

St. John's United Church of Christ

10 A.M. Worship

Sep 6, 2026

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Ringling of the Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

*(Please note the * indicates when you should stand*

Members and Visitors please make note of your attendance by signing in on the pew pads.)

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Peace be with you

And also, with you

Prelude

"Morgenstimmung"

Greig

*The Call to Worship

Though the storm clouds of doubt and fear threaten to overcome us

God leads us into ways of peace.

When the darkness of war and the deep pit of anger reach toward us

God lifts and carries us through the darkness with hope and light.

Lord of hope and life, be with us today.

God of mercy and peace, lead our lives.

* Hymn

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

#2

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive our fear and doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.

Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the happy chorus;
stars of morning, take your part;
love divine is reigning o'er us,
binding those of tender heart.
Ever singing, move we onward,
victors in the midst of strife,
joyful music lifts us sunward
in the triumph song of life.

* Gathering Prayer *(In Unison)*

God of Love, you have loved us first and continue to love us. We come before you a people longing to love you in return. We hunger for your healing love in our lives, for we long to love ourselves and our neighbors. Come to us this day and fill our longing. Amen.

Time for the Child in us All

Pastor Katie Jo

"Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"

Child of God your loving parent,

Learn to listen for God's call

Grow to laugh and sing and worship,

Trust and love God more than all.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**Scriptures: Matthew 18:21-35****Forgiveness**

21 Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

23 "For this reason, the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. 24 When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, 25 and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. 26 So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' 27 And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. 28 But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' 29 Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' 30 But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. 31 When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. 32 Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' 34 And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. 35 So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Message**Pastor Katie Jo***** Hymn***"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"***#73**

**There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.**

**There is welcome for the sinner,
and more graces for the good!
There is mercy with the Savior;
there is healing in his blood.**

**For the love of God is broader
than the measure of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.**

**If our love were but more simple,
we would rest upon God's word;
and our lives would be illumined
by the presence of our Lord.**

Pastoral Prayer**The Lord's Prayer (*In Unison*)**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

WE RESPOND TO GOD

Invitation to Give Generously

(Thank you for being so generous in your care of St. John's UCC and its mission, through your participation and giving. Your stewardship makes a difference. You may make your offering several ways including in church, online, or mail. We are grateful for your support.)

Offertory

"Let There Be Peace on Earth"

Miller/Jackson arr Homes

***Doxology (In Unison)**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly hosts; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication (In Unison)**

God of all good gifts, we have been all too eager, in our lives to payback evil for evil, and slow to pay back your goodness to us. Receive these offerings as an outpouring of our gratitude. May we contribute generously to transform this world through your forgiveness, love and mercy. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*** Hymn**

"Amazing Grace"

#546

**Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.**

Benediction

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Pastor: **Rev. Katie Jo Bielke**
Director of Music: **Ruth Notch**
Liturgist: **Ellen Brandon**
Usher Team: **Ken Ruff**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship/Lockup: **Barb Ackerman**
Flautist: **Jennifer Adams**

Announcements

Please pray for

**Karen (Scooter) Beatty, Rev. Dwayne Dollgener, Mike Kelly,
Josh Kennedy and Family, Danny Mueller, Anita Paz and Kathy Sellenriek.**

Please let us know your prayer concerns. Private prayer concerns speak with Rev Katie Jo Bielke.

09/20/26 Service
 Liturgist: **Laura Dierberg Ayers**
 Usher Team: **Jim Pisoni**
 Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
 Fellowship/Lockup: **Chris Norton**
 Special Music: **Choir/Vocalist**

09/27/26 Service
 Liturgist: **Danielle Dolan**
 Usher Team: **Larry Sontag**
 Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
 Fellowship/Lockup: **Laura Ayers**
 Special Music: **Handbells**

10/04/26 Service
 Liturgist: **Todd Armstrong**
 Usher Team: **John Bartelt**
 Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
 Fellowship/Lockup: **Carol Tindira**
 Special Music: **Handbells**

... Looking Ahead

Mon	9/14	1:00 PM	Exec Council Mtg
Thu	9/17		Bimonthly Newsletter (<i>subscribe stjohnsuccchesterfield.org/#contact</i>)
Sat	9/19	4:30 PM	Ronald McDonald House Dinner
Mon	9/21	6:00 PM	Council Meeting
Tue	9/22	6:30 PM	Women's Game Night (<i>Join Us</i>)
Thu	9/24	5:30 PM	Table Fellowship Mia Sorella
Sun	9/27	9:15 AM	Loaves & Fishes
Sun	9/27	11:00 AM	Crop Walk (donate here >>)
Sun	9/27	2:00 PM	The KinShift Concert
Tue	9/29	10:00 AM	Book Club "Lady Tan's Circle of Women" by Lisa See
Wed	9/30	5:00 PM	Nominations for Council are due



Crop Walk

Please check your News Notes/Website for specific information around upcoming activities
<https://www.stjohnsuccchesterfield.org/fellowship>

Sign up for the following fun activities: Using your phone and the QR code

HOW TO SCAN A QR CODE

1. OPEN YOUR CAMERA 2. POINT IT AT THE QR CODE 3. TAP THE LINK THAT POPS UP



Sun, 9/27 2:00 PM
Crop Hunger Walk



4th Tue of the Month, 6:30 PM
Women's Game Night



4th Thu of the month 5:30 pm
Table Fellowship



Sat, 10/10 9:00 AM
Gateway Housing Service Project



Sun, 9/27 2:00 PM
The KinShift Concert Information



Tue, 9/29 10:00 AM
Book Club
"Lady Tan's Circle of Women" by Lisa See



The Nominating Committee is accepting nominations for the Church Council. There will be nomination forms available in church, online and outside the office. You may turn them into the offering plate, Jan Boehm, Phil Difani, the office or mail them in.



We are livestreaming Sunday morning services. Join us live or watch the YouTube video later.

Facebook: livestream:



YouTube: video here:



Website: info here:



Offering



Join us on Sundays

9:00 a.m. - **Fellowship** with coffee and donuts

10:00 a.m. – **Sunday School**

10:00 a.m. – **Worship**

In-Person, Facebook Live, or Virtual

15370 Olive Blvd.

Chesterfield MO 63017

(636) 532-0540

stjohnsuccconolive@gmail.com

www.stjohnsuccchesterfield.org

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
13	14 1 pm Exc Cncl Mtg 	15	16	17 	18	19  4:30 pm Ronald McDonald House
20  MISSION	21  6 pm Council Meeting	22  6:30 pm Women's Game Night	23	24  5:30 pm Table Fellowship Mia Sorella	25	26
27 9:15 am Loaves & Fishes/ Mission Mtg 11 Crop Hunger Walk & Picnic 2 pm The Kinshift Concert 	28  ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME CROP HUNGER WALK	29  10 am Book Club "Lady Tan's Circle of Women" by Lisa See	30			