe I'll focus on the tenets of what each of these strands brought to the denomination.

Your fellow servant in Christ,

Kevin





Notes from the August 11, 2026 Council Meeting:

Financial Update: Electric bills continue to be high, but should be dropping after the current bill. The fund-raising event at Panera (St. Louis Bread Company) brought in \$154.

Capital Campaign: Twenty-five pledges have been received so far with approximately \$200,000 pledged. \$100,000 has already been received. Letters were also sent out to former members and an additional \$10,000 has already been received from that mailing. Please consider turning in your pledge card if you haven't already done so.

Building Related Updates:

Hot weather delayed the completion of the **roof** of the educational building, so 10% of the final payment was held in reserve.

When visitors are seeking admission to the building during the week, they are not remaining in view of the camera to be identified. The painting of footprints on the sidewalk to indicate where to stand is being considered.

A **Knox box** will be installed so a key will be accessible to maintenance workers and the police and fire departments should an emergency occur.

Purchase of a **surge protector for the organ** is being studied, and a new battery was purchased to keep the pre-sets from being lost during a power outage.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Ramin

Recording Secretary

Financial Report - July 31, 2026

<u>Actual Receipts</u>	<u>Budget Receipts</u>	<u>YTD Actual Receipts</u>	<u>YTD Budget Receipts</u>
\$28,279.90	\$33,156.00	\$300,229.12	\$247,592.00
<u>Actual Expenditures</u>	<u>Budget Expenditures</u>	<u>YTD Actual Expenditures</u>	<u>YTD Budget Expenditures</u>
\$39,720.66	\$30,869.75	\$240,417.59	\$238,998.25

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, September 8, 2026.**



A FAITHFUL STEWARD OF SACRED GROUND

On a recent visit to Saint Louis, I visited the cemetery grounds at St. John United Church of Christ, Manchester, with my father-in-law, **Earl Allen**. I saw with my own eyes what faithfulness looks like when no one is watching. Earl tends this sacred ground: clearing and repainting the fence line, carefully rediscovering headstones lost to time and resetting them, meticulously planning the placement of a flagpole and a cross inlaid with memory bricks honoring loved ones and family, and most recently working on the drive to make it more accessible to visitors.

Scripture tells us, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord." (Colossians 3:23). Earl lives this out in the quiet corners of Saint John's that most will never think to notice, but God does, and so do I. He has never once sought praise for this work; it is simply an offering, done in love, for a place he holds sacred.

Earl doesn't do this work alone. Many days Dave Brooks faithfully works alongside him in this ministry, and it's clear the two of them genuinely enjoy each other's company—there's an easy friendship between them that makes the work feel less like labor and more like fellowship.

I am deeply proud to call Earl my father-in-law, and grateful for the example of humble service he sets for our whole family. Gentlemen, your hands have shaped holy ground. Thank you for all you do.

Stephanie Allen



THANK YOU to everyone who helped make **Rally Day** a BIG success again this year! Special thanks to the Men's Brotherhood for purchasing and preparing all the meat (hot dogs, burgers "Impossible" (plant based), turkey, and beef), buns, and beverages and set up of all the tables; to the Youth for assisting in the decorating; and to the "Kitchen Crew" for the preparation of all the side dishes, and everyone who helped with the clean-up following. Thanks, Pastor Kevin, for a great worship service to kick off the day, blessing of the backpacks (and portable technology), and recognizing our Christian Education volunteers (Sunday School teachers, VBS volunteers, and members of the Board of Christian Education). The

great weather was another perk! Most of all, thanks to all the members who took time from their busy Sunday to join us for lunch and fellowship! **Blessings** to all students and educators as a new school year begins!

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.





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, September 15**. 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.

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.



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!**



Worship Attendance

Date	In Person	Streaming	TOTAL
August 2	98	54	152
August 9	97	47	144
August 16	88	50	138
August 23	96	56	152

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

COUPLES

DATE YEARS

David & Jane Abraham	9/1	41
Charley & Melissa Fagin	9/2	31
Bob & Marilyn Simon	9/4	68
Angelo & Lori Migneco Jr.	9/7	35
Scott & Gayle McBride	9/12	39
James & Kelly Garza	9/19	34
Andrew & Sarah Abraham	9/20	12
Chris & Buffy Guinther	9/23	20
Greg & Marianne Kaempfe	9/23	37
Kevin & Mary Wehmeyer	9/25	27
Ken & Marty Boucher	9/26	67
Jeff & Lisa Karl	9/29	42
Michael & Laura Van Well	9/29	24
Joseph & Katherine Groom	9/30	21



The Church Office will be closed

Monday, September 8

and will reopen on

Tuesday, September 9

**Have a Great
Labor Day Weekend!**



Road construction on Sulphur Spring Road (between Manchester Rd. and Big Bend Rd.) has begun. The work will consist of roadway resurfacing, signal improvements, sidewalk replacement, etc.

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 **October** issue of The 'Friendly Call' are due on Tuesday, **September 15, 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, September 3, 2026** at 6:30 pm in the Hospitality Room. Please join us!

**THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE****SEPTEMBER OUTREACH CHALLENGE**

It seems early but Thanksgiving isn't far off and that means it's time to begin our annual food drive for Circle of Concern and Every Child's Hope (ECH). Circle will give over 700 families Thanksgiving food items, including a voucher for a turkey for their Thanksgiving meal. Circle begins making traditional Thanksgiving food items available to families the last week of October so every family receives items prior to Thanksgiving Day. St. John UCC has committed to supplying food items for **60 families** again this year! Shopping lists of items needed can be picked up beginning Sunday, September 6th at the Outreach counter in the Gathering Area.

ITEMS are due back at church on or before Sunday, October 4th.

Drop off your contributions on any Sunday between September 6 and October 4 at the Outreach Counter in the Gathering Area. The items for your shopping list include:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. Canned pumpkin | 5. Turkey or chicken gravy (12-18 oz. jar) |
| 2. Cranberry sauce | 6. Chicken, turkey, or vegetable broth (32 oz.) |
| 3. Canned fruit | 7. Box of Instant Potato Flakes |
| 4. Cornbread mix | 8. Can of green beans |
| 5. Boxed Stuffing Mix | 9. Can of corn |

For those who would prefer to make a financial contribution, please make checks payable to St. John with "Food Drive" in the memo. You have always been extremely generous with this food drive and we know we can count on our St. John family to give, once again, from the heart at this special time. If questions arise, please contact Cindy Boddy (314-307-6114).

DONATIONS TO SHANNONDALE

At the August Outreach meeting, the team approved a donation in the amount of \$5,000.00 to Shannondale for the electrical rewiring project at the church at Shannondale (total needed for the project is \$40,000.00). The Missouri Mid-South Conference had asked each UCC church in the conference to consider

making a donation. We made the donation in loving memory of **Rev. Paul Wobus**, founder of Shannondale in 1929 and pastor here at St. John for the years 1922-1969. In addition, the team also approved the purchase of three 32-inch smart TV's for the cabins at Shannondale. The Outreach team is thrilled to be able to help Shannondale in this way and want to thank everyone who supports Outreach and its many mission partners through financial donations to Helping Hands. ***We feel blessed beyond measure to be able to make these donations. Thank you for your support!***





Circle of Concern
FOOD PANTRY

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**



- ♥ pasta sauce
- ♥ canned chicken
- ♥ dinner helpers
- ♥ cereal/oatmeal



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.



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 **September 10th, 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 **September 17, 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>

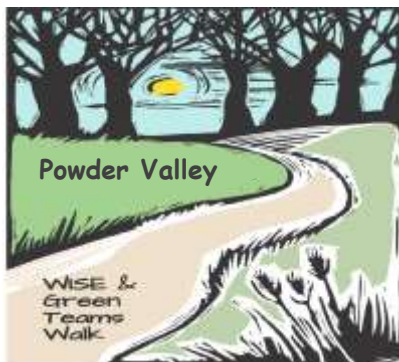
J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth)

Saturday, October 10, 2026

Noon until 3:00 pm

Enjoy an afternoon of fellowship (Open to all ages) with lunch at noon: soup, salad and dessert followed by a production from Sight N Sound Theater “A Great Awakening.” Potluck! Please bring your favorite soup, salad or dessert to share.

“A Great Awakening” tells the true story of an unlikely friendship that resulted in one of the most defining moments in American history. With the colonies on the brink of collapse, the Reverend George Whitefield sparks the first Great Awakening, uniting an entire generation with his thundering proclamation of liberty in Christ. In a miraculous turn of events, one of Whitefield’s closest friends and greatest promoters becomes none other than Benjamin Franklin. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Questions? See Betty Anton.



POWDER VALLEY CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER

The **WISE/Green Team** nature walk will be on Saturday, September 12th, at 10:00 am. This mental health walk will be held at the Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center, 11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood. On I-44, take the South Lindbergh Boulevard exit south 0.50 mile, then Watson Road west, then Geyer Road north to Cragwold Road. Turn west on Cragwold and watch for signs. 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.

WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP

Welcome back to another fun year. Our first meeting is **September 15, 11:30 am**. Bring a dish to share, any ideas for a program, bring to our meeting. All women are invited, we look forward to another year of fun and friendships. Any questions see Marty Boucher.



REMINDER: TIME TO UPDATE OUR LIST OF MEMBERS SERVING IN THE MILITARY

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. Update forms can be found on the bulletin board closest to the south entrance. Your help is greatly appreciated!



HONORING OUR CIVIL WAR VETERANS

On **Sunday, October 4**, our church will gather for a special **dedication ceremony honoring three Civil War veterans buried in St. John Cemetery.**

These three men were members of a generation that lived through one of the most difficult and defining periods in our nation's history. Their military service and their lives are part of the story of our community, and their graves deserve to be remembered and honored.

The new Civil War headstones provide a lasting marker for these veterans and help ensure that their names and service will not be forgotten. The dedication will include historical remarks about the men and the Civil War era, the presentation and dedication of the headstones, and participation by Civil War reenactors. **Taps** will be played in their honor, and the **Lord's Prayer will be offered in German**, reflecting the heritage of our congregation and community.



We are grateful to everyone who has helped make this project possible and to those who will participate in the dedication. We especially hope that members of our congregation, descendants of local families, history enthusiasts, and friends from the community will join us.

Please mark your calendar for **October 4** and plan to be part of this meaningful occasion as we pause to remember those who served, honor their sacrifice, and preserve their place in our history. **All are welcome.**



A gift in loving memory of **Bud & Margaret Hoevelmann** to the **Restore & Renew Campaign** was received from Geary & Bev Hagen.



to the family of
Kenneth Baker
on his passing from this life to God's eternal care on August 7, 2026.
Please keep Ruth and her family and friends in your prayers.

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
Ken Waters - Marymount Manor - Eureka
Anna Knuth - Scenic Wellness Rehab
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	Don Brown



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