

Connect with Us



[\(Worship/Bulletin\)](#)

[Become a Financial Partner](#)



St. John's United Church of Christ  
prayers • promises • possibilities



[Subscribe](#)  
[Unsubscribe](#)

November 17, 2023

**Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors**

Fellowship Hour at 9 a.m. Worship Service at 10:00 am

Sunday School 10:00 am

In-Person, [Facebook Live](#), or [Virtual](#)

15370 Olive Blvd Chesterfield, MO 63017 (636) 532-0540 ([Website](#))

## *The Calendar ... Looking Ahead*

Liturgist  
Usher Team  
Technology  
Fellowship  
Special Music

**11/19/23**

**Service**

**Erin Armstrong**

**John Bartelt**

**Steve Hawkinson**

**Carol Tindira**

**Handbells**

**11/26/23**

**Service**

**Susie Pisoni**

**Phil Difani**

**Steve Hawkinson**

**Carol Tindira**

**Flute**

**GIVING**  
**TUESDAY**  
Nov 28<sup>th</sup>  
([link](#))

We pray for

**Ava Baumann, June Evers, Elizabeth Hart, Sue Kinnaman, Shwetha Notch,  
Margie Paul, Barbara Tretter, Amy Tucker and Paul Van Driest.**

Please let us know your prayer concerns



Global Ministries requests that we pray for **East Timor** this week.

🙏... For the full prayer [click here](#).



**Please join us for a combined Thanksgiving Service Tuesday  
with St. Thomas and Ivy UCC churches.**

**Our special speaker for the service is Lorin Cope, "formerly" of  
the staff at Eden Seminary. He is a volunteer clerk of the St.  
Louis Association and other volunteer roles in the Association  
and across the United Church of Christ.**

**He is also the Church Administrator of St. Paul United Church  
of Christ in Tower Grove South.**

A church I was a member of tried an experiment called "The Parable of the Talents." Imitating the story told in Matthew 25: 14-30, we were challenged to see what we would do with our money. Instead of a varying amount of money, each person in the church, every man, woman, and child, was given \$10. We were encouraged to study Jesus' parable and then use the money in some way that might expand it and give that to the church. As I remember it, I used my \$10 to buy a lot of flour and yeast and made bread. I sold the loaves of bread to other church members, and probably had \$20 to give back to the church. Another person interpreted the challenge to "expand" the money a little differently. They encountered a homeless person and spent their \$10 buying him some food. Some forgot all about it until the day we were supposed to turn in our talents. They drew a \$20 bill out of their pockets to give the church rather than admit their forgetfulness. A couple of people had to admit that they had tried some form of entrepreneurial venture which had failed, and they now had nothing to return. Altogether I think we took about \$1200 and turned it into \$1600 and got new hymnals for the church. Was the experiment a success? Like "expand" we interpret the word "success" in many ways. I know I had pictured the \$1200 turning to at least \$2400 and found our results disappointing. But that was 30 years ago, and I still think about it. I still ponder whether God wants us to take risks and whether hiding a talent to keep it safe is disappointing God. I wonder if the members of the church learned something they still remember. Was it a success -- what do you think? Pastor Lisa

## ... Looking Ahead

11/19	11:00 AM	Cemetery Board Meeting
11/20	6:30 PM	Council Meeting
11/20	1:30 PM	Personnel Committee Meeting (zoom)
11/21	<a href="#">7:00 PM</a>	Joint Thanksgiving Service at St. John's
11/23 & 24		Thanksgiving (office/ECC closed)
11/26	<a href="#">9:00 AM</a>	Advent Bible <a href="#">Study</a> (library)
11/26	<a href="#">9:15 AM</a>	Loaves & <a href="#">Fishes</a>
11/26	<a href="#">10:00 AM</a>	<a href="#">Totenfest</a>
11/26	11:00 AM	Mission Meeting (library)
11/27	6:00 PM	Visioning Committee
11/28	<a href="#">8:00 AM</a>	Giving <a href="#">Tuesday</a> ( <a href="#">link to page</a> )
11/28	<a href="#">6:30 PM</a>	<a href="#">Bunko</a> Women's Fellowship
11/30	6:00 PM	<a href="#">Table Fellowship</a>
12/2	10:15 AM	Meet and Greet, Pastor candidate
12/2	11:00 AM	Lunch followed by Hanging of the Greens
12/3	<a href="#">9:00 AM</a>	Advent Bible <a href="#">Study</a> (library)
12/3	10:00 AM	Communion Sunday
12/3	10:00 AM	First Sunday of Advent
12/3	10:00 AM	Candidating Worship Service & Vote
12/3	10:00 AM	No Sunday School
12/3	11:00 AM	<a href="#">Poinsettia</a> Orders Due
12/4	1:30 PM	Personnel Committee Meeting (zoom)
12/10	<a href="#">9:00 AM</a>	Advent Bible <a href="#">Study</a> (library)
12/10	10:00 AM	Second Sunday of Advent
12/10	11:00 AM	Ted Gottlieb "Medicare 101"
12/16	8:00 AM	Habitat Build
12/17	<a href="#">9:00 AM</a>	Advent Bible <a href="#">Study</a> (library)
12/17	<a href="#">9:15 AM</a>	Loaves & Fishes
12/17	10:00 AM	Third Sunday of Advent
12/17	10:00 AM	Christmas Program
12/17	11:00 AM	Mission Meeting (library)
12/18	6:30 PM	Council Meeting
12/24	10:00 AM	Christmas Fund Offering
12/24	10:00 AM	Fourth Sunday of Advent
12/24	10:00 AM	No Sunday School
12/24	<a href="#">4:00 PM</a>	Christmas Eve Service
12/24	<a href="#">7:00 PM</a>	Christmas Eve Candle Light Service
12/31	10:00 AM	No Sunday School

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

We will observe "Totenfest" during worship on

**[November 26.](#)**

A time to honor our lost loved ones

We will read the names of family, friends and members of St John's who have died since last fall. Please feel free to submit their name and the date of their passing for this special service. Speak to Pastor

Lisa, Write the request on the Friendship Pad, Email the office at [stjohnsucconolive@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsucconolive@gmail.com), or Call the office at 636-532-0540

Also, In this Issue

Spread [Holiday](#) Cheer

[Pastor Lisa](#)

[Totenfest](#)

Circle Of [Concern](#)  
Holiday Adoption Program



Giving [Tuesday](#)  
Nov 28<sup>th</sup>  
[\(link\)](#)

[Senior Ministry](#)

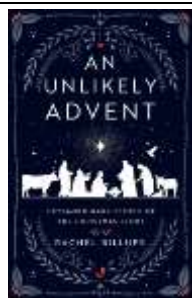
[Habitat Build](#)

Circle Holiday [Shopping](#) List

[Poinsettias](#)

[Circle of Concern](#)  
Current Pantry Needs  
Updated 11/13





The birth of Jesus in that time and place must have seemed like an unlikely event. That makes it the perfect setting for an **Advent Bible Study** titled "**An Unlikely Advent.**" Join leaders Mary Polt and Rev. Shari Maddox at **9 am** on four **Sundays**, beginning November 26. Grab your donut and coffee and meet them in the library.

**11/26, 12/3, 12/10, 12/17**



**Volunteers needed to make sandwiches  
for Loaves & Fishes.**

**Next Dates November 26 2023**

## Circle of Concern Holiday Adoption Program

Please consider supporting the 2023 Holiday Adoption program with a gift today. The Holiday Adoption program provides Circle client families with a \$50 retail gift card for each member of the household to experience the joy of the season. The cards are given out at the monthly pantry appointment leading up to the holidays. You can write a check to St. John's UCC with "Circle Holiday Adoption" in memo line and place it in the offering basket (**by 11/26**) marked for Circle and we will make sure it is delivered. Circle will be purchasing the gift cards. Thank you for helping to support "Holiday Adoption". Your generosity assures bright seasonal smiles with gifts for all! Thank you!

**GIVING  
TUESDAY**  
Tue, Nov 28

**Please consider giving to St. John's, one of our missions, or the UCC on Nov 28<sup>th</sup>. (click [here](#)) to use the form below to give and it will be included on your EOY statement.**



**Bunko Women's Fellowship** All are welcome Join us for Bunko in Fellowship Hall on the 4th Tuesday of the month For more information contact Barb Nichols

**Tue, November 28, 6:30pm – 8:30pm**

**Farkle Winner - Barb Ackerman**

We played farkle instead of bunko last month.



The monthly **Table fellowship** opportunity will continue to be offered on the last Thursday of the month. **The next "Table Fellowship" date will be November 30, 6:00 P.M. at Talayna's.** The motto is "**Come when you can. Come as you are!**" and we hope many will find it possible to join in the fun and fellowship.

This is one opportunity that doesn't need any advance preparation or long-term commitment! Feel free to bring a friend or neighbor as well. If you know you will be able to make it, please go ahead and sign up so that a reservation can be made that will at least be approximately correct! But if you find out at the last minute that you can join in, please go ahead and do so! Come when you can! Come as you are!



# PLEASE HELP US SPREAD HOLIDAY CHEER!

Holiday seasons can be lonely for many people in long-term care who are often not surrounded by family and friends. The fellowship and mission teams would like your help with a project to spread some cheer to these residents by delivering **Christmas/Holiday cards** to area facilities like Gardenview, Delmar Gardens, Friendship Village, and Westchester House. What can you do? First, donate unused cards! Please **place your card donations** into the box labeled **"Project Holiday Cheer"** located inside the lower entrance door. Then, help us sign the cards by joining us in the Fellowship Hall before church to add a holiday greeting beginning on November 19 and concluding on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Questions? Email Karen Rocchio (krocchio@mac.com), or Lynn Potts (lpotts14@gmail.com)



## Senior Ministry *(Concentrating on Seniors open to All)*

### Upcoming Events

**12/10**

11 AM

**Ted Gottlieb** "Medicare 101"



## CAN YOU HELP A CHILD THIS CHRISTMAS HAVE THAT SPECIAL JOY THAT COMES WITH THEIR OWN GIVING?

As they gear up for the holiday season, **ECH** is preparing for the children to visit **The Hope Chest** looking for gifts for their loved ones. There is an urgent need to fill The Hope Chest shelves with gifts suitable for both children and adults. Please bring in a new toy or gift type item by Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. All items may be brought to church and placed on the table near the Missions bulletin board in the fellowship hall **by Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Thank you so very much for helping one of our important UCC institutions by making it possible for the children in their care to know the joy that comes in giving.

For ideas on what to give click here ([link](#))

The St. John's search committee is asking you to **save the** following important **dates** to meet our recommended pastor and attend the worship service.

**Saturday, December 2, 10:15 am** in the Fellowship Hall to **meet the Pastor** and family. **Lunch** follows from 11:00 to 12:00. Also, please consider staying for about an hour for cleanup and **hanging of the greens** after lunch.

**Sunday, December 3**, candidating worship service at **10:00 am**. We're asking all members to attend this most important event for St. John's. There **will be a vote** immediately **following the worship service** and a celebration **luncheon**.

Thank you, Your St. John's Search Team

## Circle of Concern Holiday Shopping List

Circle of Concern is looking to stock their shelves with baking supplies so the families can bake during the holidays and ask for the following:

***Flour, Sugar, Vegetable Oil, Shortening, Baking Soda, Baking Powder***

***Vanilla Extract (Almond and Mint Extracts, too)***

***Chocolate Chips, Baking Spices, such as cinnamon or ginger***

***Baking Mixes***

Please bring your items to church and place them in the marked baskets and shelves.

## Habitat for Humanity Build Day

**December 16th: St. John's UCC Chesterfield**

Each team is to have at least 10 workers. Names to be submitted by Monday of the workweek (November 27). Waivers can be filled out on site in the Lookaway Neighborhood. Please volunteer.

*NartheX sign up*

Email [stjohnsucconolive@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsucconolive@gmail.com) or Call 636-532-0540.



**Poinsettias** are available for **order** and will be placed in the sanctuary on Dec 17th. The cost is **\$7 per plant**. You may drop your order in the offering plate or in the church office with Katie. You may pay with one check but please fill out a separate line "Given in ( )..." for each plant. **All orders are due by Dec 3**. You may take the plants home after the Christmas Eve services on the 24<sup>th</sup> of December.



**Circle of Concern** Bring your donations to church and place them in the grocery cart labeled "Circle of Concern." For monetary donations put Circle of Concern in the memo **Our Current Needs in the Food Pantry (updated 11/13/2023)**:

**Flavored Instant Oatmeal, Kid-Friendly Cereal**

**Condiments – (Ketchup, Salsa, Mayonnaise, Salad Dressing)**

**Snacks (packaging that contains 8-12 individual portions within is easiest for families)**

**Dinner "Helpers", Bagged Rice, Boxed sides (potato, rice, noodles)**

**Baking Mixes, Sugar, Cooking Oil, Shortening**

**Cotton Swabs, Razors, Shaving Cream/Gel**

**Female Incontinence Briefs**

**Adult & Child Body Wash, Baby wipes, Pull-Ups**

**Our ministry happens because of YOU! To become a financial partner, [click here](#).**

**Or Text to 833 502 0657 and follow the easy directions. *Thank you!***

### ST. JOHN'S STAFF

REVEREND LISA HART Interim Pastor [pastorlisastjucc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorlisastjucc@gmail.com)

RUTH NOTCH Dir of Music Ministry [rnotch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rnotch@sbcglobal.net)

LAURA RENTH, Dir of the Early Childhood Center [mailto:stjohnsecc@gmail.com](mailto:mailto:stjohnsecc@gmail.com)

ALBA HERNADIZ & ULISES MARTIR Custodians

KATIE WILSDORF Administrative Assistant [stjohnsucconolive@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsucconolive@gmail.com)

REV. CARLETON NORTON Pastor Emeritus

Office Mon to Fri 9:00 am to 1:30 pm

**Pastor Lisa:** Mon & Thu 9:30 to 2, Tue & Wed, work from a home office, Friday off. ([314-472-3970](tel:314-472-3970))

Meetings, emergencies, etc., often cause changes to this schedule. Please call to check availability 636.532.0540.

### ST. JOHN'S COUNCIL

President/Worship

Helen Stortz

Secretary Phil Difani

Facilities Ken Ruff

Christian Education

Laura Dierberg Ayers

Vice President/Personnel

Jan Boehm

Communications/Worship

Steve Hawkinson

Senior Ministry Carol Tindira

Mission Karen Rocchio

Treasurer

Nora Amato

Fellowship/SJECC Liaison

Lynn Potts

Fellowship/Asst. Finance

Rosemarie Spray

**FOR AFTER-HOURS EMERGENCIES CONTACT HELEN STORTZ AT 314-828-5372**

CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



[Subscribe](#) to our Newsletter

**GIVING  
TUESDAY**

Tue, Nov 28, 2023

## Give to St. John's United Church of Christ



[General Fund](#)  
For St. John's UCC



[Memorial Fund](#)  
(Type "giving Tuesday" in the  
"Note" field)  
For the cemetery



[Building Fund](#)  
For the Building and  
Grounds



[Stained-Glass Windows](#)  
(Campaign Fund to repair  
Sanctuary Windows)

## Give to our Missions

Circle of Concern ([info](#))  
[Give through St Johns](#)

Loaves & Fishes ([info](#))  
[Give through St Johns](#)  
(Type Loaves in the  
"Give To" Field)

Habitat for Humanity  
([info](#))  
[Give through St Johns](#)  
(Type Habitat in the  
"Give To" Field)

Lydia's House ([info](#))  
[Give through St Johns](#)  
(Type Lydia in the  
"Give To" Field)

Every Child's Hope ([info](#))  
[Give through St Johns](#)  
(Type ECH in the  
"Give To" Field)

Emmaus Homes ([info](#))  
[Give through St Johns](#)  
(Type Emmaus in the  
"Give To" Field)

Unleashing Potential ([info](#))  
[Give through St Johns](#)  
(Type UP in the  
"Give To" Field)

Eden Seminary ([info](#))  
[Give through St Johns](#)  
(Type Eden in the  
"Give To" Field)

Camp MoVal ([info](#))  
[Give through St Johns](#)  
(Type Moval in the  
"Give To" Field)

Hawaii ([info](#))  
[Give through St Johns](#)  
(Type Hawaii in the  
"Give To" Field)

Global Ministries  
Pringle Home  
[Give through St Johns](#)  
(Type Kayla in the  
"Give To" Field)

Isaiah 58 ([info](#))  
[Give through St Johns](#)  
(Type Isaiah58 in the  
"Give To" Field)

## Give to the UCC Five for Five



One Great Hour of  
Sharing ([info](#))

Give [through St Johns](#)  
(to be included in your  
EOY statement)



Strengthen The  
Church ([info](#))

Give [through St  
Johns](#)  
(to be included in your  
EOY statement)



Our Churches Wider  
Mission ([info](#))

Give [through St Johns](#)  
(to be included in your  
EOY statement)



Neighbors in Need  
([info](#))

Give [through St  
Johns](#)  
(to be included in your  
EOY statement)



Christmas Fund  
([info](#))

Give [through St Johns](#)  
(to be included in your EOY  
statement)