

The Crier

August 2023

serving St. Philip's and St. John UCC

"Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

Isaiah 43:18-19

Greetings St. John UCC and St. Philip's UCC!

The first week of July, I gathered with two thousand of our UCC siblings from across the country in Indianapolis for our denomination's bi-annual national gathering: General Synod. These verses from Isaiah served as the thematic scriptural guidance for this convening of the UCC.

For those at St. Philip's paying close attention, you might recognize this scripture passage from the first newsletter I contributed to way back in December of 2022 (before we began sharing a newsletter for both congregations). We were just beginning our ministry journey together, and just about everything felt like a "new thing." Now, eight months later, new things continue to emerge and grow, even as we establish and live into familiar patterns and routines.

That's the beauty of this scripture passage: it's always true! God is always doing new things, always making ways in the wilderness, always making rivers in the deserts. It was true for us in December, it's true for the UCC in all its settings, and it will continue to be true each day the sun rises over the horizon again.

At General Synod, the UCC elected its first ever woman as General Minister and President of our denomination: Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson. Our next General Synod will be in Kansas City in 2025, and then following that, the UCC voted that General Synod will be moved to a three year rotation (instead of two). Many resolutions were discussed, debated, and voted upon that call the Church to advocate for the wellbeing of all God's beloved children and creation. We worshipped, we fellowshiped, we learned, we listened, and we leaned in toward the new things God might be doing in the world, and which God might be calling us to nurture, build, and grow.

Gabe and I attended as visitors—no voice or vote, just back pew sitters geeking out about the deliberations of a church we love. If you enjoy geeking out about this stuff as much as I do, the UCC's website has a wealth of information about all the business General Synod covered. I appreciate the gift of time to go and participate in this important gathering of our denomination! Indeed, sharing with colleagues scattered across the country about the new things God is doing

(continued on Page 2)



Church Info

Rev. Laura Mignerone
Call/Text (314) 452-0785
lmignerone@gmail.com



St. John United Church of Christ
920 E. Gravois Avenue
St. Clair, MO 63077

St. Philip's United Church of Christ
10708 Lavinia Drive
St. Louis, MO 63123
314-843-5100

Facebook
stjohnstclair.com

Facebook
stphilipsucc.com

9:00am Services are Livestreamed on Facebook

9:30am Services are Livestreamed on Facebook

Mission Statement

Pray together.
Play together.
Serve together.

Mission Statement

St. Philip's United Church of Christ
is a loving Christian community
believing in Jesus Christ and
empowered by the Holy Spirit

St. John UCC Online Giving

https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithe/give/1303503?widget=0

St. Philip's Vision Statement

We are called to the body of Jesus
Christ, with:

Minds to study God's word,
Mouths to proclaim the Gospel,
Eyes to see the needs of others,
Arms to welcome all,
Hearts big enough to share God's
love with all God's children.



(continued from front page)

in and through St. John UCC and St. Philip's UCC was an incredible blessing! (I may have gushed about how awesome y'all are on multiple occasions...).

May we give thanks that God never ceases to do new things, and that we get to constantly witness, experience, and participate in the new things God does around, in, and through us! Watch for a new thing today, friends. And then find something else new tomorrow. Keep going until you run out of new things to discover (spoiler alert: there will **always** be something new to discover!).

Grateful for yesterday's new, today's new, and tomorrow's new,
Pastor Laura



August Birthdays



Happy Birthday to our St. John and St. Philip's members who will be celebrating a birthday in August.

The following words will be heard on the 1st Sunday of each month....

*“Happy Birthday to You!,
 Happy Birthday to You!,
 Happy Birthday Everybody!,
 and God Bless you!”*



St. John	
Susie Anson	1
Cindy Schallenberg	16
Deana Juergens	21
Courtney Conaway	23
Jason James	25
Nancy Bayless	28
Stephanie Juergens	29
Patrick Hays	30

Anniversaries	
Eddie & Connie Wachter	22

St. Philip's	
Jackie Thurmond	1
Ken Holdener	1
Terri Karcher	2
Peggi Werner	11
Chris Armistead	15
Megan Comstock	16
Sloane Slavik	17
Tammy Knoll	18
Hilda Leonard	19
Debbie Hudson	24
Wally Knoll	28
Emma Mahoney	28
Paul Shrout	28
Joe Williams	30
Judy York	31



August Worship Plans!

August 6, 2023 (St. Philip's UCC)
 -Communion @ St. Philip's UCC
 -Genesis 32:22-31
 -Matthew 14:13-21

August 13, 2023 (St. John UCC)
 -Communion @ St. John UCC
 -Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
 -Matthew 14:22-33

August 20, 2023 (St. Philip's UCC)
 -Hawaiian Sunday @ St. Philip's UCC
 -Genesis 45:1-15
 -Matthew 15:21-28

August 27, 2023 (St. John UCC)
 -Exodus 1:8-2:10
 -Matthew 16:13-20



St. John
Eastern
Association
Fall Meeting
September 17

St. Philip's
Fall
Congregational
Meeting
October 22

St. Philip's
Habitat for
Humanity
October 28



Volunteers Needed

St. Philip's has volunteered to send 10 people to work on the UCC Habitat for Humanity House on **Saturday, October 28**. If you are interested in volunteering, please let Andrea Tugin know at:

andreatukin@gmail.com
(314)566-8633
or [RSVP HERE](#)

If you have any special skills in regards to construction, etc. please note that as well.

General Synod Panel Discussion!

On **Wednesday, August 23 at 6:00pm**, a panel of General Synod delegates and visitors will share more about the experience of General Synod at St. Peter's UCC in Washington. A dinner will be included. All are invited! Please let Pastor Laura know if you plan to attend.

St. John - Save the Date!
The Eastern Association Fall Meeting will be on Sunday, September 17 at 3:00pm at Friedens UCC (St. Charles).

We need at least two delegates from St. John to participate. If you'd like to participate, please talk to Pastor Laura.

ST. PHILIP'S LOGOS END OF SUMMER SERVICE PROJECT WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9 5:30-7:00pm

Join us for an evening of service, fellowship and food. We will enjoy some games and food together and then work on a project to give back to St. Philip's!

[RSVP HERE](#) or to Andrea Tugin at andreatukin@gmail.com or (314)566-8633

St. John UCC's AUGUST SPECIAL OFFERING

Our August Special Offering is for the St. Clair School District Backpack Program.

For many families in our community who are food insecure, children receive a backpack of food at school to take home. If you would like to contribute, please indicate **BACKPACK PROGRAM** on your envelopes or checks.

Thank you for your generosity!



Habitat
for Humanity®

AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED

The St. Louis UCC churches are organizing an online auction to benefit Habitat For Humanity. The auction will be held in the fall so right now we are collecting the items that will be auctioned. Please consider donating:

- a gift certificate or item(s) from your business/employer
- tickets to sporting/concert/cultural events
- a gift certificate for your talent/skill, i.e. handyman, gardening, organizing, sewing, cooking/baking, etc.
- a gift certificate to your favorite restaurant/store
- use your imagination!

Please contact Terri Karcher with questions and donations:

314-842-8739

fourkarch@att.net

ST. PHILIP'S PARKING LOT IS GETTING A MAJOR FACELIFT!!

On Tuesday August 15 and Wednesday August 16 - weather permitting. It would be best to avoid church on those two days. If you need to come to church, please park on the front lawn, just follow the cones. Our ECC staff and families will be parking on the lawn for those two days also.

Any questions please contact Mike Shelton at 314-603-4478.

LITURGISTS NEEDED!

Both churches always need liturgists for the Sundays Pastor Laura is physically at "the other church," and St. John also needs tech operators to run the PowerPoint presentations those same Sundays. A sign up sheet is up on each church's respective bulletin boards. THANK YOU to those who have volunteered already! If you're considering it, please reach out to Pastor Laura with any questions or concerns you might have. Having proactive volunteers sign up instead of needing to scramble to find someone the week of makes God smile (Pastor Laura can only assume ☺).



The greatest needs at Agape House right now are dry goods, noodles, ramen noodles, hamburger helper, tuna helper, cereal, and oatmeal. All food donations can be placed in the barrels in the entryway at St. John UCC. Thank you for your generosity!

LUNCH BUNCH at LILIANA'S ITALIAN KITCHEN

Please join us for St. Philip's August Lunch Bunch at **noon** on **Wednesday, August 9** at Liliana's Italian Kitchen located at 11836 Tesson Ferry in the Plaza 21 by Dobbs Tire Center.

See the **YELLOW** signup sheet on the bulletin board and signup by **Sunday, August 6**.

If you have any questions, contact Sandy Stevenson at 636-333-2244.

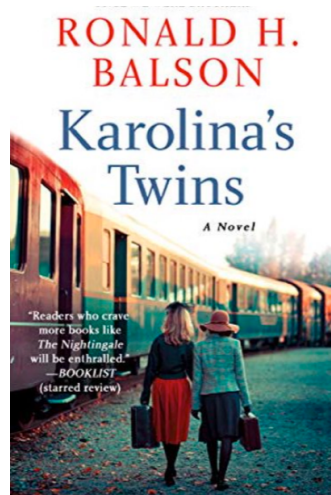
ST. PHILIP'S WORSHIP LISTENING DEVICES

Listening devices used during worship are now available in the Admin Assistant Office. You can find them as you walk in the door to the right.

Fire & Brimstone/ Beer & Bible

We gather on the **SECOND** and **FOURTH** Tuesday nights for our Fire & Brimstone/Beer & Bible tradition at 6:00pm—next up: **August 8!** This is a family-friendly gathering, typically around the firepit in the grove behind St. John. It's BYOB and snacks to share (we typically roast hot dogs and make s'mores).

In case of unpleasant weather, we will meet at Brothers On Main. This is an informal gathering to chat about our lives together and wonder about God's movement in the world around us. All are welcome!



**Sunday
August 27
10:15am**

We will meet on **Sunday, August 27** to discuss *Karolina's Twins*. Our next selection is 'All The Light We Cannot See' by Anthony Doerr. This Pulitzer Prize winning novel is set in WW II France and has been described as a gorgeous tale of soaring imagination.

The date for the discussion has not yet been set, but will probably be on September 24 or October 1.

Books are checked out from the library in kit form, so members do not need to locate copies on their own. We meet after church, share a potluck lunch, and always have a good time.

For more information contact Barbara Barnes (314 843-4157) Consider joining us!



JOINT WORSHIP PLANNING MEETING!

St. Philip's Spiritual Life Committee and St. John's Worship Team will meet together on **Sunday, August 20 at 1:30pm** at Pastor Laura's home to discuss worship plans going forward.

If you are not an official member of these committees but would like to participate in the conversation, please let Pastor Laura know.

ST. PHILIP'S ALOHA SUNDAY - August 20, 2023

Get into the spirit of "Aloha" by wearing a Hawaiian shirt or any flowered or bright colored shirt.



If you have a lei, wear that too! If not, we are happy to provide you with a lei. There will be a box of leis at church. We are asking you to choose a lei to wear, but not to return it to the box. Please take it home with you. We cannot recycle the leis at this time.

Not attending church services yet? We invite you to wear a Hawaiian shirt at home and be part of the spirit of Aloha!



St. Philip's Outreach Ministry

The Emergency contact forms, and the Angel Team volunteer forms have been revised, and copies will be included in bulletins on upcoming Sundays. Please fill out a revised form even if you have completed one recently, as changes have been made that we feel are important.

ST. PHILIP'S PRINTER CARTRIDGE RECYCLING

Thanks to each of you who brought computer cartridges to be recycled. Not only did we keep them from going into the landfill, but St. Philip's also received \$120.00! Keep them coming!

As a reminder, at the present time only Canon and Hewlett Packard inkjet cartridges that have not previously been refilled are accepted. Please continue to put them in the collection box in the entry space.



To all who helped make this year's VBS a success, THANK YOU! If you volunteered, donated, sent your kids/grandkids, helped with preparations, prayed for the kids and adults, or offered an encouraging word—THANK YOU!!! We couldn't have done it without you! Both St. Philip's and St. John had GREAT weeks of VBS for children in our communities because of your generosity and care! THANK YOU!!!!

St. Philip's

June 2023 General Fund Summary

Receipts

Sunday Offering	5,974.00	
Interest Income	261.49	
MPR Rental	75.00	
Early Childhood Center	<u>9,500.00</u>	
Total		15,810.49

Expenses


Learning Ministry	269.63	
Financial Ministry	2,265.31	
Church Property Ministry	5,379.70	
Personnel	<u>7,346.65</u>	
Total		<u>15,261.29</u>

June Surplus		549.20
Previous Balance		<u>17,012.62</u>
June 30 Balance		17,561.82
		=====

June Building Fund Summary

Beginning Balance		6,329.23
Building Fund Offering		372.00
Capital Improvement Fund		<u>(417.00)</u>
June Ending Balance		6,284.23
		=====



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
AUGUST 						
6 Pastor Laura @ St. Philip's 9:00 SJ Worship 9:30 SP Sunday Worship In-person & Facebook 9:45 SP Sunday School	7 7:00 SP Church Council Meeting	8 6:00 SJ Fire & Brimstone	9 noon SP Lunch Bunch @ Liliana's 5:30-7:00 LOGOS End of Summer Service Project	10	11	12
13 Pastor Laura @ St. John 9:00 SJ Worship 9:30 SP Sunday Worship In-person & Facebook 9:45 SP Sunday School	14 6:00 SJ Church Council Meeting	15 SP Parking Lot Re-do	16 SP Parking Lot Re-do	17	18	19
20 Pastor Laura @ St. Philip's 9:00 SJ Worship 9:30 SP Sunday Worship In-person & Facebook Aloha Sunday 9:45 SP Sunday School 1:30 Joint Worship Plan Mtg	21	22 6:00 SJ Fire & Brimstone	23	24 6:30 SP Spiritual Life Meeting	25 September CRIER Articles Due	26
27 Pastor Laura @ St. John 9:00 SJ Worship 9:30 SP Sunday Worship In-person & Facebook 9:45 SP Sunday School 10:15 SP Book Club	28 4:45 SP ECC Board Meeting	29	30	31	SJ = St. John UCC SP = St. Philip's UCC	