

the St. John UCC INFORMER

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

Service of
Installation

Rev. Miranda Moeller

Join us on

Sunday, August 9 at 3:00 pm

as we

Install Pastor Miranda

as Pastor & Teacher

of St. John UCC - Collinsville.

Reception to Follow

SAVE *the* DATE
AUGUST 2026



Blessing of the Backpacks

August 9 - 9:30 am

Heading back to school?

**Join us for a special backpack blessing
to start off the 2026-27 school year!**



Students of ALL ages, Teachers,
Support Staff and others are invited.



St. John Congregation,

As we continue to move through this season of transition, we are grateful for the many gifted leaders who have stepped forward to support the ministry and worship life of St. John. While transitions can bring uncertainty, they also provide opportunities to experience the many ways God provides for and strengthens the church community.

Over the coming weeks and months, our worship services will be led by a variety of faithful and talented individuals who have graciously agreed to share their gifts with our congregation.

Pastor Miranda will continue to provide pastoral leadership and guidance as she serves our congregation during this interim season. We are thankful for her dedication, care, and willingness to help lead St. John during this important time in our church's life.

We are also pleased to welcome Jenny King, who will assist with worship leadership along with the assistance of our choir and Music Committee. They will continue their important ministry by helping to lead and enrich our worship experiences through music and special presentations.

We are grateful that St. John member Carolyn Catalano has agreed to share her gifts and faith with us through participation in worship leadership during this transition.

Additionally, we are honored to welcome Reverend Michelle Torigian, former pastor of St. Paul United Church of Christ in Belleville and current chaplain at Memorial Hospital, who has graciously agreed to serve as part of our preaching schedule. We appreciate her willingness to share her experience, wisdom, and ministry with our congregation.

Throughout the summer months, members of this preaching team will rotate Sundays to share in the responsibility of leading worship and proclaiming God's Word. We are thankful for their willingness to work together to ensure that our congregation continues to experience meaningful worship, faithful leadership, and spiritual care during this transition.

As your Church Council and Long-Range Planning Team continue to discern God's direction for St. John and our future pastoral needs, we will revisit these conversations with Pastor Miranda in September to discuss the staff resources we need to support our strategic plan and vision for the church, assess our ministry needs, and consider the best path forward for our congregation.

We encourage you to continue sharing your thoughts, hopes, and concerns with church leadership during this process. Your voices, prayers, and insights are important as we seek to faithfully discern God's call for St. John together.

We are also excited to celebrate Pastor Miranda's installation from the Illinois South Conference on August 9. During this service there will be a special presentation followed with a gathering in Fellowship Hall. This will be a special opportunity for our congregation to officially recognize and bless her leadership and ministry among us. We are currently looking for volunteers to assist with planning this celebration. If you are interested in helping, please let myself or Amy know.

In addition, we invite members of the congregation to contribute finger foods and refreshments for the celebration. Please stop by the welcome table after worship and sign up with Dena.

Most importantly, we remember that while pastors and leaders may change, God's faithfulness remains constant. Together, we will continue to worship, serve, and grow as the body of Christ at St. John.

Thank you for your continued faithfulness, encouragement, and prayers as we move forward together in hope and trust.

Ginger Schantz, Council President



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 or text 618-973-7771.

Sunday Attendance



June 2026	9:30 am Worship	Digital Views YouTube
June 7 th	97	57
June 14 th	67	49
June 21 st Father's Day	76	43
June 28 th VBS Sunday	127	48
<u>Average</u>		49

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!



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

Staff & Leadership

Rev. Miranda Moeller, Pastor,
pastormiranda@stjohnucc-collinsville.org

Amy Rhymer, Pastoral Assistant/
Communications
office@stjohnucc-collinsville.org

Jenny King, Music Director
music@stjohnucc-collinsville.org

Laurie Voss, Accompanist

Mandi Voegelé, HHH Program Director
HHH@stjohnucc-collinsville.org

Leslie Musallam, Christian Education

Ginger Schantz, Council President
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

The Learning Tree Preschool,
618-344-2562

St. John Cemetery, 618-344-0749

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

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 Ken Bluemner from Stu & Tammy Craig, Tom Schnitzius & Pam Gates, Betty Wrigley, and Mark & Marilyn Doty.

Council Highlights

- Approved use of our facilities for an additional meeting of Narcotics Anonymous on Monday evenings.
- Discussed the Metro East Unitarian Congregation's request to share space in our facility. Pastor Miranda will arrange a meeting with them to address our questions.
- Discussed how to arrange space in the sanctuary for children during worship.
- Approved sharing our experience with the solar project with the legal group which assisted us without charge.
- Approved Polar Aire's bid of \$10,452 to replace the main office air conditioning as an emergency repair allowed without congregational approval for the health and safety of our staff.

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

June Financial Stewardship Report

A Mid-Year Word of Thanks

As we reach the midpoint of the year, we are grateful for the steady generosity of our congregation. Through June, envelope giving has run ahead of plan every month — a real encouragement and a sign of the commitment so many of you make to the life and ministry of St. John.

We also want to share an honest picture of where we stand. So far this year our expenses have outpaced our offerings, leaving the General Fund with a shortfall of about \$35,000 at mid-year. Some of this reflects seasonal and one-time costs, but it is a reminder that our ministry depends on steady, year-round giving. If you are able to continue — or increase — your regular offering, it truly helps keep us on solid footing through the second half of the year.

We are especially thankful for the way you supported our HHH ministry and this summer's youth camp. Thanks to your donations, together with a generous grant, the HHH and Summer Camp are very nearly funded in full this year — allowing our young people to take part without adding strain to the church's budget. Your gifts to these ministries go directly to the work they support.

Thank you for your continued faithfulness and generosity. If you have questions about giving or would like to set up electronic offerings, please reach out to the church office — we are always glad to help.



S.O.S. Soup Kitchen

The next time St. John UCC serves is in September. Volunteers are needed starting around 3:30 pm. Cleanup is usually completed by 6:30 pm. If you have time, please take part in this amazing ministry. Please check in with John Green after worship the Sunday before to see what you can provide for this meal.

Faith Walking

August Prayer Theme: "Step into Your Purpose"
"For I know the plans I have for you..."-Jeremiah 29:11

6:30 – 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

June Mileage: 583 | Year to Date: 4,846

Greeters help you log your progress!

Free-Will Offering.

Friday, August 7th we will celebrate July & August birthdays at Noon.

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



You're Invited!

The next Movie Matinee will be back to on Monday, August 11th at 1:00 pm in the Theater. No need for reservations, bring yourself and whatever snacks you'd like!

Our next lunch will be back to Thursday, August 20th at 1:00 pm at Agavero Grill & Cantina located at 604 N Bluff Rd in Collinsville. Make your reservation by adding your name to the sign-up sheet in the Narthex or calling Amy (618-344-2526). You'll enjoy being part of the group.



YOUTH MINISTRIES

We are in need of a crib room volunteer on the 4th Sunday of each month. If you are interested, please let Leslie, Stephanie or Amy know.

ALTAR COMMITTEE

IS LOOKING FOR NEW VOLUNTEERS TO HELP
PREPARE SANCTUARY FOR WORSHIP AND HELP
PREPARE COMMUNION. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED,
PLEASE CONTACT KAREN TAKE.



St. John UCC | 307 W. Clay St | Collinsville, IL 62234 | 618-344-2526
office@stjohnucc-collinsville.org

"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

C
Inc

Actin
Singi

Dancing,
Art &



Thank you to all the dedicated people who participated in our week of Drama Camp and the Academy Awards performance! We couldn't do it without you!



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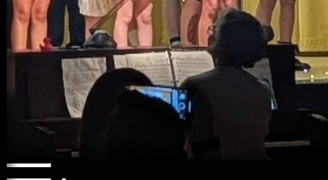
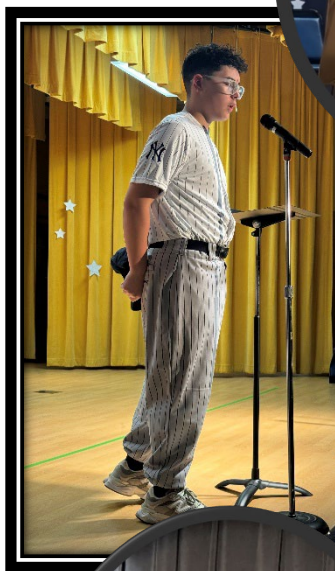
2026 Drama Camp

presents

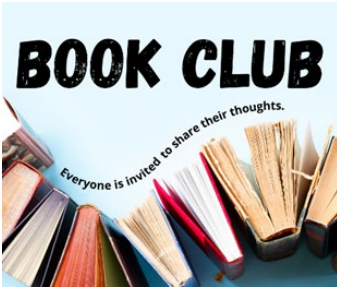
"Academy Awards"

Friday, July 10 at 7:00 pm





August 2026



Our book club has chosen the next book we will be reviewing:
Lilac Girls by Martha Hall Kelly.

New York socialite Caroline Ferriday has her hands full with her post at the French consulate and a new love on the horizon. But Caroline's world is forever changed when Hitler's army invades Poland in September 1939—and then sets its sights on France. An ocean away from Caroline, Kasia Kuzmerick, a

Polish teenager, senses her carefree youth disappearing as she is drawn deeper into her role as courier for the underground resistance movement. In a tense atmosphere of watchful eyes and suspecting neighbors, one false move can have dire consequences. For the ambitious young German doctor, Herta Oberheuser, an ad for a government medical position seems her ticket out of a desolate life. Once hired, though, she finds herself trapped in a male-dominated realm of Nazi secrets and power. The lives of these three women are set on a collision course when the unthinkable happens and Kasia is sent to Ravensbrück, the notorious Nazi concentration camp for women. Their stories cross continents—from New York to Paris, Germany, and Poland—as Caroline and Kasia strive to bring justice to those whom history has forgotten.

Everyone is welcome. Plan on reading the book prior to attending the book review. Bring your thoughts and come to share in the discussion. We plan to meet on Tuesday afternoon August 18th at **2:00 p.m.** We are meeting in the Atrium. We hope you will join us.

Looking ahead to September...

St. John UCC | 307 West Clay Street | Collinsville, IL 62234

Fall Rummage Sale

All proceeds benefit the Homework Help & Hoops (HHH) Program

Week of September 14, 2026

Trying something new this year...
Thursday, Friday & Saturday
Times to be determined.

Volunteers, Rummage & Jewelry Needed!

homework help & hoops

A poster for a Fall Rummage Sale. It features a central text area with a black border. The text is in various colors and fonts. At the bottom, there are illustrations of cardboard boxes, bags, and autumn leaves. The logo for "homework help & hoops" is at the bottom center.

Choir rehearsals will resume the first Wednesday in September.

5:30 pm Children of Praise (C.O.P.s)

6:00 pm Hand Bells

7:15 pm Adult Choir

ITALIAN FEST
The Main Street Event
Collinsville, Illinois

Volunteers Needed to Sell Parking Spaces
Sign-Up in the Narthex
Discount on VIP Passes if you work a shift!

Very **I**talian **P**arker

September 18th & 19th
\$25 GUARANTEES A PARKING SPOT WITH
"COME AND GO" PRIVILEGES
IN THE LOT ON CLAY STREET

A poster for the Italian Festival. It features a large, stylized "VIP" where the "V" is green, the "I" is red, and the "P" is black with a parking symbol. To the right of this is the text "ery", "talian", and "arker". Below this is the date "September 18th & 19th" and the price "\$25 GUARANTEES A PARKING SPOT WITH 'COME AND GO' PRIVILEGES IN THE LOT ON CLAY STREET". At the bottom left is a wavy graphic of the Italian flag (green, white, and red).

A word from “Mrs. Cat” about our church’s Care Ministry Team

Please smile & chat with those around you at church! You can help our Care Team reach out in other ways too- we send cards, make phone calls, visit people, etc. Together we are God’s hands.

We have a Card Shower Team- I sometimes email them asking that they send a card to someone (of any age) connected with the church. (No need for huge expense- Dollar stores have packs of usable cards, etc.- You or a child you know could craft cards!)

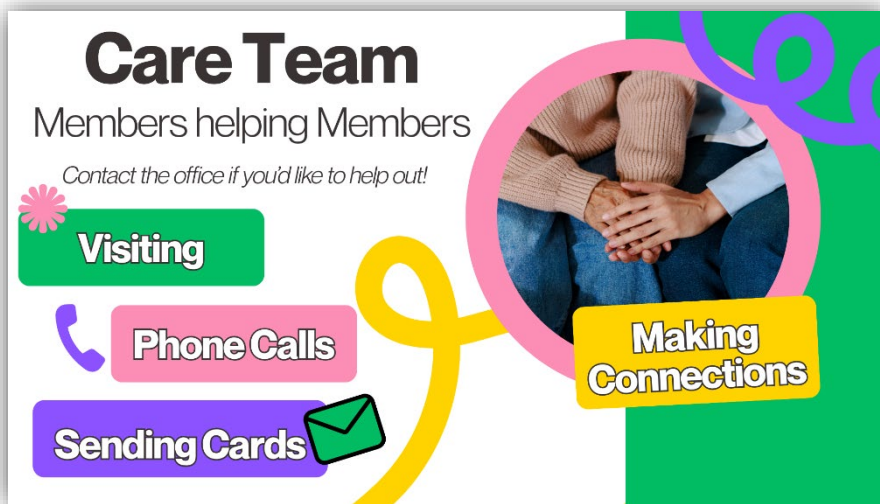
Someone then gets surprised with several cards in the mail. A few cards is a sprinkle, more cards makes a shower.... Let’s make it a DELUGE! Let me know if you want to be part of this team- I just need your name & email address. There’s a signup sheet in the narthex, or you can email me directly.

Carolyn Catalano

618-381-6411 mccallcarolyn@yahoo.com

Do you know . . .

- that we have a Prayer Chain? Let Amy know if you or someone in your life needs extra prayer and she will send your request to members who will add them to their prayers. Want to be part of the Prayer Chain? Just let Amy know.
- that the Care Ministry Team not only visits members as they can but also sends cards and makes calls to our members who can't currently participate in church activities? We welcome more members.
- that families often fail to let the Pastor or church office know that someone is ill or hospitalized? We can't minister to each other if we don't know the needs.
- that Community Care has a menu of free resources to support family caregivers? Call them to connect to one of their Caregiver Specialists who will listen to what your challenges are and connect you with resources to make your journey easier.



Don't forget about the **Free medical equipment loan program** to help those in need. This program is available at the Collinsville location and is open to anyone who requires equipment such as wheelchairs, walkers, commodes, bath chairs, crutches, canes, and more. For more information, call 618-344-5008 or visit our website at www.stjohnscc.org.



August 2026

We have been busy this summer getting The Learning Tree ready for the upcoming school year! The Learning Tree will be hosting a coffee hour after the Blessings of the Backpack's worship on August 9. with kid-friendly snacks.

It was exciting to see so many of our Learning Tree Friends at VBS this summer. It is always a blessing to have them attend this very special week of fun and worship.

Our current enrollment is almost full! We are offering classes for children aged 3-5 years old. Word of mouth is our best advertisement, so please let friends and family know. We would like to welcome Jen Wade to our staff this year! She brings experience, excitement and a love of teaching to our program. She will be teaching in the Blue Room 4-year-old class.

The Learning tree will also be taking part in the .1K fundraiser with St. John Community Care on Sunday, September 13. This fun, family friendly event will take place after Rally Sunday warship to kick off St. John UCC Sunday school program for the year. hosting an activity on Rally Sunday to help kick off the Sunday school year! We encourage all families to join us for these fun events!

It is going to be a great year!
Gigi Liljgren, The Learning Tree Director

St. John UCC | 307 W Clay St | Collinsville, IL 62234
618-344-2526 | www.stjohnucc-collinsville.org

You were made for this day!

Rally Sunday 2026

Sunday, September 13 – 9:30 am
Outdoor Activities Following Worship!

Music | Raffles | Games | Refreshments & More

Students & teachers will participate in Meet & Greet activities as we kick-off our Sunday School year!

Stick around for the .1K

Hosted by St. John's Community Care & The Learning Tree Preschool

[REGISTER NOW](#)

WALK, RUN, OR ROLL TO THE FINISH LINE AND HELP RAISE MONEY FOR
ST. JOHN'S COMMUNITY CARE
AND THE LEARNING TREE PRESCHOOL AT ST. JOHN UCC

.1K RACE | MUSIC | RAFFLES | OUTDOOR GAMES | REFRESHMENTS & MORE

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13th

BE A SPONSOR!

1ST RACE @ 10:45 AM

SCAN ME

.1K Supporting Growth at Every Age

\$25 PER RACE ENTRANT / FAMILY

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER OR SPONSOR

Come early for our Rally Sunday Worship at 9:30 am. "You were made for this day!" Students & teachers will be excused from worship to participate in meet & greet activities as we kick-off our Sunday School year.

Located on the corner of Goethe Ave and Clay St in Collinsville, IL

2026

August

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	01
02 8:30 pm Bible Study 9:30 am Worship	03 6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 8:30 am Weaving 5:30 pm Pickleball	04 6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 7:00 pm Evening Circle	05 6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 6:00 pm Quilting & Crafts	06 6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 5:30-6:00 pm S.O.S. 7:00 pm Elders	07 6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking	08
09 8:30 pm Bible Study Blessing of the Backpacks 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Coffee Hour 3:00 pm Rev. Miranda's Installation	10 6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 8:30 am Weaving 1:00 pm Movie Matinee 5:30 pm Pickleball	11 6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking	12 6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 6:00 pm Quilting & Crafts	13 6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 5:30-6:00 pm S.O.S. 7:00 pm Deacons	14 6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking	15
16 8:30 pm Bible Study 9:30 am Worship	17 6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 8:30 am Weaving 5:30 pm Pickleball	18 6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking	19 6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 6:00 pm Quilting & Crafts	20 6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 1:00 pm Thurs-Yay! Lunch 5:30-6:00 pm S.O.S. 6:30 Trustees 7:00 pm Council	21 6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking	22
23 8:30 pm Bible Study 9:30 am Worship The 10 Commandments & The Greatest One	24 6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 8:30 am Weaving 5:30 pm Pickleball	25 6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking	26 6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 6:00 pm Quilting & Crafts	27 6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 5:30-6:00 pm S.O.S.	28 6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking	29 Kahok Football Rock & Roll Bingo in Faith Hall
30 8:30 pm Bible Study 9:30 am Worship	31 6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 8:30 am Weaving 5:30 pm Pickleball	Notes:				

307 West Clay Street
Collinsville, IL 62234
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the Informer

Address Service Requested

Time-sensitive information:

Please expedite delivery.



August