

St. John's United Church of Christ

10 A.M. Worship May 3, 2026

Fifth Sunday of Easter
Confirmation 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

"When Morning Gilds the Skies"

Barnby arr Putnam

*The Call to Worship

The journey of faith is a journey through life.

We are pilgrims, travelers, making our way.

We sojourn on the pathway of the saints.

We walk the same highway and follow the same landmarks which led them.

But for each generation, in each place and time, and for each seeker who travels this way, the road seems different. Today, we celebrate tomorrow's leaders, the heroes of a history yet to be made.

We hold out our hands to them and beckon them to join us on the journey.

As they walk beside us, we may tell them our stories, but we may not tell them the way.

It is a quest they must follow by themselves.

We can tell them of our questions, but the answers must come from within their own hearts.

We celebrate a new generation of faith, a new branch, with its leaves about to blossom.

Let us all make a place for them and let them know that the family of Christ is their family, too,

Let us all worship God together. Amen.

* Hymn

"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"

#589

Lord, I want to be a Christian in-a my heart, in-a my heart;

Lord, I want to be a Christian in-a my heart.

In-a my heart, in-a my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Christian in-a my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving in-a my heart, in-a my heart;

Lord, I want to be more loving in-a my heart.

In-a my heart, in-a my heart,

Lord, I want to be more loving in-a my heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in-a my heart, in-a my heart;

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in-a my heart.

In-a my heart, in-a my heart,

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in-a my heart.

*** Gathering Prayer (In Unison)**

God, you have called each us by name in faith. May this confirmation service today be for all of us a time of reaffirming our faith and renewing our commitment to you. 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.**

BAPTISM

Welcome

Vows

***Vows of the Congregation**

Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support and care to the one about to be baptized, as he lives and grows in Christ?

We promise our love, support and care.

Prayer of Consecration

We are a people of and from water; we are born in water and carried in water. When the world was created, God’s Spirit hovered over the waters of the deep, when Moses led the people of Israel to freedom, God parted the Sea and made a way for them. Jesus’s ministry is marked by his own baptism in the River Jordan, and his affirmation to the Samaritan Woman at the Well that He is Living Water. Water is the symbol of all creation’s deep connection with God. Let us pray...
May our Creator’s unconditional love stir in this water. May the courage of our Savior’s extravagant hospitality flow through this water. May the joy of our Spirit’s abundant life pour into this water and into your soul. Amen.

Act of Baptism

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Glorious Creator, we give you thanks for the life of Tyson, and the opportunity to celebrate with his family a milestone in his faith journey. Fill his life with the grace and love and power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Special Music

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, by text at 833-502-0657, or mail. We are grateful for your support.)

Offertory

***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)**

Thank you, God, for this high and holy moment in worship and in life when we have something to give that others need. Take our bread, our witness, our lives to benefit all your creation. May your glory be known among us and in all the world. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scriptures: 1 Chronicles 16:8-13 & Matthew 16:13-18

O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.

9 Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wonderful works.

10 Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

11 Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his presence continually.

12 Remember the wonderful works he has done,
his miracles and the judgments he uttered,

13 O offspring of his servant Israel,
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

Matthew 16:13-18

Peter's Declaration about Jesus

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah,¹ the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Message

Faith Statements by Confirmands

Hymn	"Day By Day"	#599
	Day by day, day by day, O, dear Lord, three things I pray: to see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, follow thee more nearly, day by day. Day by day, day by day, O, dear Lord, three things I pray: To see thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, follow thee more nearly, day by day, by day, by day, by day.	

CONFIRMATION

Invitation to Confirmation

Questions to the Candidates

Affirmation of Faith – UCC Statement of Faith *(In Unison)*

**We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,
and to your deeds we testify:**

**You call the worlds into being,
create persons in your own image,
and set before each one the ways of life and death.**

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

**You judge people and nations by your righteous will
declared through prophets and apostles.**

**In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior,
you have come to us and shared our common lot,
conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.**

**You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.**

**You call us into your church
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be your servants in the service of others,
to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to join him in his passion and victory.**

**You promise to all who trust you
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,
your presence in trial and rejoicing,
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.**

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

Act of Confirmation

Tyson James Goldenberg

1 Corinthians 12:13

For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Jacob Alan Renth

Philippian 4:13

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Juliet Renee Renth

Deuteronomy 31:6

Be strong and bold; have no fear or dread of them, because it is the Lord your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you.

*** Welcome**

Let those who are able stand and welcome these confirmands to the witness and mutual ministry of this congregation of the faithful.

We welcome you into full membership in this congregation. We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers. We promise to share with you the joys and labor of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in God’s knowledge and love. By the grace of God, may we be open to your gifts, as together we strive to live as a community that celebrates Christ’s new life. Amen.

COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Telling the Story

Communion Prayer

Sharing the Meal

Prayer of Thanksgiving *(In Unison)*

We give thanks, loving God, that you have refreshed us at your table. Strengthen our faith; increase our love for one another. As we have been fed by the seed that became grain, and then became bread, may we go out into the world to plant seeds of justice, transformation, and hope. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

* Hymn	"Take My Life"	#609
<p>Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee. Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise, let them flow in ceaseless praise.</p> <p>Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love. Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee, swift and beautiful for thee.</p> <p>Take my voice, and let me sing; unto God my praise I bring. Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee, filled with messages from thee.</p>		<p>Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold. Take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose, every power as thou shalt choose.</p> <p>Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine. Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne, it shall be thy royal throne.</p> <p>Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure-store. Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee, ever, only, all for thee.</p>

Benediction

Pastor: **Rev. Katie Jo Bielke**

Director of Music: **Ruth Notch**

Liturgist: **Laura Ayers**

Usher Team: **Jim Pisoni**

Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**

Fellowship/Lockup: **Barb Ackerman**

Communion Service: **Carolyn Golfin & Judy Dierberg**

Announcements

Please pray for

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

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

<p style="text-align: center;">05/10/26 Service Liturgist: Mike Kelly Usher Team: Larry Sontag Technology: Steve Hawkinson Fellowship/Lockup: Barb Ackerman Special Music: Handbells</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">05/17/26 Service Liturgist: Daniele Dolan Usher Team: John Bartelt Technology: Steve Hawkinson Fellowship/Lockup: Barb Ackerman Special Music: Harp</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">05/24/26 Service Liturgist: Todd Armstrong Usher Team: Phil Difani Technology: Steve Hawkinson Fellowship/Lockup: Barb Ackerman Special Music: Choir</p>
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... Looking Ahead

Thu	5/7	10:00 AM	Sr Min Botanical Garden (Join Us)
Fri	5/8	8:00 AM	Volunteer at LifeWiseSTL
Wed	5/13		ECC last day of classes
Sun	5/17		Bimonthly Newsletter
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 volunteer
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

Please check your News Notes/Website for specific information around upcoming activities

<https://www.stjohnsuccchesterfield.org/fellowship>

Council meeting bullet points

1. **Habitat** for Humanity volunteers needed for **June 5th**.
2. **Confirmation** is **May 3rd**, please, congratulate our Confirmands
3. **VBS** will be **July 13- 17**, please volunteer on days you can help.
4. **LifeWise** (formerly Kingdom House), needs volunteers to help cook breakfast on **May 8th**.
5. Council approved **\$16,000** to authorize contractors to build an underground water block to prevent future paint peeling in the gym.

Food for Circle of Concern

Our **donations** have been **down**, but the **need** for food in our area **continues**. During the month of May we are doing a special drive for non-perishable food items for Circle of Concern. Please bring at least one item each week. There is a shelf upstairs and one downstairs where you can place the food. Our Current Needs in the Food Pantry: are; **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



Thu, 5/7 9:00 AM
Sr Min Botanical Garden



Fri, 5/8 8 AM
Volunteer at LifeWiseSTL



Sun, 5/24 10 AM
Strengthen the Church
Offering



Sun, 5/24 4:00 PM
Ronald McDonald House



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



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



Sat, 6/6 8 am
Habitat Build

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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May 2026



 3 Communion & Confirmation Sunday 	4 11 Ex Cncl Mtg 1 pm 	5 12 	6 13 ECC Last Day of Classes 	7 14 Botanical Garden Senior Ministry 	8 LifeWise STL 8-11am LifeWise Stt Life Skills for Better Futures 	9 16 23 Prep your offering for Sunday the 24 
10 17 Graduation Sunday  	19 18 6 pm Council Meeting 	20 27 	21 28 Table Fellowship 	22 29 30 	25 Memorial Day McDonald House Ofc Closed 	26 31 9 am Loave & Fishes 11 am Mission Meeting 