

the **INFORMER**

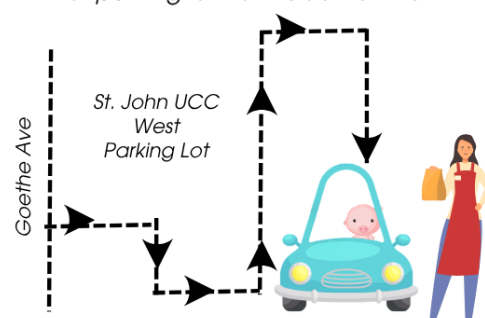
St. John UCC

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



DRIVE-THRU ONLY

Enter parking lot from Goethe Ave.



Thursday, October 15 11:00am - 6:30pm

\$15 Meal Includes:

1 pound Sausage Link, Sauerkraut, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Creamed Peas, Applesauce, Horseradish & Dessert

**Proceeds support St. John UCC's
Community Missions such as:**

homework help & hoops



**Uncooked
Sausage Sales**
\$5.00 per 1 pound link



Order deadline 10/6

Pick Up 10/14 between 1:00-6:00 pm

To order, call church office at

618-344-2526

Volunteer Opportunity Help Spread the St. John Welcome



The congregation is invited to participate as volunteers at the St. John booth at the Metro East Pride Fest on Main Street in Belleville on Saturday, October 3rd. We will be sharing information about our church and our church activities with the attendees at the event. Volunteers are asked to fill a 2-hour time slot between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. There will be at least 2 people at the booth for each time period. If you are interested in helping spread the St. John welcome at the Pride event, please look for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex or call the church office at (618) 344-2526.



A newer tradition at St. John UCC is to wear our costumes to worship the Sunday before Halloween. This year is October 25th. Halloween reminds us of a simple but powerful truth: hospitality doesn't require us to know someone's story before we offer kindness. Every year we gladly hand out treats to strangers, welcoming them with smiles and generosity. As an Open & Affirming church, St. John seeks to practice that same spirit year-round. We open our doors, not just for one evening, but every day, sharing God's love and welcome with all who come our way

October 2026

As we celebrate World Communion Sunday on **October 4**, we rejoice in the unity of God's people around the world and the love that gathers us together at Christ's table. At St. John UCC, we practice open Communion because we believe God's invitation is for everyone. You do not need to be a member of our church, belong to a particular denomination, or be baptized to receive Communion. Whether you are a lifelong Christian, exploring your faith, visiting for the first time, or simply seeking God's grace, you are welcome to share in this meal of love, belonging, and hope. There is a place for you at God's table.



Family-friendly event!

Admission & parking are free, and there's something for everyone to enjoy. Gather your friends and family!



*Food Trucks, Live Music, Rope Making,
Kids Korner, Pony & Hay Rides, Silent Auction, and
OVER 40 CRAFTERS & ARTISANS!*

 2651 Quarry Rd. DuBois, IL
 www.DuBoisCenter.org

 **DuBois Center**
The Camp and Retreat Center of the Illinois South
Conference of the United Church of Christ



**All You Can Eat
Taco Bar Fundraiser**

The Collinsville Blessing Box
Network is having a Fundraiser on
Sunday, October 4th
from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm.

\$13 per person. All you can eat!

Desserts will be available for
purchase. All money raised will be
distributed to the locations with
Blessing Boxes to purchase most
needed items.

**Do you have
pictures of
St. John UCC
events, programs
or one of our
missions on your phone?**



**We'd love to see them! Please
send photos to Amy by email,
office@stjohnucc-collinsville.org
or text 618-973-7771.**

Sunday Attendance



October 2026

August 2026	9:30 am Worship	Digital Views YouTube
August 2 nd	70	51
August 9 th	100	50
August 9 th Pastor Miranda's Installation 3:00 pm	99	41
August 16 th	80	55
August 23 rd	72	39
August 30 th	77	52
<u>Average</u>	79	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.johnunitedchurchofchrist446](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCstjohn446)
Look for: St. John United Church of Christ Collinsville, IL

Council Highlights

- The Metro East Unitarian Universalist Congregation has selected another church with whom to affiliate.
- Inviting members to serve on Council next year.
- Working on bids to install the generator for Fatih Hall, and to repair the West Entrance overhang where it constantly drips.
- St. John Cemetery will begin work replacing another section of road this fall.
- The Learning Tree is getting bids for an awning to cover the backdoor of the Education Building.
- Council will meet on October 20 since the third Thursday is Wurstmart.



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

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

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.

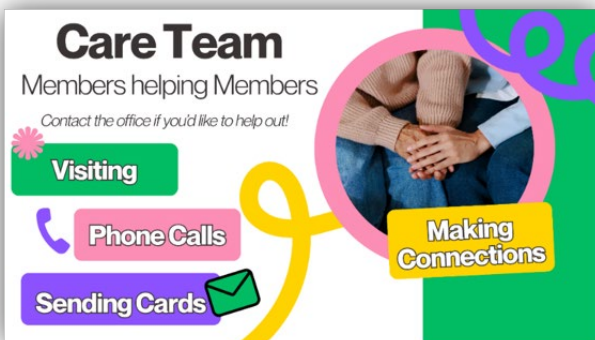
ALTAR COMMITTEE

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

August Financial Recap: A Word of Thanks as Summer Ends

As summer gives way to fall, we give thanks for the steady generosity that carries our church through every season. Through August, envelope giving has run consistently ahead of plan — offerings now stand about \$22,000 (roughly 10%) ahead of budget for the year. That faithfulness is a real encouragement and a sign of how deeply so many of you are invested in 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 \$77,000. Some of this reflects one-time and seasonal costs — including repairs to keep our building running well — but it is a reminder that our ministry depends on steady, year-round giving. If you are able to continue, or to increase, your regular offering, it truly helps keep us on solid footing as we head toward year-end. We are especially grateful for the way you supported this summer's youth ministries and camp. Thanks to your gifts and to generous grant support, these programs served our young people this year without adding strain to the church's budget. Your generosity goes directly to the work it supports. Thank you for your continued faithfulness. 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.



CARE MINISTRY TEAM MEETS OCT. 11

Our Care Ministry team meets in person twice a year. We'll meet Oct. 11 at Willoughby Farm following the Pet Blessing service. You're welcome to join us; let me know if you can help reach out to by doing any of these things:

- ✚ sending cards (I'll provide a name & address)
- ✚ making phone calls
- ✚ visiting people

Meanwhile, keep smiling and chatting with those around you at church, whether or not you already know them or even remember their names. Together we are God's hands, whether or not we're on an official "Care Team".

SERMONS ON PARABLES

I'm beginning work on some sermons about parables, the many stories Jesus told to illustrate ideas. My own favorite is the story of Martha and Mary (Luke 10: 38-42). I'll share why that parable has personal meaning for me, and I'll incorporate some dramatization. I'm also thinking about what music would go well with it. Do you have your own favorite parable? Please call or email me if you have a favorite, and I'd like to work on that parable as part of my series. Here are some of the most-know ones; maybe one of these titles jumps out at you-

- Rich Man
- Lazarus
- Prodigal Son
- Good Samaritan
- 10 Virgins



Carolyn Catalano

618-381-6411

mccallcarolyn@yahoo.com



ATTEND OUR OCT. 17 CONFERENCE MEETING

I sometimes serve as Sunday morning Pulpit Supply at different area churches, and I see many churches lacking attendees & permanent pastoral leadership. Our Illinois South Conference will hold an unusual Annual Meeting on Oct. 17 at Salem UCC in Alhambra. The meeting's theme is "**Counting the Cost in All Seasons**", from Luke 14: 27-28

And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? (NIV)

Projections about our Conference for the next 5 years will be shared with the idea that we can be proactive. During break times, attendees can network and look at materials in a "Covenantal Commons". Pastor Miranda and our 3 church delegates (myself, Abe Cyrus, and Kristi Ham) will attend. Others from our church will be there as Conference committee members, though there will be NO committee reports. YOU can attend as a visitor! Go to the Conference website for more information: www.iscucc.org,

Carolyn Catalano, 618-381-6411, mccallcarolyn@yahoo.com

Faith Walking

October Prayer Theme: "Walk by Faith, Not Fear"
God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power.
-2 Timothy

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

August Mileage: 681 | Year to Date: 6,263!

Greeters help you log your progress!

Free-Will Offering.

Oct.2 is the party for September & October birthdays.



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 Kniepp at 618-830-2621



We will celebrate 21 years of the Faith Walking ministry on **Monday, November 2nd**, with a Potluck Luncheon beginning at 11:00 am, a group photo at 11:45, Award Presentations at 12:00 and Bingo from 12:15-1:00. Bring your friends!

In addition to celebrating the accomplishments of the Faith Walkers during the last year, we would also like to recognize our dedicated greeters, some who have been volunteering since the beginning! The success and longevity of the Faith Walking program is due in large part to the friendly greeters who welcome the walkers, provide moral support, and track the mileage walked by each participant. Thank you all for your service!

S.O.S. Soup Kitchen

The next time St. John UCC serves is October 1st. Please see John Green in the Narthex the Sunday morning before we serve. The need is greater than we could have imagined. S.O.S. is averaging around 240 meals each Tuesday and Thursday. If you are unable to donate your time, you may be able to donate food or monetary support.



You're Invited!

The next Movie Matinee will be Monday, October 5th at 1:00 pm in the Theater. This is the first Monday of the month, the second Monday is indigenous Peoples' Day (Columbus Day.) They will be viewing The Bourne Supremacy. No need for reservations, bring yourself and whatever snacks you'd like!



We will not meet for lunch in October since the third Thursday is Wurstmarkt. Our next lunch will be Thursday, November 19th at 1:00 pm, location still yet to be determined. 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!

Have you ever wondered how you can help shape the future of our church?

Serving on Church Council is a meaningful and rewarding way to put your faith into action, share your voice, build relationships, and help guide the ministry and mission of our congregation. We are currently seeking members to fill one immediate opening for a two-year term, along with several upcoming three-year terms. If you care about our church, our community, and where God is calling us next, we invite you to prayerfully consider this exciting leadership opportunity.

**WE WANT
YOU!
YES, YOU!!**

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

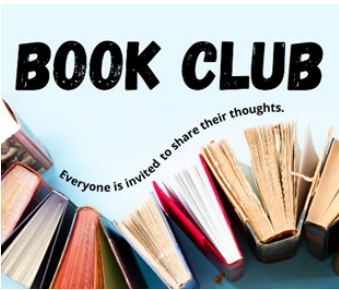
St. John Cemetery, 618-344-0749

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

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.



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

Outfox by Sandra Brown.

FBI agent Drex Easton is relentlessly driven by a single goal: to outmaneuver the conman once known as Weston Graham. Over the past thirty years, Weston has assumed many names and countless disguises, enabling him to lure eight wealthy women out of their fortunes before they disappeared

without a trace, their families left without answers and the authorities without clues. The only common trait among the victims: a new man in their life who also vanished, leaving behind no evidence of his existence . . . except for one signature custom. Drex is convinced that these women have been murdered, and that the man he knows as Weston Graham is the sociopath responsible. But each time Drex gets close to catching him, Weston trades one persona for another and disappears again. Now, for the first time in their long game of cat and mouse, Drex has a suspect in sight.

Attractive and charming, Jasper Ford is recently married to a successful businesswoman many years his junior, Talia Shafer. Drex insinuates himself into their lives, posing as a new neighbor and setting up surveillance on their house. The closer he gets to the couple, the more convinced he becomes that Jasper is the clever, merciless predator he's sought--and that his own attraction to Talia threatens to compromise his purpose and integrity. This is Drex's one chance to outfox his cunning nemesis before he murders again and eludes justice forever. But first he must determine if the desirable Talia is a heartless accomplice . . . or the next victim.

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 October 20th at 1:00 p.m. We are meeting in the Atrium. We hope you will join us.

Caught You Reading!

If you've found this hidden note, we'd love to hear from you. Call Amy and say, "I found the hidden blessing!" Everyone who calls by the end of the month will be entered into a drawing for a "Pastor's Secret Prize."

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.
-



Dear Church Family:

Thanks to your donations of gently-used items, and the efforts of 28 volunteers, the annual Fall Rummage Sale benefiting our HHH program was another huge success! We were able to once again turn Faith Hall Gym into a shopping experience with clothes, shoes, household items, toys, Halloween costumes and much more. The sale ran from Thursday evening September 17th, through Saturday morning September 19th. Between item sales and the \$10 VIP entrance fee for Thursday's pre-sale, we raised more than \$3,400, approximately 6.5% off our annual program operating budget for tutoring and summer camp! I am so thankful for each and every

person who helped in any way with this vast undertaking.

The HHH afterschool tutoring program begins again on September 29th and spots for both students and volunteers are still available. Please reach out to me any time with questions by calling 618-405-5831 or emailing hkh@stjohnucc-collinsville.org. ***We appreciate your continued prayers for our program this school year.***

In hope and service,
Mandi Voegelé



**Lunch
Break!**



THANK YOU!

homework help & hoops





**Extra-Step Offering
Sunday, October 4th
Neighbors in Need & HHH**

*Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and walk in love, as Christ loved us.
Ephesians 5:1-2 (NRSVUE)*

I have often found it difficult to preach from Ephesians. It is challenging not to turn the text into a sermon full of scolding. Act this way, don't act this way. There are certainly plenty of instructions in Ephesians that Christians haven't been living up to for thousands of years.

And yet, I find myself drawn to the encouragement to be like Christ. This is a movement at the heart of our faith, that we can be transformed to be more Christ-like. There is hope that what we were doesn't have to dictate who we will be.

This is at the heart of why this scripture is the theme for our Neighbors in Need offering this year. When we come together as a church to do the work of justice and advocacy, we are acting out of the hope that change in the world is possible.

As you encourage your congregation to participate in this offering, I hope you will share the following. First, this offering is transformative because it calls us to collective justice—not isolated programs and pitches, but a genuine ecosystem of people who work collaboratively across issues and geographies to bring about social change. Second, our gifts represent our faith in God's ability to multiply what we have. Jesus' ministry was full of abundance, but not because he started with overwhelming resources. Rather, what was offered in community became enough to meet the needs of the day.

When we walk, roll, and march in love together, justice will come.

The Rev. Rachel McDonald works for the National Ministries of the UCC as Generosity Officer, OCWM and Special Mission Offerings. The four Special Mission Offerings of the United Church of Christ are One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need, and the Christmas Fund. Together they demonstrate a commitment to building a just world for all. To learn more, go to <https://www.ucc.org/smo>

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

"MADE TO GIVE"



Shop with
local artisans,
crafters, and
direct sales
consultants featuring
Pampered Chef,
Scentsy, and more!

Be sure to stop by
the HHH
"Second Blessings
Christmas Shop" to
find gently used
treasures!

Faith Hall at St. John UCC
307 W Clay St | Collinsville, IL

Saturday, November 21st

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Sunday, November 22nd

10:30 am - 2:30 pm

Vendors Wanted!

\$25 per 8' table
(chairs provided)

\$50 for a 10' x 10' booth
(table & chairs provided if needed)

To register please contact the church office at 618-344-2526 or
office@stjohnucc-collinsville.org





October 2026

We have been very busy welcoming our Learning Tree friends and their families back to school in September! The children and their teachers are learning about each other, following class routines and making new friends. Each class has enjoyed several apple themed activities that helped them learn all about apples this month. We also have been talking about our families and working on self-portraits for each child's portfolio. The Collinsville Fire Department will be here to talk about the importance of fire safety and let the children explore the fire trucks and squirt the fire hose. We will also began having Children's Moments with Pastor Miranda and going to the "big gym" for large motor fun!

The Learning tree families had a fun day at the .1K Walk, Run, Roll fundraiser held on September 13 after the Rally Day Service. Thank you to all that supported us through race entries and the purchase of raffle tickets. The winner of the basket raffle was Beverly McMaster. Congratulations!

October will be very busy! We will enjoy an all-school trip to Relleke Pumpkin patch this month and have a Halloween parade to show off our costumes. The parades will take place in Faith Hall on October 29 and 30 at 8:45 a.m. We welcome church members to join us! It is such a blessing to watch each child grow and learn new things!

Gigi Liljegren, (Miss Gigi)
The Learning Tree Preschool, Director





October 2026
233 North Seminary Street, Collinsville, IL 62234
Main Line: 618-344-8080
Answers on Aging: 618-344-7788
Website: www.fiacollinsville.org

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.

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

Collinsville Faith in Action is seeking volunteers to complete minor home repairs for seniors in our community. As “neighbors helping neighbors,” home repairs allow our elders to remain in their own homes safely. Volunteers make their own schedules, can work on teams or as individuals, and can provide practical support while living out their faith. Supplies are paid for by CFiA. If you can help, please contact Karen at 618-344-8080 or complete a Volunteer Application at our website: Faith in Action (fiacollinsville.org).

Medicare’s Annual Open Enrollment begins in October, and Collinsville Faith in Action offers free Medicare consultations from a trained Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) specialist. Call Justin at CFiA to schedule your Medicare consultation before his appointments are filled. Justin is the Answers on Aging resource for you, and he is at Friedens United Church of Christ in Troy and the Caseyville Public Library each month to offer his expertise. He is also at the CFiA office for appointments Monday through Friday, 9A-5P. Contact Justin now to learn about changes to your Medicare plan by calling 618-344-7788 or emailing aoa@fiacollinsville.org.

Back by popular demand! Collinsville Faith in Action is again hosting the **AARP Safe Driving Course**. Completion of this popular 2-morning class not only makes you a better driver, but it lowers your auto insurance premiums. Register online at the AARP website or call CFiA to register: 618-344-8080. The class will be held from 9A-1P on Tuesday, October 27 and Wednesday, October 28. Participants must attend both classes to be eligible for discounted auto insurance.



In gratitude,
Lisa Ciszczon Brennan
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.





October 2026

Thank you to everyone who showed up for our .1K race on September 13. Every step, every dollar, and every word of encouragement helped move our mission forward.

Together we raised money for St. John's Community Care and The Learning Tree Preschool. Those gifts go straight into the work we do every day, including direct care for participants, caregiver education, outreach, and advocacy for people challenged by aging or disabilities across the Metro-East.

We're grateful to the participants, donors, sponsors, and volunteers who made it happen, and we hope to see you at a future event.



2026

October

SUNDAY 27	MONDAY 28	TUESDAY 29	WEDNESDAY 30	THURSDAY 01	FRIDAY 02	SATURDAY 03
04 Extra Step Offering & World Communion Sunday 8:30 pm Bible Study 9:30 am Worship 11:00 am Confirmation Class 11-5 DuBois Fall Festival	05 6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 8:30 am Weaving 5:15-5:45 pm C.O.P.s 5:30 pm Pickleball	06 6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 3:00-5:00 pm HHH Tutoring 7:00 pm Evening Circle Deadline to order Sausage	07 6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 3:00-5:00 pm HHH Tutoring 6:00 pm Quilting 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Choir	08 6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 3:00-5:00 pm HHH Tutoring 5:30-6:00 S.O.S. 7:00 Deacons	09 6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking	10
11 Community Pet Blessing at Willoughby Farm 9:30 am Worship	12 Office Closed	13 6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 3:00-5:00 pm HHH Tutoring	14 6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 1:00-6:00 pm Pre-Sale Sausage Pick-Up 3:00-5:00 pm HHH Tutoring 6:00 pm Quilting 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Choir	15 Wurstmarkt 11:00 am - 6:30 pm 6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 9:00 am Tai Chi 3:00-5:00 pm HHH 7:00 pm Council Meeting	16 6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking	17 IL South Conference Annual Meeting
18 8:30 pm Bible Study 9:30 am Worship 11:00 am Confirmation	19 6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 8:30 am Weaving 5:15-5:45 pm C.O.P.s 5:30 pm Pickleball	20 6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 3:00-5:00 pm HHH Tutoring	21 6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 3:00-5:00 pm HHH Tutoring 6:00 pm Quilting 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Choir	22 6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 9:00 am Tai Chi 3:00-5:00 pm HHH	23 6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking	24
25 8:30 pm Bible Study 9:30 am Worship 11:00 am Confirmation Halloween Costumes Encouraged	26 6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 8:30 am Weaving 5:15-5:45 pm C.O.P.s 5:30 pm Pickleball	27 6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 3:00-6:00 pm HHH Tutoring	28 6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 3:00-5:00 pm HHH Tutoring 6:00 pm Quilting 6:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Choir	29 6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking 9:00 am Tai Chi 3:00-5:00 pm HHH	30 6:30-8:30 & 11-1 Faith Walking	31 Happy Halloween!

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.

