

# The Crier

January 2024

serving St. Philip's and St. John UCC

*"But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him.'"*—

Lamentations 3:21-24

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

As I sit down to write this (long after Carol's deadline to have my newsletter stuff submitted—thanks to her, and you all, for your grace in the delay in this month's distribution), it's been one week since my Mom passed from this life to the next. Thank you for all your prayers for me and my family, the kind words you've shared, and the grace you have shown. I am so grateful to serve two churches filled with so many caring and compassionate people—you are truly incredible.

And, thank you to all who shared such generous, thoughtful, delicious, and kind Christmas gifts with me! Gabe and I cherish them, and the edible ones have been a timely source of comforting sustenance. Thank you all so much!

It's a weird season for me, one I know many of you have experienced as well. A strange blend of joy and grief. Life is beautiful, and heartbreaking. There is so much good to celebrate, so much excitement for life's forward tug, so much gratitude for love and laughter and the people it's shared with. And yet, there's loss that I haven't even fully felt yet, the pain of grief that comes in unpredictable waves, and the fuzziness of failing to wrap my head around living in a new reality that doesn't include such an important and beloved family member. It's a boomerang of emotions, and whiplash is inevitable.

Here's what I know: grief is hard, and grief sucks. (I already knew that, and I bet you did too). And, grief sticks around for the long haul. But, I also know that love sticks around \*even longer.\* I know that hope sticks around \*even longer.\* I know that grace sticks around \*even longer.\* But you don't have to take my word for it, it's all over scripture.

The quote above from Lamentations is just one example. Time and again, when the world is crashing down around the people, literally and figuratively, scripture reminds us over and over again that God's steadfast love endures forever. When we hit the bottom of the barrel and grief, despair, and anguish feel overwhelming, we remember that God's steadfast love endures forever. Even in the pit of despair, there is great joy in the hope of God's enduring love for us. If you let that truth really sink in, whiplash is inevitable.

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

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I've been asked a lot over the past week how I'm holding up. The best answer I have is that I'm hanging in there. Hanging in the balance between grief and joy. Swinging back and forth between tearful loss and intense gratitude. The grief is real, but so is the hope in God's steadfast love, in all the ways it is experienced and shared. Thanks for your prayers and compassion along the way, for embodying God's steadfast love for me and my family. Thanks for hanging in there through your own experiences of grief too. I'm here to hang together anytime.

With gratitude,  
Pastor Laura



## January Worship Plans!

### January 7, 2023 (St. Philip's UCC)

- Communion @ St. Philip's
- Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
- Matthew 2:1-12

### January 14, 2023 (St. John UCC)

- Baptism and Communion @ St. John UCC
- 1 Samuel 3:1-10
- John 1:43-51

### January 21, 2023 (St. Philip's UCC)

- Jonah 3:1-5, 10
- Mark 1:14-20

### January 28, 2023 (St. John UCC)

- Deuteronomy 18:15-20
- Mark 1:21-28

Iveta Boyanchek  
 Joyce Brand  
 Lou Cherry  
 Grace Heady  
 Ron Hemingway  
 Virginia Hladnick  
 Mary Ann Krewson  
 The Mignerone and  
 Hertenstein Families  
 Marilyn Milne  
 Jered Nagle  
 Shirley Nottelmann  
 Paul Shroul  
 Lily Swanson  
 Paula Williams



## January Birthdays

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

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 UCC

- 3 Elias James
- 8 Kaye Sterling
- 15 Robert Juergens
- 25 Jordan Maune
- 30 Michael Wachter

### Anniversaries

- 29 Clay & Renee  
 Maxwell

### St. Philip's

- 1 Leo Ruffino
- 2 Charles Zikes
- 3 Walter Knoll
- 3 John Mikusch
- 4 Carl Schillinger
- 6 Libby Coleman
- 7 Caylie Armistead
- 8 Emily Coleman
- 9 Paula Williams
- 12 Andrew Knoll
- 17 Robin Knoll
- 18 Jeff Stevenson
- 23 Marilyn Eason
- 28 Lois Decker
- 29 Beth Hickman
- 31 Joyce Brand





**St. Philip's**  
**LOGOS**  
 Summer Schedule  
**June 19**  
**July 17**  
**August 7**

**January Council Meetings**  
**St. Philip's**  
 Monday, January 8 7:00pm  
**St. John**  
 Monday, January 8 6:00pm

**LITURGISTS and  
 TECH OPERATORS NEEDED!**

Thank you to all who have already signed up, continue to sign up, and agree to serve when Pastor Laura reaches out to you in slight desperation. Sign up sheets are posted at both churches for the Sundays that need liturgists (and PowerPoint operators at St. John).

Never done it before? Pastor Laura would LOVE to acclimate you to the wonderful world of liturgist-ing and/or PowerPoint-ing! ALL are invited to participate in making worship possible each Sunday! Want to buddy up and share the liturgy with a friend? We can help you make that happen! Know someone who isn't a part of the church, but has gifts for reading liturgy? We can work with that! Have a grandchild who could run the PowerPoint in their sleep? We don't care if they're in their pajamas! (Are you sensing the rising desperation...?). Sign up and make God (or at least Pastor Laura) smile a little bigger ☺

**Joint Worship Planning Meeting**

St. Philip's Spiritual Life Committee and St. John's Worship Team (and any other interested folks!), will meet at Pastor Laura's home on **Sunday, January 14 at 1:00pm.** We'll talk all things worship, coordinate between both churches, and plan for the coming months.



**ST. PHILIP'S UCC**  
**GAME DAY - JANUARY 21**

Join us on **Sunday, January 21, immediately following worship**, for a Game Day! Bring your favorite board games and a finger food appetizer/snack to share. We'll munch while we play!

All are invited to join the fun!





# Lunch Bunch Brunch

WEDNESDAY  
JANUARY 10, 2024  
NOON

Please join us for a Lunch Bunch Brunch on Wednesday, January 10 at noon at the Golden Oak Pancake House located at 7289 Watson Road, 63119.

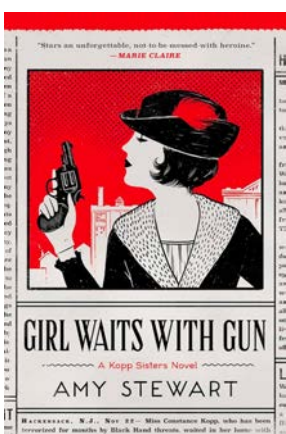
See the PURPLE signup sheet on the bulletin board or call Dolores Zikes at 314-282-0197 by Sunday, January 7th.



Agape House is very low on canned goods and dry goods — all donations are appreciated! Please place food donations in the barrels in the entryway. If you'd like to contribute financially, please indicate "Agape House" on your checks or envelopes. Thank you!

## St. John UCC's JANUARY SPECIAL OFFERING

Our January Special Offering is for Agape House. Not only does Agape House have a food pantry (food donations also appreciated--see above), but they also are the only functioning shelter in Franklin County, as well as providing assistance to a number of folks in need in our community. If you'd like to contribute, please indicate "Agape" on your checks or envelopes. Thank you for your generosity.

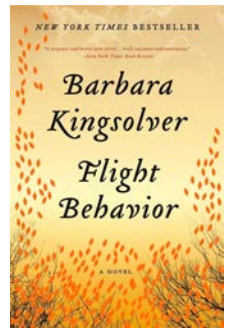


Sunday  
January 14  
10:15am

We will meet on January 14 after church to share a potluck lunch and to discuss *Girl Waits with Gun*.

Our next selection is *Flight Behavior* by Barbara Kingsolver, which tells the story of a 28 year old woman who feels trapped by her role as a housewife, and difficult relationships with her in-laws. Then a miraculous experience changes everything.

Consider joining us to read this New York times best seller and nominee for Best Book of the Year. Books are available in kit form and can be picked up or delivered to you after January 14. We are always ready to welcome new members, and we always have a good time.



February's Selection

## ST. PHILIP'S YOUNG ADULT APPETIZER PARTY



Children are welcome too!  
Join us for an evening of appetizers and fellowship at the Tukins! Bring an appetizer to share and BYOB. There will also be some kid friendly foods along with soda, lemonade, and tea.

**Saturday, January 27  
4-8pm**

[RSVP HERE](#) or to Andrea Tukin



## ST. PHILIP'S OUTREACH MINISTRY NEWS

As you have no doubt noticed, our Hat, Mitten and Scarf Tree is beautiful. Soon, we will be taking the items to Caroline Mission. Totals below include contributions from ECC's Mitten Mania.

Hats 134

Gloves/Mittens 101

Scarves 71

Socks 2

A BIG thank you to all who donated - including the talented people who hand-made the scarves and hats! I am sure many children and adults will be warm and toasty because of your generosity.

Outreach Ministry



# St. Philip's LOGOS

LOGOS is a laid back, intergenerational ministry where families come together to grow in their relationship with God and each other. Every other Wednesday from 5:30-7:00 pm, join us for dinner, family centered games, a simple bible study, crafts and more. It's a great opportunity for faith and family during a busy week. Anyone is welcome! All ages! We would LOVE to see you there!!



If you are interested or have questions, please contact Andrea Tukin, St. Philip's Youth Director, at [andreatukin@gmail.com](mailto:andreatukin@gmail.com) or (314) 566-8633.

Would you be interested in making a meal for our LOGOS ministry?  
If so, we'd **love** to try your cooking (and have you join us for an evening)!  
Receipts may be turned in for reimbursement.

## Need ideas on feeding 30 people?

Here are some meals we've had in the past that have been successful for our group:

- Spaghetti, garlic bread, salad
- Baked potato bar with soup
- Chili & hot dogs
- Taco night! (beef, chicken or pork)
- Build your own sub/sandwich night
- Lasagna
- Ham & cheese, Turkey & cheese Sliders
- Pulled pork & macaroni & cheese
- Enchiladas
- Chicken Alfredo
- We'd love to try your ideas too!!

**If you are interested, please see the schedule on the next page.**

If you have questions, please let Andrea Tukin know  
or sign up below!

Thank you for your support,  
Andrea Tukin  
(314) 566-8633 (call/text)  
[andreatukin@gmail.com](mailto:andreatukin@gmail.com)

## Signup here:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/14C61B45-Umpzn-7SJUxUqOFvPxxykq\\_Pp67FOAsB6Ms/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/14C61B45-Umpzn-7SJUxUqOFvPxxykq_Pp67FOAsB6Ms/edit)

LOGOS SPRING SCHEDULE	January 17, 31 February 14, 28 March 13, 27 April 10, 24 May 8
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LOGOS 2024 Dates	MEAL	Dessert
January 17		
January 31		
February 14 Ash Wednesday & Valentine's Day		
February 28		
March 13 St. Pat's Day 3/17		
March 27 Easter Week		
April 10		
April 24		
May 8		



## **SALVAGING UNWANTED CHRISTMAS CARDS**

Instead of recycling or throwing away your unwanted, used or new Christmas cards, I will be collecting them. They will be repurposed for craft projects. Old vintage or newer cards are welcome.

You can drop-off your unwanted cards in the marked box on the credenza just outside the Sanctuary during the months of January and February.

Thank you,  
Carol O'Shea



# St. Philip's

## November 2023 General Fund Summary

### Receipts

Sunday Offering	7,349.00	
Interest Income	224.74	
Vendor Fair	375.00	
MPR Rental	25.00	
Early Childhood Center	<u>9,500.00</u>	
Total		17,473.74

### Expenses

Learning Ministry	313.87	
Financial Ministry	1,456.39	
Church Property Ministry	6,521.28	
Personnel	<u>7,960.78</u>	
Total		<u>16,252.32</u>

November Surplus		1,221.42
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Previous Balance		<u>18,265.10</u>
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November 30 Balance		19,486.52
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### November Building Fund Summary

Beginning Balance		6,581.23
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Building Fund Offering		591.00
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Capital Improvement Fund		<u>(417.00)</u>
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November Ending Balance		6,755.23
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
2024	1	2	3	4	5	6	
7 Pastor Laura @ St. Philip's 9:00 SJ Worship 9:30 SP Worship 9:45 Sunday School	8 6:00 SJ Church Council Meeting 7:00 SP Church Council Meeting	9	10 noon SP Lunch Bunch Brunch @ Golden Oak Pancake House	11 5:00-6:00 Rawlings Scout Mitg	12	13	
14 Pastor Laura @ St. John 9:00 SJ Worship 9:30 SP Worship 9:45 SP Sunday School 10:15 SP Book Club 1:00 Joint Worship Planning Meeting	15	16	17 5:30-7:00 SP LOGOS	18	19	20 11:00-4:00 Building Rental	
21 Pastor Laura @ St. Philip's 9:00 SJ Worship 9:30 SP Worship 9:45 SP Sunday School 10:15 SP Game Day	22	23	24	25	26	27 8:30-3:00 MPR Rental 4:00-8:00 Young Adult Apptzr Party	
28 Pastor Laura @ St. John 9:00 SJ Worship 9:30 SP Worship 9:45 SP Sunday School	29	30	31 5:30-7:00 SP LOGOS	SJ = St. John UCC SP = St. Philip's UCC			JANUARY