

Congratulations Graduates

Sara Pisoni

Sara Pisoni will graduate from University of Missouri- Columbia with her Doctorate of Physical Therapy (DPT). She's excited to finish her academic life and begin her professional life! She will be moving to Chicago and working for Rush physical therapy.

Proud parents are **Jim and Susie Pisoni**.



Matthew Pisoni

Matthew Pisoni will earn his Masters in Business Administration (MBA) from University of Texas - Austin. He lives in Dallas and works for Emerson.

Proud parents are **Jim and Susie Pisoni**.

Madeline Hewgley

Madeline is graduating Summa Cum Laude from Elon University on May 22nd with a BFA in Musical Theatre and a BA in Political Science. She also has been honored as a member of Phi Beta Kappa, a Lumen Scholar and a Fellow in the College of Arts & Sciences. She plans to relocate to New York City after graduation.

Proud parents are **Laura and Kevin Hewgley**.



Samuel Hawkinson

Steve & Kathy Hawkinson proudly announce the graduation of **Samuel Hawkinson**, Juris Doctor at the University of Colorado Law School on May 8th. He served as Copresident of the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association, and on the Executive board of the University of Colorado Law Review as the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Editor for Volume 97. While in law school, he interned for several judges including a Colorado Supreme Court Justice. Following graduation, he is excited to join Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck as an associate in the corporate M&A group in the Denver office.



Carissa Bersche is graduating on May 16 from the University of Missouri, Columbia with a B.S. in Biochemistry, minor in Plant Science, and honors certificate. While at Mizzou, Carissa participated in several research opportunities, mentored students, and was involved with the Mizzou Writing Center. She received numerous accolades and fellowships during her time at Mizzou. Select achievements include receiving a 2026 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Scholarship, the prestigious Goldwater Scholarship, Mizzou '39 award, Outstanding Senior award for the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (CAFNR), University Award for Academic Distinction, leadership roles in the Phi Mu Sorority, and inductee to the Omicron Delta Kappa national leadership honor society.

Carissa plans to continue her education at Michigan State University where she will begin her PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology with a minor in Plant Molecular Biology. Her doctoral studies will be supported by the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship and the Michigan State University Distinguished Fellowship.

Proud parents are **Chad and Christine Bersche**

Caitlin Bersche is graduating with Summa Cum Laude honors from Parkway Central High School on May 19. Caitlin was awarded the highest level Missouri Bright Flight merit scholarship along with other scholarships. Caitlin will be recognized as a member of National Honor Society, Missouri A+ program eligible and wearing her Spirit of Central medal. She was an active participant in the high school's club Project Help, having amassed over 300 volunteer hours, and has been a tutor throughout her high school years. She also contributed to the Chesterfield community as a Chesterfield Police Safety Town volunteer for several years. In the fall, Caitlin will enroll in the Honors College at Missouri State University in Springfield, where she will be studying double majors in Psychology and Business.



Proud parents are **Chad and Christine Bersche**



Gabrielle Wheeler graduated summa cum laude from Indiana University after completing her Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry with Honors Notation. In her three years, she was president of Chemistry Club and American Medical Women's Association, Volunteer Chair for Phi Delta Epsilon, Phi Beta Kappa Inductee, and volunteered weekly at a Bloomington homeless shelter. She is looking forward to attending Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis to pursue her MD degree starting this fall.

Granddaughter of **Mike and Nancy Kelly**

Graysen Wheeler graduated from Westfield high school in Westfield, Indiana with academic honors, AP capstone, and technical honors diploma. She completed the medical PLTW pathway to receive her technical honors in Biomedical Science diploma. She also participated as a Varsity athlete for her school's track and soccer team. She plans to attend Indiana University next year to study kinesiology.



Granddaughter of **Mike and Nancy Kelly**



Anthony Amato

Chuck and Nora Amato proudly announce the graduation of Anthony Amato, from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville on May 8th with a BA in Communications and a minor in Data Analytics. While at University of Arkansas, Anthony held leadership roles in the Sigma Pi Fraternity, was a member of the Supply Chain Management & Logistics Club and inducted into the University of Arkansas' National Honor Society of Leadership and Success. He has worked in Arkansas at JB Hunt for the past year in their ACE program. He is excited to move home to St. Louis and begin life after college!

Proud grandparent; **Leitha Macalady**

St. John's United Church of Christ

10 A.M. Worship

May 17, 2026

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Graduation Sunday

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

*The Call to Worship

Welcome! We are gathered here to celebrate the great promise!

Our hearts are ready to receive this good news.

Jesus asked all of his friends to live lives reflecting the love of God.

We are numbered among these friends!

Open your hearts today. Hear God's special word just for you!

May God open our hearts to live in Christ's love

* Hymn

"Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain"

#215

Come, ye faithful, raise the strain
of triumphant gladness;
God hath brought his Israel
into joy from sadness:
loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke
Jacob's sons and daughters,
led them with unmoistened foot
through the Red Sea waters.

'Tis the spring of souls today:
Christ hath burst his prison,
and from three days' sleep in death
as a sun hath risen;
all the winter of our sins,
long and bleak, is flying
from his light, to whom we give
laud and praise undying.

Now the brightest season dawns
with the day of splendor,
now the royal feast of feasts,
comes its joy to render;
comes to glad Jerusalem,
who with true affection
welcomes in unwearied strains
Jesus' resurrection.

* Gathering Prayer *(In Unison)*

O God, in the risen Christ you have called us into new life. Transform us to receive your Holy Spirit afresh, that in our love for you we may be made ready to serve the world. Amen.

“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.**

Special MusicWE HEAR GOD’S WORD**Scriptures: John 17:1-11 & Acts 1:6-14****John 17:1-11****Jesus Prays for His Disciples**

17 After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, 2 since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. 3 And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. 4 I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. 5 So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

6 “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. 7 Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, 8 for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. 9 I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. 10 All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. 11 And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

Acts 1:6-14**The Ascension of Jesus**

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” 9 When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. 11 They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Matthias Chosen to Replace Judas

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. 13 When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. 14 All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Message

Hymn	"Loving Spirit"	#244
Loving Spirit, loving Spirit, you have chosen me to be -- you have drawn me to your wonder, you have set your sign on me.	Friend and lover, in your closeness I am known and held and blessed: in your promise is my comfort, in your presence I may rest.	
Like a mother you enfold me, hold my life within your own, feed me with your very body, form me of your flesh and bone.	Loving Spirit, loving Spirit, you have chosen me to be -- you have drawn me to your wonder, you have set your sign on me.	
Like a father you protect me, teach me the discerning eye, hoist me up upon your shoulder, let me see the world from high.		

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.
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.)

Offering

*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*)

With joy and confidence in your abiding love and presence with us, we present these gifts, tokens of our lives, as an offering for service in and to this world which you have entrusted to us. Bless these gifts and bless all those who place their trust in you. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

* Hymn

"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

#216

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
All creation join to say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious king; Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!
Jesus died, our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia

Benediction

Pastor: **Rev. Katie Jo Bielke**
Director of Music: **Ruth Notch**
Liturgist: **Danielle Dolan**
Usher Team: **John Bartelt**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellowship/Lockup: **Carol Tindira**
Harpist: **Greta Hodes**

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Announcements

Please pray for

**Tyler Ackerman, Karen (Scooter) Beatty, Lee Difani, Rev. Dwayne Dollgener
Danny Mueller, Anita Paz, Lindsey Spahr and Michelle Unruh.**

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

Thank you for your prayers for Melanie Spangler. Melanie was taken into God's care and keeping this week. Please continue to keep her family and friends in your prayers.

Food for Circle of Concern

Our **donations** have been **down**, but the **need continues**. During the month of May we are doing a special drive. Please bring at least one item each week. There is a shelf upstairs and one downstairs where you can place the food. The Food Pantry's current needs; **Dinner Helpers, Cereal/Oatmeal, Snacks** (8-12 servings). And understandably Circle of Concern **does not accept expired** food.

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, 5/24 10 AM
Strengthen the Church Offering



Sat, 6/6 8 am
Habitat Build



Tue, 5/26 6:30 PM
Women's Game Night



Thu, 5/28 5:30 pm
Table Fellowship Spiro's

05/24/26 Service
 Liturgist: **Todd Armstrong**
 Usher Team: **Phil Difani**
 Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
 Fellowship/Lockup: **Barb Ackerman**
 Special Music: **Choir**

05/31/26 Service
 Liturgist: **Jan Ittner**
 Usher Team: **Ken Ruff**
 Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
 Fellowship/Lockup: **Christine Norton**
 Special Music: **Flute**

06/07/26 Service
 Liturgist: **Danny Mueller**
 Usher Team: **Jim Pisoni**
 Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
 Fellowship/Lockup: **Christine Norton**
 Special Music: **Violin**
 Communion Service:
Donna Switzer & Mary Polt

... Looking Ahead

Mon	5/18	6:00 PM	Council Meeting
Sun	5/24	10:00 AM	Pentecost Sunday wear red
Sun	5/24	10:00 AM	Strengthen the Church Offering
Sun	5/24	4:00 PM	Ronald McDonald House (contribute)
Mon	5/25		Memorial Day Office Closed
Tue	5/26	10:00 AM	Book Club "The Names" by Florence Knap
Tue	5/26	6:30 PM	Women's Game Night
Thu	5/28	5:30 PM	Table Fellowship, at Spiros
Sun	5/31	9:15 AM	Loaves & Fishes
Sun	5/31	11:00 AM	Mission Meeting
Wed	6/3		Bimonthly Newsletter
Thu	6/4	11:00 AM	Senior Ministry Meeting
Sat	6/6	8:00 AM	Habitat Build
Sun	6/7	10:00 AM	Communion Sunday
Sun	6/7	11:00 AM	Campbell House with Lunch at The Fountain on Locust
Mon	6/15	6:00 PM	Council Meeting
Wed	6/17		Bimonthly Newsletter

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

We are livestreaming Sunday morning services.
 You can 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

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