

the

St. John UCC

# INFORMER

Extending God's Love & Grace | An Open & Affirming Congregation



## MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 2, 2026  
6:30 pm

### Gather Round:

#### One Family, One Table

This immersive gathering will feature a variety of creative stations for hands-on reflection, learning, and engagement – perfect for ALL ages. We'll start with a potluck meal, giving us time to experience the spirit of love and service at the heart of Maundy Thursday.



## GOOD FRIDAY

April 3, 2026  
6:30 pm

### Reflections on Stations of the Cross

Our family friendly Stations of the Cross will guide you through moments of quiet meditation, helping everyone – from children to adults – connect with the story of Jesus' love and sacrifice in an accessible and thoughtful way.

## EASTER SUNDAY

April 5, 2026

### SUNRISE WORSHIP

6:30 am

St. John Cemetery

105 National Terrace, Collinsville

### TRADITIONAL WORSHIP

9:30 am

### Sunrise Easter Worship

This truly is a service for the community. We gather in the center of the cemetery just before the sun rises to worship and remember what Easter is really about.

### Traditional Easter Worship

Everyone will gather to celebrate "The Risen One." No Sunday School, teachers & kids will worship with their families.

Do you have pictures of St. John UCC events, programs or one of our missions on your phone? We'd love to see them! Amy will use these photos to spread the word on how we help the community, and she will use some in the Annual Report. Please send photos to Amy by email, [office@stjohnucc-collinsville.org](mailto:office@stjohnucc-collinsville.org) or text 618-973-7771.



## Sunday Attendance



February 2026	9:30 am Worship	Digital Views YouTube	Sunday School
February 1 <sup>st</sup>	88	59	10
February 8 <sup>th</sup>	61	91	14
February 15 <sup>th</sup>	125	87	19
February 18 <sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday	53	48	n/a
February 22 <sup>nd</sup>	96	52	18
<b>Average</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>15</b>

To access the St. John UCC Collinsville YouTube channel, search [@st.johnunitedchurchofchris446](https://www.youtube.com/@st.johnunitedchurchofchris446)  
Look for: St. John United Church of Christ Collinsville, IL



**Home Communion Available**  
Do you worship from home on livestream or YouTube? If you want to participate in communion at home, there are pre-filled cups available in the church office!

## MEALS ON WHEELS

Are you or a family member looking for a hot meal to be delivered once a day? Then Meals on Wheels is for you. At the cost of \$3.25 meal this program can be used by anyone recovering from surgery, suffering from a serious illness or otherwise incapacitated. This service can be temporary or long-term depending on your needs. It also provides an opportunity for shut-ins to be visited by caring individuals while receiving a hot meal. If you are in need of this service call Debbie or Barb at 345-7779, Monday thru Friday, 9:00 A.M. to 12 P.M.



Meals on Wheels is also looking for a new board member. If you'd like a community involvement with minimum commitment but hugely important for Collinsville, consider this board. It only meets 4 times a year, one hour on Saturday and no fund raisers! It is a valuable outreach needed by many members of our community. For more information call the number listed above.

A rainy week in March gave our Meals on Wheels volunteers Jerry & Dorothy Young, Dale & Bonnie Farrington, Shere & Harry Dapron, Keith & Joy Honegger, Dave Sheahan & Jean Nicolussi and Vicki Donovan's additional challenges for delivering. A huge dry thank you! Our next tour will be in May. We are always in need of additional drivers. **Please consider joining our team and enjoy the benefits of serving others. It is only one-week commitment, four times a year. Let Vicki know if you are interested in more information.**



## Council Highlights

- St. John is participating in the Collinsville Community Collective, a group that wants to make sure all of the area Blessing Boxes stay stocked. Anita expects to attend their meeting on behalf of our church. An Amazon Wish List has been created for people to purchase items to be shipped directly to the church.
- Decision made to purchase generator using the grant money received last year.
- Decision made to replace garbage disposer in Fellowship Hall kitchen.

\*Please Note: Final Council and Special Congregational Meeting minutes are available from the church office upon request.

## Gifts to the Church



**Have you remembered St. John United Church of Christ, Collinsville, in your Will or Final Bequest?**

### General Fund

- In memory of Ted Sanders from Vicki Donovan, Don & Karen Take and Bill & Nancy Berry.
- In memory of Bob Karrer from Mark & Marilyn Doty, Norb, Linda, Cory & Wendy Kniepp, Don & Karen Take and Bill & Nancy Berry.
- In memory of Beth Missey from Pam Gates & Tom Schnitzius.

### Music Fund

- In memory of Virginia McCall, Carolyn Catalano's mother, from the Sanctuary Choir.
- In memory of Beth Missey, Bev Missey's daughter, from the Sanctuary Choir.

## Choir Practice on Wednesdays

**C.O.P.s** (Children of Praise) 5:30-6:00 pm in the choir room

**Handbells** 6:00-7:00 pm in the balcony

**Adult Choir** 7:15-8:30 pm in the choir room



## Financial Update:

### February Financial Stewardship Report

We are pleased to share that the church's financial position remains strong as we move through the first quarter of 2026. Through the end of February, our Year-To-Date (YTD) total revenue stands at \$71,829.78, which has allowed us to achieve a YTD net surplus of \$1,154.31. This is a significant improvement over our budget expectations and demonstrates the continued commitment of our congregation to the mission and ministry of this church.

Our core stewardship—the weekly envelope giving—continues to be the primary engine of our ministry. YTD envelope contributions have reached \$55,431.83, putting us \$6,045.76 ahead of our budget. In addition to our regular tithes, our fundraising efforts have seen excellent participation, most notably the "Death by Chocolate" event, which brought in \$9,785.23 in YTD revenue. These combined efforts are essential in sustaining our day-to-day operations and outreach programs.

Regarding our expenses, we have successfully managed a month of high one-time costs. Total YTD expenses are \$70,675.47, a figure that includes a planned, one-time pastoral relocation expense of \$14,860. It is important to note that this specific transition cost was fully offset by a transfer from our restricted Fund-a-Need account, ensuring that our general operating capacity remained unaffected. Additionally, our facility costs, including utilities and maintenance, remain well-controlled and are currently running under budget due to the ongoing efficiency of our solar installation.

We are grateful for your continued generosity, which allows us to move into the upcoming spring season with stability and a clear focus on our ministry goals.

## The Harry & Dorothy Koelling Scholarship Fund

A gift of a scholarship is given by the children of Harry & Dorothy Koelling to St. John UCC in memory of their parents. The recipient of this scholarship shall be a member of St. John who has been accepted by an institution of higher learning as a freshman. Applications are available in the office. You must provide three references and submit a typed 200-300-word essay on the following topic:

*"How will your education help you develop your God-given gifts and serve God's purposes?"*

Please turn in the application, essay, and written references in a manila envelope to the church office on or before April 1, 2026. The name of the recipient will be announced in the May Informer. The scholarship of \$500 will be paid by July 1, 2026, for use in the fall semester.



# VOLUNTEERS, RUMMAGE & JEWELRY NEEDED!

# SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

Wednesday April 29, 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

VIP pre-sale with admission of \$10

Wednesday April 29, 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Thursday April 30, 9:00am -3:00 pm

Friday May 1, 9:00 am - 11:00 pm

sale will be a \$2.00 a bag special



## Drop Off Days & Times:

Mon. 4/27 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Tues. 4/28 8:00 am - 7:00 pm

Wed. 4/29 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

The ladies of St. John Evening Circle are sponsoring their annual spring rummage sale.

**We are looking for all your treasures** and costume jewelry that you are looking to find a new home for. Please no furniture, computers, TVs, or exercise equipment.

**We need fresh help to clean up Friday, May 1 from 11-1:00!**

**PLEASE volunteer your time to help with this outreach ministry!** We invite you to show up during any of the times listed and join in the fellowship of doing God's work. Any questions may be directed to Vicki Donovan at 618-344-6809. The proceeds from this sale goes to St. John's Evening Circle which supports over 15 St. John UCC and community ministries. **Looking forward to seeing you!**



## **S.O.S. Soup Kitchen**

The next time St. John Church will be hosting S.O.S. is Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026. Please check in with John Green after worship on Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> for what you can provide and/or to volunteer!

## **Evening Circle**

Attention ladies of St John! You are all invited to attend the gatherings of Evening Circle every month. It is a casual meeting with a devotional, short business meeting, lots of friendly conversation, and delicious desserts. It is a great opportunity to share our spiritual journey, our daily challenges, and our church missions. We meet on the first Tuesday at 7:00 in the lower educational building. We're easy to find, just follow the friendly voices and cheerful laughter.

# "Let's Go to the Movies"

## 2026 Drama Camp

for Kids Age 6-13

July 6th-10th

from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Camp Includes:

Acting,  
Singing,

Dancing,  
Art &

Improv  
Games



Concludes with a  
performance at the

"Academy Awards"

Friday, July 10 at 7:00 pm



# QUILTING & Crafts

Every Wednesday from 6:00-9:00 pm  
in God's Galaxy

(lower level of the edu. building)

Bring your own project or  
work on a group quilt.

All ages & abilities Welcome!

## Kindred Spirits Invites YOU!

The Kindred Spirits Fellowship Group is less about age and more about fellowship, so your age doesn't matter if you can make weekday afternoon activities. Plan to join us on the 2nd Monday of each month for a movie and the 3rd Thursday of each month for a lunch outing.

On Monday, April 13, we will watch "McLintock!" together in the theater on the lower level of the Education Building at 1:30. No reservations needed. Just come and bring your own snacks and drinks.

On Thursday, April 16, we will meet at Kyoto Sushi Steakhouse, 441 South State Route 157, Edwardsville, at 1:00 pm for lunch. We'll eat at the hibachi grill. If you've never before enjoyed the show as the chef prepares our meal at a Traditional Japanese Hibachi Grill, you will enjoy the experience. The chef will cook your entrée (chicken, steak, or seafood) served with rice and vegetables in front of us while tossing and catching his tools and keeping us all laughing.

(In April, these dates fall in the same week, so check the sign-up sheet in the Narthex to see if we decided to move our lunch to the fourth Thursday.)

Hope to see you at either or both events!



VBS is needing donations of empty, clean, gallon milk/water jugs to construct an igloo. Please donate to the church office.



**Thank you** for your participation in our VBS kickoff event! Our kids had a great time participating in "Olympic Events", and we hope you enjoyed fellowship and welcoming Pastor Miranda on such a fun day. If you didn't get a chance to sign up to attend or volunteer at VBS, sign up using the link/QR in the informer or in the office. If you're interested in helping, but want more information, contact Leslie or Stephanie.



Looking ahead to April, all kids & Sunday School teachers will be able to worship with their families. There are "busy bags" with Easter activities to keep your child occupied during service.

**April Sunday School Lessons:**

- April 5th: No Sunday School (attend worship)
- April 12th: Doubting Thomas
- April 19: Angel Frees Peter
- April 26th: The Holy Spirit (Confirmation Sunday)

On **May 17th**, our kids will lead the worship service! Please send your child to Sunday School throughout April and May so they can be prepared and assigned a "job" during worship!

**2025 Graduates**

We would like to celebrate our upcoming graduates on May 10<sup>th</sup>. If you or someone in your family is graduating, please send in the following information to the church office at [office@stjohnucc-collinsville.org](mailto:office@stjohnucc-collinsville.org). We look forward to honoring our graduates and celebrating their accomplishments with them.

- School graduating from
- Major of study
- Life plans
- Picture



April 2026

## Faith Walking

April Prayer Theme: "It Is Finished." John 19:30  
6:30 – 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
February Mileage: 767 | Year to Date: 2,483  
Greeters help you log your progress!  
Free-Will Offering. No Walking on 4/6 for Easter  
Monday and 4/28-5/1 for Rummage Sale  
Contact Pastor Jenn for Questions 618-344-2526



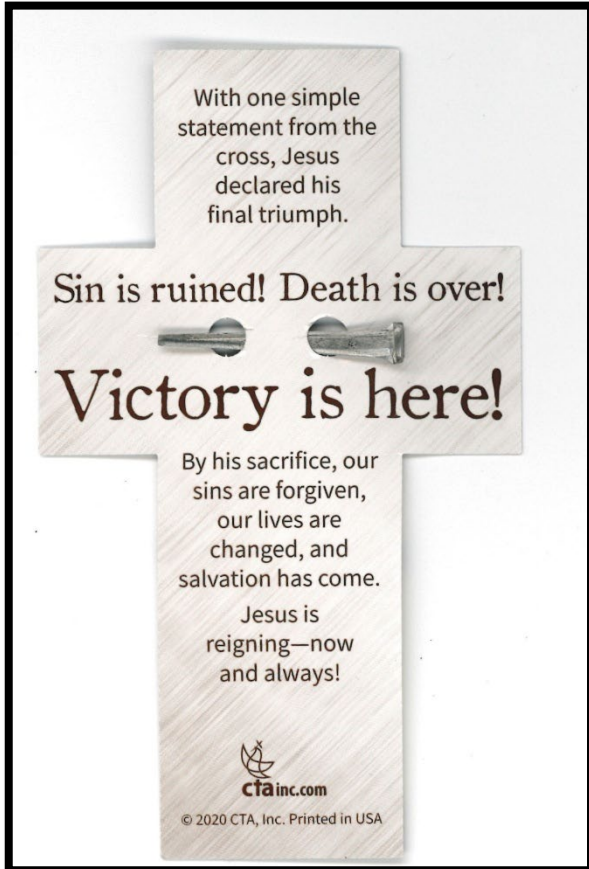
## Pickleball

**Put Your  
Game Face On!**

Mondays from  
5:30-8:00 P.M.

Learn the game while you play!  
**A free-will offering will be accepted.**

Questions:  
Contact Norb Kneipp at 345-7270



# Blessing Box Amazon Wish List



Order off the list and items will ship directly to St. John UCC!  
We will store items and put them out when needed!



We are called to create a community where all people seeking Christ will experience God's Love and Grace.

Have you been wondering if we are making any progress on our strategic plan? Here's an update. Please consider where you can help us accomplish our goals.



#### Youth/Young-Adult/Family Ministry

- Drama Camp - Jenny King initiated this weeklong activity for children in 2025 and will have another in 2026.
- Children of Praise – These children work with Jenny to perform choral arrangements, chimes, and skits.
- Homework Help and Hoops (HHH) – Tutoring program and summer camp include youth to work with younger children. Adult volunteers are also involved.

#### Worship and Music Ministry

- Pastor Miranda joined us in February. The Long Range Plan adopted included calling an Associate Pastor to help us reach our goals.
- Sanctuary Choir and Bell Choir add music to services but would benefit by adding members. Let Jenny King know if you would like to explore joining a group.

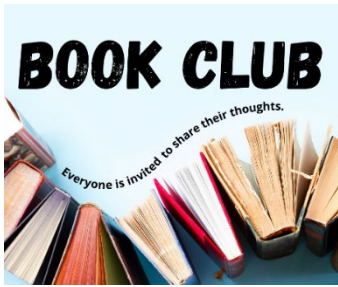
#### Multi-Generational Caregiving Ministry

- Kindred Spirits Fellowship Group now offers two event each month on weekday afternoons.
- Care Ministry Team keeps in touch with members who cannot attend worship. This team needs additional members to send cards, make calls, and/or visit to assure all members know we care about them. Can you invest a couple of hours each month to call or visit someone? Or send a few cards? Some team members offer communion to homebound members. This group also offers funeral luncheons for grieving families.
- SOS Soup Kitchen is a key member of a coalition of churches and community groups who prepare and distribute more than 200 meals every Tuesday and Thursday evening.

#### Foundation for the Three Pillars:

Continuing to move forward requires people, facilities, technology, organization, funding and ministry partnerships. The Grants Team has brought outside funding for HHH and continues to seek grant opportunities to support outreach ministries. Death by Chocolate fund raisers and 2025 A Night on Broadway contributed thousands of dollars to the General Fund. Fund a Need pledges helped us finish 2025 without a significant deficit. If you have an idea for a fund raiser, please contact the Church Council or a pastor.

“Whom shall I send? Here I am, Lord.”



April 2026

Our book club has chosen the next book we will be reviewing: *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford.

In 1986, Henry Lee joins a crowd outside the Panama Hotel, once the gateway to Seattle's Japantown. It has been boarded up for decades, but now the new owner has discovered the belongings of Japanese families who were sent to internment camps during World War II. As the owner displays and unfurls a Japanese parasol, Henry, a Chinese American, remembers a young Japanese American girl from his childhood in the 1940s—Keiko Okabe, with whom he forged a bond of friendship and innocent love that transcended the prejudices of their Old World ancestors. After Keiko and her family were evacuated to the internment camps, she and Henry could only hope that their promise to each other would be kept. Now, forty years later, Henry explores the hotel's basement for the Okabe family's belongings and for a long-lost object whose value he cannot even begin to measure. His search will take him on a journey to revisit the sacrifices he has made for family, for love, for country.

Everyone is welcome. Plan on reading the book prior to attending the book review. Bring your thoughts and come share in the discussion. We plan to meet on Tuesday afternoon April 14th at 1:00 p.m. We are meeting in the Parlor. We hope you will join us.

### **Staff & Leadership**

**Rev. Jennifer Sowell**, Senior Pastor,  
618-250-7983

[pastorjenn@stjohnucc-collinsville.org](mailto:pastorjenn@stjohnucc-collinsville.org)

**Rev. Miranda Moeller**, Associate Pastor,  
[pastormiranda@stjohnucc-collinsville.org](mailto:pastormiranda@stjohnucc-collinsville.org)

**Amy Rhymer**, Pastoral  
Assistant/Communications  
[office@stjohnucc-collinsville.org](mailto:office@stjohnucc-collinsville.org)

**Jenny King**, Music Director  
[music@stjohnucc-collinsville.org](mailto:music@stjohnucc-collinsville.org)

**Laurie Voss**, Accompanist  
**Mandi Voegele**, HHH Program Director  
[HHH@stjohnucc-collinsville.org](mailto:HHH@stjohnucc-collinsville.org)

**Leslie Musallam**, Christian Education  
**Ginger Schantz**, Council President  
[churchcouncil@stjohnucc-collinsville.org](mailto:churchcouncil@stjohnucc-collinsville.org)

**Anita Whittington**, VP

**Paul Ham**, Treasurer, Deacons Chair  
**Nancy Berry**, Secretary, Elders Chair

**Dena Bieser**, Trustee Chair

**Jon Hester**, bookkeeper  
[bookkeeper@stjohnucc-collinsville.org](mailto:bookkeeper@stjohnucc-collinsville.org)

**The Learning Tree Preschool**,  
618-344-2562

**St. John Cemetery**, 618-344-0749

**St. John's Community Care**,  
618-344-5008

## Confirmation Sunday

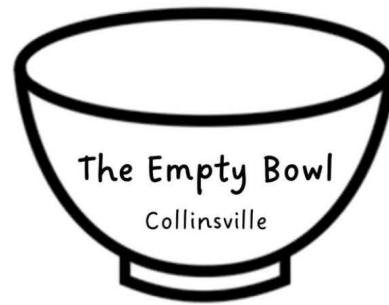
April 26, 2026

Join us in worship as we celebrate our youth being confirmed in faith!  
Come support, pray for, and rejoice with these young disciples as they take this meaningful step in their spiritual journey.  
All are welcome!



# Collinsville Food Pantry

PRESENTS



*"A Simple Soup Lunch"*

## Looking for a way to help?

**Purchase tickets.** Advance tickets may be purchased for \$15 each using the QR Code or link on the flyer, or at the Collinsville Food Pantry on Monday through Friday from Noon to 2:00 p.m. Advance tickets may also be purchased at First Baptist Church, Collinsville Faith in Action, or from any Empty Bowl Committee Member. (The cutoff for Advance tickets will be 9:00 a.m. on May 6, 2026.) Tickets may also be purchased on the day of the event At The Door for \$20 each. Carry-outs will be available the day of the event for those that cannot join us in person.

**Donate soup.** The soups, donated by restaurants, licensed vendors, organizations, and businesses, are the highlight of the event. Four gallons of soup are requested per donation. For your soup donation, you will receive 2 complimentary advance tickets and a business card size ad in The Empty Bowl – Collinsville 2026 Program Ad Book. Deadline is *Wednesday, April 22, 2026.*

**Purchase a program ad!** Ad deadline is *Wednesday, April 22, 2026.* Please see information enclosed.

**Donate something for the Helping Hands Grab Bags.** Donate an item, gift card(s) and/or services for the grab bags. (Please see enclosed form.)

**Make a monetary donation.** Can't make it to the event that day? No problem. You can still participate by making a monetary donation. We will gladly accept cash or checks. For your convenience, the QR Code can also be used for donations. To be included in our "Donation Wall of Bowls," *deadline is Tuesday, May 5, 2026.*

## Wednesday, May 6, 2026

### 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



1 Gateway Drive, Collinsville, IL 62234

### Advance Ticket \$15

Using QR Code or at the Collinsville Food Pantry  
Monday Through Friday Noon to 2:00 p.m.  
or use link <https://square.link/u/OMeLe8S>



### At the Door Ticket \$20

Questions, 618-910-1646 or [empty.bowl.collinsville@gmail.com](mailto:empty.bowl.collinsville@gmail.com)

**Empty Bowl Committee – Barb Kusmierczak 618-910-1646, Stacy Jones 618-975-0621, Kristine Cleland, Micaela Wells, Vonda Seckler, Matt Swinford, Mary Louise Rauh, Bruce Dye, Dana Callahan, Joyce Achenbach, Lisa Brennan, Brenda Caselli, Matt Cleland, Rhonda Evans, Carol Frerker, Darryl Frerker, Kimberlee Hines, Kate McMahon, Kitty Metcalf, Jeanne Pysz, Sandy Smith, and Linda Stehman**

Forms can be picked up in the church office from Amy.

# COLLINSVILLE FAITH IN ACTION

233 North Seminary Street, Collinsville, IL 62234

Volunteer Caregivers: 618-344-8080

Answers on Aging: 618-344-7788

The Elder Connection: 618-799-9085

Fax: 618-344-3227

“Serve one another in love.” Galatians 5:13



**The mission of Collinsville Faith in Action is to provide services and information to community members ages 60 and up to promote dignity and independence.**

Save the Date! Collinsville Faith in Action will hold our annual dinner auction on Friday, July 17 at the Gateway Convention Center. This fun night includes live music from the Granite City Swing Band, a delicious dinner, silent auction, oral auction, games, and more. A night of celebration for you provides funding for the many services we offer our older community members, so we invite everyone to participate.

Let your voice be heard! Our region's Area Agency on Aging will be reporting on their research of what seniors prioritize for their well-being and welcome the comments and suggestions from local seniors at their annual Public Hearing event on April 8. Contact AgeSmart at (618) 222-2561 or [ask@agesmart.org](mailto:ask@agesmart.org) to register or for more information. Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville Master of Social Work students are also surveying community churches, residents, and businesses about their awareness of organizations that serve seniors. Please take the time to answer their survey which will be sent to churches, senior centers, and posted on social media in the coming weeks.

Lisa Ciszczon Brennen, Executive Director



Collinsville Faith in Action is a 501c3 organization funded by donations and grants. Faith traditions and churches within our community support us by referring volunteers. The interfaith volunteers provide services to older community members.

**Stay Safe, Save Money with**

**AARP® Smart Driver™**

**Classroom Course**

**Wed., May 27<sup>th</sup> & Thurs., May 28<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00 am - 1:00 pm (must attend both days)**

**Light refreshments provided**

**\$20 for AARP members**

**\$25 for non-members**

Completing the course can save participants  
10-30% on their liability insurance  
each year for three years.

**Collinsville Faith in Action**

**233 N Seminary St, Collinsville  
Space is limited**

**Register by calling 618-344-8080**



# TECH TUTORING

**Free technology tutoring for seniors ages 60 and above!**



**Tutoring will take place at  
Collinsville Faith in Action from  
1-3pm on April 10, 2026.**



## **How it works:**

- Participants should call CFiA at 618-344-8080 to register
- Seniors will bring their own cell phones (and login and password information)
- One-on-one coaching will be provided



## **Why this event?**

- To support seniors with confidence in using cell phones through a basic firsthand tutoring



**FiA**  
COLLINSVILLE  
**FAITH**  
IN ACTION

**See you there!**

Collinsville Faith in  
Action  
233 N. Seminary St.  
Collinsville, IL  
62234  
618-344-8080

April 2026



St. John's Community Care  
222 Goethe Ave.  
Collinsville, IL 62234  
618-344-5008

St. John's Community Care has openings at all three of our Adult Day Program sites. Do you have a loved one affected by memory loss or other disabilities who needs physical and social engagement in a safe environment? If so, please inquire so you can bring them for a tour and even a free trial day to see if it is a good fit for them.

**Adult Day Benefits for a Person with Dementia:**

- Routine social engagement
- Safe and secure environment
- Vitals monitoring and medication administered by a nurse
- Regular physical exercise
- Physical and mental stimulation with arts, crafts, games, and reminiscing
- Art Therapy
- Music Therapy
- Pet Therapy

**Benefits for Caregivers:**

- Personal time to rest and do things you want to do
- Opportunity to take care of errands your loved one is unable to participate in
- Time to take care of yourself, visit with family or friends, or schedule appointments
- Peace of mind that your loved one is in a safe and stimulating environment

**Ways to pay for Adult Day:**

- Private Pay at \$18 per hour with a 4-hour per day minimum
- Community Care Program if participant meets financial need requirements (only Collinsville and Edwardsville Sites)
- Veteran's Assistance Benefits (only Collinsville and Edwardsville Sites)
- GUIDE Program through Medicare Parts A and B provides \$2,500 if requirements are met
- Long-Term Care Insurance

To inquire about Adult Day, please contact St. John's at 618-344-5008 or [info@stjohnscc.org](mailto:info@stjohnscc.org) and ask to speak with Kayla Abbott, Adult Day Program Director.

## ONA Update

The ONA Committee met to discuss this year's events. In May we will celebrate Older Americans. In October we will represent St. John UCC at the Metro East Pride Fest and promote our Open Table for Communion. Finally in November we will celebrate our Veterans!

### ☀️ MAY IS OLDER AMERICANS MONTH! ☀️

This year's theme, "Champion Your Health," celebrates the strength, wisdom, and resilience of older adults while encouraging wellness and independence.

Let's honor the generations who have shaped our communities and continue to inspire us.

*"Aging is the beautiful unfolding of a life well-lived—each year adding wisdom, strength, and stories worth cherishing."*

Join us in celebrating older Americans all month long! 💙☀️

#OlderAmericansMonth #ChampionYourHealth



Stand In Pride is a 501(c)3 nonprofit founded by Daniel Blevins and established in 2024, dedicated to connecting members of the LGBTQ+ community with a chosen family, friends, and support. We help connect members of the LGBTQ+ community with other members and allies for emotional support whether virtually, in person, or by standing in at important life events. We believe in the power of acceptance and the profound impact of having a supportive family—especially for those in the LGBTQ+ community who have taken the brave step to come out. Unfortunately, not everyone receives the support they deserve.

This is where our mission starts: to match LGBTQ+ individuals without family support. We provide a safe space for LGBTQ+ individuals to find a chosen family. Stand in Pride has thousands of members ready and willing to shower you with support and love. They are willing to physically show up for any special occasion. Dealing with the challenges of today requires problem-solvers who bring different perspectives and are willing to take risks.

With thousands of members worldwide, we offer unconditional support and love to those who need it most. Our diverse community of problem-solvers are ready to physically stand by your side for any special occasion, embracing different perspectives and taking bold steps to face today's challenges together.

# Medical Equipment Loan Program



We are open to loan and accept equipment returns and donations Monday-Friday, 9am-4:30pm.

Please call 618-344-5008 before coming, to determine if we have the equipment needed available. We hold the equipment in your name until the next scheduled day.

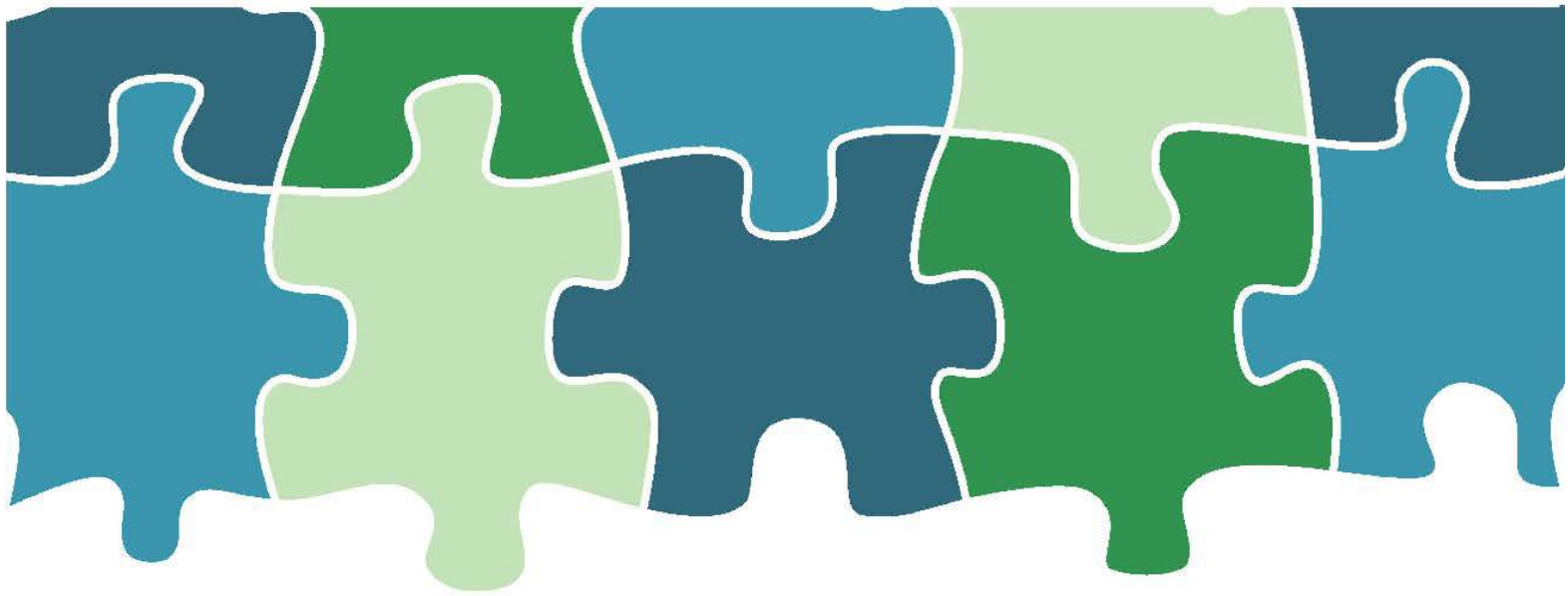
Email [info@stjohnscc.org](mailto:info@stjohnscc.org) for more information or to reserve equipment. Voicemails will be returned within one business day.

**ST. JOHN'S**  
COMMUNITY CARE

## Equipment Loaned

- Wheelchairs
- Transport Chairs
- Rollators
- Raised Toilet Seats
- Bed canes
- Bath benches
- Walkers with and without wheels
- Canes - straight or 4-prong base
- Commodes
- Knee scooters
- Shower stools
- Crutches

222 Goethe Ave,  
Collinsville, Il, 62234  
[www.stjohns.org](http://www.stjohns.org)



# CAREGIVER CONNECTION

**Date:** Saturday April 11th , 2026

**Location:** St. Johns UCC, Faith Hall  
222 Goethe Ave, Collinsville, Il 62234

**Time:** 8:30AM-12:30PM

**Topics:**

- \*Legal
- \*Caregiver Wellness
- \*Guide (Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience)

Continental  
Breakfast and lunch  
gift card included.

**Adult Day  
Services provided  
by:**  
St. John's  
Community Care

**Registration  
Required:**

Call AgeSmart  
at 618-222-2561





**JOIN US FOR  
TAI CHI**



Join us for Tai Chi classes designed to support:

- **Balance and mobility**
- **Improving relaxation**
- **Decreasing pain and falls**

A suggested donation of \$6 is appreciated.

Start Date: October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Classes run every Thursday | 9:00am

**Atrium at St. John United Church of Christ  
307 W Clay Street, Collinsville IL, 62234**

**CAREGIVER RESOURCES**

Join others caring for loved ones with dementia or other disabilities to receive support and encouragement. All support groups are **free of charge** thanks to funding from AgeSmart Community Resources.

**COFFEE TALK**

Make new friends while learning about resources and strategies to support your caregiving. The coffee is on us!

**Mondays, 9-10:30 a.m.**  
Verona Coffee Company  
101 E. Main Collinsville, IL

**Fridays, 10-11:30 a.m.**  
Jan's Naturals Coffee Shop  
2929 N Center, Maryville, IL

**MEMORY CAFE**

A relaxed gathering for caregivers and their loved one with dementia focused on cognitive stimulation through reminiscing.

**Wednesdays, 1:30-2:30 p.m.**  
St. John's Community Care, Collinsville  
and on Zoom

**1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 10-11:30 a.m.**  
Edwardsville Public Library  
112 S. Kansas St., Edwardsville, IL  
(in-person only)

**ALZHEIMER'S  
SUPPORT GROUP**

**1st and 3rd Mondays** of  
the month, 1:00-2:30 p.m.  
Glen Carbon Senior Center  
157 N. Main, Glen Carbon, IL  
(in-person only)

**1st and 4th Wednesdays** of  
the month, 2:00-3:30 p.m.  
Troy Senior Center  
409 Collinsville Rd, Troy, IL  
(in-person only)

**Affiliated with the Alzheimer's Association**

**EVENING ZOOM GROUP**

**2nd and 4th Wednesdays** of  
the month, 6-7:30 p.m.

Follow us to find out about special events: [Facebook.com/stjohnscc](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnscc)  
[STJOHNSCC.ORG | INFO@STJOHNSCC.ORG](mailto:INFO@STJOHNSCC.ORG) | [618-344-5008](tel:618-344-5008)

# 2026

# April

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	01	02	03	04
<b>Easter Sunday</b> 6:30 am Sunrise Service at St. John Cemetery 9:30 am Worship	<b>Easter Monday</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 7:00 pm Evening Circle	6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 5:30 pm C.O.P.s 6:00 pm Bells 6:00 pm Quilting & Crafts 7:15 pm Choir	6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 5:30-6:00 pm S.O.S. <b>6:30 pm Maunday</b> <b>Thursday Worship</b>	6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking <b>6:30 pm Good Friday</b> <b>Worship</b>	6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 12:00 pm Faith Walkers Birthay Party
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
<b>Easter Sunday</b> 6:30 am Sunrise Service at St. John Cemetery 9:30 am Worship	<b>Easter Monday</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 7:00 pm Evening Circle	6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 5:30 pm C.O.P.s 6:00 pm Bells 6:00 pm Quilting & Crafts 7:15 pm Choir	6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 5:30-6:00 pm S.O.S. 7:00 pm Deacons	6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 12:00 pm Faith Walkers Birthay Party	St. John's Community Care Caregiver Conference
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:30 pm Bible Study 9:30 am Worship	6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 9:00 am Weaving 5:30-8 pm Pickleball	6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking	7-9 & 11-1 Faith Walking 5:30 pm C.O.P.s 6:00 pm Bells 6:00 pm Quilting & Crafts 7:15 pm Choir	7-9 & 11-1 Faith Walking 5:30-6:00 pm S.O.S. 6:30 pm Trustees 7:00 pm Council	6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking	6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:30 pm Bible Study 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Confirmation	6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 9:00 am Weaving 5:30-8 pm Pickleball	6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking	7-9 & 11-1 Faith Walking 5:30 pm C.O.P.s 6:00 pm Bells 6:00 pm Quilting & Crafts 7:15 pm Choir	7-9 & 11-1 Faith Walking 5:30-6:00 pm S.O.S.	6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking	6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking
26	27	28	29	30	01	02
8:30 pm Bible Study Confirmation Sunday 9:30 am Worship	6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 9:00 am Weaving 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm Rummage Sale Set-Up	No Walking 8:00 am - 7:00 pm Rummage Sale Set-Up	<b>Rummage Sale VIP \$10</b> <b>4-5pm Reg. Sale 5-7 pm</b> 5:30 pm C.O.P.s 6:00 pm Bells 6:00 pm Quilting & Crafts 7:15 pm Choir	9:00 am-3:00 pm <b>Rummage Sale</b> 5:30-6:00 pm S.O.S.	9:00-11:00 am <b>Rummage Sale</b>	

307 West Clay Street  
Collinsville, IL 62234  
618-344-2526  
[www.stjohnucc-collinsville.org](http://www.stjohnucc-collinsville.org)

# *the* Informer

Address Service Requested  
Time-sensitive information:  
Please expedite delivery.

