As with the shepherds, we gather at the manger, we worship the Child Jesus, but we also honor Him as the One who is the Christ, God himself, embodied with us and for us, the very Savior of the world.

As Christians, we all know that Christmas is not about the secular fluff, the frantic gift-giving and stress-filled preparations, and the momentary glimpses of togetherness, family, and friendships. Though there’s nothing intrinsically wrong with these things, we see beyond to behold...Jesus!

The angel’s word to Mary, reinforced by the angel’s announcement to the shepherds, leads us humbly and joyfully bow down and adore him as Lord. Not for being a cute baby. Not for the pretty nativity scene. Not for the sanitized story of his birth. But for the awesomeness of his mission, the profound reality that God himself stooped to share our human story, its anguish and injustice, its brutal reality...ultimately even to the horrors of his torture and execution at the cross. And in the greater glory of his resurrection.

The awesome grandeur and glory of God has come in undeserved mercy, in unconditional forgiving love, in the fullness of grace. No wonder the angels proclaimed “Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.” The One who “shall be great” comes to bring us eternal peace and unending joy. Come and be part of the story of Christmas—

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event/Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, December 5</td>
<td>Advent 2 Holy Communion 8:00 and 10:30 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, December 12</td>
<td>Advent 3 Choir Cantata “Do You Hear What I Hear?” 8:00 and 10:30 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, December 19</td>
<td>Advent 4 Holy Communion 8:00 and 10:30 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Eve</td>
<td>Carols, Candlelight and Communion 4:00 and 7:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, December 26</td>
<td>Christmas Continues 8:00 and 10:30 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, January 2</td>
<td>Epiphany (observed) Holy Communion 8:00 and 10:30 am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Your church staff extend their warmest wishes for a Joyous and Blessed Christmas. We are honored to be serving our Lord Jesus with you.
A NOTE FROM PASTOR HUGH

CHRISTMAS—GOD IS SPEAKING! ARE WE LISTENING?

Dear St. John friends and family—

ONE OF THE “OTHER” ACCOUNTS OF CHRISTMAS (not the familiar Christmas story of Luke 2) is in the first chapter of the Gospel according to St. John. There John speaks of Jesus as the “The Word.” Alluding to Genesis 1 and the glory of God as Creator, through whose word all things came into being, we see Jesus as the One bringing the new creation. Even the pagan Greek culture would think of “The Word” (logos in Greek) as the principle that holds all things together, that provides order and meaning to human life, that brings divine life and energy into our world. John, in spite of having the simplest form of the Greek New Testament, has some very sophisticated thinking.

BUT SOPHISTICATED THEOLOGY IS NOT WHERE WE FIND OUR JOY and our peace. But we do find intense joy in Jesus Christ, in his Advent and incarnation, in his embodiment of Mary, in his birth into our world, and ultimately in his suffering and sacrifice and in his resurrection and glory. In him, God is speaking. God has not abandoned his fallen world. God speaks a message of hope that overcomes our despair, shame, failure, injustice, evil, and death. So what is the good word (Good News)? It is that—

1. Jesus brings light to shine into our darkness. Darkness does not overcome the Light. Even in our times of darkness, we hear the Word, Jesus, that dispels all the darkness.
2. The One already present as Creator also comes into our earthly life, the realities where we live. We are not alone. The Lord speaks to our head, to our heart, to our hurt.
3. Although there will be those who reject the Word, who refuse the message of God’s grace, who miss the blessing, still God is speaking a word of caution and warning and hope, even to us.
4. Those who hear the Word, who believe, who welcome Jesus, will have the power to become children of God. The Word, Jesus Christ, speaks a new identity and outlook to us. We are the family of the Lord.
5. The Word became flesh, lived among us, and shows us the Father’s glory. This is a message of grace and truth. It does not bring fear. It does not intimidate us. It lifts us up into God’s love.
6. From this Word, we have received grace, God’s undeserved mercy, abundantly and eternally.

COME AND JOIN US IN THESE SPECIAL WEEKS OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS. Take time to let the Lord, the Word made flesh, speak to you and renew you. Recommit yourself first to the One who is God’s ultimate Word, and then to the truth of the rest of the Scriptures. Join us for the Cantata “Do you HEAR what I hear” (Dec. 12)

AND HAVE A TRULY JOYFUL AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS!
December 5

CLEANSED FOR HIS ADVENT

CLEANSED BY HIS ADVENT


John the Baptist prepares people to welcome the Messiah, not yet convinced that Jesus is the Anointed One, but knowing that our hearts need to be cleansed of the obstacles to the Coming of the Lord’s Christ. We hear that call to repentance and faith, but also know that only the saving work of Jesus actually cleanses and renews us. Jesus comes even today through Word and Sacrament to refine our lives, and drain off the impurities that have contaminated us and our world. It is a time of expectation and hope, of a refreshing and uplifting vision of what God can do and has already done in the Advent of his Son.

HOLY COMMUNION

December 12

DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?

LISTENING TO THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

This dynamic musical explores what sounds and scenes may have occurred that first Christmas. These then transform into contemporary song and carol arrangements illustrating Christmas present day. Both beloved old and new Christmas carols are set in a narrative that tells the story from prophetic announcement to thoughts of the pregnant Mary and Elizabeth to angels and animals present at Christ’s birth.

CHANDEL CHOR CHOR CHRISTMAS CANTATA

December 19

SANCTIFIED FOR HIS ADVENT

SANCTIFIED BY HIS ADVENT

[Hebrews 10: 5-10]

The Advent of Jesus happened so that, by his obedience and his sacrifice, we would become God’s sanctified, holy people, holy and set aside in the sight of God, and ready not only to celebrate his birth, but to welcome his final Advent.

HOLY COMMUNION

December 26

IN THE FATHER’S HOUSE


We continue our celebration of Christmas remembering his purpose for us — already illustrated by the only incident from the childhood of Jesus recorded in Scripture—at age 12, frustrating his parents, he is found in the temple in Jerusalem, involved with the teaching of the Word, and growing in wisdom and in favor with God and people.

Sunday services are posted to watch during the week for those unable to attend in person worship. You may also celebrate Communion in your home with the worship videos from DECEMBER 5 and 19. You will need to have ready the elements of bread (unleavened or regular bread) and wine (or grape juice—make sure it is actually grape juice and not a juice drink with grape flavors—the Scriptures call for the “fruit of the vine.”)

WHY NOT READ ALL OF THE LECTIONARY READINGS provided to enrich your Sunday worship? The message each Sunday is usually based on one or another of these assigned readings.
UPDATED CORONAVIRUS GUIDELINES
FOR OUR WORSHIP
LET’S GATHER AGAIN AS GOD’S PEOPLE
AND ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER
TO JOIN US FOR IN PERSON WORSHIP

 widened

† We are still in TRANSITION to our “normal” worship and ask your patience and understanding as we do so. At this time, there are no entrance, social distance, or other restrictions.

† We have learned that the Illinois state mask mandates does NOT apply to worship services, yet we want to care for people’s wellbeing and health. We ENCOURAGE WEARING A MASK entering and exiting the sanctuary, but masks are OPTIONAL DURING WORSHIP. Note that the Sunday School has guidelines that differ.

† WE WILL HAVE A CHILDREN’S MESSAGE (both services) and CHILDREN’S CHURCH (10:30 am service only), so PLEASE BRING YOUR FAMILIES! Regular Sunday School is at 9:15 am.

† The NURSERY for younger children is now available from 7:45 – 11:45 am. ⇅ ⇅ NOTE!

† We are to be WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER IN FELLOWSHIP AND LOVE, but some may not be ready for “handshakes and hugs”, so please respect others’ personal space at this time.

† The sanctuary and other areas are disinfected between services.

† There will be BASKETS or PLATES AT THE DOOR FOR YOUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS.

† For now, COMMUNION will continue to be celebrated with covid-19 safeguards.

DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?
CHRISTMAS CANTATA -- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2021

Yes, there IS a choir musical this year- both services on December 12 will feature the Chancel Choir as well as a group of youth in Do You Hear What I Hear?-Listening to the Spirit of Christmas by Brymer and Calloway.

This dynamic musical explores what sounds and scenes may have occurred that first Christmas. These then transform into contemporary song and carol arrangements illustrating Christmas present day. Both beloved old and new Christmas carols are set in a narrative that tells the story from prophetic announcement to thoughts of the pregnant Mary and Elizabeth to angels and animals present at Christ’s birth. Listen and cheer on the duet and solos sung by our own choir members.

Worship will not be complete without your participation in two well-known Carols—join with us in proclaiming the Savior’s birth and His joy. Be sure to encourage the singers as they have worked hard on learning this music through a transition of choir directors. We give our grateful thanks and blessings to Jodi Jones, who selected this musical and rehearsed the choir parts with us until she could no longer be present, which is when the new director (yours truly) stepped into place to see the culmination of everything Jodi gave to us. Brava choir—brava and best wishes to Jodi!

Come one, come all for 8:00 am and 10:30 am services on Sunday December 12th—we need your presence. Let us come together so that the Christ Child can bring us His goodness and Light.

Respectfully submitted by your new Choir Director and continuing organist/pianist Catherine Burge, Doctor of Musical Arts
CHANCEL FLOWERS

THE FLOWER CHART to sponsor flowers for your anniversary, birthday, memorial or special occasion (or just to honor the Lord) is posted near the church office.

UPPER ROOM DAILY DEVOTIONS

The regular NOVEMBER / DECEMBER UPPER ROOM daily devotion booklets are still available in the Gathering Area. Also pick up a copy of our Advent devotion booklets.

CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN MUSIC

PLAN NOW TO HELP HANGING OF THE GREENS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2021
3:00 PM

Your assistance is needed to help Worship and Building and Grounds Ministries and Saturday Nighters do the Advent and Christmas decorating in our church, especially the sanctuary.

CHILDREN’S CHURCH WEEKLY
DURING 10:30 AM SERVICE ONLY

After the Children's Message, children will go to Fireside for a lesson, game, craft and fun! Pick up will be in Fireside. If you have any questions, please contact Rachael. Hope to see you there.

HAVE TAB TOPS OR OLD KEYS?

Please bring them to the Gathering Area in our church. This benefits Ronald McDonald House.

ONLINE WORSHIP VIDEOS

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO WORSHIP IN OUR SANCTUARY please watch the weekly recorded video of one of our Sunday services. This provides us important time in the Word, a sharing of the life-changing Good News of Jesus Christ, and at least some sense of fellowship with our church family.

YOU WILL BE ABLE TO WATCH EACH SUNDAY’S SERVICE usually around NOON on MONDAY on our church website www.saintjohnucc.org OR Facebook page www.facebook.com/StJohnUCCMascoutah OR our YouTube channel (why not subscribe?)

GET IN TOUCH WITH PASTOR HUGH

EVEN DURING THE ONGOING CRISIS, YOU ARE WELCOME TO CALL OR TEXT ME DIRECTLY using my cell phone (☎ 618 / 566.2480). We will honor the CDC and related hospital guidelines.

HOSPITAL REGULATIONS (esp. at Memorial!) continue to make it more difficult to get patient information, so PLEASE CONTACT ME or the CHURCH OFFICE if you or a family member are hospitalized or scheduled for surgery.

HOWEVER, UNLESS THERE IS AN URGENT PASTORAL NEED, please avoid those texts or calls between 8:00 pm and 8:00 am. If there is a death, injury, crisis, or emergency, do not hesitate to contact me 24/7. I am here for you as your pastor and friend.

Pr. Hugh

THE APPLE TREE

Please check out the Apple Tree for needed items! Your generosity helps out so much! Thank you!
The Conference Annual Meeting was held online on Saturday, October 16 from 9:00 am through noon. St. John was represented by Beth Miller, President and Rachael Bearth. Pastor Hugh also attended.

Keynote speaker was Dr. Deborah Krause, recently called as President of Eden Seminary, a UCC-related theological school in Webster Groves, MO. She highlighted the seminary’s adapting a hybrid model for education and efforts to strengthen relationships with the churches in the changing realities that include the coronavirus pandemic.

NOTE: DuBois Center, our Outdoors Ministry and retreat center (established 60 years ago), is embarking on a significant capital campaign (“DuBois 6.0”), seeking to raise $225,290 for needed improvements at the camp, including energy efficiency, a required infirmary, solar lake aerator, boat house, solar power, a haybarn for the horses, road repairs, new windows and other upgrades at Oak Lodge, repairs at Deer Run Lodge and Shower House, a new Hillside Cottage, and other items that will help build capacity and increase opportunities to make DuBois Center viable for the next years.

Conference Teams and Committees were elected and installed.

The 2022 proposed Conference Budget (spending plan) was adopted. It includes an anticipated financial shortfall to be covered by using increased endowment funds. Like most Conferences and denominations, the ISC and UCC are struggling with financial declines and budget deficits.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVENUE (Income)</th>
<th>$ 701,100</th>
<th>($ 741,684 in 2021)</th>
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<tr>
<td>EXPENSES</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personnel</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Konference</td>
<td>$ 272,717</td>
<td>($ 269,899 in 2021)</td>
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<tr>
<td>DuBois Center</td>
<td>$ 270,318</td>
<td>($ 209,777 in 2021)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operations</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Konference</td>
<td>$ 45,200</td>
<td>($ 43,775 in 2021)</td>
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<tr>
<td>DuBois Center</td>
<td>$ 133,800</td>
<td>($ 124,905 in 2021)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Konference</td>
<td>$ 89,600</td>
<td>($ 104,900 in 2021)</td>
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<tr>
<td>DuBois Center</td>
<td>$ 69,575</td>
<td>($ 43,614 in 2021)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL EXPENSES</td>
<td>$ 881,210</td>
<td>($ 695,870 in 2021)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REVENUE LESS EXPENSES</td>
<td>($ 180,110)</td>
<td>($ 55,186 in 2021)</td>
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</table>

A virtual worship service concluded the Meeting.

NOTE: Your OCWM (“Our Church’s Wider Mission”) designated gifts are used to fund our Conference. A portion is also forwarded to the national United Church of Christ in Cleveland, Ohio.

THANKSGIVING DINNERS DELIVERED

A HUGE **THANK YOU** to Charlotte Schifferdecker (who coordinated the whole process and spent countless hours literally working), the Serving Others Committee, and the many volunteers and financial donors that continued our annual St. John Church tradition of providing 158 Thanksgiving meals on Thanksgiving Day (everything went very smoothly that day). There were almost 50 stops.

Because of ongoing covid-19 restrictions, this year’s meal was pre-cooked turkey in a bag with the other items that needed to be prepared by the recipients.

CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES

THANK YOU FOR DONATING 101

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES!!

Please consider doing this mission in 2022! You have put smiles on many kids’ faces! Thank you!

Special thanks to Christian Education Ministry for supporting this mission and to Rachael Bearth for coordinating this annual mission project.

HAVE YOU RETURNED YOUR 2022 FINANCIAL COMMITMENT CARD YET?

All are asked to express their covenant as part of Christ’s Church
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING GENEROSITY

UPDATE FROM YOUR STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

We have wrapped up our Fall Fall Stewardship Campaign “United by Faith” on November 21 and thank everyone who has returned their pledge cards. If you have not yet returned your cards, please send them in either by the return envelope or by putting it in the collection basket at the next church services.

Now that Advent is upon us, we can focus on the many blessings we have received during the past year and focus on being with family and friends. Even though this year has been very unusual, we can look forward to celebrating Christmas and the birth of the Christ Child. Finally we can anticipate bringing in a new year with a renewed promise.

General Fund receipts for October were $38,617 which is better than all of the previous months of this year except one. Disbursements were $30,871 for a positive amount of $7,746. Year to date receipts are $303,184 with disbursements being $325,880 for a deficit of $22,696. Generally the contributions for the final two months of the year are better and may make up for the deficit year to date. We urge everyone to be thankful for God’s bounty and be willing to share this bounty with our church and its mission together UNITED IN FAITH.

A very easy way to continue your support is to enroll in the automatic giving program. This program is easily accessible through the St. John website, https://www.saintjohnuucc.org/.

Kent Schroeder
Treasurer & Director, Stewardship Ministry

HELP WANTED-NOW HIRING

Have you ever received a card when you were sick or recovering from surgery or when you needed encouragement? Was a basket delivered to you when you had a baby or came home after surgery and received a boo boo basket? Did you get a welcome cup or a loaf of bread delivered to you?

Spiritual Life Ministry and Hearts in Service need you!

1. We need an individual to serve as Director of Spiritual Life Ministry, which is also a Church Council position.

2. We are also looking for an individual to be the coordinator for the “hands-on” Hearts in Service program. This has been ably handled by Sabia Hinkle for many years, but she would like to have someone else take care of directing it and is stepping down at the end of December.

The Coordinator receives care concerns from the Pastor and the church office (by text, phone call, or email) and contacts individuals in H.I.S. to respond. Sometimes that involves cards or personal notes; sometimes phone calls or texts; sometimes in-person visits (where feasible); sometimes getting a basket prepared or delivered; sometimes lining up transportation to a medical appointment; sometimes some other assistance.

The Coordinator also leads the monthly “check-in” where volunteers report their activity. A monthly report is provided to the Council and to the church newsletter.

HIS expresses the love and encouragement of our Lord through our St. John Church family.

If you sense God calling you to one or the other position, please contact VP Dreaux Barnes, the church office, or Pastor Hugh

POSSIBLY INTERESTED IN A JULY 2022 MISSION TRIP??

Have some questions? What will we be doing? Please talk to Rachael!

PANCAKE BREAKFAST
JANUARY 23, 2022

Tentatively the Saturday Nighters are again planning to have our annual Pancake Sausage Fruit Brunch on January 23 if there are no restrictions. Please watch future announcements as they are available.

We so missed having this event last year. The proceeds and matching funds allow us to donate to local charities. We appreciate your continued support and look forward to seeing you January 23.
FROM THE PRESIDENT'S TABLE
FROM MY KITCHEN TABLE

I have a question for you; are you a Scrooge or a Tiny Tim? You know what I mean--are you begrudging the holidays or do you try to make happiness wherever you go?

I certainly hope all of you say, Tiny Tim! I do know that the world can weigh heavy on our souls during the Christmas season. This is when you need Jesus! He is the Answer to all questions. He is the Healer of all hurt. Jesus is our daily Friend who walks with us everywhere!

Let us all celebrate Jesus' birth together by attending services, participating in the Hanging of the Greens, the Chancel Choir Cantata, Sunday School Scavenger Hunt; visiting friends and those who have been ill. Make it a special time for all involved and remember:

JESUS TRULY IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON
God bless us everyone!
Beth Miller President

HEARTS IN SERVICE
MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS
ARE HERE FOR YOU

Activity provided to me via text, phone, and email for October is as follows:

- cards sent: 48
- phone contacts: 17
- texts: 15
- emails: 10
- assisted Living visit: 1
- baskets: 1 baby
- made two “boo-boo” bags for surgery patient

The next check-in session is December 27th at 7:00 p.m. in the church library. Anyone interested in learning more about Hearts in Service, our care-giving and encouragement ministry, is welcome to stop by.

The Hearts in Service volunteers wish everyone a Merry Christmas! Enjoy time with family and friends.

Blessings,
Sadia Hinkle, Director

MITTEN TREE

It is time to collect mittens, gloves, scarves and hats for our Mitten Tree! Please bring your donation of (new) items for Mascouah Township to give to many families in need this winter! All sizes, colors and kinds are welcome! Place your items on one of the Mitten Trees (one in the Gathering Area and one in the Fireside Room) by December 8th, please. Thank you for keeping families warm this winter! Questions? Please ask Rachael.

This mission is sponsored by our Christian Education Ministry.

CAN YOU HELP?

LIFE GOT YOU UPSET? LOST YOUR JOB?
LOST A LOVED ONE?
JESUS GIVES PEACE, STRENGTH AND JOY!
YOUR PASTOR IS HERE TO HELP and ❤ HEARTS IN SERVICE ❤ VOLUNTEERS
ARE ALSO READY TO ENCOURAGE YOU
LET PASTOR HUGH or SADIA HINKLE KNOW!
(CONFIDENTIAL IF REQUESTED)

----------------- X -----------------
SAVE PAPER AND POSTAGE
GET YOUR NEWSLETTER ONLINE

Save postage and paper by getting your newsletter online (email link) in a beautiful color format! Please provide the church office your email address (not shared)

NAME: _____________________________________________
EMAIL ADDRESS: ____________________________________
NOTES FROM WORSHIP MINISTRY

MASKS
The Worship Ministry met November 9 and discussed the mask guidelines for the time being. We would like to encourage everyone to wear masks as one is entering and leaving the service but to wear at one’s discretion during the service. Hopefully things regarding masks will ease up in the near future.

HARVEST HOME
A big thank you to the decorating team for Harvest Home - Jeanette Schroeder, Andy Renth, and myself.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS DECORATING
We look forward to again decorating the sanctuary and other parts of the building for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Please mark your calendars for “Hanging of the Greens” December 4 at 3 pm. to help. Everyone is invited – bring the kiddos for a fun and memorable time.

MUSIC STAFF CHANGES
We are happy to announce new Directors of our music department:

- Catherine Burge will become our Chancel Choir Director and will also continue as Choir Accompanist and as our Organist / Pianist / Keyboardist.
- Will Layman will be our Jubilee Ringers Handbell Director and will also begin a new position for us, as Children’s Choir Director.

Congratulations Catherine and Will.

We thank Jodi Jones for her service at St. John and wish her the best in her future. Jodi has taken a position with First United Methodist Church in O’Fallon.

BLESSINGS THIS SEASON
As we enter the Advent and Christmas season, we hope you will join us in our worship services as we celebrate the true meaning of Christmas – the birth of our own savior Jesus Christ. Our annual Choir Christmas Cantata [Do You Hear What I Hear?] will be December 12 at both services.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

Karen Harris, Director

FEAST OF FRIENDS FUN EVENT

Christmas Gift DIY (Do It Yourself) Workshop!

December 12 from 2:00–4:00
St. John Fellowship Hall

For $10, make and take home several Christmas gifts to give away this holiday season!

RSVP to Rachael or sign up on the Gathering Area sheet by Wednesday, December 8!
(Sorry, no late sign ups!)

We will make:
Hot Apple Cider Cinnamon Spice Mix
Clementine Wreath
Peanut Ornaments
Mini-Chip Cocoa Pancake Mix

All ages are welcome!
Bring the grandkids! Invite a friend to join us!

→ Questions? Please contact Rachael at (618) 719-9702.
Sponsored by Christian Education Ministry

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
WE MAKE ITEMS such as wheelchairs, knee rollers, shower chairs, crutches, walkers, chair scooters, etc. available to our community without cost.

SO IF YOU HAVE SOME ITEMS TO DONATE please let the church office know. Although we have somewhat limited storage, the need is there.
Going to Bethlehem
Sunday, December 5
2:00-4:00
*Starts at church
Drive to homes in Mascoutah as they tell the Christmas Story!

This event is for all families!
Grandparents are welcome!
Thanks to Christian Education Ministry for sponsoring this event.
This “scavenger hunt” is in place of the traditional Christmas program.

ST. JOHN SUNDAY SCHOOL DATES
(subject to change)

December 5  Going to Bethlehem from 2:00-4:00 throughout Mascoutah. It will start at church at 2:00. If bad weather, it will be held at church.

December 12  (This date may change!)
Sunday Funday during the Sunday School hour with Theresea Laakko (in Fireside Room).

Our Sunday School Offerings for 2021 will go to DuBois Center for their Horse Barn.

Please send an offering with your child each week to support our missions!

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATES
TEACHERS AND SUBS NEEDED
Would you be willing to teach Sunday School or be a substitute? We are in need of several people that love being with kids! Curriculum is easy to follow. Have some questions? Please speak with Helene Seibert or Rachael!

SUNDAY SCHOOL REMINDERS
WE MEET EVERY SUNDAY 9:15-10:15 am beginning in Fireside Room. Parents, please PICK UP your children or grandchildren from the child’s CLASSROOM or from the Chime Room.

SUNDAY SCHOOL—STILL IMPORTANT!
WHY NOT JOIN US?
BIBLE STUDY IS FOR EVERYONE! INVITE SOMEONE TO JOIN YOU
No Bible-background is required!
You need not answer questions (unless you would like to do so)

THE NEW TESTAMENT YOU NEVER KNEW
[FELLOWSHIP HALL WITH PASTOR HUGH]

This video-based series explores the Context, Purpose, and Meaning of the Story of God. You’ll be saying “I never knew that!” Bible scholars N.T. (Tom) Wright and Michael F. Bird, who between them have written over 100 books on theology and the New Testament, team up to take us on a tour of the story behind the story of the New Testament.

By discovering things you never knew about the setting of Jesus’ birth, the events of his ministry, the meaning of his death and resurrection, and the birth and expansion of the early Church, you will uncover new significance in familiar texts, and in doing so, the Scriptures will impact your life in a way that they never have before.

N.T. Wright is a well known pastor and former bishop of the Church of England, whose easy-going, conversational writing style makes his books accessible to believers from all walks of life.

NEW CLASS—WHO NEEDS CHRISTMAS?
[IN THE LIBRARY WITH RACHAEL BEARTH]

JOIN US FOR THIS NEW ADVENT CLASS On November 28, December 5, 12 & 19 for a 4-week DVD study on Andy Stanley’s, “Who Needs Christmas”. This is a discussion only class. We will meet at 9:15ish in the library. Come when you can! Bring a friend to join us! Questions? Ask Rachael.

MASCOUTAH FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR DECEMBER
Tomato Paste, Ravioli, Cookie Mix, Rotel Tomatoes, Chicken n Dumplings

YOUR ONGOING DONATIONS ARE VERY IMPORTANT to provide for those who are needy in our community. Thank you for your contributions to the recent Boy Scout Food Drive and for your ongoing support. The 6920 items (1215 bags) Scouting for Food items were sorted at St. John, assisted by some of our church folks.

DROP ITEMS OFF AT THE FOOD PANTRY Tuesdays or Saturdays. 10 am-12 pm, or LEAVE THEM IN THE BIN IN THE GATHERING AREA

NAME: _______________________________________
ADDRESS” ______________________________________
________________________________________________
EMAIL: ______________________________________
PHONE # ____________________________________

YOUNG ADULT ADDRESSES NEEDED!

We want to stay in touch with our college students and other young adults no longer living with parents. Please provide updates, including spring semester addresses and phone information. Thanks.

NAME: _______________________________________
ADDRESS” ______________________________________
________________________________________________
EMAIL: ______________________________________
PHONE # ____________________________________

---return to the church office---
Our St. John Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, November 28th, 2021 after the late service.

At that meeting, the following items were discussed—

- **the 2022 Operating Budget of $431,204** was adopted as recommended by the Budget Committee and Church Council. It includes a 4% increase in salaries for our church staff (less than the 5.9% cost of living in the upcoming Social Security). These expenses depend on the faithful commitment and generous offerings of our church family members. Your 2022 financial covenant is important.

- **the 2022 supplemental budget for items from ELM funds (Endowment, Legacy, and Memorial)** was adopted as recommended. It totals $31,750 and is unchanged from 2021. It includes Fifth Dimension Sundays, DuBois Center fees for members, the DuBois 6.0 Capital Campaign, Seminarian or Missionary Support, VBS scholarships for children with limited means, Archive expenses, Outreach Mission Funds for local and worldwide mission projects (Community and Social Ministry and Missions and UCC Relations Ministry), funds for Evangelism and Church Growth, including the homecoming float.

- **the Nominations Committee report** was adopted and Church Council members were elected as indicated below.

THE CHURCH COUNCIL SERVING WITH YOU

Those elected at this meeting are marked with an asterisk. The others are continuing their service.

- **President**: Beth Miller 314 / 917.4981
- **Secretary**: Kathy Dyher 618 / 537.2433
- **Directors of Ministries**:
  - Stewardship/Treasurer: Kent Schroeder 618 / 558.6475
  - Worship: Colleen Hoercher 618 / 604.0054
  - Spiritual Life: UN FILLED
  - Youth and Young Adult: Karen Detering 309 / 648.3012
  - Fellowship: Dreaux & Becky Barnes 678 / 770.6382
  - Missions UCC Relations: Cindy Layman 618 / 604.5468
  - Christian Education: Janice Doebert 618 / 444.3161
  - Community & Social Ministry: Jody Schuff 618 / 954.8346
  - Building and Grounds: David Miller 618 / 803.2586
  - Evangelism/Church Growth: Lindsay Miller 618 / 623.8917

COUNCIL POSITIONS are limited to 2 two-year terms, so we thank those who completed their serving:

- Karen Harris, Director of Worship Ministry. Karen served during the uncertainties of the coronavirus pandemic and through significant music staff changes.
- Sandy Weyant, Director of Spiritual Life Ministry
- Bethany McQuiston, Director of Missions and UCC Relations Ministry
- Melissa Sands, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

WE STILL NEED SOMEONE TO FILL the position of Director of Spiritual Life Ministry, someone with a heart to nurture our faith and care for our congregation’s journey with God.

ALSO, EACH OF OUR 10 MINISTRIES needs individuals willing to help be the leadership team for that part of our life and work together as a Congregation.

EVERYONE HAS GIFTS AND ABILITIES to be used to help proclaim the Good News and apply it within our church and beyond in fellowship, nurture, discipleship, witness, service, and worship.

BOILER REPLACEMENT

**NOTE**: At a Special October 17th Congregational Meeting, we approved a $68,861 contract with Bel-O Heating and Cooling to replace our boiler system with 2 Weil McLane SlimFit boilers. Contributions are encouraged. Funds will be taken from our Endowment Fund, which has appreciated during the past years through investments.

THE NEW SYSTEM HAS BEEN INSTALLED but is still awaiting adjustments to optimize its performance. Thank you for your patience during the cool times during the past weeks!

BIRTH

**August 5** - Lane Michael Essenpreis, son of Ben and Lindsey (Stein) Essenpreis.

*May there be much joy in these families as they welcome God’s gift of children.*
YOUTH FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

What is Youth Group and why do we have it? It's a way to have fun, get to know one another and grow in our faith! Please contact Rachael with any questions.

ALL YOUTH GROUPS:

All Youth Groups: Watch the bulletin for our next events! See more info below!

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

We meet each Wednesday in Fellowship Hall from 6:00-6:30. We have fun and faith—and usually some snacks! This is open to all 6th, 7th and 8th graders!
Bring a friend to join us!

Please make sure to check out and read your Middle School Upcoming Events page. The acolyte schedule, service hour opportunities and events are listed on the page.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

Watch for our next event! Any suggestions on events or activities in 2022? Text Rachael at 618-719-9702!

COLLEGE YOUTH GROUP

We meet (sometimes virtually) on certain Sunday evenings at 6:00. Contact Rachael for more information!

→ Please contact Rachael at 618-719-9702 if you have any questions!

OCTOBER 2021
Financial $ummary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Fund Receipts</th>
<th>$ 38,617.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Fund Expenses</td>
<td>$ 30,871.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipts minus Expenses</td>
<td>$  7,746.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipts minus Expenses</td>
<td>-$22,696.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Year to Date)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please help us keep overcoming our financial deficit with your generous gifts!
Cheerful giving comes from a Christ-filled heart

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

TREE OF HOPE MASCOUTAH

DONATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES are needed for this 34th annual campaign. In 2020 almost 108 children from 38 families were assisted. Donor names will be published in the Mascoutah Herald. This is coordinated by the Mascoutah Tuesday Women's Club. Send donations to: Tree of Hope, PO Box 244, Mascoutah IL 62258. Thank you.

MASCOUTAH WEEKEND MEALS UPDATE

Items needed this month: ★ oatmeal packets
★ breakfast or granola bars of any kind
★ boxes of mac & cheese.
★ cans of tuna

→ Next packing date: December 16 at 3:00 at Mascoutah Middle School

This program reaches kids on the free lunch program in all 5 schools of the local Mascoutah School District and works in conjunction with the Summer Lunch Program. We packed almost 160 bags in November and we are expecting the number to increase.

You can help by donating food items, help on packing dates, double bag grocery bags, donating gift cards (Tom's would be great!) or by donating financially. Checks can be written to St. John and in the memo line "Mascoutah Weekend Meals" or written to Mascoutah Weekend Meals. Talk with Rachael if you have any questions or would like to be involved in some way! THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

→ There is a wooden box for donations by the elevator. Look for the Mascoutah Weekend Meals sign! Thank you!

HAVE YOU RETURNED YOUR 2021 FINANCIAL COMMITMENT (PLEDGE) CARD? THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY. GOD IS PRAISED.
**Rachael’s Report**

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. Luke 2:7

But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. Luke 2:19

Feeling holiday stress? I hope not. But if you are or if you do, read the above verses. Can you imagine this scared, young mother? I can’t. What a brave woman, a trusting, loving woman.

I relate the most to Martha in the Bible. (Have you heard that before?!) And once again, I’m in complete awe of Mary. (A different Mary! 😊)

Christmas, to me is a bunch of wonderful things; family, togetherness, delicious foods, games, traditions, love. But most importantly, Christmas is about Jesus.

Can you smell the barn? Can you feel the rough straw? Feel the splintering manger? Nope.

Not me. I am just sitting there in complete awe of this precious, baby boy. Humble. Loving. Innocent.

Here on earth. For you and for me.

And to that, we can most definitely know that we are blessed and say...

AMEN!

Christmas blessings,

Rachael 😊

My cell # (618) 719-9702
My email: rachael.bearth@gmail.com

---

**FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY**

Hello St. John Family,

As you look back on the year 2021, and reflect on all that has happened, it is normal to still be frightened, disillusioned, and maybe troubled. Take comfort knowing that our loving God and his son Jesus Christ are with each and everyone of us. As Apostle Paul’s greeting to the Galatians – “We know real grace and peace when we come to faith in Christ, and we know real grace and peace when we continue in faith in Christ.” Therefore, continue to trust in the Lord!

**Fellowship Ministry Events**

The Fellowship Ministry will continue to support the Mascoutah Food Pantry. We will be hosting additional car parades starting in 2022. Please arrive at the main parking lot (Located West side) with your donations beginning at 9 AM (Jan thru Jun) and 3:30 PM (Jul thru Oct). We will get organized and make the short drive to the food pantry. All donations are welcome. Please get the word out and come join us!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jan. 8, 2022 @ 9 AM</th>
<th>May 7, 2022 @ 9 AM</th>
<th>September 7, 2022 @ 3:30 PM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 5, 2022 @ 9 AM</td>
<td>Jun 4, 2022 @ 9 AM</td>
<td>October 5, 2022 @ 3:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 5, 2022 @ 9 AM</td>
<td>Jul 6, 2022 @ 3:30 PM</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2, 2022 @ 9 AM</td>
<td>Aug 3, 2022 @ 3:30 PM</td>
<td>Open</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thank you!

Dreaux and Becky Barnes
Director of Fellowship Ministry
ST. JOHN OVER 80'S BIRTHDAY CLUB (DECEMBER)

December  1  John Surmeier  80 years  416 W. Oak Street
29  Wayne Boller  93 years  68 Danforth Rd East Alton IL 62024

SPECIAL KNOWN WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES (DECEMBER)

December  3  Danny and Pat Schrempp  33 years
7  David and Shirley Culli  53 years
13  Shawn and Melissa Starke  23 years
14  Don and Rosie Taylor  64 years
15  Kirk and Kim Graul  48 years
16  Brent and Kim Bergheger  44 years
16  Harry and Theresa Poole  43 years
19  Grady White II and Tina Setterlund  29 years
22  Harry and Suzy Friederich  42 years
23  Terri and James Hylsky  31 years
25  Gary and Theresa Laakko  34 years
25  Jack and Sandy Weyant  52 years
30  Bob and Beth Zerkle  59 years

Are we missing your birthday or anniversary from this listing? We publish birthdays of 80 and over and wedding anniversaries of 20 years or more. Please let the church office know so we can update our records. Thank you!

OUR ORGANIZATIONS INVITE YOU!!

HAPPY QUILTERS  The St. John Happy Quilters meet on Tuesdays from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. Visitors as well as quilters are always welcome to stop by.

EVERFAITHFUL FELLOWSHIP OF WOMEN invite all the ladies of the church to join them on Monday, December 6th at 11am at Mascoutah Steakhouse for a Christmas lunch. Guests are welcome! Please RSVP: Beth Zerkle, 566-7483 or 618-580-1863 by December 3rd.

FEAST OF FRIENDS (FOF: Family activities for all ages) – DIY CHRISTMAS GIFT WORKSHOP in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, December 12 from 2:00-4:00pm with Rachael.

NOVEMBER DIY GROUP

What a great group we had at the November DIY with Gail Owen! Look in early 2022 for another DIY event. Thanks for all who attended.

NOTES OF THANKS

“Thank you for all the prayers, cards, calls and concerns. The family appreciates all the support from St. John for my daughter and son-in-law; Rhonda and Paul Sweeny. LuAnn Joellenbeck”

“We are grateful to be able to meet together and thank you for opening up your space to our group. Thank you, Creative Critters 4H”

“Thank you to all the ladies that help assemble the monthly newsletter for mailing. If you can help with this task (usually the last week of the month), please let Sherri know. It takes about an hour. The volunteers also solve some of the world’s pressing issues during their work together.”

“Thank you to the Sextons that take care of checking and locking up our church building most evenings. Dependable and appreciated individuals, these include Dale Schuetz, Andrew Renth, Myron Renth and Steve Thompson.”

PRAYER LIST AND PRAYER CHAIN

For critical situations, our Prayer Chain is devoted to immediate and specific prayer. Our regular prayer list includes those for whom prayer has been requested (usually incorporated into our Sunday Prayer of the Church / Intercessions). Just call the church office and we’ll get the word out.
SICK AND/OR HOSPITALIZED

Those who are ill appreciate your prayers. If you have opportunity to visit (being sensitive to the specific situation) those who are hospitalized, it will help them feel that they are part of our caring church family. We are signs of God’s presence and peace in Christ for one another.

Below is our current prayer list. Many of these were hospitalized, injured, or reported ill and we pray for God’s comfort, strength, and healing for all:


In addition, the following persons are in nursing care/retirement/assisted living center facilities. St. John Family – visit these folks as you are able, pray for them, and assist them and their families as you can. If you have an hour or two, why not visit them – they appreciate the visits.

Nursing Homes and Rehab Centers
Aperion Care, 901 N. 10th St – Betty Schanz
Four Fountains, 101 S. Belt W, Belleville, IL 62220-Marilyn Lamb
Marka Nursing Home, 201 S. 10th Street – Esther Grodeon
Freeburg Care Center, 746 Urbanna Drive, Freeburg IL 62243 – Eunice Wahl

Assisted Living Centers:
Assisted Living at Silver Creek, 1227 Winding Oaks Lane, Mascoutah- Dorothy Schrempp, Betty Long, Roger Roehrig
Allen, TX Assisted Living - Laverne Bischoff
Brightly Assisted Living, 649 Legacy Place Mascoutah – Charlene Underwood # 17, Keith and Donna Grodeon # 114; Dianne Knipp #31
Cedarhurst of Shiloh, 429 S. Main Street, Shiloh IL 62269 – Terry Kissel
Morningside of Shiloh - Room 202, 1201 Hartman Lane, Shiloh IL 62221–Betty Wager
Oak Hill, 623 Hamacher St. # 210, Waterloo IL 62298—Janet Heberer

IF THERE ARE OTHERS, please let the church office and Pastor know – our goal is to resume providing the Sunday services online and visits with Communion. Meanwhile, if possible, steer them to the website and Facebook for a weekly video of worship,

WATCHING OUR FIGURES –

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Sunday Worship</th>
<th>Sunday School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 31</td>
<td>114 (16 children, 23 adults)</td>
<td>39 (16 children, 23 adults)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 7</td>
<td>97 (17 children, 24 adults)</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 14</td>
<td>62 (16 children, 27 adults)</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 21</td>
<td>80 (25 children, 20 adults)</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 28</td>
<td>65 (24 children, 30 adults)</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FINAL CONTRIBUTIONS

2021 GIVING NOTICE

For the bookkeeper to credit your contributions properly, all 2021 contributions should be in the church office by noon on December 31, 2021. This will permit the 2021 statements to be processed and satisfy the IRS requirements. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.
OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2022

Offering envelopes for 2022 will be available starting December 12. If you did not have envelopes issued to you, you may contact the church office.

Please remember that if you made a pledge to OCWM (tan envelopes) or to the Property and Repair Fund (green envelopes), you must use the appropriate envelope or make a clear notation on your check or slip of paper. Donations are not automatically split between funds and all undesignated funds go to the General Fund for operating expenses.

DESIGNATED GIFTS FOR ASSISTING PEOPLE IN NEED

THE “HELPING HANDS” FUND is the discretionary account administered (confidentially) by Pr. Hugh and is used solely for emergency needs of St. John members.

THE LOCAL BENEVOLENT FUND is for major financial needs of individuals in the community and is screened by representatives of our Community and Social Ministry. Assistance is also provided confidentially.

WE SUPPORT CONCERNED CHRISTIANS, INC which also provides emergency aid to those living within the Mascoutah School District (and operates the Food Pantry). Requests for help are carefully screened.

OFFICE ADMINISTRATION POSITION AT ST. JOHN AVAILABLE

We are sad to announce that Sherri Daniel, our Office Administrator's plans to relocate to Augusta, Georgia to be closer to family, especially her aging parents, effective December 23rd. We have been blessed by her dedicated and capable service.

WE WILL POST THE POSITION ON INDEED.COM but we also welcome anyone you may know to apply for this position. We provide health insurance and retirement benefits, but seek someone with a heart for ministry and a Christian commitment. We are not limiting this to church members. Resumes should be sent to Pastor Hugh a.s.a.p.

THE CHRISTMAS FUND – VETERANS OF THE CROSS SPECIAL UCC OFFERING

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. Over the past 18 months, the emergency financial needs of many who serve the church increased dramatically. Many of our clergy continue to bear the consequences of lost or decreased income. These difficult times make the need for the Christmas Fund more urgent than ever.

OFFERING ENVELOPES will be in the Sunday bulletin on Sunday, December 12th. However, contributions can be made through St. John (make sure you are clearly marking your gift as The Christmas Fund) anytime.

THANK YOU’S...

…to those who put up the outdoor Nativity scenes on the south (Church Street) side of the church on Saturday, November 27th

…to those who helped as part of the Holy Childhood / St.John crew to put up Christmas lights on a pavilion in Scheve Park as part of this year’s park plans.
PLEASE SEND A CARD OF THANKS TO JODI JONES ♫

We are grateful for Jodi’s capable leadership for our Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir during the past 2 years. She has been especially helpful during these last months in our “fuzzy” time of transition. We wish her well in her new position and in her life with husband Tom and daughter Aria. Their address: 310 Wentworth Street Lebanon IL 62254

SCHEDULE FOR MEALS ON WHEELS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>East</th>
<th>West</th>
<th>Third</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2</td>
<td>East-</td>
<td>West-Linda Juenger</td>
<td>Third-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>East-Jack Klopmeyer</td>
<td>West-Charlotte Schifferdecker/Gail Owen</td>
<td>Third-Treva Carr/Rhuann Caliper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>East-Tom &amp; Cathy Klingelhofer</td>
<td>West-Dan Dietz</td>
<td>Third-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>East-Treva Carr/Rhuann Caliper</td>
<td>West-Sue Wagner</td>
<td>Third-Rosie Taylor/Sue Nichols</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>East-</td>
<td>West-Gene and Cathy Engelman</td>
<td>Third-John Surmeier</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

THE CHURCH CALENDAR – DECEMBER 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 1</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Staff Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Middle School Youth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6:30-7:45 pm</td>
<td>Confirmation Classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6:30 pm</td>
<td>Chancel Choir Rehearsal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>9-11:00 am</td>
<td>Creative Critters 4H (Poinsettias) East/Alley entrance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3:00 pm</td>
<td>Hanging of the Greens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 5</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>HOLY COMMUNION</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9:15 am</td>
<td>SUNDAY SCHOOL</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9:15 am</td>
<td>ADULT AND YOUTH BIBLE CLASSES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10:00-10:15 am</td>
<td>HEAVENLY CHIMES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>HOLY COMMUNION and CHILDREN’S CHURCH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2:00-4:00 pm</td>
<td>‘Going to Bethlehem’ Scavenger Hunt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>Everfaithful Guild Luncheon at Mascoutah Steak House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Pack 43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Happy Quilters</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Building and Grounds Ministry Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Creative Critters 4H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Middle School Youth</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6:30-7:45 pm</td>
<td>Confirmation Classes</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6:30 pm</td>
<td>Chancel Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Fellowship Ministry Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7:45 pm</td>
<td>Jubilee Ringers Rehearsal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Stewardship Ministry Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>2:00 pm</td>
<td>Private Event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 12</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>MORNING WORSHIP – CHOIR CANTATA</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9:15 am</td>
<td>SUNDAY SCHOOL</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9:15 am</td>
<td>ADULT AND YOUTH BIBLE CLASSES</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10:00-10:15 am</td>
<td>HEAVENLY CHIMES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
<td>MORNING WORSHIP – CHOIR CANTATA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2:00 pm</td>
<td>DIY Christmas with Rachael</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Pack 43</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>New Ideal 4H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Happy Quilters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6:30 pm</td>
<td>Troop 44 and 144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>Middle School Youth</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6:30-7:45 pm</td>
<td>Confirmation Classes</td>
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<td>6:30 pm</td>
<td>Chancel Choir Rehearsal</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7:45 pm</td>
<td>Jubilee Ringers Rehearsal</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>3:00 pm</td>
<td>Silver Creek Communion Service</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Church Council Meeting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

December 12: Christmas Cantata

December 13: Christmas Cantata
CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Two opportunities are available for special memorial or recognition gifts during our Christmas celebration:

1. Provide a poinsettia to decorate the chancel area. The office will order the plant for you. We have ordered 24 plants – first come, first serve. Cost is $13.00 each.

2. Make a memorial or honor gift to the church as a spiritual bouquet.

Please fill out the form below and return it as soon as possible to the church office.

_____ I wish to order a poinsettia through the church office.
_____ I will purchase my own plant and deliver it to the church by December 18.
_____ I wish to give a cash gift to the church Memorial Fund. Amount $ _____________

In memory of ___________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

In honor of ___________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Given by _____________________________________________________________________________

(Please make checks payable to St. John UCC and return with this information by December 18, 2021 to be included in the printed list.)
**SCHEDULED TO SERVE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>December 5</th>
<th>December 12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>+8:00 am</td>
<td>+Harry Friederich</td>
<td>+Harry &amp; Donna Kimmle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+Myron Renth</td>
<td>+Myron Renth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+David Tiedemann</td>
<td>+David Tiedemann</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19</td>
<td>4:00pm-David Tiedemann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>26</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+Dale Schuetz</td>
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<td>+Lou &amp; Nancy Schubert</td>
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**ACOLYTES**

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<tr>
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<th>+Liv Aten</th>
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<th>+Don Taylor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>+Grace Bearth</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>+John Hinkle</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>+Lucy Greene</td>
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<td>+Sarah Wilhelm</td>
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<td>24</td>
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<td>4:00pm-Kent Schroeder</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+Becky Riester</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>+Suzy Friederich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>+Kevin Endrijaitis</td>
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**SOUND SYSTEM**

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<th>+Clint Jackson</th>
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<td>+Mark Pruett</td>
<td>+Bruce Bergheger</td>
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<td>+David Tiedemann</td>
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<td>+Clint Jackson</td>
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<td>4:00pm-</td>
<td>4:00pm-</td>
<td>+Bruce Bergheger</td>
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<tr>
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<td>+Becky Riester</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>+Bruce Bergheger</td>
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<td>+Kevin Endrijaitis</td>
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**POWERPOINT**

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<td>+Gail Owen</td>
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<td>7:00pm-</td>
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<td>+Lindsey Carr</td>
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**HEAD USHERS**

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<tr>
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<th>+Tim &amp; Linda Boyce</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>+Karen Harris</td>
<td>+Harry &amp; Donna Kimmle</td>
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<td>+Jane Grodeon</td>
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<td>7:00pm-Dreaux Barnes</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>+Harry &amp; Donna Kimmle</td>
<td>+Beth Miller</td>
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**VIDEOGRAPHERS**

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<tr>
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**LITURGISTS**

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<td>+Jessica Erickson</td>
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<td>+Madie Donovan</td>
<td>+Sarah Wilhelm</td>
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<tr>
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<td>+Eileen Kuehn</td>
<td>+Kent Schroeder</td>
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<tr>
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**CHILDREN’S CHURCH**

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Helene Seibert</th>
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<th>Darci Materkowski</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>19</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>+Rachael Bearth</td>
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