

St. John's United Church of Christ

10 A.M. Worship February 22, 2026

First Sunday in Lent

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

"How Beautiful"

Paris

*The Call to Worship

Come, people of God, to know again who you are, return to the One who gives you life.

We come as children of God, longing for a closer walk with our Creator.

The abundant grace of God is offered to all of us.

We gather to receive that gift, to learn and remember how best to use it.

Let nothing distract you from that intent; we have assembled that God may speak to us.

We wait upon God, who knows us as we are and loves us. Amen.

* Hymn

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"

#67 vs1-3,6

**O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home!**

**Under the shadow of thy throne
still may we dwell secure.
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defense is sure.**

**Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.**

**O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guide while life shall last,
and our eternal home.**

*Invitation to Confession

* Prayer of Confession *(In Unison)*

God of all time and space, we have joined our ancestors in seeking to live our own way. We have been tempted to play God with our own lives and those of others. We have confused freedom with self-indulgence. We have put down others to gain status for ourselves or have accepted the hierarchies of this world as God-given when they are not. Forgive us, O God, and equip us for clear thinking, honest response, and loving service. Amen.

*Words of Grace

The abundance of God's grace is freely given to you this day. In Christ, we have known the reign of God's righteousness. God also lives in us. Receive this gift, with joy and thanksgiving, praising God for the new life that is yours. Amen.

DEDICATION OF 2026 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Janis Boehm, President
Laura Ayers, Vice President
Phil Difani, Secretary
Warren Stemme, Treasurer
Barb Ackerman

Nora Amato
Jim Pisoni
Rosemarie Spray
Carol Tindira
Jackie Ruff
Chris Norton

Council Pledge:

As a member of the Church Council, I pledge to walk in the way of Christ as I emulate the servant leadership of Jesus. I pledge to: directly address disagreements in a timely manner; I will keep confidentiality high and attempt to stop the spreading of rumors; I won't let things fester between me and other members and/or church staff; I will respect others; I will cultivate trust; I recognize that unity in Christ does not mean uniformity; I will not be disagreeable or mean-spirited with others; I will stay focused on our goal of being faithful to Jesus Christ; I will try to solve our problems and not create new ones; I will seek to maintain a positive and prayerful attitude in all I do as I serve St. John's United Church of Christ as a Council member this year.

This is my pledge.

Prayer

Time for the Child in us All		Pastor Katie Jo
<i>"Child of Blessing, Child of Promise"</i> 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 Music	<i>"Give Me Jesus"</i>	arr. Parks

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Scriptures: Psalm 32 & Matthew 4:1-11

Psalm 32

The Joy of Forgiveness

Of David. A Maskil.

¹ Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

² Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

³ While I kept silent, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. *Selah*

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin. *Selah*

⁶ Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you;

at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters
shall not reach them.

⁷ You are a hiding place for me;
 you preserve me from trouble;
 you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. *Selah*
⁸ I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
 I will counsel you with my eye upon you.
⁹ Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
 whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,
 else it will not stay near you.
¹⁰ Many are the torments of the wicked,
 but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.
¹¹ Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous,
 and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Matthew 4:1-11
The Testing of Jesus

⁴ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written,
 'One does not live by bread alone,
 but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"
⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,
 'He will command his angels concerning you,'
 and 'On their hands they will bear you up,
 so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"
⁷ Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"
⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."
¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,
 'Worship the Lord your God,
 and serve only him.'"
¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.
 dead.".

One: This is the Word of the Lord.
ALL: Thanks be to God.

Message

* Hymn	<i>"Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"</i>	#180
<p>Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray, teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.</p> <p>As you with Satan did contend, and did the victory win, O give us strength in you to fight, in you to conquer sin.</p>		<p>And thro' these days of penitence, and thro' your passiontide, forevermore, in life and death, O Christ, with us abide.</p> <p>Abide with us, that through this life of doubts and hope and pain, an Easter of unending joy we may at last attain!</p>

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 or mail. We are grateful for your support.)

Offertory

"Tis So Sweet To Trust in Jesus"

Kilpatrick arr. Kim

***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)*

In these gifts, O God, we acclaim you as our Lord. May they be useful to you in bringing your kingdom into full flower through the ministries of your church, we pray in Christ's name. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*** Hymn**

"It Is Well with My Soul"

#561

**When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.**

[Refrain:]

**It is well (It is well) with my soul (with my soul),
it is well, it is well with my soul.**

**Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control:
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed his own blood for my soul. [Refrain]**

**My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole,
is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more,
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! [Refrain]**

**May God haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend,
even so, it is well with my soul. [Refrain]**

Benediction

Pastor: **Rev. Katie Jo Bielke**
 Director of Music: **Ruth Notch**
 Liturgist: **Jan Ittner**
 Usher Team: **Jim Pisoni**
 Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**
 Fellowship/Lockup: **Jan Boehm**
 Flautist: **Jennifer Adams**

Lydia's House shopping list can be located on the table in the Narthex

Lenten Study signup is now open

Announcements

**Tyler Ackerman, Karen (Scooter) Beatty, Rev. Dwayne Dollgener, Andy Kissel,
 Danny Mueller, Anita Paz and Melanie Spangler.**

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

<p style="text-align: center;">03/01/26 Service Liturgist: Mike Kelly Usher Team: Larry Sontag Technology: Steve Hawkinson Fellowship/Lockup: Council Special Music: Handbells</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">03/08/26 Service Liturgist: Merilee Dauster Usher Team: John Bartelt Technology: Steve Hawkinson Fellowship/Lockup: Council</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">03/22/26 Service Liturgist: Warren Stemme Usher Team: Ken Ruff Technology: Steve Hawkinson Fellowship/Lockup: Council</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">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</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">15370 Olive Blvd. Chesterfield MO 63017 (636) 532-0540 <i>stjohnsuccconolive@gmail.com</i> www.stjohnsuccchesterfield.org</p>
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... Looking Ahead

Sun	02/22/26	9:15 AM	Loaves & Fishes
Sun	02/22/26	11:00 AM	Mission Meeting
Sun	02/22/26	4:00 PM	Ronald McDonald House Dinner (link)
Mon	02/23/26	6:00 PM	Council Meeting
Tue	02/24/26	6:30 PM	Women's Game Night (link)
Wed	02/25/26	6:00 PM	Lenten Study (sign up)
Thu	02/26/26	5:30 PM	Table Fellowship (Join Us)
Sun	03/01/26	10 AM	Communion Sunday
Tue	03/03/26		Bimonthly Newsletter (subscribe)
Wed	03/04/26	6 PM	Lenten Study (sign up)

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.

<p>Facebook: Find the livestream here:</p> 	<p>YouTube: View the video here:</p> 	<p>Website: Find more Info here:</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Offering</p> 
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Sign up for the following fun activities: Using your phone and the QR code



Sun, 2/22 4 pm
Ronald McDonald



Thu, 2/26 5:30 pm
Table Fellowship



Tue, 2/24 6:30 PM
Women's Game Night









Wed, 02/25/ 6 PM
Lenten Study








Sat Mar 7 Lucky 7 Bingo Night to benefit Lydia's House ([link](#))

February 2026

		23	24	25	26	27	28
11 am Mission mtg 4 pm Ronald McDonald House		 6 pm Council Mtg	 Girls Night Out	 6 pm Lenten Study	 Table Fellowship		

March 2026

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		 NEWSLETTER	 6 pm Lenten Study	11 am Sr Min Meeting  Senior Ministry		 6 pm