

the **INFORMER**

St. John UCC

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

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

**Camp
Includes:**

**Acting,
Singing,**

**Dancing,
Art &**

**Improv
Games**



**Concludes with a
performance at the
"Academy Awards"
Friday, July 10 at 7:00 pm**

Registration forms are available in the church office.

Contact Jenny King or Amy at 618-344-2526 or office@stjohnucc-collinsville.org to have one sent to you.



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

- 1) Follow us on FACEBOOK and/or INSTAGRAM
- 2) DONATE by selecting HHH on the Realm App or Online Giving website button
- 3) Purchase items from our AMAZON WISH LIST at the QR code provided
- 4) Schedule a SPONSORSHIP PRESENTATION for your company or group
- 5) Reach out to me directly with a CALL to 618-344-2526 ext.103 or EMAIL to HHH@stjohnucc-collinsville.org

Thank you so much for your continued support. I'll see you at camp! - Mandi Voegelé



June 2026

Donating just got easier!
Not sure what to give?
Check out our wish list on Amazon. Just pick something in your price range and Amazon will ship it straight to St John!

SCAN HERE
for our HHH
Amazon wish list!



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



May 2026	9:30 am Worship	Digital Views YouTube	Sunday School
May 3 rd	103	54	14
May 10 th Mother's Day	137	97	22
May 17 th Children Led Worship	121	97	n/a
May 24 th	99	63	n/a
May 31 st	94	45	
<u>Average</u>	111	71	18

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/channel/UCstjohnucc-collinsville)
Look for: St. John United Church of Christ Collinsville, IL

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 Carol Holbert from Bill & Nancy Berry and Vicki Donovan.
- In memory of Janet Foster from Vicki Donovan and Rob & Anita Whittington.
- In memory of Ken Bluemner from Bill & Nancy Berry, Rich & Glenna Grab, Ken & Phyllis Waltermire, Mark & Pam Waltermire, Ed & Lois Bluemner, Vicki Donovan.
- In honor of Pastor Jenn Sowell from Mark & Pam Waltermire.

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

Council Highlights

- Pastor Miranda will do a pastoral retreat at the Mercy Center in St. Louis July 27-30 focusing on spiritual reflection and planning for the fall.
- Pastor Miranda has appointed her Pastoral Relations Committee and will schedule a training by ISC.
- The Metro-East Unitarian Congregation is seeking a place to worship and has an office beginning in January 2027. They would pay rent. Council is considering the request to accommodate their needs for 3-5 years.
- Approved a \$250 sponsorship of Collinsville Faith in Action's 2026 dinner auction.
- Trustees had water leak in Faith Hall women's restroom repaired, replaced the garbage disposal in Fellowship Hall, will replace the pump in the boiler room in June, and are evaluating how to repair or replace the air conditioner for the office area.
- The Learning Tree Preschool is looking for another church member to join their Board. If you are interested, please let Gigi Liljegren know.

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

May Financial Stewardship Report

May was a particularly encouraging month for our church's finances. Your envelope contributions totaled **\$26,836** — the **fifth consecutive month above budget**. Through the end of May, year-to-date envelope giving stands at **\$165,404, which is \$23,782 ahead of where we budgeted**. Your sustained generosity is making a real difference, and we are grateful.

For the first time in 2026, the church finished a month with an **operating surplus**. May closed with revenues exceeding expenses by about \$4,000. Better still, when we look at the full year-to-date picture through five months, the church is **essentially on plan with our year-to-date budget** — a meaningful turnaround from where we stood at the end of April.

Several things came together in May. Building maintenance was unusually quiet, with no major projects undertaken during the month, and the timing of some routine reimbursements worked in our favor. Most importantly, your weekly giving continued its consistent strength.

Your music program continues to be a favorite of the congregation. May brought another **\$2,210 in donations for the Bells**, following April's outpouring of more than \$2,650.

Looking ahead, our HHH ministry is gearing up for HHH Camp Summer, which has begun to draw donor support — we received \$2,300 in gifts during May alone. Vacation Bible School preparations are underway as well.

Thank you for the trust you place in this congregation and for every gift, large and small, that you make. Five months into 2026, your generosity is the engine behind everything good that happens here. If you ever want to know more about where things stand financially, just ask — your deacons and finance team are always glad to share.

Faith Walking

July Prayer Theme: "Walk Free in Christ"

Galatians 5:1 — "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free."

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

May Mileage: 485 | Year to Date: 4,263!

Greeters help you log your progress! Free-Will Offering.

TIME CHANGE: The Faith Walking time for the mid-day walking during **July is 10:30-12:30**, except for the week of **July 6-10 when it will be 11:35-12:30** because of Drama Camp.

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 UCC serves is Thursday, July 2. 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.



July 2026



Thank You!

Thank you to **ALL** of the wonderful volunteers, both adult & youth, who helped make our 2026 VBS a **HUGE** success!! We couldn't have done it without you!

During VBS, our Snowball Mountain Challengers collected both a physical and monetary offering each day. **Our physical offering was to the church's blessing box.** The children brought in food and hygiene items. **Our monetary mission went to Collinsville Unit 10's Special Olympics Team.**

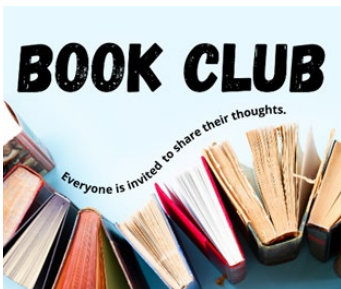


THANK YOU!

You're Invited!

The next Movie Matinee will be on **Friday, July 10** at 1:00 pm in the Theater. No need for reservations, bring yourself and whatever snacks you'd like!

Our next lunch will be at 1:00 on **Friday, July 17**. 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.



Our book club has chosen the next book we will be reviewing:
The Second Life of Mirielle West by Amanda Skenandore.

For Mirielle West, a 1920's socialite married to a silent film star, the isolation and powerlessness of the Louisiana Leper Home is an unimaginable fall from her intoxicatingly chic life of bootlegged champagne and the star-studded parties of Hollywood's Golden Age. When a doctor notices a pale patch of skin on her hand, she's immediately branded a leper and carted hundreds of miles from home to Carville, taking a new name to spare her family and famous husband the shame that accompanies the disease. At first she hopes her exile will be brief, but those sent to Carville are more prisoners than patients and their disease has no cure. Instead she must find community and purpose within its walls, struggling to redefine her self-worth while fighting an unchosen fate.

As a registered nurse, author Amanda Skenandore's medical background adds layers of detail and authenticity to the experiences of patients and medical professionals at Carville – the isolation, stigma, experimental treatments, and disparate community. A tale of repulsion, resilience, and the Roaring '20s, *The Second Life of Mirielle West* is also the story of a health crisis in America's past, made all the more poignant by the author's experiences during another, all-too-recent crisis.

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 **July 21st at 1:00 p.m.** We are meeting in the Atrium. We hope you will join us.



A word from "Mrs. Cat" about our church's Care Ministry Team

I am grieving the recent loss of my mother, and it was very powerful to receive a card in the mail from the church. Many of my church friends had signed it as well as some I haven't yet gotten to know. St. John Collinsville is a large and caring community, and I'm glad to be part of it.

Please smile and 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. Let me know if you want to be part of this team- I'll send you helpful updates.

Carolyn Catalano

618-381-6411

mccallcarolyn@yahoo.com



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.



2027

You are God's Masterpiece made just as you are.

2026

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Teacher: _____

School: _____

"I am fearfully & wonderfully made."
 -Psalm 139:14

ST JOHN UCC
 EXTENDING GOD'S LOVE AND CARE IN
 AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

homework help & hoops

FABLE FOREST

Everyone Has A Story

HHH Invites you to

Church Service & Art Show

Sunday, July 26 at 9:30 am



There will also be a special Coffee Hour after Church, during the Art Show.

St. John UCC
 307 W Clay St | Collinsville, IL 62234
 HHH@stjohnucc-collinsville.org
 618-344-2526 ext. 103

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.



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



Everyone can participate to support our local seniors. Sponsor the event, place an ad in the auction booklet, donate an auction item, or simply come and bid during the auction! Let's celebrate independence through unity not only in honor of our country's 250th, but also because as a community we unite to help keep seniors independent!

Entertainment by the Granite City Swing Band, Dinner by Bella Milano, Desserts by Silly Grandma's Sweet Creations and Uptown Scoops, Wide Variety of Silent Auction Items and Experiences, Exciting Oral Auction Items and Experiences, 50/50 Raffle, Wine Pull and More!

Your participation at any level helps seniors remain as independent as possible.

For tickets or sponsorship, visit

<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/collinsvillefaithinaction/event/celebratingindependencedinnerauction/>

Do you have a bottle of wine or an auction item to donate? Please call us about our wish list for auction items! Feel free to call the CFiA office at 618-344-8080 or email lbrennan@fiacollinsville.org to purchase sponsorships, advertising, or tickets and to inquire about our wish list.

United, we help seniors remain independent.



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.

**ST. JOHN UCC INVITES YOU TO
YOUTH GROUP**



GAME

NIGHT



Grades 7-12

FRIDAY, JULY 31 ST | 5 - 7 PM

**JOIN THE ULTIMATE
EVENING OF FUN
AND EXCITEMENT!**

**307 W CLAY ST
COLLINSVILLE**



BOARD GAMES & MORE!

PIZZA & REFRESHMENTS



**HUNGRY!
HUNGRY!**

Hippos

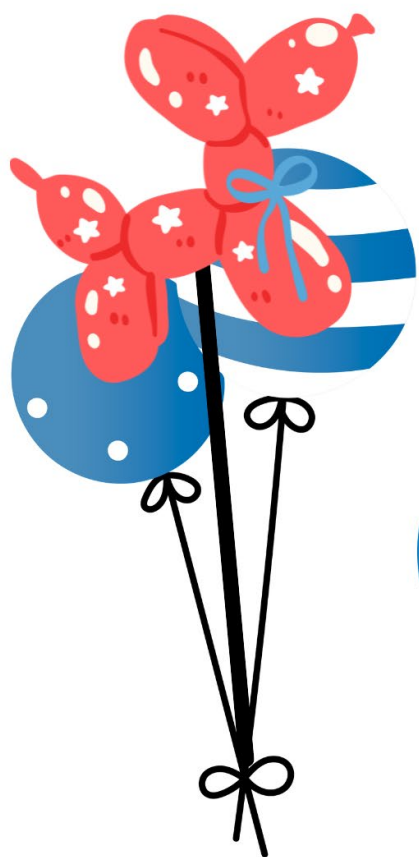


2026		July				
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	01	02	03	04 Happy Independence Day!
			6:30-8:30 & 10:30-12:30 Faith Walking 12:00-2:00 pm HHH 6:00 pm Quilting & Crafts	6:30-8:30 & 10:30-12:30 Faith Walking 5:30-6:00 pm S.O.S. St. John UCC's night 7:00 pm Elders	6:30-8:30 & 10:30-12:30 Faith Walking	
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
8:30 pm Bible Study 9:30 am Worship	6:30-8:30 & 11:30-12:30 Faith Walking 9:00 am-12:00 pm Drama Camp 12:00-2:00 pm HHH 5:30 pm Pickleball	6:30-8:30 & 11:30-12:30 Faith Walking 9:00 am-12:00 pm Drama Camp 12:00-2:00 pm HHH 7:00 pm Evening Circle	6:30-8:30 & 11:30-12:30 Faith Walking 9:00 am-12:00 pm Drama Camp 12:00-2:00 pm HHH 6:00 pm Quilting & Crafts	6:30-8:30 & 11:30-12:30 Faith Walking 9:00 am-12:00 pm Drama Camp 12:00-2:00 pm HHH 7:00 pm Deacons	6:30-8:30 & 11:30-12:30 Faith Walking 9:00 am-12:00 pm Drama Camp 1:00 pm Movie Matinee 7:00 pm "Academy Awards" Camp Performance	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:30 pm Bible Study 9:30 am Worship	6:30-8:30 & 11:30-12:30 Faith Walking 12:00-2:00 pm HHH 5:30 pm Pickleball	6:30-8:30 & 11:35-12:30 Faith Walking 12:00-2:00 pm HHH	6:30-8:30 & 11:35-12:30 Faith Walking 12:00-2:00 pm HHH 6:00 pm Quilting & Crafts	6:30-8:30 & 11:35-12:30 Faith Walking 12:00-2:00 pm HHH 5:30-6:00 pm S.O.S. 6:30 pm Trustees 7:00 pm Council	6:30-8:30 & 11:35-12:30 Faith Walking 1:00 pm Kindred Spirits Lunch	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:30 pm Bible Study 9:30 am Patriotic Worship Service	6:30-8:30 & 10:30-12:30 Faith Walking 12:00-2:00 pm HHH 5:30 pm Pickleball	6:30-8:30 & 10:30-12:30 Faith Walking 12:00-2:00 pm HHH 1:00 pm Book Club	6:30-8:30 & 10:30-12:30 Faith Walking 12:00-2:00 pm HHH 6:00 pm Quilting & Crafts	6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 12:00-2:00 pm HHH 5:30-6:00 pm S.O.S.	6:30-8:30 & 10:30-12:30 Faith Walking	
26	27	28	29	30	31	01
8:30 pm Bible Study 9:30 am Worship HHH Sunday & Art Show	6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 5:30 pm Pickleball	6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking	6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 6:00 pm Quilting & Crafts	6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 5:30-6:00 pm S.O.S.	6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 5:00 - 7:00 pm Youth Group Game Night	

307 West Clay Street
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www.stjohnucc-collinsville.org

the Informer

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



July

