

St. John's United Church of Christ

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

10 A.M. Worship May 19, 2024

Pentecost 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.)*

Erin Armstrong



We celebrate the achievements of Erin Armstrong, daughter of Norma and Todd Armstrong, as she prepares to graduate from the University of Missouri (St. Louis) College of Optometry on May 10th, 2024, with the title of Doctor of Optometry (OD). With unwavering dedication and a spirit of excellence, Erin has not only conquered the rigorous demands of her studies but has also excelled, achieving the distinction of graduating summa cum laude. Her accomplishment is further underscored by her success in passing all three parts of the optometry boards.

As Erin embarks on this new chapter of her journey, we are thrilled to announce that she has accepted a position as an optometrist with Keplr Vision at their Advanced Eye Care Clinic in the picturesque Durango, Colorado. Erin is eager to move to the mountains this summer, where she will begin her full-time practice in August. Let us join together in congratulating Erin on this momentous occasion and extend our prayers and blessings for continued success.

Sarah Louise Ayers



Sarah graduated from St. Louis University School of Law on May 18, 2024, with a Juris Doctorate and an Intellectual Property Law Concentration. She was an active leader on campus, including as Co-President of the SLU Women Law Students Association. Her first two years of law school she served as a member of the Board of Trustees of Westminster College. She also was a founding member of the Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri Young Professionals Association.

Late-summer Sarah will take the Missouri Bar exam. In the fall, she plans to join the law firm Danna McKittrick PC, Clayton, MO, where she has clerked for the last few years.

Proud family are Brock Ayers and Laura Dierberg Ayers, "the big sisters" – Kathryn Ayers Wickenhauser (and Keith, Elise, and Brock), Caroline Ayers, Amelia Ayers, and especially BGE, Grandma Judy Dierberg. We love you Sarah and are so proud of you!

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

Peace be with you

And also with you

Prelude

"Spirit Song"

Wimber arr. Fettke

***The Call to Worship**

The Spirit descends like a dove, bringing peace to unite the world in a just and caring community.

The Spirit comes like a breath, bringing life to renew the people of God.

The Spirit spreads like fire, bringing energy for witnessing to the love of God.

Spirit of the living God, come to us and transform our lives by your power.

*** Hymn**

"On Pentecost They Gathered"

#237

On Pentecost they gathered
Quite early in the day,
A band of Christ's disciples,
To worship, sing, and pray.
A mighty wind came blowing,
Filled all the swirling air,
And tongues of fire aglowing
Inspired each person there.

The people all around them
Were startled and amazed
To understand their language,
As Christ the Lord they praised.
What universal message,
What great good news was here?
That Christ, once dead, is risen
To vanquish all our fear.

God pours the Holy Spirit
On all who would believe,
On women, men, and children
Who would God's grace receive.
That Spirit knows no limit,
Bestowing life and power.
The church, formed and reforming,
Responds in every hour.

O Spirit, sent from heaven
On that day long ago,
Rekindle faith among us
In all life's ebb and flow.
O give us ears to listen
And tongues aflame with praise,
So people of all nations
Glad songs of joy shall raise.

***Gathering Prayer** (*In Unison*)

Almighty God, your Holy Spirit came to Jesus' disciples, who were hidden in an upper room. A violent wind and tongues of fire were the symbols of a new thing happening in their lives. May your Holy Spirit burst into our lives today, encouraging and inspiring us to proclaim boldly the good news of Jesus Christ who offers healing and hope to all people. AMEN.

Time for the Child in us All

Pastor Katie Jo Bielke

Special Music

"Holy Spirit, Living Breath Of God"

Getty/Townend Arr. Raney

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scriptures: John 15:26-27 Acts 2:1-21

John 15:26-27

26 "When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. 27 You also are to testify, because you have been with me from the beginning.

Acts 2:1-21

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

2 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. 2 And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. 3 Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

5 Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. 6 And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. 7 Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? 9 Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." 12 All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" 13 But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

Peter Addresses the Crowd

14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. 15 Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. 16 No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

17 'In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.
18 Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit,
and they shall prophesy.
19 And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
20 The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
21 Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Message

* Hymn	"Holy Spirit, Truth Divine"	#241 vs 1-3
Holy Spirit, Truth divine, dawn upon this soul of mine. Voice of God, and inward Light, wake my spirit, clear my sight. Holy Spirit, Love divine, glow within this heart of mine. Kindle every high desire; purify me with your fire.	Holy Spirit, Pow'r divine, fill and nerve this will of mine. Boldly may I always live, bravely serve and gladly give.	

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 THE WORD OF 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

"Everytime I Feel the Spirit"

Arr. Carter

*Doxology

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)*

We respond as your apostles to the mission on which you send us. As we speak of your realm, we would also extend the outreach of others on behalf of your whole church in every land. Inspire your church to use these gifts to your glory. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

* Hymn	"Spirit"	#249
[Chorus] Spirit, Spirit of gentleness Blow through the wilderness Calling and free Spirit, Spirit of restlessness Stir me from placidness, Wind Wind on the sea You moved on the waters You called to the deep Then You coaxed up the mountains From the valleys of sleep And over the eons You called to each thing Wake from your slumbers And rise on your wings [Chorus] You swept through the desert You stung with the sand And you gifted your people With a law and a land When they were confounded With their idols and lies Then You spoke through Your prophets To open their eyes [Chorus]	You sang in a stable You cried from a hill Then You whispered in silence When the whole world was still And down in the city You called once again When You blew through Your people On the rush of the wind [Chorus] You call from tomorrow You break ancient schemes From the bondage of sorrow The captives dream dreams Our women see visions Our men clear their eyes With bold new decisions Your people arise [Chorus]	

Benediction

Postlude

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Preaching: **Rev. Katie Jo Bielke**
Director of Music Ministry: **Ruth Notch**
Liturgist: **Carolyn Golfin**
Usher Team: **Phil Difani**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellow & Lockup: **Nora Amato**
Children's Time: **Rev. Katie Jo Bielke**
Songleaders: **Kathy & Mike Scherr**
Flautist: **Jennifer Adams**

Announcements

Global Ministries requests that we pray with **Venezuela** this week

We pray for
**Donna Dollgner, Rev. Dwyane Dollgener, Elizabeth Hart, Cherie Messina,
Kathy Scherr and Gloria Vaclavik** Please let us know your prayer concerns

05/26/24 Service

Liturgist: **Danielle Dolan**
Usher Team: **Ken Ruff**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellow & Lockup: **Nora Amato**
Children's Time: **Rev. Katie Jo Bielke**

06/02/24 Service

Liturgist: **Rev Rich Brandon**
Usher Team: **Jim Pisoni**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellow & Lockup: **Karen Rocchio**
Children's Time: **Rev. Katie Jo Bielke**
Special Music: **Vocalist**

06/09/24 Service

Liturgist: **Ellen Brandon**
Usher Team: **Larry Sontag**
Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
Fellow & Lockup: **Karen Rocchio**
Children's Time: **Rev. Katie Jo Bielke**
Special Music: **Choir & Handbells**

Immediate Needs - May 2024

1. 0-3 Months Girls Clothes (NEW)
2. Sizes 3T through 10 Boys & Girls Clothes (NEW)
3. New and unused Pack and Plays
4. Bath Towels (NEW)
5. Snacks (cookies, chips, etc.)
6. Juice Boxes (variety pack)
7. Bottled Water
8. Paper Towels
9. Dishwasher Pods
10. Large & Small Trashbags



**Help bring in the
following items on
Loaves and Fishes
Sunday
May 25th**

... Looking Ahead

5/19	9:20 & 11 AM	Stained Glass Information Meetings
5/19	10:00 AM	Celebrate the Graduates
5/19	10:00 AM	Strengthen the Church Offering (<i>envelopes in pews</i>)
5/19		Global Ministries Pray for Venezuela
5/20	6:30 PM	Council Meeting
5/23	5:30 PM	Table Fellowship at Spiros (<i>note the time change</i>)
5/26	9:20 AM	Loaves & Fishes
5/26	9:20 AM	Stained Glass Information Meetings
5/26	11:00 AM	Mission Meeting
5/26		Global Ministries Pray for Japan
5/27		Memorial Day Office Closed
5/28	6:30 PM	Bunko Women's Fellowship
5/31	8:00 AM	Biweekly Newsletter (subscribe)
6/2	10:00 AM	Communion Sunday
6/2	11:00 AM	Senior Ministry Meeting
6/2		Global Ministries Pray for India
6/4	9:00 AM	ECC Summer Camp Begins
6/9	11:00 AM	Christian Education Committee
6/9		Global Ministries Pray for Ghana
6/14	8:00 AM	Biweekly Newsletter (subscribe)
6/16		Global Ministries Pray for Germany
6/17	6:30 PM	Council Meeting
6/19		Juneteenth
6/23	10:00 AM	Dollenger Celebration
6/23	11:00 AM	Church Picnic
6/23		Global Ministries Pray for Philippines
6/25	6:30 PM	Bunko Women's Fellowship
6/27	6:00 PM	Table Fellowship at TBD
6/28	8:00 AM	Biweekly Newsletter July bdays
6/30	9:20 AM	Loaves & Fishes
6/30	11:00 AM	Mission Meeting
6/30		Global Ministries Pray for Sri Lanka

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

Save the Date

June 23 After Service is the All Church Picnic

We will also be celebrating Reverend Wayne Dollinger's 65th ordination anniversary.
Please check the upcoming newsletter and bulletins for more information.

Join us on Sundays

9:00 a.m. - Fellowship in Fellowship Hall

10:00 a.m. – Sunday School

10:00 a.m. – Worship In-Person, Facebook Live, or Virtual

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online giving



Strengthen the
Church Offering