

St. John's United Church of Christ

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

10 A.M. Worship July 21, 2024

VBS Celebration Sunday

WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Ringing of the Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

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

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

Peace be with you

And also with you

*The Call to Worship

As we gather here and as individuals in the world

We trust God to go with us.

As we make big decisions,

We trust God to Lead the Way!

We open our ears for the still small voice, because

We trust God to share wisdom.

In the midst of life's storms,

We trust God to Give us Peace!

We remember we are God's beloved children, and

We trust God to Spark Joy!

* Hymn

"There's Within My Heart a Melody"

#550 vs 1&4

There's within my heart a melody
Jesus whispers sweet and low:
"Fear not, I am with thee, peace, be still,"
in all of life's ebb and flow.

[Refrain]

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus,
sweetest name I know,
fills my every longing,
keeps me singing as I go.

Though sometimes he leads through waters deep,
trials fall across the way,
though sometimes the path seems rough and steep,
see his footprints all the way.

[Refrain]

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus,
sweetest name I know,
fills my every longing,
keeps me singing as I go.

*Gathering Prayer (In Unison)

O God, we gather today in your name. May our hearts open and our understanding expand with the vision of righteousness. May our worship please you, transform us, and bear witness to your love. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Kids Sing "Camp Firelight"

Counselor Sam

Scripture - Genesis 28:10-16**Jacob's Dream at Bethel**

10 Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. 11 He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. 12 And he dreamed that there was a stairway set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. 13 And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring, 14 and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. 15 Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go and will bring you back to this land, for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." 16 Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!"

Counselor Sam

Scripture - Ruth

Counselor Sam

Scripture - Luke 2:41-52**The Boy Jesus in the Temple**

41 Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. 42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. 43 When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents were unaware of this. 44 Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. 45 When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. 46 After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47 And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48 When his parents saw him they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously looking for you." 49 He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" 50 But they did not understand what he said to them. 51 Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them, and his mother treasured all these things in her heart. 52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favor.

Counselor Sam

Scripture - Mark 4:35-41**Jesus Stills a Storm**

35 On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." 36 And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. 37 A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. 38 But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion, and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" 39 And waking up, he rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Be silent! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. 40 He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" 41 And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

Counselor Sam

Scripture - Acts 8:26-40

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

²⁶ Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷ So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³² Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ As they were going along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" ³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Kids Sing "Trust & Follow" & "Peace Like a River"

* Hymn	"This Little Light of Mine"
This little gospel light of mine I'm gonna let it shine This little gospel light of mine I'm gonna let it shine This little gospel light of mine I'm gonna let it shine Let it shine all the time let it shine.	Hide it under a bushel? NO! I'm gonna let it shine ... Don't you go and blow it out! I'm gonna let it shine ... All around the neighborhood I'm gonna let it shine ...

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

VBS Slide Show

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***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)**

Move us, O God, beyond the building of monuments of faith to participation in mission both financially and through the giving of ourselves. Help us to discern your revelation and to share it. Guide us as we seek to follow Christ, that our very being may be our finest offering. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*** Hymn**

"Trust and Obey"

#556 vs 1,2,4

**When we walk with the Lord
in the light of his word,
what a glory he sheds on our way!
While we do his good will,
he abides with us still,
and with all who will trust and obey.**

**[Refrain:]
Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.**

**Not a burden we bear,
not a sorrow we share,
but our toil he will richly repay;
not a grief or a loss,
not a frown or a cross,
but is blest if we trust and obey. [Refrain]**

**Then in fellowship sweet
we will sit at his feet,
or we'll walk by his side in the way;
what he says we will do,
where he sends we will go--
never fear, only trust and obey. [Refrain]**

Benediction

Postlude

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Pastor: Rev. Katie Jo Bielke
Director of Music Ministry: Ruth Notch
Liturgist: Helen Stortz
Usher Team: John Bartelt
Fellowship/Lockup: Rosemarie Spray
Special Music: VBS Kids
Songleaders: Kathy & Mike Scherr

Announcements

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

We pray for
**Donna Dollgener, Rev. Dwayne Dollgener, Elizabeth Hart, David Leech, Cherie Messina
 and Gloria Vaclavik.** Please let us know your prayer concerns
 If you have private prayer concern please speak with Rev Katie Jo Bielke

... Looking Ahead

7/23	6:30 PM	Bunko Women's Fellowship
7/25	5:30 PM	Table Fellowship at EdgeWild Chesterfield
7/26	8:00 AM	Biweekly Newsletter
7/28	11:00 AM	Mission Meeting
7/28	10:00 AM	Global Ministries Pray for Marshall Islands
7/28	9:20 AM	Loaves & Fishes
7/31	3:00 PM	Movie "<u>Gifted Hands</u>" and Ice Cream Social.
8/4	10:00 AM	Global Ministries Pray for Italy
8/4	10:00 AM	Communion Sunday
8/4	11:00 AM	Senior Ministry Meeting
8/9	8:00 AM	Biweekly Newsletter
8/11	10:00 AM	Global Ministries Pray for Botswana
8/11	11:00 AM	Christian Education Committee
8/12	1:00 PM	Exec Council
8/15	10:00 AM	Book Group reading "Code Name Sapphire" by Pam Jenoff
8/18	10:00 AM	Back Pack Blessing
8/18	10:00 AM	Global Ministries Pray for Colombia
8/18	11:00 AM	Speaker Superintendent Kane of Rockwood School District
8/19	6:00 PM	Council Meeting
9/8	10:00 AM	Rally Day

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

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

<p style="text-align: center;">07/28/24 Service Preaching: Lorin W Cope Liturgist: Mary Polt Usher Team: Phil Difani Technology: Steve Hawkinson Fellowship/Lockup: Rosemarie Spray Special Music: Handbells</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">08/04/24 Service Liturgist: Mike Kelly Usher Team: Ken Ruff Technology: Steve Hawkinson Fellowship/Lockup: Ken Ruff Special Music: Flute Communion Service: Donna Switzer & Mary Polt</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">08/11/24 Service Liturgist: Mike Kelly Usher Team: Ken Ruff Technology: Steve Hawkinson Fellowship/Lockup: Ken Ruff Special Music: Duet</p>
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Council Meeting Bullet Points

- St. John's had 53 members helping with VBS, and had 46 kids attending. Our sincere thanks to all the volunteers! We can not do this without your support.
- July 31 @ 3:00 Movie Afternoon at St. John's! We will be showing 'For Gifted Hands', Popcorn and Ted Drews will be provided for all signing up.
- August 11 ' Celebration of the successful conclusion of 'Let There Be Light' fundraising campaign to protect our Stained-Glass windows. We are very close to our goal and hope to 'Close the Gap' at this service.
- August 15 @10:00, Book Club 'Code Name Sapphire'.

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



Stained Glass Window Fund