

the

St. John UCC

INFORMER

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

DEATH BY CHOCOLATE

a Tasting Event Fundraiser Saturday, February 7, 2026

7:00 - 9:00 pm

\$25 per person in advance, \$30 at the door,
\$175 per table of 8.

Entries by Local Chefs & Home Bakers

Includes: samples delicious chocolate desserts,
hors d'oeuvres & drinks, and silent & live auction

All proceeds benefit the
missions of St. John UCC



Top Tier	\$2,500
8 tickets	
Middle Tier	\$1,000
6 tickets	
Intermediate Tier	\$500
4 tickets	
Foundation Tier	\$250
2 tickets	

In addition to entering their chocolate dessert Bob Evans has offered Dine to Donate Event!

Have a delicious meal all day on Friday, February 6th and Bob Evans in Collinsville will donate 15% of the net sales when you provide the flyer.

What a great way to spend your weekend! Dinner on Friday & Desserts on Saturday!

Bob Evans
— FARMHOUSE KITCHEN —

You're invited! Please join us for a

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER

benefiting



Death by Chocolate
Friday, February 6, 2026
6:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
BE #174: 600 North Bluff Road
Collinsville, IL 62234

WILL DONATE 15% OF NET SALES
to the above organization when you present this flyer at checkout.





Family Event
Snowball Mountain Challenge:
Winter Olympics Edition
Sunday, February 22, 2026
10:30 am in Faith Hall

Join us for a preview of our 2026 VBS theme! We'll have Winter Olympic themed fun such as: a snowball fight, "ice" skating relay, creating a family flag & Olympic torch, and don't forget about snacks!

ST JOHN UCC
 EXTENDING GOD'S LOVE AND GRACE
 AN UCC-A-VALE AFFILIATING CONGREGATION

SNOWBALL MOUNTAIN CHALLENGE

Save the Date!
VBS 2026
June 22-26

All who believed were together - Acts 2:44

Stronger Together



ISC Day of Discipleship 2026

Saturday, March 21st
St. John UCC, Mascoutah, IL



Drawing inspiration from Acts 2, this year's **Day of Discipleship** serves as a profound reminder that, as disciples of faith, we are **Stronger Together** through sharing our distinctive talents, worshiping collectively, engaging in prayer and fellowship, song and Word. Workshop offerings will encompass a variety of areas, including worship, programming, leadership, and outreach. This shared journey in faith and community illustrates the remarkable power of unity and underscores how each of us contributes to uplift the Church.

Registration opens February 1st. A group will be forming of St. John members. More information will be available soon!

To access the St. John UCC Collinsville YouTube channel, search [@st.johnunitedchurchofchrist446](https://www.youtube.com/@st.johnunitedchurchofchrist446)
 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!



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



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

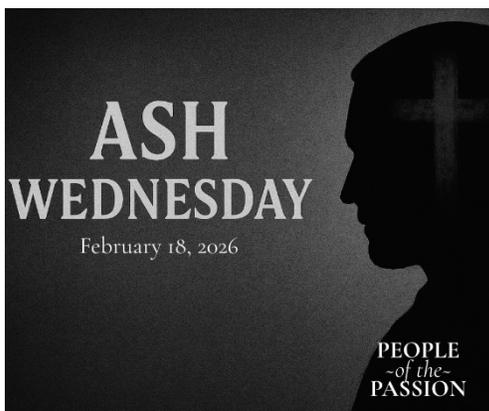


December 2025	9:30 am Worship	Digital Views YouTube	Sunday School
December 7 th	108	58	15
December 14 th	83	84	18
December 21 st Christmas Cantata	179	132	n/a
December 21 st Longest Night 4:00 pm	59	104	n/a
December 24 th 4:30 pm	85	50	n/a
7:00 pm	106	63	n/a
11:00 pm	44	35	n/a
December 28 th	74	57	8
<u>Average</u>	84	72	14

Gifts to the Church

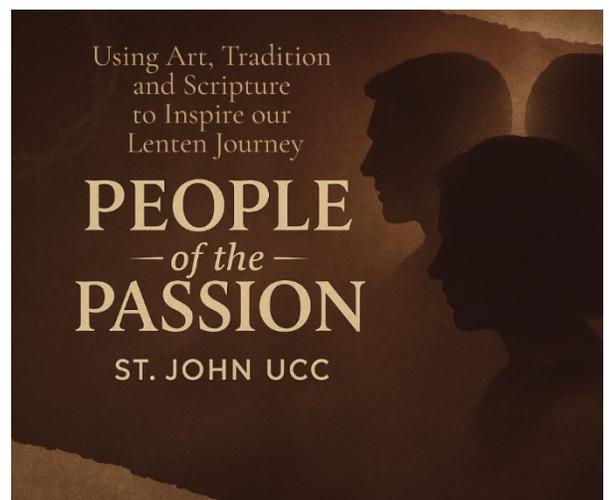
General Fund

- In honor of Dana Callahan for her retirement from Jim & Judy Brickey.
- In memory of Jennie Klaas from Linda Davis.
- In memory of Bob Graham from Linda Davis, Vicki Donovan, Nancy Fischer, Wayne Huff, Kathy Kirksey, Norb & Linda Kniepp, Barb Kusmierczak, Rick & Janet Skelton, Sherry Skelton, Paul Werner and Bill & Lori Yanousek.



Ash Wednesday, February 18, begins our Lenten Journey. Join us at 7:00 pm for worship and to receive your ashes.

Our Lenten Journey, "People of the Passion" will explore those who were a part of Jesus' life that last week.



Financial Update: December 2025

December was a strong finish to the 2025 financial year. The General Fund recorded a **monthly surplus of \$27,026**, which allowed the church to close the year **essentially at break-even**.

Total December revenues were **\$83,780**, slightly below budget, as envelope giving came in lower than planned. This was offset in part by favorable donations, memorials, and special events. As is typical, November and December together accounted for a significant portion of year-end giving.

Expenses for December totaled **\$56,754**, which was **\$16,227 below budget**. The largest savings continued to come from personnel costs, along with modest savings in facility and program expenses.

The combination of disciplined expense management and strong year-end giving allowed December's surplus to fully offset the remaining year-to-date deficit entering the final month of the year.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group

There is a new monthly support group for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren (or other relatives) at AgeSmart. If you or someone you know is in this situation, this could be a valuable resource for you to learn of resources and connect with others who share your experience.

Wednesday, February 25 at 9:30 am

AgeSmart Community Resources Area Agency on Aging

7 Bronze Pointe South, Swansea IL

(Rt. 159 just south of Target)

618-222-2561

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

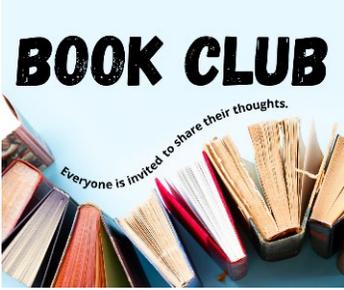


Confirmation

Meets Sundays after worship in the Parlor.

- February 1 – What do I “do” with my faith? Discipleship & Service
- February 8 – How do I practice or show my faith?
- February 15 – How do other religions show their faith?

No Confirmation February 22 – April 12



Our book club has chosen the next book we will be reviewing

Becoming by Michelle Obama.

In a life filled with meaning and accomplishment, Michelle Obama has emerged as one of the most iconic and compelling women of our era. As First Lady of the United States of America—the first African American to serve in that role—she helped create the most welcoming and inclusive White House in history, while also establishing herself as a powerful advocate for women and girls in the U.S. and around the world, dramatically changing the ways that families pursue healthier and more active lives, and standing with her husband as he led America through some of its most harrowing moments. Along the way, she showed us a few dance moves, crushed Carpool Karaoke, and raised two down-to-earth daughters under an unforgiving media glare. In her memoir, a work of deep reflection and mesmerizing storytelling, Michelle Obama invites readers into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her—from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her years as an executive balancing the demands of motherhood and work, to her time spent at the world’s most famous address. With unerring honesty and lively wit, she describes her triumphs and her disappointments, both public and private, telling her full story as she has lived it - in her own words and on her own terms. Warm, wise, and revelatory, *Becoming* is the deeply personal reckoning of a woman of soul and substance who has steadily defied expectations—and whose story inspires us to do the same.

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 **February 24th at 1:00 p.m.** We are meeting in the Parlor. We hope you will join us.

New Historical Display

The memorials donated for Rich & Joyce Skelton went to purchase this beautiful new curio cabinet to show off some of our church’s history. Next time you are at church, be sure to walk through the office to see this amazing display.

Thank you to Sherry Skelton, Rick & Janet Skelton, and Norb & Linda Kniepp for putting this together.



Faith Walking

February Prayer Theme: Prayer for Unity
"For God so Loved the World..." John 3:16
6:30 - 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
December Mileage: 591 | Year to Date: 1,082
Greeters help you log your progress!
Free-Will Offering. The Faith Walkers have set a goal of 7,000 miles to walk in 2026! They need your help! There will be a Friday Birthday Cake Day on Friday, February 7

No Walking: 2/16 President's Day

Contact Pastor Jenn for Questions 618-344-2526

Help us, Lord, in being a light as we live and work with one another. Let the world see you and your love within each of us. Grant us the understanding and patience to unify as worldly neighbors and bind us together with compassion in our hearts. Amen.

February 2026



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



S.O.S. Soup Kitchen

The next time St. John Church will be hosting S.O.S. is Thursday, February 5, 2026. Look in the Narthex for a sign-up sheet on February 1 to volunteer and bring food or contact John Green or Jim Achenbach for more information.

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

February Lessons

February 1 - The Good Samaritan

February 8 - Ten Men Healed

February 15 - The Wedding Banquet

February 22 - Jesus Feeds 5,000



Staff & Leadership

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

pastorjenn@stjohnucc-collinsville.org

Amy Rhymer, Pastoral

Assistant/Communications

office@stjohnucc-collinsville.org

Jenny King, Music Director

music@stjohnucc-collinsville.org

Laurie Voss, Accompanist

Mandi Voegel, Outreach Director

HHH@stjohnucc-collinsville.org

Leslie Musallam, Christian Education

Mike Liljegen, Council President

churchcouncil@stjohnucc-collinsville.org

Paul Ham, VP, Trustee Chair

Jon Hester, Treasurer, Deacons Chair

Ginger Schantz, Secretary

Nancy Berry, Elders Chair

The Learning Tree Preschool,

618-344-2562

St. John Cemetery, 618-344-0749

St. John's Community Care,

618-344-5008



Homework Help and Hoops tutoring started up again for the Spring semester on January 27th! Students and volunteers are on site from 3:00 to 6:00 pm every Tuesday and Thursday for homework completion, practicing reading out loud, P.E. time and enrichment class.



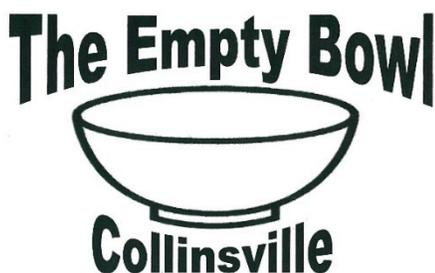
To learn more, donate, or volunteer, you can:

- 1) Check out our WEBSITE through St. John United Church of Christ: www.stjohnucc-collinsville.org/our-services
- 2) Follow our FACEBOOK page: www.facebook.com/HomeworkHelpandHoops
- 3) Reach out to me directly with CALL to 618-344-2526 ext.103 or EMAIL to HHH@stjohnucc-collinsville.org
- 4) Schedule a PRESENTATION for your company or group
- 5) PRAY for the safety and health of our kids, teens, staff and volunteers
- 6) Visit our AMAZON WISH LIST at the QR code provided!

SCAN HERE
for our HHH
Amazon wish list!



Thank you for your support as I learn and serve on this new journey! - Mandi Voegele



Save the Date
May 6, 2026
Volunteers will be needed!

Winter weather *could* be just around the corner. In the event of hazardous weather conditions, there is a possibility that in-person worship services may be cancelled for the safety of our members and staff. Cancellation notices will be listed with the following news networks: FOX 2, KMOV-4 and KSDK-5 as well as on the St. John Church's Facebook page. Of course, whether or not church is cancelled, please rely on your own good judgement as to whether it is safe for you to venture out!





The
mission of

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

Collinsville Faith in Action is

to provide services and information to community members ages 60 and up to promote dignity and independence.

February 14 is not only St. Valentine’s Day, it’s also the 28th Anniversary of Collinsville Faith in Action. You can help us celebrate and brighten someone’s day by ordering a carnation for CFiA volunteers to deliver. For a \$5 donation to CFiA, we will deliver a cheerfully wrapped red carnation, greenery, and your personalized note. Send one to your favorite pastor, neighbor, grandchild, best friend, and to your Valentine. Delivery available in Troy, Granite City, and throughout the Collinsville School District. Flowers may also be picked up from the CFiA office if you prefer to deliver yourself.

Call 618-344-8080 to make your donation no later than Friday, February 6.

At Collinsville Faith in Action, we are “Neighbors helping neighbors”[®] because we serve older community people with whom we share a community. We organize volunteers and provide volunteers with training and flexibility so they can help older neighbors stay in their homes longer. If you’d like to learn more about how volunteering at CFiA can be customized to your schedule and your skills, please call Karen Saravia at 618-344-8080 or complete a volunteer application at [Become a Volunteer | Faith in Action \(www.fiacollinsville.org/volunteer\)](http://www.fiacollinsville.org/volunteer). You can be a part of the “Neighbors helping neighbors”[®] movement.

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., Feb. 25th & Thurs., Feb. 26th

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



February 2026

ST. JOHN'S COMMUNITY CARE

Caring compassionately for aging and disabled people since 1985

222 Goethe Ave, Collinsville, IL 62234
618-344-5008

St. John's CC is in great need of volunteers to serve as receptionists, program assistants, and/or to assist with craft activities, and craft clean-up. Also, consider picking up an item, or several, needed for the Adult Day Program. Call with questions!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Receptionists
Program Assistants
Craft Assistants**

You choose a time, we'll find a place.

**If interested, please call
St. John's Community Care
618-344-5008**

CALL FOR DONATIONS

FOR OUR ADULT DAY PROGRAM

- GEL PENS
- GLUE
- WET WIPES
- TISSUES
- HAND LOTION
- THIN MARKERS
- TRIVIA OR GUESSING GAME CARDS
- EASY CARD GAME
- 12" BALLOONS
- PUNCH-BALL BALLOONS
- SMALL BLANK CANVASES FOR PAINTING
- AIR-DRY CLAY
- 5X7 OR 8X10 UNFINISHED WOOD FRAMES
- COFFEE PODS (K-CUPS), REGULAR AND/OR DECAF
- STICKERS, STICKER BOOKS
- COLORING BOOKS
- ACRYLIC PAINT, PAINT BRUSHES

St. John's Community Care Free Medical Equipment Loan Program



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.

2026

February

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
01 8:30 am Bible Study 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Confirmation	02 7-9 & 11-1 Faith Walking 9:00 am Miriam's Ministry 5:30-8 pm Pickleball	03 7-9 & 11-1 Faith Walking 3:00-6:00 pm HHH 7:00 pm Evening Circle	04 7-9 & 11-1 Faith Walking 5:30 pm C.O.P.s 6:00 pm Bells 6:00-9:00 pm Quilts & Crafts 7:15 pm Choir	05 7-9 & 11-1 Faith Walking 3:00-6:00 pm HHH 5:30-6:30 pm S.O.S. St. John Hosts meal 7:00 pm Elders	06 7-9 & 11-1 Faith Walking Dine to Donate at Bob Evans Collinsville 6 am - 9pm	07 Death By Chocolate 7:00-9:00 pm
08 8:30 am Bible Study 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Confirmation Scout Sunday	09 7-9 & 11-1 Faith Walking 9:00 am Miriam's Ministry 5:30-8 pm Pickleball	10 7-9 & 11-1 Faith Walking 3:00-6:00 pm HHH	11 7-9 & 11-1 Faith Walking 5:30 pm C.O.P.s 6:00 pm Bells 6:00-9:00 pm Quilts & Crafts 7:15 pm Choir	12 7-9 & 11-1 Faith Walking 3:00-6:00 pm HHH 5:30-6:00 pm S.O.S. 7:00 pm Deacons	13 7-9 & 11-1 Faith Walking	14
15 8:30 am Bible Study 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Confirmation 10:30 am Youth Ministries	16 Office Closed President's Day	17 7-9 & 11-1 Faith Walking 3:00-6:00 pm HHH	18 Ash Wednesday 7-9 & 11-1 Faith Walking 5:30 pm C.O.P.s 6:00 pm Bells 6:00-9:00 pm Quilts & Crafts 7:00 pm Worship	19 7-9 & 11-1 Faith Walking 3:00-6:00 pm HHH 5:30-6:00 pm S.O.S. 6:30 pm Trustees 7:00 pm Deacons	20 7-9 & 11-1 Faith Walking	21
22 8:30 am Bible Study 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Winter Family Event & VBS Preview	23 7-9 & 11-1 Faith Walking 9:00 am Miriam's Ministry 5:30-8 pm Pickleball	24 7-9 & 11-1 Faith Walking 1:00 pm Book Club 3:00-6:00 pm HHH	25 7-9 & 11-1 Faith Walking 5:30 pm C.O.P.s 6:00 pm Bells 6:00-9:00 pm Quilts & Crafts 7:15 pm Choir	26 7-9 & 11-1 Faith Walking 3:00-6:00 pm HHH 5:30-6:30 pm S.O.S.	27 7-9 & 11-1 Faith Walking	28

307 West Clay Street
Collinsville, IL 62234
618-344-2526
www.stjohnucc-collinsville.org

the Informer

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

