

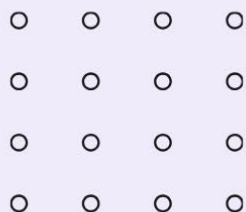
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

2025



JANUARY 25, 2026

APPROX. 10:30 AM



ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Annual Congregational Meeting: Sunday, January 25, 2026, 10:30 a.m.

AGENDA

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. Welcome and Call to Order | Mike Liljegren |
| 2. Opening Prayer | Rev. Jennifer Sowell |
| 3. Confirm Quorum | Mike Liljegren |
| 4. Approval of Minutes of 2025 | Mike Liljegren |
| a. Congregational Meeting January (page 40) | |
| b. Special Congregational Meeting (page 43) | |
| 5. President's Report (page 9) | Mike Liljegren |
| 6. Pastor's Reports (page 8) | Rev. Jennifer Sowell |
| 7. Treasurer's Report for 2025 (page 11) | Jon Hester |
| 8. New Business | Mike Liljegren |
| a. Proposed 2026 Church Budget (page 38) | |
| b. Proposed 2026 Cemetery Budget (page 34) | |
| c. Approval/Elections | |
| i. Church Council – Dena Bieser & Joy Honegger | |
| 9. Announcements & Recognitions | Mike Liljegren |
| 10. Motion for Adjournment | Mike Liljegren |
| 11. Closing Prayer | Rev. Jennifer Sowell |

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Our Mutual Ministry

In-Person Worship

51 – 9:30 am Worship Service Sundays
(January 5 was cancelled for bad weather)

Attendance/Avg

5190/102

YouTube Views/Avg

4796/94

Special Worship Services

Attendance

YouTube Views

Ash Wednesday

48

16

Maundy Thursday

19

18

Good Friday

18

30

Sunrise Easter Service

19

n/a

Longest Night Worship

59

104

Christmas Eve 4:30 pm

85

50

Christmas Eve 7:00 pm

106

63

Christmas Eve 11:00 pm

44

35

Membership 478

(Active Membership as of December 31, 2025)

Church School Enrollment

Cradle Roll 3

Sunday School 24 active of 30 enrolled (3-yrs – 6th grade)

Sunday School Staff 16

Baptisms 3

Weddings 3

Funerals 6

Current Church Staff

Senior Pastor

Minister of Children's Education

Faith Hall Program Coordinator

Pastoral Assistant & Communications Director

Financial Secretary

Facilities Manager

Custodian

Custodian

Director of Music Ministries

Learning Tree Preschool Director

Cemetery Superintendent

St. John's Community Care Director

Rev. Jennifer Sowell Glover

Leslie Musallam

Dana Callahan
(retired in December)

Amy Rhymer

Jon Hester

Ray Ferrero

Rick Skelton (retired in July)

Bart Bieser

Jennifer King

Gigi Liljegren

Peter Coppens

Christine Thruber
(retired in October)

Organization/Committee Officers

Altar Committee

Cemetery Association

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Decorating Committee

Evening Circle

Co-President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Healing Community Board

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Lawn Care

Karen Take

Pat Baquet

Dave Lanier

Mike Liljegren

Jim Schantz

Nancy Fitzgerald

Vicki Donovan, Sandra Weiss,
Sharon Hall & Becky McNeil

Karen Take

Joy Honegger

Sandra Weiss

Pam Waltermire

Kevin Weinacht

Melanie Whitworth

Debi Ralston

Mark Doty

Learning Tree Preschool Board

President

Secretary

Music Committee Chair

Open & Affirming Committee

Youth Ministries

Co-Presidents

Church Council Officers

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Elders

Deacons

Trustees

Brittany Plemmons

Christine Petroff

Nancy Berry

Joy Honegger

Stephanie Vandeford &

Leslie Musallam

Mike Liljegren

Paul Ham

Ginger Schantz

Jon Hester

Nancy Berry - Chair

Ginger Schantz

John Green

Abe Cyrus

Jon Hester - Chair

Tammy Craig

Mike Liljegren

Loretta Graham

Paul Ham - Chair

Alan Harbers

Jim Achenbach

Anita Whittington

Senior Pastor's Report

As an active church, this past year was a busy one for St. John UCC. We had a lot of transitions, and the coming year poises us for some wonderful growth putting our Strategic Plan into action. In many ways, the theme of our year might be "Passing the Mantle," as we said goodbye to beloved staff and welcomed new ones.

Our Associate Pastor Search Committee started their work, putting together a job description and profile to find the person God is calling to serve St. John. After a lot of work, the committee brought their recommendation to Council, then on to the congregation, and Rev. Miranda Moeller was extended a call to begin as our Associate Pastor. She will begin her ministry in February 2026.

Our beloved church custodian Rick Skelton retired after 40 years of ministry. As much as we are sad to lose his presence every day at the church, it's great to see Rick enjoying himself as a Faith Walker each week! Filling his role led the church to hire two new employees, Eddie Lewis and Carl Edwards. Eddie's years of experience has brought a new sparkle to our floors, and we all enjoy working with him. As Eddie attends his own church on Sundays, the committee also found Carl Edwards who works on Sundays and as needed. Carl and his family have already become a welcomed part of Sunday worship, and his young daughter participates in some of our programming.

Dana Callahan also retired this year, passing the mantle of her many ministries to others. Church Member (and Council member) John Green has joined Kristine Cleland to cover the SOS food pantry duties. I've been working with the Faith Walkers, thanks to help from Paul Werner and others. And we have hired Mandi Voegelé to lead the Homework Help and Hoops program. All of us have big shoes to fill, but everyone involved is excited and committed to making these programs a continued success.

As much as we are excited about our new staff and all of the new opportunities on the horizon for St. John, we remember these transitions are also accompanied by a sense of loss. We would not be a beloved community if we did not feel these transitions at our core—changes in staff and the loss of beloved members who were leaders in the church. Knowing them and experiencing their ministries shapes us deeply, and we honor their legacies by continuing to work for this community they loved. Here on earth and beyond, we are all a part of the ever-living and ever-lasting Body of Christ. Living into that truth will help St. John UCC continue to be the church in the heart of the community, with the community at heart.

In service and love, Rev. Jennifer



President's Report

I am wrapping up my 6th year on the Church Council – it's hard to believe that 6 years have gone by. However, when I think about the changes that have occurred at St. John during that time, it seems like quite a bit of time has slipped away. I am thankful for the support that the wonderful people of St. John have given me and my family since we moved here in 2003. And, I am grateful for the congregation to entrust me as the President of the congregation this past year. It has been my honor to serve.

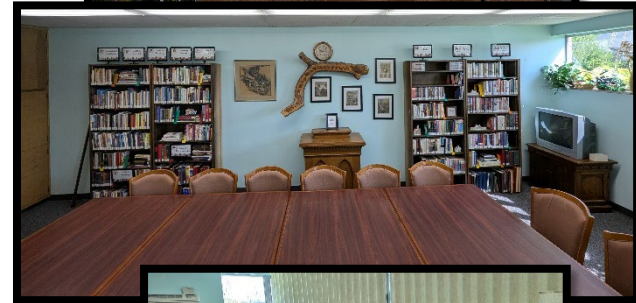
Thank you, also, to the other members of the 2025 Church Council. They are... Jim Achenbach, Nancy Berry (Head Elder), Tammy Craig, Abe Cyrus, Loretta Graham, John Green, Paul Ham (Vice-President, Head Trustee), Alan Harbers, Jon Hester (Treasurer, Head Deacon), Ginger Schantz (Secretary), and Anita Whittington.

To say it was a busy year for St. John would be an understatement! Some highlights from 2025 include:

- **A New Associate Pastor** – By far the most exciting news of the year came from the Associate Pastor Search Committee. The committee's hard work paid off as we concluded our search for a new Associate Pastor by calling Rev. Miranda Moeller during a congregational meeting on Nov. 9th. Rev. Moeller and her wife, Courtney, will join St. John in February. Thank you to the committee members – Abe Cyrus (co-chair), Joy Honegger (co-chair), Pastor Jenn, Amber Gassmann, John Green, Neely Gunn, Andrea Molkenbur, Rick Ralston, and Mary Jane Soelke.
- **Retirements** – Two long-standing members of the church staff retired in 2025...
 - Dana Callahan retired at the end of 2025 as the Outreach Director after 20 years of service to St. John. Her work with HHH, the Faith Walkers, SOS, Christian Education and many other facets of St. John life will be missed. In November, a celebration and reception was held in Dana's honor. Thank you, Dana!
 - Rick Skelton retired in June as the Assistant Facilities Manager after 40 years of service to St. John – 40 years! Rick will be missed in the many capacities in which he served the church over the years. But, he will not be missed in the building during the week or on Sundays due to his frequent attendance with Janet at the Faith Walkers and during Sunday morning worship. A celebration and reception was held in Rick's honor in May. Thank you, Rick!



- **Members Passing** – In 2025 St. John has had to say goodbye to members who have joined the countless others in our Eternal Home. Among those passing was Clyde Donovan, who served the community and the people of St. John faithfully his entire life. Clyde and all those who were called Home will be missed.
- **Church History on Display** – Funds from the Skelton Memorial were used to design and purchase a display case that will be used to display artifacts and memorabilia that tell the story of our church's history. The display case will be located in the foyer between Faith Hall and the church office. Thank you to the Skelton family for seeing this project through.
- **Solar Panels Up and Running** – The hard work of researching, financing, and installing the solar panels was concluded. The solar panels have had the desired effect of drastically reducing our energy costs during 2025 – and will continue to do so for many years to come.
- **A New Parlor** – In early summer, the Parlor was moved to the 1st floor of the Education Building in order to accommodate the consolidation of the Learning Tree Preschool classrooms on the 2nd floor.
- **St. John Community Care Director** – Christine Thurber resigned as the Director of St. John Community Care in order to accept another position. Christine served Community Care for 4 years. Thank you, Christine.
- **Welcome Aboard!** – Three new members were added to the St. John Staff in 2025...
 - Eddie Lewis was hired in June as the Assistant Facilities Manager
 - Carl Edwards was hired in June as the Church Custodian
 - Mandi Voegelé was hired in November as the HHH Program Director Welcome to St. John!
- **Long Rangers** – the Long-Range Planning Committee spent 2024 in discernment and planning. In 2025, those plans were put into action. Highlights of the initiatives put forth by the Committee include... hiring our new Associate Pastor, reigniting our commitment to the outreach ministries of St. John, working to fully fund our outreach ministries with the generous stewardship of the St. John members, and securing grants that supplement member giving so that our outreach ministries can continue to thrive and grow.



Personally, and on behalf of the Church Council and the entire St. John congregation, I would like to thank our Senior Pastor Jenn Sowell, our Pastoral Assistant (and church lynchpin) Amy Rhymer, our wonderful Music Director Jenny King, our Facilities Manager Ray Ferrero, and our Preschool and Community Care Custodian Bart Beiser. These committed people make this church work. Thank you for all that you do to make St. John go!

Mike Liljegren
2025 Church Council President
St. John United Church of Christ

Treasurers Report

Overview of 2025 Financial Results

The church concluded 2025 in a **financially balanced position**, but it is important to note that this outcome was **significantly aided by grant funding received during the year**.

After accounting for operating revenues and expenses, and adjusting for grants and fund transfers, the General Fund finished the year with a **small net deficit of approximately \$1,500**. This near break-even result reflects both disciplined financial management and the meaningful impact of **approximately \$29,500 in grants**, which materially improved the outcome.

Without these grants, the year-end result would have shown a more noticeable operating shortfall. The grants therefore played an important role in stabilizing the church's finances during 2025.

At the top of the financial table included with this report, total **2025 actual revenues** are shown alongside the **2025 budget**. At the bottom of the table, the result is calculated by subtracting expenses from revenues and then adjusting for grants received and transfers between funds. This final line captures the true operating result for the year.

Revenues

Overall Revenue Performance

Total revenues for 2025 finished **below the approved budget**, with the shortfall concentrated primarily in envelope giving. While this trend persisted through much of the year, the gap narrowed significantly in the final quarter due to stronger seasonal giving and improved performance in several non-envelope categories.

The revenue section of the financial table highlights both the strengths and challenges experienced during the year.

Envelope Giving

Envelope giving remains the largest single source of revenue for the church. In 2025, envelope contributions finished **below budget**, reflecting broader participation and timing dynamics seen throughout the year. This shortfall was the primary driver of the overall revenue variance.

Despite this, giving patterns improved late in the year, particularly in November and December, helping stabilize the church's financial position by year-end.

Special Offerings, Memorials, and Donations

Special offerings and memorials performed close to expectations overall, with memorials exceeding budget due to their inherently unpredictable nature. Donations outside of envelopes provided important supplemental support and helped offset part of the envelope shortfall.

Fundraising and special events, as shown in the table, generally performed **at or above budget**, contributing positively to total revenues.

Reimbursements and Other Receipts

Reimbursements and other receipts finished **ahead of budget**, reflecting strong cost recovery and ancillary income streams. These categories played a meaningful role in narrowing the revenue gap and supporting overall financial stability.

Expenses

Overall Expense Performance

Total expenses for 2025 finished **well below the approved budget**, producing significant savings that largely offset the revenue shortfall. Expense discipline was the single most important factor enabling the church to finish the year close to break-even.

The expense section of the financial table details both recurring operating costs and one-time items.

Personnel Expenses

Personnel costs—including salaries and benefits—were **substantially below budget** in 2025. The primary reason for this variance was the Associate Pastor position remaining unfilled for the year, resulting in sustained savings across salary and benefit lines.

These savings were structural rather than temporary and provided financial flexibility throughout the year.

Facilities and Utilities

Facility-related expenses exceeded budget in certain maintenance categories due to higher repair and upkeep costs. However, these increases were largely one-time in nature.

At the same time, utility expenses were meaningfully reduced following the installation of the solar system early in the year. The combination of higher maintenance costs and lower utility costs resulted in a manageable net impact on the overall facilities budget.

Programs and Other Expenses

Program expenses and other operating costs generally finished **near or below budget**, reflecting careful pacing of spending and ongoing cost awareness across ministries.

Net Operating Result and Adjustments

As shown at the bottom of the financial table, the net operating result for 2025 is calculated in several steps and reflects both operating activity and fund movements:

1. Total revenues are compared to total expenses to determine the operating surplus or deficit.
2. **Grant income totaling approximately \$29,500** is then applied, materially reducing the operating shortfall.
3. A budgeted shortfall in the **HHH and Summer Camp Program** was addressed through the use of a designated restricted fund.

Specifically, **\$15,768** was transferred from the **Killinger Fund to the General Fund** to cover the program shortfall, consistent with the purpose of that restricted fund. After this transfer, the General Fund showed a **surplus of \$14,313**, which was subsequently **transferred to the Legacy Fund**.

The net effect of these transfers was **not to increase or decrease overall church resources**, but to **remove the original restriction on the funds**, allowing them to be repurposed for long-term use through the Legacy Fund.

After accounting for revenues, expenses, grants, and fund transfers, the church finished 2025 with a **very small net deficit**, effectively ending the year in balance.

Key Financial Themes from 2025

Several themes emerge from the 2025 financial results:

- Revenue pressures were concentrated in envelope giving rather than across all categories.
- Expense savings—particularly in personnel—played a decisive role in the final outcome.
- **Grant funding of approximately \$29,500 materially improved the year-end result.**
- **Restricted funds were used as intended to support ministry programs, and remaining balances were repositioned for long-term use.**
- Solar-related utility savings provided a meaningful and ongoing financial benefit.
- Strong year-end giving materially changed the year's final result.

Closing Summary

The 2025 financial year demonstrated the church's ability to respond thoughtfully and responsibly to changing conditions. While revenues did not fully meet budget expectations and operating expenses exceeded revenues before adjustments, **grant funding and the appropriate use of restricted funds played a key role in closing the gap.**

The transfer of **\$15,768 from the Killinger Fund** addressed a known, budgeted shortfall in ministry programming, and the subsequent transfer of the remaining **\$14,313 surplus to the Legacy Fund** removed prior restrictions while preserving the church's overall financial position.

Combined with disciplined expense management and strong year-end support from the congregation, these actions allowed the church to finish the year in a stable and transparent financial position.

The financial table included with this report provides the detailed numerical support for this narrative. Together, the table and this report offer a complete and clear view of the church's financial performance for 2025.

Overview of Financial Assets

This report summarizes the church's financial assets as of year-end and accompanies the attached Financial Assets table included with the Annual Meeting materials. Consistent with the 2026 Budget and 2025 Financial Results reports, this narrative highlights structure, purpose, and significant activity during the year, while detailed balances are presented in the table.

Financial Position at Year-End

At year-end, the church held approximately **\$402,000 in Council-controlled operating funds**, which represent the primary financial resources available for ongoing ministry and day-to-day operations. In addition, designated and restricted balances support long-term sustainability and donor-directed purposes.

Key balances reflected in the attached Financial Assets table include:

- **Council-Controlled / Operating Funds:** approximately **\$402,000**
- **Legacy Fund:** approximately **\$385,000**
- **Fund-A-Need:** approximately **\$18,000**
- **Total Restricted Funds:** approximately **\$403,000**

These balances incorporate normal operating activity during the year as well as specific transactions related to the solar project and approved fund transfers.

Solar Project and Major Financial Activity

The most significant asset-related activity during the year was the completion of the church's solar project, which had a total installed cost of **\$395,100**.

Funds received from the State of Illinois were applied toward the project financing. Using these proceeds, along with approximately **\$125,000 of church funds**, the church paid off the remaining loan associated with the solar installation. Approximately **\$25,000 of interest** was incurred in connection with the loan payoff.

The church is awaiting reimbursement from the federal government related to the solar project. Once these funds are received, leadership will determine the appropriate treatment, which may include restoring operating or reserve balances or supporting future or current ministry needs. The final disposition will depend on the amount and timing of the federal reimbursement.

Summary

The church's financial assets remain well-organized and appropriately segregated by purpose. Operating funds of approximately \$402,000 provide stability for ongoing ministry, while the Legacy Fund, Fund-A-Need, restricted funds, and organization funds support long-term sustainability and donor-directed activities.

Completion of the \$395,100 solar project, early retirement of the related loan using Illinois program funds and church resources, and the pending federal reimbursement were the primary financial asset developments during the year. The attached Financial Assets table provides detailed balances and should be reviewed alongside this narrative.

Financial Assets			
	12/31/25	12/31/24	Change
General Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Legacy Fund	\$ 384,530	\$ 369,335	\$ 15,194
Fund A Need	\$ 17,525	\$ 6,470	\$ 11,055
Council Controlled Funds	\$ 402,055	\$ 375,805	\$ 26,249
Memorials	\$ 16,880	\$ 15,470	\$ 1,410
Killinger Faith Hall Fund	\$ 173,532	\$ 189,300	\$ (15,768)
Koelling Scholarship Fund	\$ 15,224	\$ 15,724	\$ (500)
Zeisel Evening Circle Fund	\$ 37,408	\$ 37,136	\$ 272
Zeisel Scouting Fund	\$ 31,530	\$ 31,653	\$ (123)
Grants	\$ 32,200	\$ -	\$ 32,200
Restricted Funds	\$ 306,775	\$ 289,283	\$ 17,492
Solar Project	\$ (125,003)		\$ (125,003)
Organization Fund	\$ 379	\$ -	\$ 354
Evening Circle Fund	\$ 7,257	\$ 5,565	\$ 1,692
Mens Fellowship Fund	\$ 1,967	\$ 1,967	\$ -
Music Makers Fund	\$ 1,534	\$ 1,534	\$ -
Organization Funds	\$ 11,136	\$ 9,066	\$ 2,045
Total Current Assets	\$ 594,962	\$ 674,154	\$ (79,217)
Solar Loan	\$ -	\$ (380,660)	\$ (202,456)

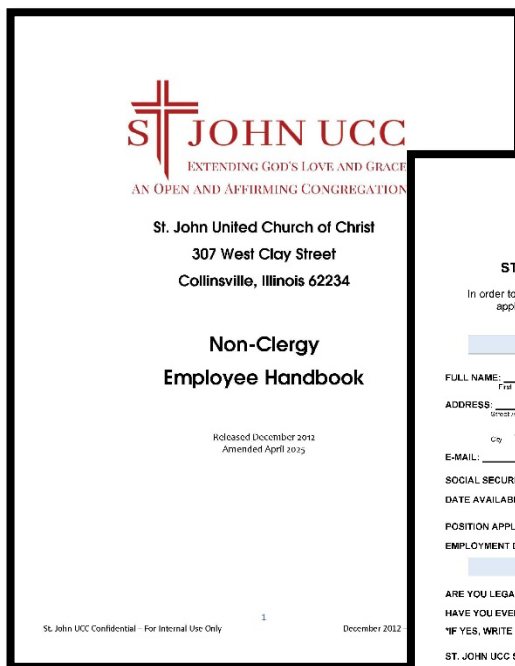
Elders Report

Elders are the Council members entrusted to deal with personnel matters within the church. 2025 Elders were Nancy Berry, Chair, Ginger Schantz, Abe Cyrus, and John Green in collaboration with Pastor Jenn.

The Elders addressed or accomplished the following issues during 2025:

- Met with an employment attorney Tara Kuchar to get her opinion on whether divisions of the church can legally offer different employee benefits. She concluded that different benefits may be offered if there are legitimate business reasons to do so. This is justified in part because the divisions (Learning Tree, Community Care, Cemetery, and church) operate independently under the umbrella of the church. Ms. Kuchar provided her expertise pro bono.
- Updated job descriptions for core church staff and put them into a consistent format.
- Reviewed and updated the Employee Handbook and distributed it to core church staff and directors of Learning Tree, Community Care, and Cemetery.
- Reminded Pastor Jenn and directors of divisions that they must have systems in place to track paid time off and to do annual Drug Free Workplace and Harassment training.
- Drafted a procedure for acknowledging staff as they retire or resign and presented it to Council for approval.
- Adopted a Staff Covenant to be signed by church staff to be reviewed at each employee's annual evaluation.
- Interviewed Facilities Assistant candidates and hired Eddie Lewis and Carl Edwards to replace Rick Skelton after his retirement.
- Interviewed and hired Mandi Voegle to lead Outreach Ministries (primarily Homework Help and Hoops) on Dana Callahan's retirement.
- Recruited new Council members for 2026.

Prayerfully submitted, Nancy Berry



ST. JOHN UCC
EXTENDING GOD'S LOVE AND GRACE
AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

ST. JOHN UCC EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION

In order to ensure this application is acceptable, please print or type with the application being fully completed in order for it to be considered.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

FULL NAME: _____ DATE: _____
First Middle Last

ADDRESS: _____
Street Address Apt/Box

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

E-MAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (SSN) _____ - _____ - _____

DATE AVAILABLE: _____ DESIRED PAY: \$ _____ ☐ HOUR ☐ SALARY

POSITION APPLIED FOR: _____

EMPLOYMENT DESIRED: ☐ FULL TIME ☐ PART TIME ☐ SEASONAL

EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY

ARE YOU LEGALLY ELIGIBLE TO WORK IN THE U.S.? ☐ YES ☐ NO

HAVE YOU EVER WORKED FOR THIS EMPLOYER? ☐ YES ☐ NO

IF YES, WRITE THE START AND END DATES: _____

ST. JOHN UCC SERVES YOUNG CHILDREN IN MULTIPLE PROGRAMS. HAVE YOU EVER BEEN CONVICTED OF INAPPROPRIATE CONTACT WITH OR ABUSE OF A CHILD UNDER THE AGE OF 18? ☐ YES ☐ NO

IF YES, PLEASE EXPLAIN: _____

St. John UCC — Collinsville, IL
Staff Covenant

To promote the gospel of Jesus Christ and the particular ministries of St. John United Church of Christ, we, the below named professional and support staff, covenant to:

- 1) treat each other with *Christian love and respect* by:
 - actively listening to each other's concerns and ideas;
 - not criticizing each other to persons outside the staff;
 - praying for one another.
- 2) keep confidences:
 - about each other's family and health concerns;
 - about the private concerns of the members of the Church.
- 3) be accountable to each other by:
 - following the policies of the Church and requesting changes to them in an orderly manner;
 - having regular meetings not less than once per month, and by;
 - sharing on a timely basis our schedules, agendas, problems, needs, goals, and accomplishments.

To keep this Covenant a living document, we will also review it on an annual or more frequent basis if necessary.

EMPLOYEE: _____ Date: _____

Approved by Church Council October 2024

Trustee Report

Overall, 2025 was a successful year for maintaining the St. John facility. Most projects aligned with our standard maintenance procedures, including elevator upkeep, plumbing repairs, and general HVAC service needs. In addition to routine work, we completed a major specialty project with the installation of solar panels to support our ongoing energy-savings initiatives.

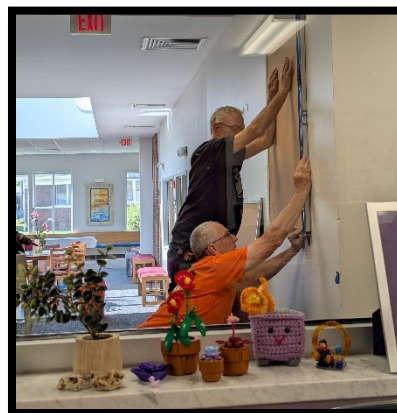
This year also brought significant operational changes for St. John. Rick Skelton transitioned into retirement after several decades of dedicated service. We also welcomed two new members to the facilities team: Eddie Lewis and Carl Edwards. We extend our sincere gratitude to Rick for his commitment to maintaining our building, and we are excited to have Eddie and Carl join the St. John family.

Ray Ferrero and Bart Bieser have provided outstanding leadership, guiding and directing the completion of daily operations throughout the year. While ensuring the smooth functioning of the facility, they have also been hard at work gathering information and preparing for upcoming 2026 projects. We are grateful for their tireless efforts and ongoing dedication to planning and executing these goals.

Below is an overview of the initiatives planned for 2026.

1. Replace Skylights in education building. (January 2026)
2. Review Emergency Generator installation project to Faith Hall.
3. Review roof drain bid for leaking by choir room entrance.
4. Review fence installation to grass area behind sanctuary.
5. Review floor repair to Fellowship Hall kitchen.
6. Review hood cleaning for Fellowship Hall kitchen.
7. Review water filter solution due to Collinsville water challenges.

Respectfully,
Paul Ham, Trustees Chair



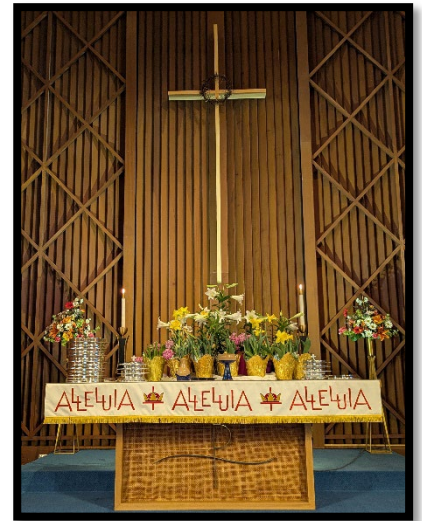
Altar Committee

Altar duties consist of keeping our pews filled with the proper envelopes, changing the paraments (Altar cloths) and candles depending on the season and guessing how many communion cups to fill then cleaning up afterwards. We also help the Decorating Committee with the Easter and Christmas flowers that are placed beautifully around the Altar for all to enjoy. We thank the Decorating Committee and all who helped to make this happen. We did have increase the cost of each flower/plant this year to \$13 each.

I am so grateful to all the people on the Altar Committee for their help and dedication to our church. Many thanks to Pastor Jenn for guidance through this year. Also, thanks to Amy for keeping me in line when I forget things.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Take, Chairperson

P.S. I am always looking for more help! Anyone is welcome!



Associate Pastor Search Committee

The Associate Pastor Search Committee began work in late 2024 to find an associate pastor candidate who has gifts of ministry to support the three pillars defined in the church's 2024 Long Range Plan: Youth/Young-Adult/Family Ministry, Worship and Music Ministry and Multi-Generational Caregiving Ministry.

The committee's first step was to update the church's profile (a document about the mission and ministries of our church and our associate pastor position) to post on the United Church of Christ website to make potential candidates aware of our position. We then began the process of evaluating candidates. We reviewed the profiles of all candidates that designated Illinois South Conference or our church specifically as churches of interest to them. We held interviews on Zoom with several candidates and also had two candidates visit our church for a weekend with the search committee. Based on all the committee's work and our spiritual reflection, we believed that Rev. Miranda Moeller was the candidate that possessed gifts of ministry that would best support the pillars of our long-range plan. The committee recommended to the church council in late September that Rev. Moeller be invited to come for a candidacy weekend. That invitation was extended for the weekend of November 8-9, 2025.

After an opportunity to meet Rev. Moeller on Saturday, November 8th and her leadership in worship on Sunday, November 9, 2025, the St. John congregation voted to extend a call to Rev. Moeller to be our Associate Pastor of Community Outreach and Faith Formation. Pastor Miranda will begin her ministry with us on February 17, 2026. She and her wife Courtney will be moving to the Collinsville area from northern Illinois where she has been pastor of a church there since 2020. Prior to 2020, Pastor Miranda served churches in Missouri and Connecticut as the director of ministries with children, families and youth.



Pastor Jenn and Pastor Miranda will work collaboratively to define areas of primary and shared responsibilities. It is anticipated that Pastor Miranda will focus initially in the areas of faith formation, community outreach and pastoral care.

Pastor Miranda comes from a family of UCC ministers with her father, mother and brother all being UCC ministers. She grew up in the Midwest including attending high school in Edwardsville where she was in theater productions and in the band. Pastor Miranda enjoys all kinds of crafts with knitting being her favorite. Courtney is from central Missouri and has a career in Human Resources. Pastor Miranda and Courtney's family includes 3 cats and two dogs.



We look forward to Pastor Miranda's ministry with us!

The Associate Pastor Search Committee: Abe Cyrus, Joy Honegger, Amber Gassmann, John Green, Neely Gunn, Andrea Molkenbur, Rick Ralston, Mary Jane Soehlke, Pastor Jenn Sowell

Care Team

The mission of the Care Ministry Team is to foster connections with members of the congregation who can no longer attend worship services and other church activities without assistance. This can include personal visits, sending cards, and making phone calls. Team members also advise the church office when they learn that a member has encountered additional health problems, other concerns, or changed addresses. This is an important component of one of the Three Pillars of the strategic plan.

Amy maintains a spreadsheet to track contacts to help the team and pastors identify those who have not been contacted recently. Sadly, we do not have enough active team members to stay in touch with all our members who need to know they are not forgotten by the church.

The Care Team met with Pastor Jenn in June 2025 to discuss each member's comfort level with different levels of interacting with homebound members and to share resources to use when visiting. We would welcome additional team members and look forward to welcoming Pastor Miranda to the team.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Berry, Team Lead



Evening Circle

The Evening Circle has been an organization of the church since the early 1940's. The purpose of the group is:

- 1) To unite the women of the church in Christian Fellowship
- 2) To develop an understanding of the work of the entire church with divine help and guidance
- 3) To deepen the spiritual life, stimulate sacrificial giving and to promote Christian service in the home, the local church, the denomination, the community, the nation, and the world.

The Evening Circle strives to have at least one major fundraiser during the year to support our donations to various benevolences. This year, the first week of May, we had a very successful spring rummage sale. The members of the Evening Circle also sponsored two coffee hours and provided many volunteer hours to assist in setup for and operation of the rummage sale supporting Homework, Help and Hoops in September.

Donations to various ministries this year included: St John Church General Fund, St John Youth Ministries, St. John Giving Tree, St John's Community Care, Learning Tree Preschool, Faith in Action, Collinsville Food Pantry, Meals on Wheels, SOS Soup Kitchen, Child Fund International, Dubois Center, Hoyleton Youth and Family Services, UniPres Kinder Cottage, Hitz Home, Unleashing Potential (Neighborhood House), St Charles Emmaus Home and Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM).

We truly appreciate the help and support from the members of our congregation and the Collinsville community. This support makes it possible for us to raise the money to donate to these worthwhile groups. Our total donations, to these groups, this year have exceeded \$4400.

We remembered our homebound members during the Christmas Season by preparing bags of cookies and candies to add to the Christmas goodie bags which the group assisted in delivering to homebound church members.

The officers for the year 2025 were Quarterly Presidents-Vicki Donovan, Rae Brill, Sharon Hall and Becky McNeil, Vice President – Karen Take, Secretary – Joy Honegger, and Treasurer – Sandra Weiss. The officers for 2026 will be President - Karen Take, Vice President – Sharon Hall, Secretary –Anita Whittington, Treasurer – Sandra Weiss.

The monthly meetings are the **first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm**, on the lower level of the Educational Building. The meetings include devotional, program discussion, refreshments and fellowship. We invite and encourage **ALL** women in our congregation and community to join us and become a part of this fellowship.

Joy Honegger, Secretary



Faith Hall Programming

There are many highlights from 2025 to share with you!

The Faith Hall facility continues to be used not only by St. John for things like Pickleball and Learning Tree activities and St. John's Community Care's events, but many outside organizations and individuals also rent the gym.

The Fall Rummage Sale that benefits HHH was a great success this year bringing in a grand total of \$3,721! Thank you all for contributing an abundance of rummage this year and thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who make this possible!

The 3rd Annual Christmas Bazaar, Winter Wonderland, was hosted on December 6 & 7 and was a big success with 27 vendors and over 200 guests! HHH raised a total of \$1,864 and there was lots of fun had by all!

Faith Walking Celebrated 20 Year Anniversary!

Congratulations to the Faith Walkers of St. John Church for another successful year of Faith Walking! We celebrated their individual accomplishments on November 3 with a potluck luncheon featuring many delicious dishes and a fun afternoon of Bingo. Faith Walkers logged 6,729 miles from November 1, 2024 until October 31, 2025! During that time, 76 people tried Faith Walking. The top six walkers this year were:

2025 Faith Walker Awards

- 1st – Barry Moore – 552
- 2nd – Dale Farrington – 440
- 3rd – Sharon Hall – 434
- 4th – Vicki Donovan – 392
- 5th – Rae Lee Brill -350
- 6th – Bonnie Farrington - 326

Over the last 20 years, Faith Walkers have walked a grand total of **163,962** miles! Praise be to God!

This ministry would not still be here 20 years later had it not been for the dedicated Faith Walking greeters who show up with a smile on their face, encourage the walkers, and provide incentives to continue walking. The following greeters have been a part of this ministry for the last 20 years: Margie Renick, Mary Ellen Daech, and Linda Kniepp. Thank you for your ministry!



A special thank you goes out to our Early Bird Door Openers who make 6:30 a.m. walking possible: Vicki Donovan, Sharon Hall and Rae Brill! And a huge Faith Walking thank you goes out Paul Werner for his leadership in keeping the program on track and volunteering for so many shifts so others can walk. And we couldn't do it without our helpers who tally the miles and make new cards for the walkers: Janet Skelton, Susan Pensoneau, Carol & Barry Moore, and Judy Askew!

Pastor Jenn announced at the anniversary party that she will be assuming leadership for the Faith Walking program after Dana's retirement!

Homework Help & Hoops

St. John has been tutoring at-risk students for the last 18 years. The program is on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00-6:00 p.m. for 20 weeks of the school year. During the Spring Semester, we had 42 HHH staff and 30 students and 52 staff and 45 students during the Fall Semester keeping these goals in mind:

1. Give kids a safe, nurturing place to come and receive acceptance, love, and help from caring adults.
2. Model appropriate behavior and act as positive role models for our neighborhood children.
3. Give an academic boost to the children in our program.

We continue these goals with our HHH Summer Camp program. In 2025, we had 93 children and 16 youth enrolled in our free summer lunch program (averaging 53 a day) and were staffed by 13 kitchen volunteers, 7 Reading Buddies, 9 Reading Success Tutors and 66 adult and 16 youth activity volunteers. We served 1,686 meals for children and youth between the ages of 4-18 years-old during the eight weeks of camp!

Some of the favorite memories from HHH Summer Camp this year were the delicious meals prepared by our Cook, Miss Alta, and her dedicated staff; 47 children and 17 staff members marched in the Juneteenth parade wearing HHH t-shirts, the Splash Bash at Collinsville Aqua Park, the 3rd annual HHH art show featuring a wonderful display of art projects made by the students thanks to Pr. Jenn's vision and leadership; a special HHH's Got Talent show on our last day; a field trip to Willoughby Farm to watch the Medivac helicopter land and talk to the kids about what it takes to do their job, and the HHH Water Day featuring the Collinsville Fire Department spraying water from atop the fire truck ladder onto the HHH kids and the Snowy Sweets Ice Cream Truck.

Thanks to the hard work by the St. John Grant Writing Team, we received several grants to help fund HHH this year including The Lutheran Foundation, Meridian Health Care for food, ACT for bike helmets and bus transportation to Willoughby Farm and from Thrivent for the Ice Cream Truck.



Our partners for the 2025 HHH Summer Camp were First Collinsville Bank, the Collinsville Food Pantry, Tote Me Home, Collinsville Township, Esther & Jordan the Comfort Dogs, S.O.S. Soup Kitchen, I Support the Girls, and Centerstone.

Each week, the children needing food for the weekends were given a Tote Me Home bag provided by the Collinsville Food Pantry and assembled by volunteers Mike and Karen Garner. There were 234 Tote Me Home bags passed out making food accessible for the kids who needed it this summer.

St. John is truly touching lives with our HHH programs!

I have been reminiscing about the last 20+ years of working for St. John UCC as I retire on January 1, 2026. It is with great love and gratitude that I write to say thank you for the truly meaningful send-off Worship Service and Retirement Party on November 2. I was very humbled by all the attention and kind words I received that day and every day after. I have always felt that I was called to St. John to do ministry and I have loved every minute of it over the last 20+ years. It is bittersweet leaving something that I believe in and love so much, but all good things must come to an end and I know I am leaving it in your and God's capable hands. Thank you for believing in me and supporting my vision for outreach ministry at St. John.

St. John Church continues to be a special place for ministry in our community! You are "The Church in the Heart of the Community with the Community at Heart!"

May God continue to bless St. John abundantly in 2026 and beyond!

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Callahan



Grants Team

The mission of the Grants Team is to bring in funding for our outreach ministries – primarily Homework Help and Hoops (HHH). Grants which support our congregation's services to the wider community reduce the pressure on the General Fund.

In 2025 we received \$18,000 from the Lutheran Foundation for staffing costs for the HHH tutoring program in the fall semester. This grant includes an additional \$17,600 for the spring semester. We expect to receive another two years of funding from the Lutheran Foundation for this program, although they will reduce the amount each year.

We also received \$11,500 from Meridian to pay for food for the HHH Summer Camp, which feeds 60 to 80 children Monday-Thursday each June and July. Thanks to many volunteers and the leadership of Dana Callahan, this program also keeps those children busy with positive activities from noon to 2:00.

The Edwardsville Community Foundation provided \$30,000 to purchase and install a generator to enable our church to be an emergency storm shelter. This grant was contingent on a 10% match (\$3,000) in new donations, which was met by a \$2,000 donation from a generous individual in the community plus donations from members of the congregation. The grant request was for a much larger amount which would enable the church to add showers and other amenities. That request will be considered in the future.

Commerce Bancshares Foundation donated \$5,000 to support both HHH programs. Dana has been receiving this grant for several years so the Grants Team cannot take credit, but it seemed appropriate to include it in this report.

The ACT Foundation funded bicycle helmets for HHH Summer Camp children.

We would welcome anyone with experience writing grant applications or wishing to learn to join our team in 2026.

Nancy Berry, Loretta Graham, Tammy Craig



Music Ministries

Members: Nancy Berry, Sharon Deutsch, Margie Renick, Kim Wimmerstedt, Jenny King

The Music Committee met in April and October. At the April meeting the committee praised Jenny on the way she was using the new electronic piano and the skits she has introduced into several worship services. She presented her plans for a summer drama camp and “A Night on Broadway”.

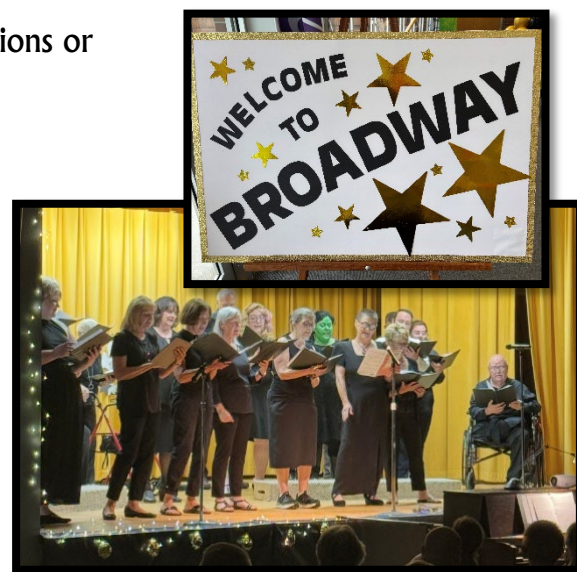
Nancy volunteered to request a \$250 grant from Thrivent to pay for snacks and decorations.

At our October meeting, we reviewed Jenny’s figures comparing actual expenses to the approved budget. Expenditures were more than \$2,000 under budget. The committee approved submitting the same budget for 2026 as in 2025.

The committee complimented Jenny on the quality of the music program and the success of the summer drama camp and “A Night on Broadway” which she did as a volunteer in July, raising more than \$1,000 for the general fund.

Anita Whittington volunteered to join the Music Committee in 2026.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Berry, Chair



Music Director

2025 was a year featuring a variety of incredible worship music provided by our Adult Choir, Handbell Choir, and Children of Praise. As in previous years, we also continued to welcome many guest soloists and instrumentalists from the Metro East area. We also enjoyed several skits during worship performed by our St. John youth and adults which utilize our new wireless headsets. Thank you to all who give of their time and talents to help make our worship so meaningful!

We have also been enjoying the many sounds of the new digital piano. This new instrument adds the sound of percussion and strings to the piano along with many other technological functions. This new digital piano has provided many opportunities for new musical sounds and styles during worship.

In July of 2025, St. John hosted the "Broadway Bound" week-long drama camp. 30 children and adults participated each day. The camp concluded with an evening performance called "A Night on Broadway" which featured our drama camp kids, members of St. John Choir and Music Committee and musical guests from the area. Thank you to the MANY people who helped make this evening a success!!!

Other highlights of the year included the magical performance of "A Celtic Christmas" featuring the Irish band "Celtica", St. John Choir, and guest soloists. And "A Charlie Brown Christmas" performed by the C.O.P.s (Children of Praise) on Christmas Eve. Many, many hours of rehearsal and preparation go into each performance. Thank you to all who support our St. John Music Ministry.

Jenny King



Open and Affirming (ONA) Committee Report

The purpose of the Open and Affirming Committee is to further the principles of the Open and Affirming Covenant that the church approved in 2021. The covenant is as follows:



We at St. John United Church of Christ believe in a God of profound inclusion and extravagant hospitality. We seek to extend God's love and grace to all who seek to follow Jesus, including persons of every age, race, national origin, faith background, marital status and family structure, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, mental and physical ability, economic, social and educational status.

We will continue to widen the welcome to all people as they share in our communal, worship and sacramental life, our mission, leadership and stewardship, and the blessings and challenges of being the Body of Christ.

The following activities were planned and coordinated by the ONA committee during 2025:

In May the ONA committee hosted an event titled "Living Christ's Love: Cultivating Understanding and Extending Embrace to the LGBTQ+ Community: A perspective based on science and compassion". Dr. Kait Huelsman, a clinical psychologist, gave a presentation which was followed by a panel discussion including members of the LGBTQ+ community moderated by Dr. Barbara Hunter, retired Professor of Psychology. The event was open to the community and approximately 40 people attended.



In June, the congregation celebrated LGBTQ+ Pride Month by renewing our covenant during worship on June 22nd. The worship service was followed by a coffee hour hosted by the committee.



In October, the church had a booth at the Metro East Pride Fest held in Belleville, Illinois to make the community aware of our status as an Open and Affirming church.

The committee continues to look for opportunities for education and awareness to extend our welcome and understanding to all. We would welcome anyone who is interested in joining our committee or has suggestions for activities for the congregation.

Joy Honegger, ONA Committee Chair

Pastoral Assistant and Communications

St. John 2025 Year in Review

2025 started off with plenty of snow! Our very first Sunday service of the year was canceled, and the office was closed on Monday and Tuesday. What a way to kick off a brand-new year! You might think January would slow down after the rush of Christmas—but not at St. John! At the end of January, we had our Witness Test from Ameren to get our solar panels fully operational. We also installed new snow guards after seeing the mess caused by snow sliding off the roof. A celebration was held on Sunday, February 23.

Special Guests

We heard from several special guests this year, including our very own Carolyn Catalano, who spoke from the pulpit multiple times. We also welcomed Chris Cox from Hoyleton Youth & Family Services and Anna Bertels-Davey from African Vision.

Facility Rentals

Facility rentals were at an all-time high, with more requests than we could accommodate! In addition to birthday parties, we rented the gym for numerous sports practices—three soccer teams, basketball, and volleyball (new this year)—as well as Momentum Baton twirling classes. The Barony of Shattered Crystal, a local chapter of the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA), now meets in Faith Hall on Tuesday nights. We also hosted Life Line Screening and, for the first time since I've been here, a Red Cross blood drive. Other events included:

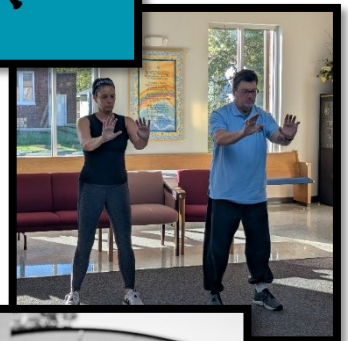
- St. John's Community Care Caregiver Conference
- AARP Safe Driving Class
- Hoyleton's Puentes de Esperanza Christmas party and staff party
- A Scout Pancake Breakfast in Faith Hall from a pack outside our own

We partnered with Community Care to host Chair Yoga and Tai Chi, the first-ever .1K walk/run for all ages, and a celebration for their 40th Anniversary! Faith Hall also hosted our Spring and Fall Rummage Sales. Having a free-will offering the past few years has been the way to go—much easier and less stressful than pricing items.

Special Worship Services

We had a number of special worship services in 2025:

- Scout Sunday (2/2), an annual tradition
- Solar Panel Celebration (2/23)
- Girl Scout Sunday (3/23), a first—hopefully a new tradition!
- Faith in Action Sunday (4/27)
- Rick Skelton Retirement Service (5/25)
- New Members Sunday (6/15)
- Renewing Our Open & Affirming Covenant (6/22)



- VBS Sunday (6/29)
- Blessing of the Backpacks (8/10)
- Rally Sunday (9/7)
- Community Pet Blessing at Willoughby Farm (9/28)
- “Walk by Faith” Service celebrating Dana Callahan’s retirement and the 20th Anniversary of Faith Walking (11/2)
- Candidate Worship with Rev. Miranda Moeller (11/9)
- Totenfest (11/23) to remember members who have passed away
- Celtic Christmas Cantata (12/21)
- “Longest Night” Service (12/21) for the Conference, led in part by Pastor Jenn, Carolyn Catalano, and Jenny King from our congregation

New Initiatives and Firsts

There were a few firsts in 2025 at St. John:

- Jenny King organized the first week-long Drama Camp for youth, ending with a “Night on Broadway” fundraiser—a huge success!
- Vacation Bible School moved from July to June. Attendance was slightly lower but still strong.
- St. John now has a Girl Scout Troop meeting on second and fourth Tuesdays in the lower Education Building.
- The Wurstmarkt moved to Wednesday instead of Thursday due to the Collinsville Homecoming Parade (which ended up not blocking Clay Street). It was still a successful, delicious dinner.
- The Learning Tree Preschool held its Christmas program in the Sanctuary—and it was wonderful!

Other Events

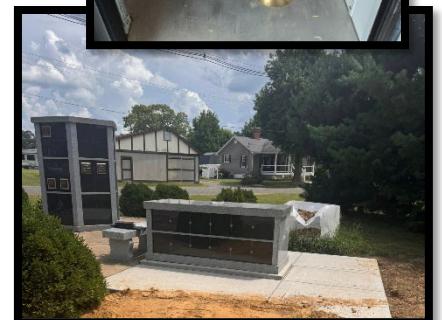
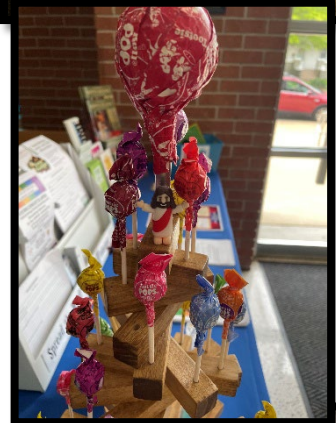
Early in the year these mini Jesus’ started popping up all around the building. The staff really got into moving them daily and trying to figure out who moved them and where they would show up. The Sunday School & Learning Tree Preschool kids even got involved!

One of our members, Betty Wrigley, was a real-life Rosie the Riveter and received the Rosie the Riveter Congressional Gold Medal. There was a small ceremony with a few local politicians and news station! Since there is no longer a florist in Collinsville, I have been making the altar flower arrangements when people request them. It is much more cost effective, more flowers for less money!

The Cemetery had new columbarium’s installed, these are a more traditional shape. They also had another section of road replaced at the end of the year. Only a few sections remain to be replaced.

Personal Highlights

I took multiple webinars to stay current on the programs and platforms I use daily—it’s always nice to learn new tips and tricks to make my job



easier. I was part of the interviewing team for new custodians and a replacement for Dana, something I hadn't done in almost 10 years but truly enjoyed. I spent time organizing Pat's Closet, meeting with people to pick out formal dresses and men's wear—those were rewarding appointments! In August my "Partner in Purple" Phyllis Bethel passed away. She kept in on track in the office each day she was here to walk. Not to worry, Paul Werner now keeps tabs on me. I also organized and shelved books for our little library in the new Parlor on the lower level of the Education Building. I co-chaired the M&M's Fundraiser for the Spirit of Sharing Soup Kitchen, which raised \$4,434.65 by the end of December!

Closing the Year

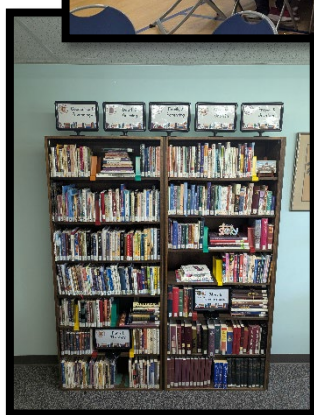
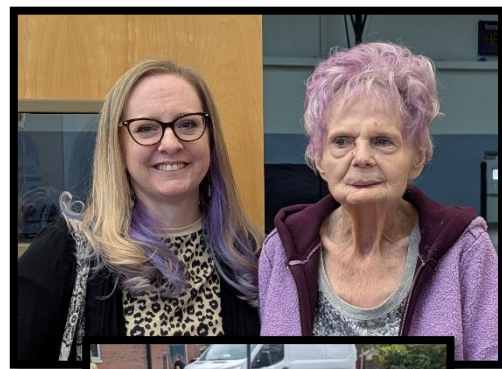
The end of the year was jam-packed, as always. In November, during Candidate Weekend, staff and council members enjoyed breakfast with Pastor Miranda and her wife Courtney—a great opportunity to get to know them before Sunday. The Search Team did a wonderful job, and I'm excited to have another person in the office to collaborate with!

The third annual Christmas Bazaar took place the first week of December. We had fewer vendors but added some new ones, making it another successful fundraiser! Jenny chose "Celtic Christmas" for the cantata, so I ran with that theme (I love a good theme!). Everything came together beautifully for Advent.

As always, St. John showed up for those in need. In 2025, we provided Christmas gifts to two cottages of boys and young men at Hoyleton Youth & Family Services, and to families of Renfro students. We collected winter items for kids at Uni-Pres Kindercottage in East St. Louis. I delivered them the week before Christmas to their director Aimee. For the Collinsville Food Pantry, we gathered 200 boxes of Jell-O and Pudding for their Christmas baskets.

Thank you to all who supported me again this year—I truly appreciate each and every one of you.

Blessings for a great 2026!
Amy Rhymer



St. John Solar Project

Between June and October 2024, the St. John congregation gave approval in steps to move forward with installing a system of solar panels on the roofs of the Education Building and Faith Hall. This work was completed in December 2024, and final approval to connect our solar array system to the Ameren grid was received on January 27, 2025.

The total cost of the equipment for and installation of the solar array system was \$395,100. A loan for \$395,100 was taken out with Cornerstone Fund in October 2024 to pay for that cost with the anticipation that payments from state and federal programs would eventually cover the principal of the loan. In August we received \$296,156 from the State of Illinois program, Illinois Solar for All, and expect to receive an additional \$5,248 from this program shortly. In September the payment of \$296,156 was applied to the loan, and the remainder of the loan principal (\$95,457) and accrued interest (\$24,230.91) was paid off using church funds in order to avoid further interest payments. We expect to receive a payment from the federal government sometime in Summer 2026 which will cover the early payoff costs.

From January 27, 2025 to December 31, 2025, our solar array system produced 188,456 kWh of electricity which is about 75% of all the electricity that the church used. For 6 months of the year our system produced enough electricity to cover all the electricity that the church facility used. For the almost 11 months that the system has been in service, the total cost of electricity (not counting the charge for our outdoor lighting equipment and maintenance) was \$10,634.54. This is a savings of at least \$30,000 in electricity costs during the time period that the system has been operational. In 2026, savings should be even greater with an additional month of operation for the system.



Spirit of Sharing Soup Kitchen

Since June 7, 2012, St. John Church has been instrumental in organizing and hosting the S.O.S. Soup Kitchen focusing on their mission statement, "To be the helping hands that provides the love of God to those who are hungry." We continue to be a host site for the Thursday meals at St. John Church with meals being served at First United Presbyterian Church every Tuesday.

S.O.S. continues to see a large number of people coming to our doors needing food. In 2025, we served a grand total of 19,410 meals, averaging 388.2 meals per week! We have served 129,473 meals since we launched this ministry 13 years ago! May God continue to provide us with the resources and volunteers to continue this vital ministry to our community!

Thank you to John Green and Jim Achenbach for leading the St. John S.O.S. Team in 2025! They have put together a dedicated team of STJ volunteers who have a great time serving, doing God's work with their hands. Thank you to all!

Respectfully submitted, Dana Callahan



2025 marked the 13th anniversary of this ministry, managed by the Collinsville Food Pantry and a coalition of local churches, civic organizations and businesses. A meal is provided at no charge for those in need every Tuesday and Thursday night throughout the entire year. The meals are served in a drive-thru format from 5:30 to 6:00. Tuesday nights are hosted at the First United Presbyterian Church and Thursdays at St John UCC. A total of 19,410 meals were served by the ministry in 2025. Volunteers from St John UCC serve the meal on the first Thursday of most months. In 2025, the St John team served 2,072 meals over 10 nights for an average of 207 meals per service. We are thankful for our regular crew of volunteers who help cook, serve, and clean-up. We are always seeking more help on those nights we serve. It makes for a great evening of fellowship. In 2026 we are committed to the first Thursday of every month. We are also always in need of food and cash donations. At times we are fortunate to receive donations of meat/proteins from the Collinsville Food Pantry, but often we must find the funding to purchase 50 to 60 pounds of protein for the meal. Your gifts are always appreciated.

Respectfully submitted, John Greene and Jim Achenbach

Youth Ministries

Youth Ministries provided many great opportunities for learning, fellowship, and worship to the children and their families this year.

Sunday School

- Kids in Grades Pre-K through 6 continue to learn through a blend of lectionary and rotation models from Spark curriculum. Children experience God through stories, crafts, games, videos, cooking, and science.
- The Crib Room allows a safe space for our youngest congregation members to play, eat, and nap while their families attend worship.

Fellowship

- Youth Ministries hosted the 2025 Rally Sunday by bringing the circus to St. John! Congregation members of all ages participated in activities including a tightrope (balance beam), scarf juggling, bounce house, ring toss, bags, and face painting. Youth Ministries provided everyone a treat of their choice from a local ice cream truck.
- The children and congregation members who work in a school setting were given a special prayer and backpack tag during the annual Blessing of the Backpacks this fall. During this service, we also celebrated our confirmation students and presented our 4th-graders with their Bible.
- Our Sunday School children had a birthday party for Jesus, and collected toys to spread the joy of the season to members of the community. We brought the party to a Youth Ministries-Hosted Coffee Hour and sang happy birthday with the congregation!

Community & Mission

- “Camp Firelight” Vacation Bible School was a huge success this year! We averaged 100 campers each day, and raised \$500 for Camp DuBois. Children learned to trust God through bible stories, games, music, art, science, and snacks.
- YM hosted the annual Splash Bash at the conclusion of VBS. Congregation members, VBS families, and friends from HHH enjoyed a fun night of fellowship while swimming the night away.
- While the Italian Fest Parking Lot Fundraiser usually covers the major costs of YM to operate, the weather had other plans this year. We raised \$1,768, and hope to double that in 2026!

We appreciate the dedication and energy of our Youth Ministries Members, Sunday School Teachers, and Crib Room Volunteers: Megan Delong, Kristen Ely, Lisa Bossetto, Katie Niemeier, Ginger Schantz, Bre Kinkel, Krista Basuel, Michelle Berger, Sarah Owen, Erin Milkert, Lindsey Janssen, Donna/Pam Gassmann, Reagan Holley, and Pam Waltermire. As always, we're thankful for the behind-the-scenes work of Amy Rhymer!

Happy New Year & God Bless,

Stephanie Vandeford & Leslie Musallam—Youth Ministries Co - Presidents



Learning Tree Preschool

The Learning Tree continues to provide quality early childhood education in a Christian environment. Since September of 2025 we have been on field trips and held our annual Halloween parties with a fun Halloween parade to show off our costumes to family and friends. Our four-year-old classes welcomed VIP male role models for a harvest feast in Fellowship Hall, and the three-year-old classes held their annual Corn Party. Our Christmas programs held in the sanctuary were held on December 15 and 16 and included a visit from Santa himself! We are looking forward to The Nursery Rhyme program and Circus this spring.

We are happy to report that our families donated many hats, toys, mittens and blankets to support the St. John's Mitten Tree again this year.

2025-2026 enrollment: 66 3–5-year-old preschoolers.

Current Board of Directors 2025-2026

Brittany Plemmons – President
Gabriel Alyatim
Beth Bancroft
Taylor Fuhrmann
Christine Petroff – Secretary
Mary Jane Soehlke
Melissa Spillari
Anita Whittington, Council liaison
Retired Board Member, May 2025
Lindsay Janssen

Staff for 2025-2026

Gigi Liljegren, Director
Taylor Furhmann, 3's teacher
Kayla Gieger, 3's teacher
Julie Chaetham, 4's Teacher
Sarah Wilson, 4's Teacher
Heather Freeman, Preschool Plus teacher

Desi Hooker, Bookkeeper
Bart Bieser, Custodian
Carl, Custodian
Eddie, Custodian

This is The Learning Tree's 49th year and we are proud to provide quality early childhood education to our community. We would like to thank Pastor Jenn Sowell, church secretary Amy Rhymer, church staff Ray Ferrero, Dan Calahan, Jenny King and our dedicated staff for their help and support in making this program a success. The St. John congregation, our preschool board and families also provide so much help and support. We are grateful to be part of this family! We pray for God's blessing as we guide and nurture these young children.

Gigi Liljegren, The Learning Tree Director



Learning Tree Preschool

Balance on Hand - August 1, 2024

\$254,971.98

Receipts

Bus for Field Trips	246.00
Registration	3,160.00
Tuition	102,227.50
Summertree Tuition	1,175.00
Shirley Highlander Scholarship	0.00
Donation	325.95
Money Market Interest	4,752.43
Fundraiser Income	7,524.00
Miscellaneous	250.12
Field Trip Fees	-290.00

\$119,371.00

Disbursements

Advertising	0.00
Bookkeeping	2,400.00
Christmas/Other Gifts	250.00
Classroom Equipment	2,642.46
Custodian	4,473.00
Conference/Testing Pay	0.00
Continued Education	0.00
Computer/Technology	2,399.78
Event Pay	1,608.69
Food	256.96
Insurance	8,013.18
Office Support	150.00
Postage	16.40
Planning Pay	735.00
Prep Pay	1,075.00
Sick/Sub Pay	1,350.00
SS/Medicare Taxes	5,912.41
Special Student Events	400.19
Teacher Salaries	65,063.00
Usage Fees	12,000.00
Supplies	4,669.34
Summertree-Supplies	0.00
Summertree-Salaries	0.00
Teacher App Dinner/Gifts	0.00
Photo Development	13.13
Highlander Scholarship Expense	0.00
Capital Improvements	0.00
Banking Fees	120.00
Miscellaneous	5,254.49
Fundraiser Expense	0.00

\$374,342.98

Balance on Hand - July 31, 2024

\$118,803.03

\$255,539.95



FCB Checking	\$19,311.50
FCB Money Market	<u>\$236,228.45</u>
Total Assets as of July 31, 2023	\$255,539.95

St. John's Cemetery Association

Financial Report 2025		Propose Budget 2026	
Balance January 1st, 2025 (checking account balances)	\$30,104	Balance January 1st, 2026 (checking account balances)	\$116,711
<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Receipts</u>	
Lots/Columbarium Niche Sales	\$51,095	Lots/Columbarium Niche Sales	\$53,650
Opening and Services	\$35,775	Opening and Services	\$37,564
Saturday & Late Notice Funerals	\$14,100	Saturday & Late Notice Funerals	\$14,700
Foundations	\$10,839	Foundations	\$11,381
Transfer from Invest Income	\$150,000	Transfer from Invest Income	\$157,500
Pre-need Opening & Service Fund	\$15,830	Pre-need Opening & Service Fund	\$16,622
Transfer from Pre-need fund	\$7,130	Transfer from Pre-need fund	\$7,487
Transfer from Eq. & Gen. Maint.	\$20,000	Transfer from Eq. & Gen. Maint.	\$20,500
Misc.	\$6,476	Misc.	\$6,800
Total Receipts	\$109,640	Total Receipts	\$115,122
<u>Disbursements:</u>		<u>Disbursements:</u>	
Wages and Employment Taxes	\$100,115	Wages and Employment Taxes	\$105,120
Insurances	\$ 16521	Insurances	\$17,347
Utilities	\$6,034	Utilities	\$6,336
Ground Maint.	\$13,957	Ground Maint.	\$14,654
Transfer to Equip. & Gen. Maint Fund	\$4,800	Transfer to Equip. & Gen. Maint Fund	\$5,040
Transfer to Perpetual Care Fund	\$2,155	Transfer to Perpetual Care Fund	\$2,263
Transfer to Pre-need Fund	\$7,130	Transfer to Pre-need Fund	\$7,480
Equip. Maint	\$4043	Equip. Maint	\$4,245
Improvements & new Equip.	\$14,350	Improvements & new Equip.	\$20,068
Maint. Of Home and Roads	\$58,458	Maint. Of Home and Roads	\$166,381
Columbarium Markers	\$5,380	Columbarium Markers	\$5,649
Misc.	\$12,707	Misc.	\$13,342
Total Disbursements	\$247,209	Total Disbursements	\$364,569
Balance 31st, 2025	\$116,711	Balance 31st, 2026	\$85,793
Edward Jones Fund Balances as of December 31st, 2025		Capital Projects	
General Acct.	\$102,840	<u>Lawn Mower:</u>	
Perpetual Care	\$1,314,917	Order has been placed. Anticipate delivery early this spring. Net balance due, after trade-in of existing new mower, is apropos at \$20,000. Finally payment will be made front the equip. Maint. Fund.	
Pre-Need	\$264,801	<u>Road Replacement:</u>	
Equiand Gen. Maint.	\$31,547	Completed August - December 2026 . Total cost at \$150,000 tio be paid from perpetual care fund.	
Total Balance as of December 31, 2025	\$1,714,104		

St. John's Community Care: Growing Impact, Faithful Service

St. John's Community Care continues to respond to the needs of older adults and caregivers in our community. Following a strong and record-setting 2024, our current 2025 data shows sustained engagement, new families being served, and continued generosity.

Our Adult Day Program remains central to our mission. So far in 2025, 97 participants have been served, including 46 new participants, with more than 38,000 hours of care provided. This reflects the caring and supporting environment provided to individuals dealing with the effect of dementia.

Support for caregivers continues to grow. Through Information & Assistance, Support Groups, and Courses, we have already served 335 caregivers this year. Requests for Information & Assistance have increased significantly, with 314 individuals served, showing that more families are turning to St. John's Community Care for guidance and support.

Community generosity also remains strong. In 2025, St. John's Community Care has received 475 gifts from 321 donors, including 179 new donors. Annual giving totals \$92,371, and we are deeply grateful for a \$250,000 bequest, which will help ensure the long-term strength of our ministry.

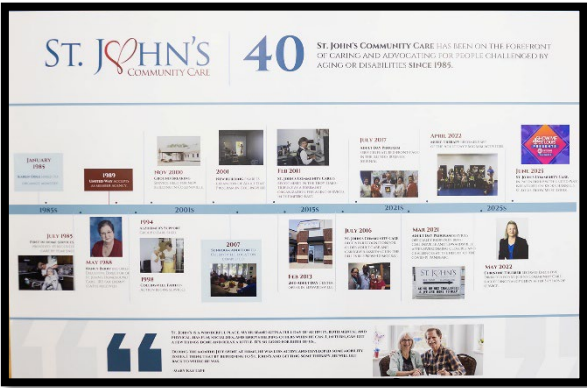
As expenses continue to rise, your prayers, financial support, and encouragement make this work possible. Thank you for helping us serve our neighbors with dignity, compassion, and hope.

Programs at a Glance: Year-to-Year Growth

	2022	2023	2024	2025
Adult Day	94	100	102	97
Medical Equipment	443	495	672	760
Caregiver Courses	27	30	52	21
Info & Assistance	n/a	169	210	314

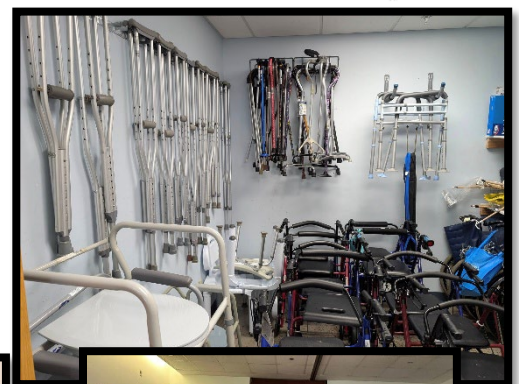
*2025 figures reflect current year-to-date data.

Christine Stewart –
Executive Director,
St. John's Community Care



Statement of Activity by Class	
ST. JOHN'S HEALING COMMUNITY BOARD	
January-December, 2025 (Not fully reported)	
Distribution account	Total
Income	
400000 Revenue from Direct Contributions	
401000 Donations	160.00
401005 Individual	285,565.90
401010 Memorial	8,923.10
401012 Medical Equipment Donations	3,230.00
401015 Business/Civic Org/Other	1,865.87
401025 Mid Year Campaign	10,099.45
401030 Christmas Appeal	30,102.00
Total for 400000 Revenue from Direct Contributions	\$339,946.32
420000 Revenue from non-government grants	
423000 Foundation / Trust Grants	
423001 Grants	3,000.00
423020 Lutheran Foundation	34,000.00
423040 Tomara Corp	5,000.00
Total for 423000 Foundation / Trust Grants	\$42,000.00
425000 Nonprofit Organization grants	
425050 United Way	90,000.00
Total for 425000 Nonprofit Organization grants	\$90,000.00
Total for 420000 Revenue from non-government grants	\$132,000.00
450000 Government Grants	
453000 State Grants	
Total for 453000 State Grants	\$162,863.41
Total for 454000 Local Government Grants	\$58,716.00
Total for 450000 Government Grants	\$221,579.41
Total for 518100 Private Pay	\$292,644.08
Total for 518200 State Clients	\$294,086.90
Total for 518300 VA Clients	\$75,673.00
Total for 518400 Meal Reimbursement-CACFP	\$14,728.40
Total for 540000 Revenue from Other Sources	\$2,563.24
Total for Income	\$1,373,221.35

Gross Profit	\$1,373,221.35
Expenses	
Total for 722000 Salaries	\$783,374.90
Total for 724000 Employee Benefits	\$103,103.93
Total for 725000 Payroll Taxes, etc.	\$65,107.83
Total for 750000 Contract Services	\$66,101.65
Total for 811220 Meals	\$52,420.15
Total for 810000 Program Expenses	\$69,404.49
Total for 813000 Telephone & Telecommunications	\$13,113.91
Total for 820000 Facilities & Equipment expenses	\$124,854.38
Total for 832000 Conferences Training	\$7,742.74
Total for 830000 Travel & Conference Expenses	\$14,502.74
Total for 857000 Marketing/Fund Development	\$29,471.08
Total for 850000 Other Expenses	\$59,441.71
Total for 860000 Office Expenses	\$48,402.99
Total for Payroll Expenses	\$7.17
Total for Expenses	\$1,347,453.78
Net Operating Income	\$25,767.57
Total for 530000 Revenue from Investments	\$23,373.32
Total for 607000 Special Events	\$25,084.07
Total for Other Income	\$48,457.39
Total for 702000 Special Events Expenses	\$4,769.65
Total for Other Expenses	\$4,769.65
Net Other Income	\$43,687.74
Net Income	\$69,455.31



2025 Financial Report

	2025 Actuals	2025 Budget		2025 Actuals	2025 Budget
Revenues	\$ 568,150	\$ 592,256	Expenses	\$ 599,105	\$ 606,838
Envelopes	\$ 399,113	\$ 428,474	Employees	\$ 339,028	\$ 356,879
Special Offering	\$ 7,860	\$ 8,111	Pastors Salary	\$ 90,888	\$ 107,961
Memorials	\$ 4,995	\$ -	Staff Salaries	\$ 168,487	\$ 157,050
Donations	\$ 42,937	\$ 50,270	Payroll Taxes	\$ 12,398	\$ 15,311
HHH	\$ 30,901	\$ 34,049	Pastors Benefits	\$ 55,903	\$ 67,445
SOS	\$ 1,983	\$ 2,658	Other Benefits	\$ 11,352	\$ 9,112
Extra Step	\$ 5,144	\$ 6,988			
Wurst Markt	\$ 2,796	\$ 1,257	Facility	\$ 156,773	\$ 135,718
Other Expenses	\$ 2,113	\$ 5,318	Utilities	\$ 40,821	\$ 37,514
Reimbursements	\$ 48,555	\$ 47,491	Insurance	\$ 57,516	\$ 57,516
Fund Raising Events	\$ 33,524	\$ 28,674	Facility Maintenance	\$ 58,437	\$ 40,688
HHH	\$ 4,816	\$ 4,696			
.1KM Race	\$ 7,000	\$ -	Operating Expenses	\$ 97,029	\$ 101,066
Music	\$ 1,390	\$ 2,073	Supplies	\$ 7,576	\$ 9,131
Wurst Markt	\$ 14,383	\$ 15,949	Equipment Leases	\$ 4,786	\$ 5,316
Italian Fest Parkin	\$ 1,768	\$ 5,416	IT Services and Software	\$ 8,371	\$ 4,081
Other	\$ 4,167	\$ 540	Postage	\$ 2,731	\$ 2,328
Investment Income	\$ 20,055	\$ 21,631	Furnishing & Equipment	\$ 1,170	\$ 918
Facility Usage Fees	\$ 11,110	\$ 7,605	Services	\$ 5,215	\$ 15,595
			Donations	\$ 17,411	\$ 19,483
			Fund Raising Events	\$ 9,785	\$ 7,866
			Other	\$ 2,296	\$ 6,986
Overall Results	2025 Actuals	2025 Budget	Programs	\$ 37,689	\$ 29,362
Revenues	\$ 568,150	\$ 592,256	Confirmation	\$ -	\$ 319
Expenses	\$ 599,105	\$ 606,838	Sunday School	\$ 583	\$ 1,589
Net	\$ (30,955)	\$ (14,582)	Vacation Bible School	\$ 4,858	\$ 3,977
Grants	\$ 29,500	\$ -	Youth Group	\$ -	\$ 175
Killinger Fund	\$ 15,768	\$ 14,582	HHH	\$ 25,511	\$ 20,252
Net Total	\$ 14,313	\$ 0	Music	\$ 4,981	\$ 1,480
Transfer to Legacy	\$ 14,313		Open and Affirming	\$ 646	\$ 670
			Pastors Discretionary	\$ 1,085	\$ 900
			SOS	\$ 25	\$ -
			Search/Transition	\$ 1,749	\$ 8,495
			Other	\$ 4,526	\$ 4,679

2026 Operating Budget Report

Overview

The proposed 2026 operating budget is presented in the same format as the 2025 financial results, with the accompanying table providing a clear comparison of **2026 budgeted amounts to 2025 actuals**. The budget is grounded in 2025 actual performance and adjusted for a limited number of known and intentional changes.

At a high level, the 2026 budget reflects a year of **planned transition and investment**, particularly in pastoral leadership, while continuing to emphasize cost control and the responsible use of grants and designated funds.

Primary Budget Change

The most significant change in the 2026 budget is the planned addition of an **Associate Pastor**, with a start date of February 17, 2026. This position represents a strategic investment in ministry leadership and congregational support. As shown in the budget table, this addition increases personnel-related expenses beginning partway through the year.

The budget also includes a **one-time moving expense** associated with this position. A portion of this cost will be offset through the use of a designated Fund-A-Need balance, limiting its impact on the General Fund.

Operating Adjustments and Efficiencies

Several operating adjustments and cost efficiencies are incorporated into the 2026 budget. These changes help offset a portion of the increased personnel costs and reflect actions already implemented or planned:

- Utility expenses are lower due to a full year of solar operation.
- Ongoing phone and communication costs are reduced.
- Outside cleaning services were eliminated following staffing changes made in 2025.
- Helping Hands (HHH) program expenses are budgeted closer to historical levels.
- Facility maintenance costs are budgeted lower based on revised expectations.

Each of these adjustments is reflected in the comparison table.

Staffing and Compensation Changes

In addition to the Associate Pastor position, the budget reflects a staffing transition within the Helping Hands (HHH) program. The Director of the HHH program retired, and the position was restructured and filled with a part-time director. This change reduces overall program staffing costs while maintaining leadership continuity for the ministry.

The budget also includes modest salary increases for existing staff. These increases are partially offset by staffing efficiencies, including the use of a church member volunteer for bookkeeping services. The net effect is a limited increase in non-pastoral personnel costs.

Grants and Designated Funding

The 2026 budget assumes the planned receipt of **\$41,500 in grant funding**, which reduces the overall operating shortfall. Designated funds are also used intentionally to support specific needs, including the partial offset of one-time transition expenses.

Overall Budget Position

At a summary level, the 2026 budget includes **approximately \$565,000 in total operating revenue** and **approximately \$677,000 in total operating expenses**, as shown in the accompanying table.

After accounting for planned grant funding and the use of **\$17,575 from the Fund-A-Need fund**, the budget reflects a **planned operating deficit of approximately \$50,000**. This deficit is expected to be **funded through the Legacy Fund**, consistent with its intended purpose and prior practice.

Conclusion

The 2026 operating budget reflects a careful balance between investing in ministry leadership and maintaining financial discipline. The anticipated deficit is the result of deliberate choices, is clearly understood, and has an identified funding source. Together with the accompanying financial table, this report is intended to provide clarity and transparency as the congregation considers the proposed 2026 budget.

Revenues			Expenses		
	2026 Budget	2025 Actuals		2026 Budget	2025 Actuals
	\$ 565,052	\$ 568,150		\$ 676,674	\$ 599,105
Envelopes	\$ 399,113	\$ 399,113	Employees	\$ 428,608	\$ 339,028
Special Offering	\$ 7,860	\$ 7,860	Pastors Salary	\$ 146,849	\$ 90,888
Memorials	\$ 4,995	\$ 4,995	Staff Salaries	\$ 151,577	\$ 168,487
Donations	\$ 42,937	\$ 42,937	Payroll Taxes	\$ 11,557	\$ 12,398
HHH	\$ 30,901	\$ 30,901	Pastors Benefits	\$ 107,273	\$ 55,903
SOS	\$ 1,983	\$ 1,983	Other Benefits	\$ 11,352	\$ 11,352
Extra Step	\$ 5,144	\$ 5,144	Facility	\$ 139,361	\$ 156,773
Wurst Markt	\$ 2,796	\$ 2,796	Utilities	\$ 33,020	\$ 40,821
Other Expenses	\$ 2,113	\$ 2,113	Insurance	\$ 57,517	\$ 57,516
Reimbursements	\$ 43,457	\$ 48,555	Facility Maintenance	\$ 48,825	\$ 58,437
Fund Raising Events	\$ 35,524	\$ 33,524	Operating Expenses	\$ 81,198	\$ 97,029
HHH	\$ 4,816	\$ 4,816	Supplies	\$ 7,576	\$ 7,576
.1KM Race	\$ -	\$ 7,000	Equipment Leases	\$ 2,690	\$ 4,786
Music	\$ 1,390	\$ 1,390	IT Services and Software	\$ 3,571	\$ 8,371
Wurst Markt	\$ 14,383	\$ 14,383	Postage	\$ 2,231	\$ 2,731
Italian Fest Parkii	\$ 1,768	\$ 1,768	Furnishing & Equipment	\$ 1,170	\$ 1,170
Other	\$ 13,167	\$ 4,167	Services	\$ 2,015	\$ 5,215
Investment Income	\$ 20,055	\$ 20,055	Donations	\$ 17,411	\$ 17,411
Facility Usage Fees	\$ 11,110	\$ 11,110	Fund Raising Events	\$ 9,785	\$ 9,785
			Other	\$ 2,895	\$ 2,296
			Programs		
Revenues	\$ 565,052	\$ 568,150	Confirmation	\$ -	\$ -
Expenses	\$ 676,674	\$ 599,105	Sunday School	\$ 683	\$ 583
Net	\$ (111,622)	\$ (30,955)	Vacation Bible School	\$ 5,858	\$ 4,858
Grants	\$ 41,500	\$ 29,500	Youth Group	\$ -	\$ -
Fund a Need	\$ 17,525	\$ -	HHH	\$ 19,511	\$ 25,511
Killinger Fund		\$ 15,768	Music	\$ 4,981	\$ 4,981
Net Total	\$ (52,597)	\$ 14,313	Open and Affirming	\$ 646	\$ 646
Transfer to/from Legacy	\$ (52,597)	\$ 14,313	Pastors Discretionary	\$ 150	\$ 1,085
			SOS	\$ 25	\$ 25
			Search/Transition	\$ 22,980	\$ 1,749
			Other	\$ 4,526	\$ 4,526

St. John United Church of Christ

Annual Congregational Meeting: Sunday, January 26, 2025 10:30 a.m.

MINUTES

Welcome and Call to Order at 10:45am

Opening Prayer

Confirm Quorum (54; 50 present and 4 on Zoom)

Approval of Minutes of 2024 Congregational Meeting

Motion by Ginger Schantz

Can I have a motion to approve the minutes of 2024 which include-

- a. Congregational Meeting January 28, 2024 (page 38)
- b. Special Congregational Meeting June 9, 2024 (page 40)
- c. Special Congregational Meeting September 8, 2024 (page 41)
- d. Special Congregational Meeting September 29, 2024 (page 41)
- e. Special Congregational Meeting October 6, 2024 (page 42)

Is there a second? Karen Take

any discussion- None

All in favor, any opposed?

Motion passed unanimously

Ginger Schantz

Rev. Jenn Glover

President's Report

Ginger Schantz

For a more comprehensive message, please refer to my report on page 9. This year, the excitement has primarily centered around the Solar Panel project, along with the survey conducted by the congregation to help formulate a strategic plan for St. John's future. We have actively participated in numerous programs throughout the year. It's well recognized that we are a community church rich in resources—such as Learning Tree, St. John Cemetery, Home and Community, SOS, and HHH—and we are continually expanding our offerings to meet diverse needs. This serves as a reminder that St. John UCC is a dynamic and engaged community of believers dedicated to our mission.

Pastors Reports

Rev. Jennifer Sowell

Treasurer's Report for 2024

Jon Hester

Can I have a motion to approve the treasurer's report: Anita Whittington

Is there a second? Nancy Berry

Any discussion? None

All in favor

Motion passed unanimously

New Business

Ginger Schantz

Proposed 2025 Church Budget

Jon Hester

Can I have a motion to approve the proposed 2025 Church Budget: Rob Berger

Is there a second? Dena Bieser

Any discussion? None

All in favor

Motion passed unanimously

Proposed 2025 Cemetery Budget (page 39)

- Can I have a motion to approve the proposed 2025 Cemetery Budget. Kevin Weinacht
- Is there a second? Alan Harbers
- Any discussion? None
- All in favor?
- Motion passed unanimously

Jim Schantz made a motion to contract with Madura Concrete for the next portion of the Cemetery road project up to \$150,000.

- Is there a second? Lindsey Janssen
- Any discussion? None
- All in favor?
- Motion passed unanimously

Jim Schantz made a motion to approve the trade-in of one of the mowers at the cemetery in order to acquire a new one up to \$15,000.

- Is there a second? Loretta Graham
- Any discussion? None
- All in favor?
- Motion passed unanimously

Before announcing new members-

As we embark on this new season in our church community, let's embrace the mindset that the apostle Paul encourages—a mindset of power, love, and a sound mind. This sound mind is one that remains positive and hopeful, resting in the knowledge that God is in control and guiding our steps. As we focus on His promises and the greatness of our God, we are called to live with trust and peace. I challenge each of you to bring your unique gifts and talents into our church activities. Whether it's joining the choir, volunteering with youth ministries, or welcoming others as an usher, use the abilities God has given you. Remember, every opportunity He places before you comes with the ability to fulfill it. By investing more of yourself in our community, you not only enrich our church but open yourself to the blessings God has in store. Let's step into this year with confidence and a commitment to serve, knowing that our contributions, big or small, make a significant impact.

Approval/Elections (page 42)

The following church members have been nominated and agreed to serve-

i. Church Council- Anita Whittington, Jim Achenback (1 year term) and Jon Green (filling in for daughter Caitlin Green) (still in the need of at least 2 more representatives.

If you are strong with balancing church budgets we need you.)

ii. Youth Ministries- Lisa Bossetto

- Ginger Schantz made a motion to approve the said church members for the church council and youth ministries.
- Is there a second? Rick Ralston
- Any discussion? none
- All in favor?
- Motion passed unanimously

Announcements & Recognitions

Ginger Schantz

First I would like to recognize Pastor Jenn , Amy and the rest of the St. John staff for taking on the added commitments while in search of an associate pastor. These added responsibilities have stretched you and we appreciate your dedication. I would also like to share appreciation to- Pastor Jenn and Amy who continue to guide this church to greatness the departure of five of our council members- Lindsey, Dena, Ryan, Margie and Barb, Jon, Tammy , Mike and all of the volunteers who worked so hard on the budget, Dana and her work with the youth and outreach Pete and the Cemetery Board Rick, Ray and Bart for managing our facilities Kurt, Joy, Stu, Mark, Amy, Nancy, Neely, Katelyn and Luke who work with the soundboard and live streaming John, Dena and all of the volunteers for SOS Jenny King and the choir alter and decorating committee ushers for greeting us each Sunday Sue Struss for organizing the acolytes each week

Motion for Adjournment at 11:27am

Can I have a motion to adjourn? Karen Take

Second? Bill Forsman

Any Discussion? None

All in favor

Motion passed

Closing Prayer

Rev. Jennifer Sowell

Congregational Meeting to consider calling Rev. Miranda Moeller – 11/9/2025.

Mike Liljegren called the meeting to order at 10:27. It was agreed that a quorum was present.

Mike reviewed a slide showing the Three Pillars of the strategic plan which was approved earlier by the congregation. The plan includes the need to call an Associate Pastor to assure we can accomplish the 3 Pillars of the plan.

A second slide illustrated the options on the ballot:

- Yes, call Pastor Miranda
- No, do NOT call Pastor Miranda
- Abstain from voting

Mike explained how members attending online can vote showing thumbs up or thumbs down, being sure their video is turned on.

The following motion was made by Abe Cyrus:

I move to affirm the Search Committee's recommendation to extend a call to Rev. Miranda Moeller to be the next settled Associate Pastor of St. John UCC, Collinsville, according to the terms of the call agreement approved by the Church Council.

The motion was seconded by Rick Ralston.

Mike asked for questions and comments. There were none.

Paper ballots were distributed and collected. Stu Craig and Mark Waltermire counted the ballots and reported the following results at 10:50 am:

Yes – 104

No – 11

Abstain – 5

90% voted yes. Motion approved.

Rev. Miranda and her wife Courtney joined the meeting to be welcomed as our new Associate Pastor. Pastor Jenn welcomed them officially.

Pastor Miranda thanked everyone for being so welcoming and hospitable.

Motion to adjourn by Becky McNeil; second by Jon Hester. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58.

Pastor Jenn closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Berry, Acting Secretary