

# *the* INFORMER

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



GET READY FOR A NIGHT YOU WON'T FORGET!

## "A NIGHT ON BROADWAY"

ONE NIGHT ONLY!

JULY 19, 2025

7:00 PM

APPETIZERS WILL BE SERVED

ST. JOHN UCC IN FAITH HALL  
307 WEST CLAY STREET  
COLLINSVILLE, IL 62234  
618-344-2526

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

Free will offering to benefit the missions of  
St. John United Church of Christ

Please join us for night of food, fun, and entertainment. The evening will be filled with performances by our Drama Camp kids, St. John UCC's Choir, and many talented guests from the Collinsville area.

## "BROADWAY BOUND" DRAMA CAMP

JULY 14-18

9:00 AM-12:00 PM

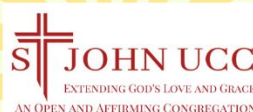
CAMP INCLUDES:

ACTING, SINGING, DANCING, IMPROV GAMES & ART PROJECTS.

CONCLUDES WITH A PERFORMANCE AT

"A NIGHT ON BROADWAY"

SATURDAY, JULY 19 AT 7:00 PM



ST. JOHN UCC  
307 WEST CLAY STREET  
COLLINSVILLE, IL 62234  
618-344-2526

KIDS AGE 6-13

REGISTRATION FORMS

AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE

Tables can be reserved for \$20. Please turn in money to Jenny King or Amy in the office. If you are able to donate an appetizer that evening, please sign up in the Narthex.

Thanks & see you there!

# Sunday Attendance



May 2025	9:30 am Worship	Digital Views YouTube	Sunday School
May 4 <sup>th</sup>	119	61	11
May 11 <sup>th</sup>	127	54	20
May 18 <sup>th</sup>	117	54	n/a
May 25 <sup>th</sup>	115	47	n/a
<u>Sunday Average</u>	<b>120</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>16</b>

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.



To access the St. John UCC Collinsville YouTube channel, use the following link:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDLLWhGXkkfbmGscZ-hallg>  
 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!



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

## Altar Committee Needs Help!

Looking for volunteers for a 2-month commitment working with a partner.

Duties include:

- preparing communion
- changing the Altar cloths
- straightening the pew pockets
- dusting as needed

If you are interested, please contact Karen Take at 618-288-7171.

## WAYS TO WELCOME ALL

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS  
NURSING MOTHER'S AREA  
WHEELCHAIR SPACE  
HEARING LOOPS

BUSY BAGS  
ROCKING CHAIRS  
SENSORY BOXES





## Council Highlights

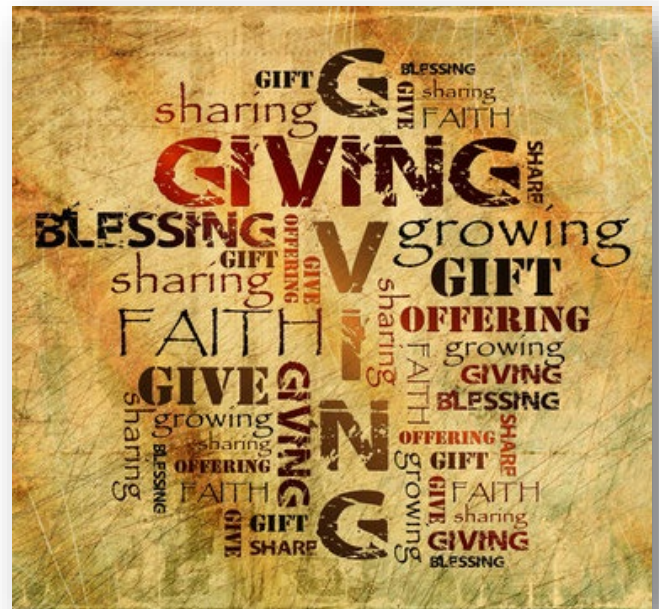
- Search Committee has begun interviewing for an Associate Pastor.
- A Grant was received for the purchase of a generator in the event Faith Hall would be used as a shelter after a natural disaster.
- Eddie Lewis was hired as our Assistant Facilities Manager and Carl Edwards was hired as a part-time custodian.
- Plans are beginning for the 2025 Cemetery Road Project.

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

## Financial update

### May Financial Status

- The General Fund spent \$13,593 more than we received, which was \$11,274 worse than the expected \$2,320.
- Revenues were \$38,218, which is \$9,371 below expectations.
  - Envelope contributions amounted to \$24,473, which was short of expectations by \$10,998.
- Expenses totaled \$52,721, which is \$170 above expectations.



### YTD Financial Status

- The General Fund spent \$31,416 more than we received which was \$35,748 worse than the expected \$4,332 surplus.
- Revenues were \$192,095, which is \$34,026 or 15% below expectations.
  - Envelope contributions amounted to \$141,623, falling short of expectations by \$21,323.
  - Donations of \$22,477, which was \$7,625 below expectations.
  - Reimbursements were \$15,937, which was \$7,386 below expectations.
- Expenses totaled \$223,522, which was \$1,723 above expectations.

## Gifts to the Church

### General Fund

- In memory of Rae Price from Joan Luebbers.
- In honor of Rick Skelton from Mark & Pam Waltermire.

## CRIB ROOM FOR CHILDREN 5 AND UNDER THIS SUMMER

The Crib Room will remain staffed during the summer for children ages 5 and under.

Youth Ministries hopes your family will attend worship this summer and teach your children the joy of worshipping our living God. Busy bags are available in the Narthex for those wanting to sit with their parents.



### **Making Baptismal Promises Real at St. John UCC**

When a child is baptized at St. John UCC, we witness and celebrate this sacrament and promise to love, support and care for the child being baptized as he/she lives and grows in Christ. One way to fulfill this important promise is to teach Sunday School.

This year as we recruit Sunday School teachers, Youth Ministries would like to challenge you to try teaching Sunday School by becoming a Student Teacher. No previous experience is needed. You do not need to be a Bible scholar or a theologian! You will be mentored and supported by Youth Ministries as you learn to teach the children in our care. To accept this challenge, contact Leslie Musallam.

### **Mark Your Calendar**

The Fall Sunday School program will resume on Rally Sunday!  
More info information is forthcoming!

*Sunday School Teachers Needed for 2025-2026 School Year!*

If you are able to teach or assist with Sunday School this fall, please contact Leslie Musallam.



**Thank you to ALL of the wonderful volunteers, both adult & youth, who helped make our 2025 VBS a HUGE success!! We had between 91 – 102 kids each day!**

## Faith Walking

### Important Time Change for Mid-Day Walkers

May Mileage – 523 miles

July Prayer Theme: In God We Trust

7:00 – 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Greeters help you log your progress!

Free-Will Offering

WARM, DRY, AND SAFE PLACE TO WALK!

NO WALKING on July 4 Happy Independence Day

## 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 or Dana at 344-2526



## Spirit of Sharing (S.O.S.) Soup Kitchen Celebrated 13<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The Soup Kitchen Coalition celebrated the thirteenth-year anniversary of feeding the hungry in our community on June 5. We served 268 pork steak dinners, provided and grilled by the Evening Lion's Club! We also served baked beans and potato salad. Thank you to St. John Church for starting this feeding program that ministers to so many in our community! We truly are "the helping hands that provide the love of God to those who are hungry." Praise and glory to God for blessing this ministry abundantly!

The next time St. John hosts S.O.S. is Thursday, July 3. Please check the Narthex on Sunday, June 29, for sign-up sheets to bring food or volunteer to cook or serve.



## Staff & Leadership

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

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

**Dana Callahan**, Outreach Director

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

**Leslie Musallam**, Christian Education

**Mike Liljegen**, Council President

[churchcouncil@stjohnucc-collinsville.org](mailto: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



# JUNETEENTH

## FREEDOM DAY

JUNE 19

ily 2025





July 2025



## HHH Summer Camp

HHH Summer Camp is up and running! Our theme is "Real Hero Training Camp," and we are learning that real heroes do not always wear capes! We are averaging 57 children and youth a day, with 102 campers enrolled. We have 64 adult volunteers that are helping in one form or another with this outreach! Thank you to all the St. John Church members who have helped so far. We couldn't do it without all of you!

If you would like to help us in July, please contact Dana at 618-344-2526. It takes a lot of volunteers to cover everyone going on vacation.

Check out our pictures and posts from HHH Summer Camp on the HHH-After School Tutoring and Summer Camp Program Facebook and Instagram page! Please continue to pray for this program and the families affected with food insecurities.

## AARP Smart Driver Class

Are you (or are your parents) over 55?? Would you like to get a discount on your car insurance for the next 3 years? Take the AARP Driver Safety Class. Learn about new laws, new car features, road designs (roundabouts etc.) and *refresh your general driving knowledge*. You must attend both days. \$20 for AARP members, \$25 for non members. (Cash or Check ONLY)

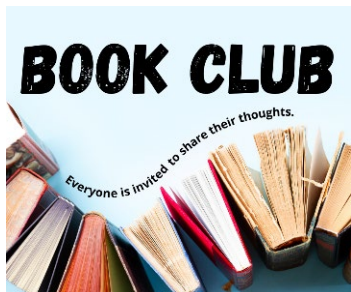


**Wednesday, Aug. 6th & Thursday, Aug. 7th 9:00 am - 1:00 pm** Call St John's Community Care to register - call 618-344-5008

- July 19 7:00 pm "A Night on Broadway"
- August 10 Blessing of the Backpacks
- September 7 Rally Sunday
- October 16 Wurstmart



July 2025



Our book club has chosen the next book we will be reviewing: Our book club has chosen the next book we will be reviewing: **Clock Dance** by Anne Tyler

Willa Drake has had three opportunities to start her life over: in 1967, as a schoolgirl whose mother has suddenly disappeared; in 1977, when considering a marriage proposal; and in 1997, as a young widow trying to hold her family together. So she is surprised when in 2017 she is given one last chance to change everything, after receiving a startling phone call from a stranger. Without fully understanding why, she flies across the country to Baltimore to help a young woman she's never met. This impulsive decision, maybe the first one she's consciously made in her life, will lead Willa into uncharted territory—surrounded by eccentric neighbors who treat each other like family, she finds solace and fulfillment in unexpected places. It is a bewitching novel of hope and transformation.

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 on meeting on Tuesday afternoon, **July 22nd at 1:00 p.m.** We are meeting in the Atrium. We hope you will join us.



233 North Seminary Street, Collinsville, IL 62234  
Volunteer Caregivers & Elder Connection: 618-344-8080  
Answers on Aging: 618-344-7788  
[www.fiacollinsville.org](http://www.fiacollinsville.org)  
**“Serve one another in love.”**  
**Galatians 5:13**

Hello Partner Churches,

Faith In Action would like to have each and every one of our Partner Churches participate in this year's dinner auction. There are many ways to participate! You can sponsor the event or advertise your business. To sponsor, advertise or donate an item, please pick-up a form in the church office or contact FIA directly.

You can also donate auction items such as:

- -new items that can be paired with other donations to make up themed baskets
- -gift cards to area businesses
- -bottles of wine with a minimum retail value of \$20 are needed for our wine pull
- -baked good or produce for our Tasty Shop section of the silent auction
- -new camping gear, fishing gear, or grilling utensils

For us, the most important thing is to have full participation in the way that works best for you. We hope you'll join us in our mission to serve seniors in our community.

In faith and gratitude,  
Lisa Ciszczon Brennen, Executive Director





# COME ONE, COME ALL

## Faith in Action 2025

### Dinner Auction

### WITH A COUNTRY FAIR FLAIR

Friday, July 11, 2025

Collinsville Gateway Convention Center

Individual Tickets: \$75

**FULL** Bella Milano Dinner & Dessert

CASH GAMES: 50/50, WINE PULL, AND MORE

LIVE MUSIC: GRANITE CITY SWING BAND

ATTIRE: BUSINESS CASUAL BUT BOOTS AND GINGHAM WELCOME!

**FIACOLLINSVILLE.ORG**

Order tickets and sponsorships using the website above or

QR code below, call 618-344-8080, or

stop by our office at 233 N. Seminary St., Collinsville, IL 62234



# ST. JOHN'S

## COMMUNITY CARE

Caring compassionately for aging and disabled people since 1985

July 2025

222 Goethe Ave.  
Collinsville, IL 62234  
618-344-5008  
[www.stjohnscc.org](http://www.stjohnscc.org)

The sun was shining and everyone was smiling when St. John's Community Care went to the park in May. Participants in the Adult Day Program in Edwardsville visited Tri-Township Park in Troy. Folks loved seeing the animals in the zoo including an emu, peacocks, and a potbelly pig. We also visited the Veteran's Memorial in the park.

The park visited was an excellent therapy for participants with early memory loss. It included socialization, cognitive stimulation, and movement.

Other activities in May included music by Collinsville musician Paul Kruta and SIUE music students, art therapy, and storytelling.



Christine Thurber (she/her)  
Executive Director,  
St. John's  
Community Care





2025

July

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	01	02	03	04	05
		7-9 & 10:30-12:30 Faith Walking 12:00-2:00 pm HHH 7:00 pm Evening Circle	7-9 & 10:30-12:30 Faith Walking 12:00-2:00 pm HHH 7:15 pm Choir	7-9 & 10:30-12:30 Faith Walking 5:30-6:00 pm S.O.S. St. John UCC's night 7:00 pm Elders	<b>Independence Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b> 7-9 & 10:30-12:30 Faith Walking	
06	07	08	09	10	11	12
8:30 pm Bible Study 9:30 am Worship	7-9 & 10:30-12:30 Faith Walking 12:00-2:00 pm HHH 5:30 pm Pickleball	7-9 & 10:30-12:30 Faith Walking 12:00-2:00 pm HHH	7-9 & 10:30-12:30 Faith Walking 12:00-2:00 pm HHH 7:15 pm Choir	7-9 & 10:30-12:30 Faith Walking 12:00-2:00 pm HHH 7:00 pm Deacons	7-9 & 10:30-12:30 Faith Walking Faith In Action Dinner Auction	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
8:30 pm Bible Study 9:30 am Worship	7-9 & 11:35-12:30 Faith Walking 9:00 am-12:00 pm Drama Camp 12:00-2:00 pm HHH 5:30 pm Pickleball	7-9 & 11:35-12:30 Faith Walking 9:00 am-12:00 pm Drama Camp 12:00-2:00 pm HHH 7:15 pm Choir in Faith Hall	7-9 & 11:35-12:30 Faith Walking 9:00 am-12:00 pm Drama Camp 12:00-2:00 pm HHH 7:15 pm Choir in Faith Hall	7-9 & 11:35-12:30 Faith Walking 9:00 am-12:00 pm Drama Camp 12:00-2:00 pm HHH 5:30-6:00 pm S.O.S. 6:30 pm Trustees 7:00 pm Council	7-9 & 11:35-12:30 Faith Walking 9:00 am-12:00 pm Drama Camp	7:00 pm "A Night on Broadway"
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
VBS Sunday 8:30 pm Bible Study 9:30 am Worship	7-9 & 10:30-12:30 Faith Walking 12:00-2:00 pm HHH 5:30 pm Pickleball	7-9 & 10:30-12:30 Faith Walking 12:00-2:00 pm HHH 1:00 pm Book Club 6:00 pm HHH Art Show	7-9 & 10:30-12:30 Faith Walking 12:00-2:00 pm HHH	7-9 & 11-1 Faith Walking 12:00-2:00 pm HHH 5:30-6:00 pm S.O.S.	7-9 & 10:30-12:30 Faith Walking	
27	28	29	30	31	01	02
8:30 pm Bible Study 9:30 am Worship	7-9 & 11-1 Faith Walking 5:30 pm Pickleball	7-9 & 11-1 Faith Walking	7-9 & 11-1 Faith Walking	7-9 & 11-1 Faith Walking 5:30-6:00 pm S.O.S.		

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

