

The Crier

March 2024

serving St. Philip's and St. John UCC

"But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.'"

Mark 16:6-7

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

Lent is in full swing, and we are quickly approaching Holy Week! Are we ready for it yet?

No, I don't mean do we have the services planned, and the ushers lined up, and the refreshments organized, and the eggs painted, and... (BTW, nope, none of that is ready yet! ☺)

I mean, are WE ready for it yet? Are our hearts and minds prepared for all that Holy Week entails? Have we searched ourselves and examined our own lives? Have we been fasting and praying? Have we been studying scripture and reflecting on God's love and grace? Have we gotten ourselves ready to experience anew Christ's triumphant entry to Jerusalem, Christ's final meal with his disciples, Christ's anguish and prayer and betrayal in the garden, Christ's trial and beating and ridicule, Christ's suffering and death on the cross, the time of uncertainty when the tomb was sealed, and, finally, the incredible joy when the tomb is found to be empty? Are we ready for that?

In a lot of ways, I don't think we are ever really ready for it. How could anyone really engage in this emotional rollercoaster and not be changed by it? For some, Holy Week is just something that happens every year... something we go through the motions of before having some fun with family on Easter Sunday. Some folks skip the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, and sail right from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday—seamlessly from one celebration to the next. Often, folks don't want to be "brought down" by the somberness of Holy Week. There's enough suffering in the world already, so why dwell on it?

Well, here's the thing: in the Mainline church, we don't spend a whole lot of time talking about Christ's death. We're not big fans of the "bathed in the blood" imagery. We'd much rather focus on Jesus' life, what he taught us, the good things he did. We're much more comfortable talking about the birth, life, [death], and resurrection of Christ. And, there's really nothing wrong with that.

Except, Christ did die. And Christ died because he turned the world upside down, because he was a threat to those in power, because he was bold enough to tell people—everyone—especially those who had never heard it before—that God loved them, that they mattered, that they were beloved children of God. It's what got him killed. It just may be what gets us killed one day too.

(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

Facebook
stjohnstclair.com

9:00am Services are Livestreamed on Facebook

Mission Statement

Pray together.
Play together.
Serve together.

St. John UCC Online Giving

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

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

Facebook
stphilipsucc.com

9:30am Services are Livestreamed on Facebook

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. 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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To be Christ's disciples, we are called to take up the cross and follow him. And we can't do that unless we know about the cross that Christ had to bear, and why he had to bear it, and what happened because he bore it.

Lent can be a difficult journey. But when you are journeying together, with friends and family, sisters and brothers in Christ, it becomes much easier. Stick with us friends, and together, we will make it to the empty tomb, and our joy will be so great, our sanctuary walls won't be able to contain it! But before we get to the tomb, we've got to endure the cross. And the best way to do that is together.

Preparing and journeying with you,
Pastor Laura



LaDonna Kay Anderson
 Iveta Boyanchek
 Joyce Brand
 Lou Cherry
 Ron Hemingway
 Virginia Hladnick
 Mary Ann Krewson
 Marilyn Milne
 Paul Shrout
 Paula Williams

March Worship Plans!

March 3, 2024 (St. Philip's UCC)

- Third Sunday in Lent; Communion @ St. Philip's
- Jeremiah 31:31-34
- John 2:13-22

March 10, 2024 (St. John UCC)

- Fourth Sunday in Lent; Communion @ St. John UCC
- Numbers 21:4-9
- John 3:14-21

March 17, 2024 (St. Philip's UCC)

- Fifth Sunday in Lent
- Acts 2:43-47
- John 12:20-33

March 24, 2024 (St. John UCC)

- Palm Sunday
- Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
- Mark 11:1-11

March 31, 2024 (St. John UCC & St. Philip's)

- Easter Sunday; Communion everywhere! (see Easter morning schedule with Holy Week info)
- March 16:1-8

March Birthdays

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

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	St. Philip's
2	Linda Rucker	2 Karen Moran
4	Shirley Stahlman	4 Pam Schiele Stang
6	Tom Wideman	5 Joyce Thuston
10	Connie Wachter	11 Dawn Knoll
11	Danny Andrews	14 Scott Karcher
31	Sheila James	15 Frances Kalbfleish
		18 Samuel Slavik
	Anniversaries	21 Jason Karcher
26	Robin & Sloane Juergens	26 Clara Hornung
		27 Meghan Mikusch
		27 Holly Slavik
		28 Elaine Kimker
		29 Kali Hladnick
		29 Shirley Nottelmann
		30 Shirley Illert



Holy Week

This year, St. John UCC will host a Maundy Thursday service and St. Philip's UCC will host a Good Friday service. All are invited to attend and participate in all Holy Week events. Here's a look at the week's schedule:

Saturday, March 23

8:30pm St. John UCC Glow Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 24 - Palm Sunday

9:00am St. John UCC Worship

9:30am St. Philip's Children palm parade during Worship

1:00pm St. John Sunday School to Zoo

Tuesday, March 26

6:00pm St. John UCC final Lenten Book Study gathering

Wednesday, March 27

5:30pm St. Philip's LOGOS/final Lenten Bible Study gathering

Thursday, March 28 - Maundy Thursday

6:00p Potluck dinner and Worship at St. John UCC

Friday, March 29 - Good Friday

4:00pm Worship at St. Philip's

Saturday, March 30

10:00am St. Philip's Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 31 - Easter Sunday

6:30am Sunrise service @ Mt. Hope

7:30am Breakfast @ St. John UCC

8:30am Easter Worship @ St. John UCC

9:30am Breakfast @ St. Philip's UCC

10:30am Easter Worship @ St. Philip's UCC



Let's go to the Zoo! DATE CHANGE!!

St. John UCC's Sunday School invites everyone to join us for some fun at the Zoo on **Sunday, March 24!**

(This is a date change from previous announcements). We'll meet in the courtyard between the Lakeside Café and the Sea Lions at **1:00pm**.

A carpool will leave from St. John about 11:45am. Contact Pastor Laura or Melissa Scheer with questions.

All are invited!



St. John UCC

Glow Egg Hunt

This year, we will have our glow in the dark egg hunt on **Saturday, March 23 at 8:30pm** (rain date: March 30). We've got the eggs (and the blacklight flashlights!)... but we need the candy to fill them!

If you'd like to donate *individually wrapped* candy to the cause, please bring donations to the Friendship Room by Sunday, March 17.

And, we could also use some help the night of—please let Pastor Laura know if you're interested in helping out!

Thank you for your generosity! (This event is geared toward older kids/teens, but younger kids may participate with parental discretion).

LITURGISTS and TECH OPERATORS NEEDED!

Would you like to serve as a liturgist for worship? Would you like to run the PowerPoint for worship (it really is super simple!)? We'd like to have a good rotation of folks to serve in both of these roles - everything is scripted and easy to follow! Talk to Pastor Laura if you're interested in serving in either capacity (or both!)! Sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board.



Daylight Saving time
will begin at
2:00am on
Sunday, March 10
Set clocks ahead 1 hour
before you go to bed

Road Trip!

St. John UCC invites everyone to take a trip to **Branson, MO** to see the production "**Queen Esther**" at the Sight & Sound Theatre on **Saturday, April 6, at 3:30pm**. Tickets are \$54 for adults and \$32 for kids (age 3-12).

Some might travel down the night before, and some might prefer to just drive down for the day. All arrangements for accommodations are to be made on your own, though some coordination may happen once we know who's going and when.

Please sign up on the sign up sheets on the bulletin boards to purchase tickets to the show by Sunday, March 3 so that we can place a group order. Contact Melissa Scheer or Pastor Laura with questions.

CAMP MO-VAL

SATURDAY, MAY 18 - SUNDAY, MAY 19
(DAY ONLY and OVERNIGHT OPTIONS)

Join us for an outdoor getaway and spend some time in God's creation with your church family! Activities for the day will include bible study, group games, crafts, outdoor activities and games along with meals and snacks.

There will be whole group activities along with options for adults to enjoy other adults while the kids get to be kids! Stay for the day or consider spending the night in one of Mo-Val's updated, climate controlled cabins complete with more evening fun. The following morning we will have a beautiful outdoor worship on the lake.

For more information or to register, you will find registration form links and/or attachments in this email. The same forms and information will be found on our website, stphilipsucc.com and available on the credenza in the gathering space.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Laura or Andrea Tukin at (314) 566-8633 or andreatukin@gmail.com

Save the Date!

The Eastern Association Spring Meeting will be Saturday, April 27, 10am-1pm, at Christ Evangelical UCC in Cape Girardeau. This programmatic meeting (no business!) will involve an exploration of all five of the strands that came together to form the United Church of Christ. All are invited to participate. Registration will be available soon through the Missouri Mid-South Conference eCourier (or contact Pastor Laura if interested in attending).

St. John UCC's March Special Offering

Our March Special Offering is for One Great Hour of Sharing, one of our five UCC special offerings. This offering supports disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the UCC. If you'd like to contribute, please indicate "OGHS" on your checks or envelopes. Thank you for your generosity

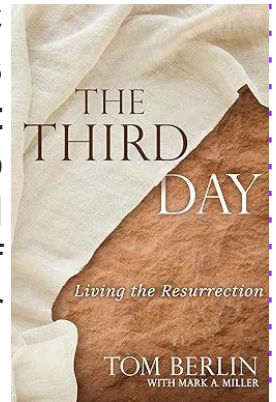


Agape House is very low on canned goods and dry goods —all donations are appreciated! Please place food donations in the barrels in the entryway. If you'd like to contribute financially, please indicate "Agape House" on your checks or envelopes.

Thank you!

St. John UCC Lenten Book Study!

In partnership with our UMC friends, we'll meet **Tuesdays during Lent (thru March 26) at 6:00pm** at Brothers On Main to discuss Tom Berlin's "The Third Day." Let Pastor Laura know if you'd like her to order a book for you. All are invited to participate!



St. John UCC Tri-Church Children's Ministry AND VBS Planning Meeting!

We will be having VBS this year with our UMC friends August 5-9 at St. Clair UMC.

Our next **planning meeting** will be on **April 16 at 5:30pm at the Library**. (St. Philip's UCC will share the curriculum—"Camp Firelight"—and decorations with us again! Thank you St. Philip's UCC!!!).

SPRING MoVAL RETREAT PLANNING MEETING

Want to help plan our retreat with some awesome folks from St. Philip's and St. John? We're meeting at Freestyle Brew Co. in Eureka (halfway for both churches) on **Sunday, March 3 at 12pm** to get those plans in motion. Come join the fun planning team!

St. John UCC Tri-Church Children's Ministry!

We're continuing to partner with St. Clair UMC and Fairview UMC to provide children's programming on the **third Monday of each month, from 6:00pm-7:30pm** (a light dinner included). Please invite any children/families you know to join us at St. Clair UMC!



ST. PHILIP'S OUTREACH MINISTRY

Our food drive for Isaiah 58 Ministries will continue through Lent. Any non-perishable food items are accepted. See the display in the gathering area for lists of most preferred items.

On **Sunday, March 3**, Brenda Booth, of Isaiah 58 Ministries will present a "Mission Moment" with information about the Pantry, and the services it provides. Thanks in advance for your generosity!



St. Philip's SUNDAY SCHOOL & BABYSITTING ON SUNDAYS

Babysitting is available during the church service in the first classroom on the right in the Early Childhood hallway.

If you are interested in teaching Sunday School or helping with the younger children, please contact Andrea Tukin or see the **GREEN** sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

There is also a **PINK** sign up on the bulletin board to do Children's Time during the service. Lessons can be provided for you.

March Council Meetings

St. John UCC

Monday, March 11 6:00pm

St. Philip's

Monday, March 4 7:00pm

St. Philip's WILLING WORKERS

At our next meeting on **Thursday, March 14 at noon** at Virginia's home, we will meet to make about 20 adult bibs and lap robes which will go to the Green Park Nursing Home.

All are welcome to join us. Bring your sandwich, and I will have coffee and tea. Hope to see you then. If you have any questions, please call me at 314-843-3605.

Thanks,
Virginia

ST. PHILIP'S YOUNG ADULTS - LUNCH GET-TOGETHER

The Young Adults group will be getting together at The Armory on **Saturday, March 9th at 11:00am** for lunch and to hang out for anyone who wants to join! The Armory is located at 3660 Market Street, 63110.

If you can't find a sitter for this kid-free event, the Armory is kid-friendly until 6:00pm.

No need to make reservations or RSVP....folks can just show up and we'll be there!

Contact Cara Schamburg at 501-265-9677 if you have any questions.



St. Philip's UCC Lenten Bible Study!

We're trying something new! During Lent, each **Wednesday evening, through March 27**, we'll meet at **6:00pm** at St. Philip's to discuss and learn about spiritual practices of our faith. No book, no preparation needed ahead of time, each week will stand on its own (so if you need to miss a week or two, fear not—you can come and fully participate whichever weeks you can!).

AND, fun fact: LOGOS also meets on Wednesday evenings every other week. So... come at 5:30pm for free dinner with the LOGOS families (and for a light dinner on the weeks LOGOS doesn't meet), and on the weeks LOGOS meets, the adults and older kids will join us at 6:00pm for our Lenten Bible Study together!!!!

A sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board so that we can plan for food needs each week. All are welcome! Contact Pastor Laura with questions.

ST. PHILIP'S LUNCH BUNCH

Please join us for the March Lunch Bunch at **noon on Wednesday, March 13** at Maggie O'Brien's located at 3828 S. Lindbergh Blvd.

See the LIME signup sheet on the bulletin board and signup by Sunday, March 10.

If you have any questions, contact Hilda Leonard at 314-487-7948.

ST. PHILIP'S EASTER EGG HUNT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

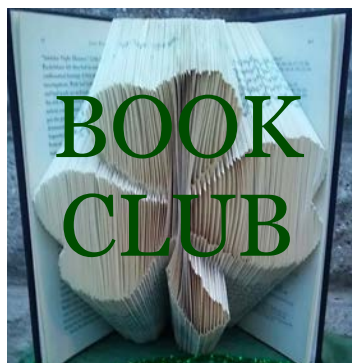
We are in need of volunteers for the Easter Egg Hunt happening March 30th!

We will need volunteers to help hide eggs and run game/craft stations.

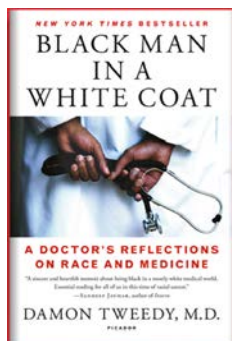
Please reach out to Jordan or Andrea if you are willing to help! Contact Jordan

314-541-4659 or

jordanlewis0623@gmail.com



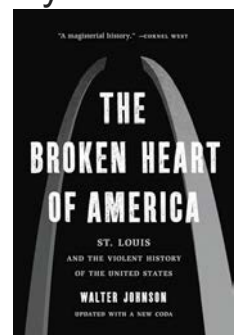
**Sunday
March 17
10:15am**



We will meet after church on March 17 to discuss Black Man in a White Coat.

Our next selection is Broken Heart of America, described as a "magisterial" history of American racial exploitation and resistance told through the history of the city of St. Louis.

Consider joining us! Books are available in kit form through the St. Louis County Public Library. We meet after church, share a potluck lunch, and always have a good time. Having read the book is not required to attend.



April's Selection

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 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

Signup here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/14C6IB45-Umpzn-7SJUxUq0FvPxykq_Pp67FQAsB6Ms/edit

2024 Dates	Dinner	Dessert
March 6		
March 27		
April 10		
April 24		
May 8		



St. Philip's Easter Flowers

Let's help beautify the sanctuary with spring flowers for Easter. Easter Lilies, Azaleas, and Hydrangeas are available.

The spring flowers will decorate the sanctuary at St. Philip's on **Easter**

Sunday, March 31st. You may take your plants home after the Easter Sunday service or make arrangements to pickup the following week if unable to attend.

Make check payable to 'Walter Knoll Florist'

Name _____

_____	Easter Lilies	\$12.50
_____	Hydrangea - Blue	\$20.00
_____	Azalea - Pinks	\$20.00
_____	Mum	\$10.00
_____	Tulip - Assorted	\$10.00

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

You can drop your order form and payment in the offering plate or turn in to Carol in the church office **by noon on Monday, March 25th**.

St. Philip's Easter Sunday Breakfast

Join us on Easter **Sunday, March 31 at 9:30am** for breakfast in the MPR followed by Worship in the Sanctuary at 10:30am.

In order to get a headcount for table/chair setup, see the Yellow signup sheet on the bulletin board, contact Carol in the church office, or call Carole Armistead at 314-560-6658. Please signup by Thursday, March 28.

Also please indicate what dish you will bring from the suggested list on the signup sheet or bring your favorite dish that you would like to share with everyone.

St. Philip's Easter Egg Hunt - Candy Donations Needed

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt is just around the corner on March 30th! We are looking for candy donations to help fill our eggs. A basket will be located at the front entrance of church.

Candy **MUST** be **SMALL** and **INDIVIDUALLY** wrapped pieces. If you would prefer us to shop, Andrea or Jordan will take your kind donation. Thank you for your support!! If you have any questions, contact Jordan Lewis at jordanlewis0623@gmail.com!

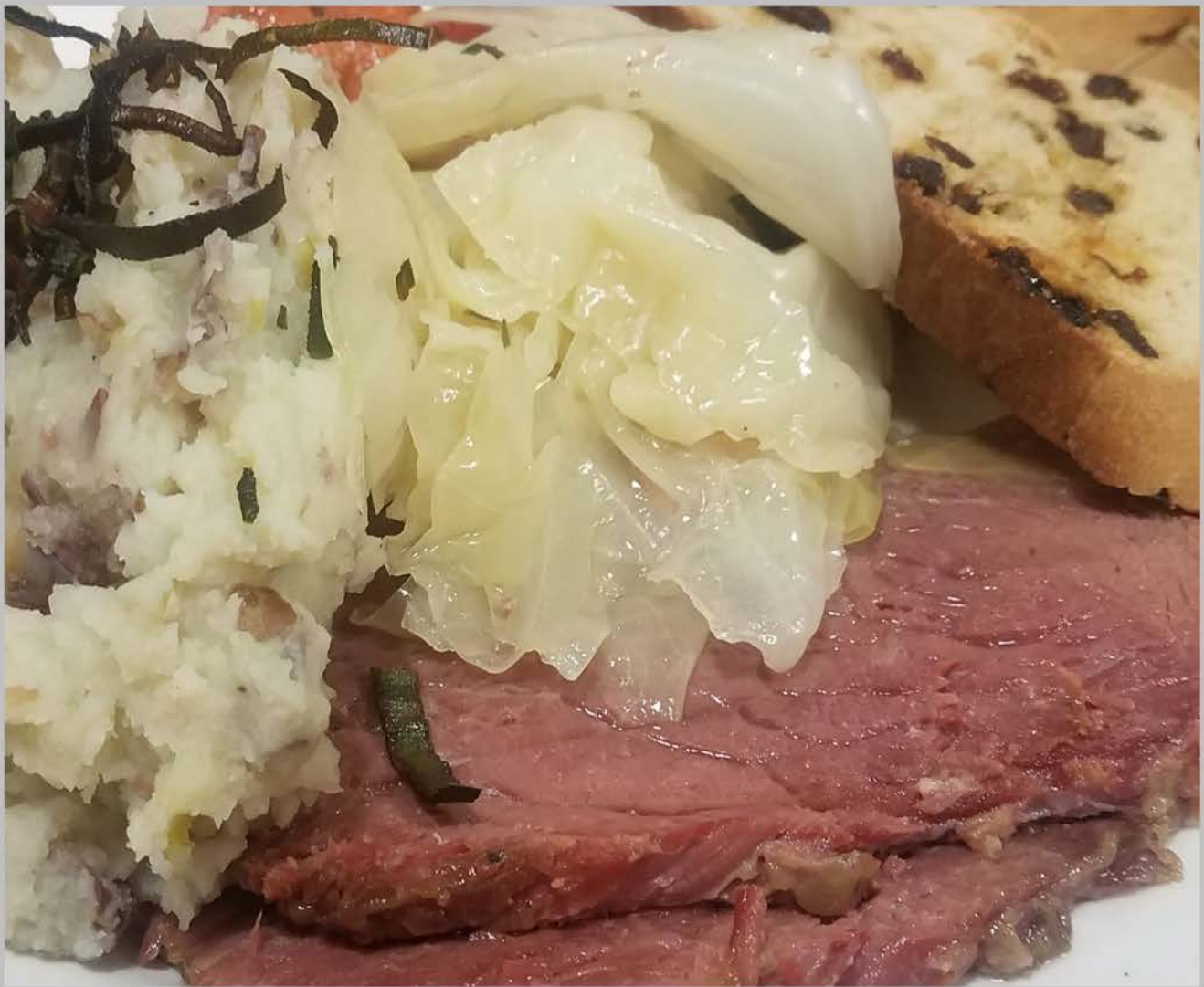
Please join us for the St. Pat's Dinner To Benefit Habitat for Humanity

March 9

Samuel United Church of Christ

320 N. Forsyth Blvd, Clayton

4:00 to 7:30 pm



For 30 years, Samuel and our United Churches of Christ have built houses with
Habitat for Humanity St. Louis

For more than a dozen years, Samuel has hosted the St. Pat's Dinner to help raise funds.

Tickets: A suggested donation of \$20 or more; children \$6

EVERY CENT YOU GIVE goes to support the UCC Habitat Build

All meat and other foods are given by the Kern Meat Company and others

Call (314) 727-9540 or (314)374-4183 for tickets or reservations

GREAT LAKES & WEST CENTRAL *Regional Youth Event* JULY 17 - 20, 2024

glwcrye2024@gmail.com



Join hundreds of United Church of Christ Middle and High School youth from across the Midwest at Augustana College as we come together in the Quad Cities for our first regional event since 2018. Collective worship, service, learning, advocacy, music, fellowship and FUN.

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION
UNTIL MARCH 31: \$200.00

LOVE
is greater than
FEAR

St. Philip's UCC &
St. John UCC

SPRING

RETREAT

MAY 18-19

AT CAMP MOVAL
Union, MO

**DAY ONLY & OVERNIGHT
OPTIONS**

Join us for an outdoor getaway and spend some time in God's creation with your church family! Activities for the day will include bible study, group games, crafts, outdoor activities and games along with meals and snacks. There will be whole group activities along with options for adults to enjoy other adults while the kids get to be kids!

GAMES . BIBLE STUDY. OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

PLEASE REGISTER BY APRIL 7

For more information or to register visit the bulletin board, your email or church website!

www.stphilipsucc.com

Questions? Contact Andrea Tugin at (314) 566-8633 or andreatugin@gmail.com

St. Philip's

January 2024 General Fund Summary

Receipts

Sunday Offering	7,373.00	
Interest Income	276.74	
MPR Rental	50.00	
Early Childhood Center	<u>9,500.00</u>	
Total		17,199.74

Expenses

Spiritual Life Ministry	30.74	
Learning Ministry	617.35	
Financial Ministry	1,352.58	
Church Property Ministry	8,420.34	
Personnel	<u>7,987.06</u>	
Total		<u>18,408.07</u>
January Deficit		(1,208.33)
Previous Balance		<u>19,804.32</u>
January 31 Balance		18,595.99
		=====

January Building Fund Summary

Beginning Balance		6,702.23
Building Fund Offering		777.00
Capital Improvement Fund		<u>(417.00)</u>
January Ending Balance		7,062.23
		=====

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MARCH						
3 Pastor Laura @ St. Philip's 9:00 SJ Worship 9:30 SP Worship 9:45 SP Sunday School noon Spring Retreat Planning Meeting	4 7:00 SP Church Council Meeting	5	6 5:30-7:00 SP LOGOS 6:00 SP Lenten Bible Study	7 5:00-6:00 Rawlings Scout Mtg	8	9 11:00 SP Young Adults @ Foundry 4:00-7:30 HfH Dinner (Set clocks back)
10 Pastor Laura @ St. John 9:00 SJ Worship 9:30 SP Worship 9:45 SP Sunday School	11 6:00 SJ Church Council Meeting	12 6:00 SJ Lent Book Study	13 noon SP Lunch Bunch @ Maggie O'Briens 6:00 SP Lenten Bible Study	14 noon Willing Workers SP	15	16
17 Pastor Laura @ St. Philip's 9:00 SJ Worship 9:30 SP Worship 9:45 SP Sunday School 10:15 SP Book Club	18 6:00-7:30 SJ Children's Ministry	19 6:00 SJ Lenten Book Study (1st day of Spring)	20 6:00 SP Lenten Bible Study	21	22	23 8:30 SJ Glow Egg Hunt
24 Pastor Laura @ St. John 9:00 SJ Worship 9:30 SP Worship 9:45 SP Sunday School 1:00 SJ Sunday School-Zoo	25 noon SP Easter Flower Orders due 4:45 SP ECC Board Meeting	26 6:00 SJ Lenten Book Study	27 5:30-7:00 SP LOGOS 6:00 SP Lenten Bible Study	28 6:00 SJ MaundyThurs PotLuck & Worship	29 4:00 SP GoodFriday Worship	30 10:00 SP Egg Hunt
31 Pastor Laura @ SJ & SP 6:30 Sunrise SVC Mt Hope 7:30 Breakfast @ SJ 8:30 Easter Worship SJ 9:30 Breakfast @ SP 10:30 Easter Worship SP						

SJ = St. John UCC
SP = St. Philip's UCC