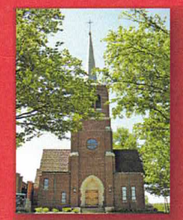
The Friendly Call

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST • MANCHESTER, MO



Worship Schedule
November 2026

November 1 - All Saints
9:30 am Pastor Kevin
Music: Kelly Lashley
Choir with Cello
Hand Bells

November 8 - Stewardship
9:30 am Pastor Kevin
Music: Judy Lindquist

November 15
9:30 am Pastor Kevin
Music: Kelly Lashley
Choir

November 22
9:30 am Pastor Kevin
Music: Judy Lindquist
Soloist, hammered dulcimer

November 29 - Advent
9:30 am Pastor Kevin
Music: Judy Lindquist
Hand Bells



Annual Sausage Supper

Saturday, November 14, 2026
3:00 - 6:00 pm

The St. John Men's Brotherhood sponsors this event. We'll have DINE-IN and CARRY OUT again this year.



TICKET PRICES:
Adults: $15.00
Children (6-12): $7.00
Children (under 6): FREE
(cash or check)

Pastor's Page

I remember watching ‘Ma and Pa Kettle’ as a child. The story that has remained with me is the one where the family is sitting in worship. During the Offertory, the plate is passed along, and all the children take turns pretending to drop in coins while clicking the bottom of the plate. When the plate gets to Pa, he notices that there’s no money in it. He pulls out a piece of paper and writes an IOU to place in the offering plate.

Every one of us has a story to tell. Our stories are shaped by our families, our experiences, our challenges, our blessings, and the people who have helped us along the way. As Christians, our stories are also shaped by our faith in God, as well as our understanding of stories in the Bible.

In the Gospels, Jesus shares stories about The Rich Fool, The Parable of the Talents, Zacchaeus the Tax Collector, The Widows Mite, and many more. Each of them conveys a meaningful lesson about financial stewardship. The scriptural passage for Pledge Sunday this year is based on Matthew 6:21, *“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”* These words invite us to consider more than how we earn, save or spend our money. They encourage us to examine what we value most and how our financial choices reflect our relationship with God and each other.

Financial stewardship is not simply about giving money to the church. It is about recognizing that all we have is a gift from God and that we are called to manage these resources wisely and well. Sharing our story begins with acknowledging how God has worked in our lives. My guess is that many of these stories will include money. Perhaps we remember a season when our family struggled financially, and someone gave much needed assistance. Maybe a parent or grandparent taught us the importance of generosity by quietly helping a neighbor. These experiences are powerful testimonies of faith, and sharing them can strengthen us and others in giving.

The church also has a story to tell through the generosity of its members. Every gift – small or large – fulfills the ministries of St. John. This can be anything from Sunday School materials to nurture our children and youth to benevolence giving that makes a difference in the lives of people going to Circle of Concern. When we share stories of the lives touched through our congregation, we help one another see that giving is not merely a financial transaction, it’s a participation in God’s mission and work in the world.

As we ponder Scripture, “*“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”* let us ask ourselves: What story are our financial choices telling? Does our monetary giving convey gratitude, compassion, trust, and love for our neighbors? How might our story encourage someone else to take a step toward greater faithfulness?

As we prepare for Stewardship Sunday on November 8th, may we become a people of faith that share not only resources but also the stories behind our commitment. Let us continue to celebrate God’s provision, give with grateful hearts, and proclaim good news greater than ourselves: our treasure is found in Christ, and our lives are meant to show God’s love. Thank you for your gracious generosity!

Gratitude and Blessings,

Kevin

CHURCH COUNCIL

Notes from the October 13, 2026, Council Meeting:

Calendar of Events:
November 1 – All Saints' Day & Communion
November 8 – Stewardship Sunday
November 14 – Sausage Supper 3:00 – 6:00 PM Teams will set up on Friday, 11/13 and desserts are needed.
All month – The Outreach committee will be spearheading a Thanksgiving food drive for Immanuel UCC Ferguson.

Financial Update: The finances continue to look good. Thankfully, revenues are over budget while expenditures are running under budget.

Capital Campaign: Forty-seven pledges have been received so far with approximately $350,000 pledged. Over $200,000 has already been received.

Building and Grounds Related Updates:
A treatment last spring seems to have prevented an abundance of sweet gum balls this autumn. Fallen tree branches will be temporarily moved to the woods and later burned in the fire pit. The courtyard will be treated with herbicide.

The improvements in the WEB facility are nearly at a close. Remaining projects include the installation of a new stove, microwave and refrigerator. The main floor bathroom and first floor painting will be completed in November. Bids will be taken for carpet cleaning.

Bell Tower chimes: The parts to the old Bell Tower chimes which quit working at least 15 years ago will be removed from the Balcony closet and recycled.

Personnel Manual: The personnel manual revisions have been completed and distributed to the personnel committee and staff. All staff members have signed the acknowlegement form.

Baptism and Bible Presentation: There was a baptism and Bible presentation on October 25.

Nominations for next year's Church Council are being considered.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Ramin
Recording Secretary

Financial Report - September 30, 2026

Actual Receipts	Budget Receipts	YTD Actual Receipts	YTD Budget Receipts
$23,330.57	$32,156.00	$356,519.96	$310,904.00
Actual Expenditures	**Budget Expenditures**	**YTD Actual Expenditures**	**YTD Budget Expenditures**
$42,171.06	$43,522.75	$306,390.19	$311,693.75

COUNCIL MEETING

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, November 10, 2026.**

ST. JOHN MANCHESTER, MO
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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, November 17, 2026.** 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.



12 Symbols of Christmas (Annual Christmas Pageant)

On **Sunday, December 13th** at 9:30 am our annual Christmas Pageant will take place during worship. This year the pageant is the ***"12 Symbols of Christmas."*** It tells the story of a mom decorating her home with her children for Christmas. As they add different items to their home, they discuss the meaning behind each item and how they all lead to Jesus. This is a great way to get into the Christmas spirit and is a highly cherished tradition here at St. John. Mark your calendar! Any questions? Please see Julie Mock.



BIBLE STUDY

We will continue our season of studying God's Word. The focus this fall has been on the book of Psalms. In September and October, we completed four sessions of the six session course where the group has been looking 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. The sessions are on the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 1:00-2:00 pm in the afternoon. The gatherings are in the Hospitality Room. Everyone is invited to come learn and grow in their relationship with the Lord. Hope to see you!

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

ZOOM INFORMATION

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system. Weekly: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZwudeuhpzkiG9RMr1D7xQNc7dzPkTjH9jxd/ics?icsToken=_DMbVPGYmiY-wXe6UZJQAALAAAAMCbQsauXBcUHOBZKTU21MmdsTe1iT6bdE-_0GvclCplsBjlzv24ffu5BMw0UMfWi2q1THXlZ_W0qJYWbzAwMDAwMg&meetingMasterEventId=hIfqxdLDS7ysXWkYcVDpEQ

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88322992810
Meeting ID: 883 2299 2810

One tap mobile
+13092053325,,88322992810# US
+13126266799,,88322992810# US (Chicago)

Join by SIP
88322992810@zoomcrc.com

Join instructions
https://us02web.zoom.us/meetings/88322992810/invitations?signature=XG4-qOkinkRLk10yNN_97HC3YVX5PeuAH06QIeR6WPs

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DESSERTS NEEDED FOR SAUSAGE SUPPER

We are asking for all kinds of desserts to serve at our annual Sausage Supper on **Saturday, November 14th**. We have a need for regular as well as sugar-free and gluten-free pies, cakes, cookies, brownies, etc. **Please mark sugar/gluten free donations.** All desserts should be brought to the church kitchen **no later than** 2:00 pm on Saturday (November 14). Questions? Please see John Jung. ***Thank you!***



November Anniversaries



NAME	DATE	YEARS
Keith & Barbara Schirmer	11/2	41
Doug & Donna Travis	11/4	21
John & Joan Walker	11/6	50
Chuck & Marilyn Weber	11/25	59
James & Mary Goheen	11/26	60
John & Anita Reger	11/28	45
Gary & Michelle Patterson	11/29	18

Worship Attendance

Date	*In Person*	*Streaming*	*TOTAL*
October 4	123	52	175
October 11	110	48	158
October 18	109	71	180
October 25	126	55	181

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

ELECTION DAY
Tuesday, Nov. 3rd



BOOK CLUB'S NEXT MEETING

The St. John Book Club will meet on **Monday, November 16th** at **1:00 pm** in the Hospitality Room. If you have any questions, please see Carol Ruh or Marianne Kaempfe.





Articles and information for the **December** issue of The **'Friendly Call'** are due on Friday, **November 13, 2026.** Please place a hard copy of the article in the church office mail slot or email to: jane@stjohnmanchester.org.



REMEMBERING THE SAINTS

On Sunday, November 1st during worship at 9:30 am, we will remember those members of our congregation who have gone on to God's eternal care this past year. They are:

Ruth L. Featherstone
Jeanette Lorraine Puettmann
Mary Jane Belsher
Margaret Ann Lohrer
Donald Lee "Don" Dahlem
Evelyn Tracy Schirmer
Martha Ann Brockmeyer
Donald "Rocky" Allen, Jr.
Patricia Ann "Tricia" Jones
Kenneth Damon "Ken" Baker
Donald Richard "Don" Brown
Kenneth Charles "Ken" Waters



On October 4th the St. John Cemetery Association held a *"Ceremony of Remembrance and Honor"* as three new Civil War headstones were blessed and dedicated and all twelve veterans of the Civil War who are buried in our cemetery were honored. Thank you to all who took the time from their busy schedules to attend this beautiful and meaningful ceremony. Special thanks to all who helped organize this momentous event. God blessed us with a gorgeous day to witness this respectful and impressive ceremony. The music was majestic and the spoken words were interesting, informative, and delivered with reverence. **Thank you again!**





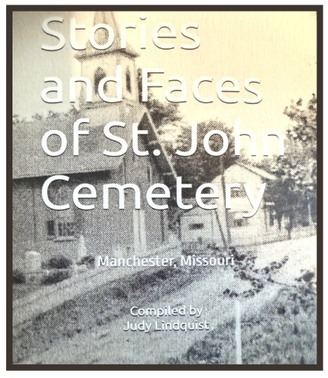
to the family of
Ken Waters
on his passing from this life to God's eternal care on September 26, 2026.
Please keep Ken's family
and friends in your prayers.



Sponsored by St. John UCC Women's Fellowship

You're going to love it – NO actual baking required!

For years, the Women's Fellowship of St. John United Church of Christ, Manchester, has held a bake sale in conjunction with the Men's Brotherhood Annual Sausage Supper. Members have donated cookies, breads, pies, cakes (and who can forget LaVerne Schnarr's homemade cream puffs?), etc. In turn, members have also purchased these items to help financially support the Women's Fellowship (it was our main fundraising event each year). This year we have decided to do something a little different and that is to ask members to consider donating the funds you would have used to buy all the ingredients, or you would have spent purchasing baked goods from the sale directly to the Women's Fellowship. Please make checks payable to St. John UCC and write "Women's Fellowship" in the memo line. You may either place your donation in the "DONATION BOX" on the Information Table in the Gathering Area or drop your donation in the offering plate on a Sunday morning! We will be collecting throughout the month of November. Thanks for your support!



DISCOVER THE HISTORY OF OUR CHURCH AND CEMETERY

A new St. John Cemetery History Book has been compiled, offering a fascinating look at our church, cemetery, and the people who helped shape our congregation and community.

The book includes people buried in the two historic sections of the cemetery known as the 1860 and 1910 sections, beginning with the founding of our church in 1860. At that time, Manchester was an important stagecoach stop between St. Louis and Jefferson City. Our original church building stood near the old cemetery, next to Sulphur Spring Road at the bottom of the hill.

The book also tells the stories of our 10 Civil War veterans and veterans of other wars buried in our cemetery, along with photographs and historical information.

Perhaps most importantly, the book brings our church's early history to life through stories and photographs of our founders and early members—the people whose faith, dedication, and vision established the congregation we continue today.

This book is more than a record of names and dates. It is a collection of the people, places, and stories that make St. John's history special. We hope it will help current and future generations appreciate the rich heritage of our church and cemetery.

If you would like a copy, look for "Stories and Faces of St. John Cemetery" on Kindle Publishing at Amazon.com. The cost of $9.99 covers only publishing and shipping costs.

MEN'S BROTHERHOOD MEETING

On Saturday, November 7, at 8:00 am, we will be cleaning the Brotherhood Building in preparation for the Sausage Supper. If you have questions, please talk to John Jung or Harry Gaehle. Thank you.



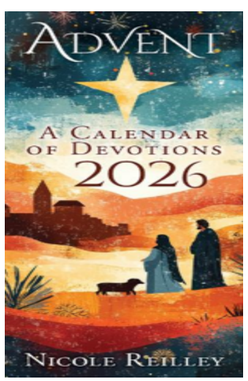
Words seem insufficient to express the measure of sincere thanks we want to extend to the congregation for their support as we hosted the St. Louis Association Fall Business meeting here at St. John on Saturday, October 3rd. Everything went beautifully, it was a huge success, and the 17 members who came out and gave up a beautiful Saturday to be here to serve were outstanding. They represented St. John well! Many thanks to the folks who managed the technology for the day; that was no small feat. Volunteers were serving food and refreshments, welcoming our guests, and directing our visitors to restrooms, break-out rooms, the sanctuary, etc. We are most appreciative of everyone who helped. We received many compliments on our church and congregation. Thank you for helping in this way!

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Saturday, December 5th – 9 am



On **Saturday, December 5th,** at **9:00 am**, please come help decorate the Church for the Christmas Season! To reflect our joy in the abundant life we find through Christ, join us as we beautify our sanctuary. A great time is had by all who attend. As with all things, many hands make light work. ***Everyone is welcome!***



ADVENT DEVOTIONAL FOR 2026

Advent begins on Sunday, November 29th. There are a number of Advent Devotional booklets by Nicole Reilley available to members. Nicole Reilley offers brief, accessible readings for each day during Advent. Each entry includes a suggested Scripture based on the Revised Common Lectionary, a short devotion, and a closing prayer or practice – everything needed to keep hearts centered on Christ during this sacred season. The devotionals are located on the information table in the Gathering Area and are a "first come, first served" basis. We don't plan on ordering additional copies when they run out. Pick up your copy beginning November 22nd. (Please limit one copy per household.)

St. John Outreach

OUTREACH TEAM MEETING

The **Outreach Team will meet on Thursday, November 5, 2026** at 6:30 pm in the Hospitality Room. Please join us!



Our Thanksgiving Food Drive for 2026

was a **HUGE** success once again! Circle of Concern and ECH (Every Child's Hope) will distribute items to the families they serve in late October & early November. Thanks, too, to the awesome volunteers who helped fill the boxes for Circle to pick up on October 8th. Many thanks for making Thanksgiving brighter for families in need again this year. Your generosity inspires us! *Thank you so much!*



Adopt-A-Friend is happening again this Christmas at St. John! We are sponsoring children & adults from ECH (Every Child's Hope), Lydia's House, and the men at Sunshine Ministries. If you are interested in providing a little joy in someone's life this Christmas, please take an ornament from the Christmas tree. The ornaments contain information about a specific gift that has been requested. Please attach the ornament to the gift. The tree will be up in the Gathering Area the weekend of Sausage Supper (November 14). All gifts need to be returned to church, **UNWRAPPED** (with ornament attached) **by December 6th!**

If you have any questions, please contact Lynn Sabina. Many thanks to you all for supporting ***Adopt-A-Friend*** once again! *We appreciate your participation!*



Please Help Decorate Our Tree of Warmth!

The Tree of Warmth will be in the Gathering Area from mid-November to mid-December. Please decorate the tree with **NEW hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, and socks;** either handmade or purchased. Our mission partners have clients who need these items for both children and adults. Again, this year we are including our friends in the Shannondale community. The folks at Shannondale especially need items for men (including work gloves).



You may bring your items and place them on the tree OR if you prefer, you may drop them off at the Outreach counter and someone will see they are placed on the tree. Thank you for helping us with our efforts to keep folks warm this winter.



Our Holiday Adoption Program for Circle of Concern ended on Sunday, October 25th and was successful once again this year because of the generosity of our congregation members. We collected $1,430.00 for Circle of Concern to provide gift cards to families this holiday season. We are continually humbled by your selfless giving to those less fortunate. Your support and unselfishness are part of what makes this congregation so great! Thank you for your help in brightening this Christmas for many children and their families. May God Bless!

Food Collection for Immanuel UCC, Ferguson

You may recall that when Rev. Damien Lake, Associate Conference Minister, was here in August he mentioned that Immanuel UCC in Ferguson operates a food pantry that is open for four hours on Sundays. Outreach has been approached about taking a collection of non-perishable food items to donate to their *"Harvest of Hope"* food pantry. Our last collection will be Sunday, November 1st) and we will be taking items to Immanuel on November 7th (their sausage supper). Please place your items on the Outreach counter in the Gathering Area. Questions? Contact a member of the 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 **November 12, 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.

Circle of Concern FOOD PANTRY

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

- ♥ condiments
- ♥ baking items
- ♥ snacks
- ♥ cereal
- ♥ canned meat

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.



Thanks for your help keeping our red shopping carts full!

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2027

Dear St. John Members and Friends,

Stories are a crucial part of our faith journey. The sacred stories of scripture expand our understanding of who God is and how God shows up in the world. The stories of our own lives are powerful reminders of how we have been shaped by the God of all creation and Christ's church.

The stories we've heard in worship celebrate that when we align ourselves and our gifts with God's heart, ***There Our Hearts Will Be*** too for the future of ministry in and through our church. Thank you for all the ways you give...of your time, your talents, and of your financial resources. We couldn't share in all God has for us without you!

In the coming weeks, we invite everyone in our congregation to prayerfully consider their passions and priorities and how their giving can reflect them. For people of faith, what we give to God through the church expresses our values. In the same way, how our church manages its resources reflects who we believe God is calling us to be.
Our gifts are an expression of gratitude for all the ways God fills our hearts and nurtures our desires to do good in our church, our community, and our world.

We hope you will make a commitment to give this coming year. These commitments represent an estimate of what we intend to give out of gratitude for all God does to nurture, transform, and heal our hearts.

Thank you for your faithful generosity and support. Your giving is the result of trust, intentional choices, and deep faith. Together, we're building a culture of generosity that impacts every person in our church. You already understand that generosity is part of our DNA as people of faith, and your example inspires us all.

Please mark your calendar for ***Stewardship Sunday on November 8th***. It's a day to respond to God's invitation with our financial commitments for the upcoming year. Thank you for walking alongside us as a part of our joint faith journey here at St. John United Church of Christ, Manchester.

Blessings,

The Stewardship Team

COMMITMENT CARD // FOR CHURCH RECORDS Envelope # _____

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

I plan to give $ _____ each ☐ week ☐ month

beginning _____ (date) for an annual total of $ _____

I understand that this commitment can be changed at any time by contacting the church office.

☐ I would like to talk with someone about including the church or a church-related institution in my will.

SIGNED _____ DATE _____



"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also..." - Matthew 6:21

On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity. Giving even 1% more of our annual income would be transformative for our congregation and other organizations doing good in God's world. Thank you for prayerfully considering your commitment!

Annual Income	Monthly Income	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
20,000	1,667	33	50	67	83	167
25,000	2,083	42	63	83	104	208
30,000	2,500	50	75	100	125	250
35,000	2,917	58	88	117	146	292
40,000	3,333	67	100	133	167	333
45,000	3,750	75	113	150	188	375
50,000	4,167	83	125	167	208	417
60,000	5,000	100	150	200	250	500
75,000	6,250	125	188	250	313	625
100,000	8,333	167	250	333	417	833
125,000	10,417	208	313	417	521	1042
150,000	12,500	250	375	500	625	1250
200,000	16,667	333	500	667	833	1667



Emma Kay Ackerman

Daughter of

Donald Ackerman and Lisa Schirmer-Ackerman

Born: August 24, 2026

Sponsors: Trey & Claire Ackerman
(brother & sister of Donnie)

Proud big brother: Auggie

Proud maternal grandparents are:
Keith & Barbara Schirmer

Thank You to the many volunteers that came out for our Fall Work Day on October 24. Much was accomplished from cleaning of the sanctuary; placement of screens for security cameras in the Christian Education Coordinator office, and replacing envelopes in the pews and sharpened pencils. Many volunteers worked outside weeding, raking, removing, and burning tree limbs and debris. A warm and delicious lunch was prepared for all our hard working volunteers. Our heartfelt ***thank you*** goes out to all the wonderful volunteers who offered a helping hand to keep our church looking its best. We'll do it all again in the Spring!

Dave Gaehle, Building Chair
Craig Lindquist, Grounds Chair



GREEN TEAM NEWS

- A group of fourteen of our members participated in a food packing event for Feed My Starving Children. This non-profit organization provides nutritious meals to schools, orphanages, clinics and feeding programs around the world. We will soon find out what part of the world our packets will make a difference!
- A Green Team work day is scheduled for November 21st at 10:00. Outside work will include honeysuckle removal and for those who prefer staying indoors we will be sewing hats and mittens to donate. Please consider joining us for a productive day.

Our next **Green Team** meeting will be held on
Thursday, November 12 at 7:00 pm.

WEBSITE: https://sites.google.com/view/stjohngreenteam/home

Restore & Renew CAMPAIGN UPDATE

As of October 27th we have received 49 pledges totaling $360,122.40. To date we have received $206,569.16 leaving a balance of $153,913.24. If you have any questions regarding the Campaign, please see a member of the ***Restore & Renew Campaign*** committee: Bill Gamewell, Earl Allen, Phyllis Jaudes, or Michelle Patterson. Thanks to all who have pledged.

NAMI St. Louis

National Alliance on Mental Illness

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 **November 19, 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



Thank You, St. John UCC !!! from Carol Clarkson, CEO at Sunshine Ministries (retiring)



Your special card for my retirement was so very, very special to me! You all have meant so much to Jim and me through the years and I will forever be grateful for you all!





Just remember that retirement doesn't mean exile! After a little down time and catching up with all of the chores I haven't done at home for years, I'll still "pop up" (or perhaps "drop in" would be more appropriate at my age) at Sunshine. I have already made Bryan promise to let me know when you are coming to serve the men!

Thank you so much for your kindness! May God bless you for being the hands and feet of Jesus with all of us at Sunshine!

Carol





SIMPSON PARK

The **WISE/Green Team** nature walk will be on Saturday, November 14th, at 10:00 am. This mental health walk will be held at Simpson Park, 1234 Marshall Road in Valley Park. The walk we will be using is a black top path and is totally flat. 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.

JOY (Just Older Youth)

Annual Ugly Sweater Gathering

Date: Saturday, December 12, 2025
Time: Noon to 3:00 pm



Show off your ugliest holiday sweater and join the friendly competition. The group will vote to determine who will take home the coveted Ugly Sweater prize. Will you be this year's winner? The afternoon will kick off with a sharing of your favorite appetizers—please bring one to share. Drinks will be provided.

Gift Exchange - Bring a small gift to participate in the "Rob Your Neighbor" exchange. To let us know you're coming, there's a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board across from the pastor's office.

Gifts & Memorials

In memory of ***Ken Waters***

Memorial Fund
Greg & Marianne Kaempfe
Music & Choir Fund
Earl & Ginger Allen
Roof Fund
John & Janice Jung
Technology Fund
Keith Gaertner

In memory of ***Phil Olani*** (Natalie Morton's stepbrother)

Technology Fund
Keith Gaertner

A gift to the ***Music Fund*** was received from Donna Osiek.

A gift to the ***Cemetery Association*** was received from Donna Osiek.

A gift to the ***Cemetery Association*** was received from June & Allan Mittler.

A gift to the ***Cemetery Association*** was received from Cathye Dierberg in memory of Fred, Doris, Forrest, & Natasha Bunch.

Gifts in honor of ***Lynn Sabina*** on a very special birthday to the ***Helping Hands Fund*** were received from:

Deb Burleson
Cindy Boddy

Advent Pancake Breakfast

Please join us immediately after worship on **Sunday, December 6th** for the annual ***"Advent Pancake Breakfast!"*** Crafts will be available to make to take home or to be shared with those of our congregation who will be visited by our Christmas Carolers. Please mark your calendars!!







Tuesday, December 8th at
11:00 am in Fellowship Hall

Please bring a wrapped Christmas ornament for the exchange (place a *"from"* tag on the inside of your package). We will play "Rob Your Neighbor" for the exchange.

Let's get the Christmas Spirit going!

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board across from the church offices or you may RSVP your attendance to Marty Boucher or Cindy Boddy by Friday, December 4th. We hope you will plan to attend; this is always a fun event and the more people attending, the greater the time!

Once again, this year we are asking attendees to bring an item for the ECH (Every Child's Hope) Steppingstone Transitional Living Program (household items (dish towels, bath towels), bedding (sheets, pillowcases, comforters) so we can spread the spirit.

POINSETTIAS

It's time to order Poinsettias! This year's cost is $10.00 for a 6-inch plant. To order, please fill out the form below and turn it in with your payment. If you have any questions, please call Cindy Boddy in the church finance office at 636-391-6655.



DEADLINE for ordering is ***Sunday, November 29th***

Your Name:_____

# of poinsettias _____ @ $9.00 each = **TOTAL** $_____

Please make checks payable to **St. John UCC** and write *"Poinsettias"* in the memo field.

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

Of _____

_____

From _____

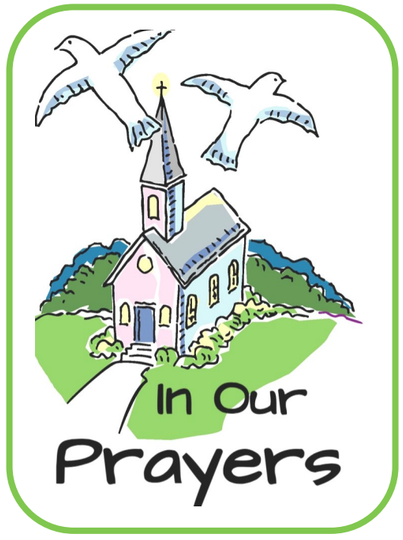
_____



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 - NHC - St. Charles - Skilled Nursing
Harry Taub - Dolan Memory Care (Lyon Manor)
Annette Owings - McKnight Place
Michele Dahlem - The Fountains in West County
People in the Middle East
People in Ukraine

AT HOME

Ron Carr
Frank & Lois Leahy
James & Jennifer Weber
Laurie Smit
Betty Fox
Diane Olano
Aiden White-Lenard & Family
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