

# The Crier

May 2023

serving St. Philip's and St. John UCC

*"Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help."  
—Ecclesiastes 4:9-10*

Greetings St. Philip's UCC and St. John UCC!

Welcome to the inaugural issue of our shared monthly newsletter! St. Philip's has a regular monthly newsletter, and St. John has not had a regular newsletter for quite a while. So... \*drumroll please\* we're trying something new! For the next few months, we'll try sharing a newsletter for BOTH churches, and see how it goes.

You will find in the newsletter information that is specific to each congregation. We think it will be helpful for each church to know what the other is up to. Of course, everyone is invited to participate in everything. If St. John has something going on that folks from St. Philip's are interested in attending, come on down and join the fun—and vice versa! And, if St. Philip's has something happening that St. John wants to try out for themselves—go for it! Let's share ideas, inspire one another, and support each other in our mutual ministry together!

The wisdom from Ecclesiastes seems relevant for us to consider: two are better than one! We need good friends in our lives—I think the same applies to churches. Congregations need good friends too. God created humans to need other humans—why would we think churches are any different? St. John and St. Philip's, this could be the beginning of a beautiful friendship!

So take a look at what's happening in your own congregation, but don't skip over what's happening in the other church. Maybe you'll find a way to connect with our new friends, or maybe you won't. Either way, I invite you to pray for one another, encourage and support the mission and ministry of one another, and imagine the possibilities on the horizon for this budding new friendship between our churches.

And, if you have ideas or thoughts about what you'd like to see in our new shared newsletter, or if you get inspired and have ideas for how our churches can grow their friendship and mutually support one another, please share them with me!

I'm blessed to be in ministry with ALL of you! Thanks for that gift! I can't wait for you to experience that gift in one another too!

Peace and Blessings,  
Pastor Laura

# St. Philip's Mission Statement

*St. Philip's United Church of Christ is a loving  
Christian community believing in  
Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit*



## St. Philip's Vision Statement

We are called to the body of Jesus Christ, with:

Minds to study God's word,  
Mouths to proclaim the Gospel,  
Eyes to see the needs of others,  
Arms to welcome all,

Hearts big enough to share God's love with all God's children.

## May Birthdays

Happy Birthday to our  
St. Philip's and St. John  
members who will be  
celebrating a birthday in  
May.

The following words will  
be heard on the 1st  
Sunday of each month....

*"Happy Birthday to You!,  
Happy Birthday to You!,  
Happy Birthday Everybody!,  
and God Bless you!"*

Dori Hudson	1		
Olivia Stevenson	1		
Ted Kramme	2		
Janice Girardier	5	Cole Rucker	18
Mike Shelton	5	Emily Meininger	19
George Brand, III	8	William Matthews, Jr	20
Kyle Juergens	8	Jason Yung	21
Stacey Witte	9	Sue Bowles	23
Cheryl Winiger	10	Melissa Scheer	24
Lindsey Rawlings	11	Sheannon Hladnick	26
Kimberly Kelly	14	Brandi Armistead	26
Pam Henson	15	Haylee Womack	27
Shirley Oldani	16	Sandy Stevenson	29
Carl Philips	17	Laura Brym	31
Claire DeMello	18		



Contact the Pastor



Feel free to contact Pastor Laura anytime:

Cell (314) 452-0785

Office (314) 843-5100

or email

lmignerone@gmail.com

### LITURGISTS NEEDED!

Both churches always need liturgists for the Sundays. Pastor Laura is physically at "the other church," and St. John also needs tech operators to run the PowerPoint presentations those same Sundays.

A sign up sheet is up on each church's respective bulletin boards. THANK YOU to those who have volunteered already! If you're considering it, please reach out to Pastor Laura with any questions or concerns you might have. Having proactive volunteers sign up instead of needing to scramble to find someone the week of makes God smile (Pastor Laura can only assume 😊).



Ken Behnn

Joyce Brand

Grace Heady

Virginia Hladnick

Marilyn Milne

Sue Myers

Jered Nagle

Shirley Nottelmann

Paul Shrout

Lily Swanson

Paula Williams



Robert & Janet Van Leer 15

Jason & Sheila James 16

Delmar & Jennifer Wachter 18

Tom & Erma Wideman 30

St. Philip's members - please call the office or email [admin@stphilipsucc.com](mailto:admin@stphilipsucc.com) to add your anniversary to this new feature of the newsletter.

### May Worship Plans!

**May 7, 2023** (Pastor Laura at St. Philip's UCC)

Acts 7:55-60

John 14:1-14

**May 14, 2023** (Mother's Day)

(Pastor Laura at St. John UCC)

1 Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

**May 21, 2023** (Pastor Laura at St. Philip's UCC)

Acts 1:6-14

John 17:1-11

**May 28, 2023** (Pentecost Sunday)

(Pastor Laura at St. John UCC)

Acts 2:1-21

John 7:37-39



## LUNCH BUNCH

Please join the St. Philip's Lunch Bunch on Wednesday, May 10 at noon. We will meet at Bob Evans located at 6520 S. Lindbergh by the South County Target.

See the YELLOW signup sheet on the bulletin board or call Sandy Stevenson at 636-333-2244 by Sunday, May 7th to signup.



Everyone is welcome to join the St. Philip's Young(er) Adults for an evening of fun at [Nine Mile Garden](#) located at 9375 Gravois Road, Affton, MO on Friday, May 19. 9 Mile Garden is a family-

focused entertainment district and home to Missouri's first food truck garden.

We will meet around 5:30pm for food trucks and live music. You can [sign up here](#) or let Pastor Laura or Andrea Tukin (314-566-8633) know if you plan to join or just come join us. In the case of inclement weather, Andrea Tukin will text message anyone signed up about cancellations/rescheduling.

## Family Camp at MoVal!

While there are lots of different options for summer camp at MoVal this year (and we celebrate kids attending various weeks at camp!), a few families, including Pastor Laura, have already registered for Family Camp, July 5-7, and there's still time to join the fun! This is a camp option for everyone—people of all ages (children, teens, adults, older adults, etc.). Information is available on the MoVal website: [www.campmoval.org](http://www.campmoval.org). If you have questions, please contact Andrea Tukin. We hope you'll consider joining us!



### MAY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Both St. John UCC and St. Philip's UCC have their May Council meetings on **Monday, May 8**. By the magic of technology, Pastor Laura will be able to attend St. John's Council meeting at 6:00pm, and then jump on Zoom to be with St. Philip's Council at 7:00pm!

## Fire & Brimstone/ Beer & Bible

Beginning in May (May 9), St. John UCC will resume our SECOND and FOURTH Tuesday night Fire & Brimstone/Beer & Bible tradition at 6:00pm!

This is a family-friendly gathering, typically around the firepit in the grove behind St. John. It's BYOB and snacks to share (we typically roast hot dogs and make s'mores). In case of unpleasant weather, we will meet at Brothers On Main.

This is an informal gathering to chat about our lives together and wonder about God's movement in the world around us. All are welcome! AND... maybe this summer we'll make some field trips to meet up with our new friends from St. Philip's too. What ideas do you have?



Join the Young(er) Adults and Families of St. Philip's for a Pool Party & BBQ at The Tukin's house on **Saturday, June 24.**

St. John UCC is planning a couple of Sunday School Field Trips this summer! These are family-friendly fellowship outings for ALL to experience together. We're still figuring out the details - if you have ideas, reach out to Pastor Laura! - but the dates are the afternoons of **Sunday, June 4** and **Sunday, July 23.**

St. Philip's  
VACATION  
BIBLE  
SCHOOL  
**July 10-14**

Registration form online  
or copies on credenza

St. John UCC's  
Annual Fried  
Chicken and BBQ  
Picnic will be on  
**Saturday, June 10!**

### "Help Beverly get a car"

You will remember that Beverly, Beatrice, and Lucy have often joined us for church and special services. They are all three students at Eden Seminary finishing their second year. Last month we helped Beatrice go back to Kenya for her mother's funeral. Now, maybe we can find it in our hearts to help Beverly.



While Beatrice and Lucy are finishing their Masters in Theology this May, Beverly is in the 3-year Master of Divinity program. As part of her training, she is planning to take this summer Clinical Pastoral Education at St Louis University Hospital. This is a 40 hour a week program for 10 weeks. But she really has no way to get there on public transportation and Uber is too expensive, so she is looking to buy a car. Do you have an extra car that you would like to sell, or would you like to contribute to her need? Beverly has a GoFundMe page which is "Help Beverly get a car". Or you can hand me money again after church!

Thanks so much,  
Dori Hudson

#### ST. PHILIP'S WORSHIP LISTENING DEVICES

Listening devices used during worship are now available in the Admin Assistant Office. You can find them as you walk in the door to the right.



#### ST. PHILIP'S FLOOR WAXING SCHEDULE

**May 19-20:** No access to MPR bathrooms or hallways - must use office bathroom

**May 26-29:** No access to MPR or office bathroom - must use MPR bathroom



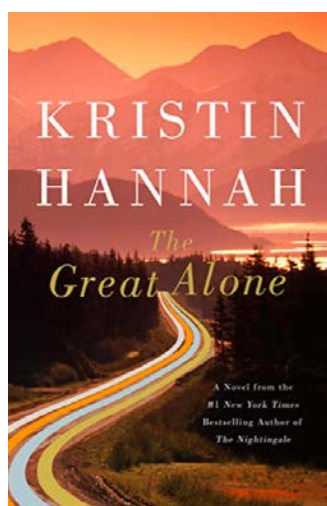
My Dear Friends:

Thank you all so very much for all your thoughts and kind words while I continue to recover and get back my strength. God has been so good to me. Had it not been for my family and friends and God's strength - - well I know this is how I have continued to improve.

Your prayers and thoughts have been with me each and every day. I appreciate and thank you for your support. Your prayers and support have meant so much to me each day. As I gain my strength hopefully I will see you soon.

~ Virginia

BOOK CLUB



We will meet after church at St. Philip's on **Sunday, May 28** to discuss 'The Great Alone' by Kristin Hannah. It is a historical novel which follows a family's move to the Alaskan wilderness and the ensuring challenges they face there.

Consider joining us to read this book. Having read the book is not necessary to attend the meeting and we always have a good time!



**Habitat**  
for Humanity®

### Two exciting updates...

You may recall hearing that Samuel UCC in Clayton held a corned beef dinner fundraiser in March with all proceeds to benefit Habitat. That dinner raised more than \$11,000!! Thanks to all from St. Philip's who supported the dinner! It costs a minimum of \$65,000 to build a Habitat house and each year the UCC churches of St. Louis try to completely fund the construction costs of one house -- that \$11,000 will be added to all of the contributions from congregations like St. Philip's for our 2023 donation.

The 2023 work schedule has been set and St. Philip's will supply the full volunteer crew (10 people) for a work day in October. It has been several years since we have had the manpower to supply even a half-crew, much less a full crew, so this is exciting! Andrea Tukin will be coordinating to fill that crew with volunteers from the Young(er) Adult Social/Service group.

If you have any questions about Habitat or our on-going support, please contact Terri Karcher.



The greatest needs at Agape House right now are dry goods, noodles, ramen noodles, hamburger helper, tuna helper, cereal, and oatmeal. All food donations can be placed in the barrels in the entryway at St. John UCC. Thank you for your generosity!

### St. John UCC's May Special Offering

Our May special offering will be for Agape House. With the rise of so many prices, needs within the community are continuing to increase. Agape House provides limited shelter space, access to their food pantry, and financial assistance for those in need. If you wish to contribute financially, please indicate "Agape House" on your checks or envelopes. Thank you for your generosity!

### Gathering the Saints

St. Philip's in St. Louis and St. John in St. Clair... that's a lot of saints! Wouldn't it be great to get us all together and get to know one another?

Pastor Laura thinks you're all pretty awesome, and awesome people should connect with other awesome people! If you'd be interested in helping to plan a gathering for all the saints (our two churches!), please reach out to Pastor Laura, and let's make it happen!

### Outreach Ministry

St. Philip's Lenten Project benefiting Isaiah 58 Ministries was a huge success! We collected 152 food items with a nice variety including many protein sources: tuna, canned hams, chicken, salmon and the reportedly much-loved sardines (65 cans!). We also collected 15 personal care items, 15 large bags of clothing and \$725 cash from the Outreach miscellaneous fund, Pastor's discretionary fund, and member contributions.

On the day after Palm Sunday, Donna and Carl Philips and Barbara Barnes made a delivery to Isaiah 58 Ministries on South Grand, and enjoyed a tour of the facilities with Reverend Meredith Jackson, who presented a Mission Moment early in Lent. We were very impressed with what we saw, a well stocked small "grocery store" where recipients can select food items of their choice, and a clean well-organized clothing room where recipients can "shop" for clothing.



We should be very proud of the St. Louis Association for sponsoring this well run and highly needed resource in the South City neighborhood, and we should be proud and happy that we were able to make an impactful contribution.

Thanks to everyone for your generosity.

## St. John UCC VBS Planning Meeting!

On **Thursday, May 4** at 5:00pm we will meet with our friends from St. Clair UMC and Fairview UMC to make plans for this year's VBS at St. Clair Scenic Regional Library. All who are interested in helping plan are invited to attend.

Decisions about dates/times/locations/themes/etc. for VBS 2023 will be made at this meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting, but would like to be involved in this initial conversation, please reach out to Pastor Laura.



## ST. PHILIP'S UCC PRESENTS

COKESBURY'S

# HERO HOTLINE

**Called Together  
to Serve God!**



**JOIN US JULY 10-14 FROM 9AM - 11:30AM**

\$20/ PER CHILD (\$35 MAX PER FAMILY)

PRE - K (AGE 3) THRU 6TH GRADE

REGISTRATION INFO AT [STPHILIPSUCC.COM](http://STPHILIPSUCC.COM)  
OR RETURN FORM AT ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH OFFICE  
10708 LAVINIA DRIVE ST. LOUIS MO 63123  
CALL 314.843.5100 FOR MORE INFORMATION





Early in April, you will remember that I shared about the death of the mother of my friend Beatrice Stephen, who is a student at Eden seminary. Beatrice was trying to raise enough money for a round trip ticket to her home in Kenya. After church, people started handing me money and in all, we were able to give her \$437 from St. Philip's! Below is her letter of appreciation.

Thanks to everyone,  
Rev. Dori Hudson

Beatrice C. Stephen  
Eden Theological Seminary.  
459, East Lockwood  
St. Louis, MO. 63119

4/22/2023.

To the Pastor & Congregants  
St. Philips UCC Church  
10708 Lavinia Dr. Affton.  
St. Louis, MO. 63123

Dear All.

RE. LETTER OF APPRECIATION  
Receive Christian greetings.

On behalf of my family, I extend to you my sincere appreciation for your prayers, kindness and financial support received from members of St. Philip's UCC Church during the loss of our mother.

Your kind message of condolences was appreciated, and I received comfort and strength from all your uplifting words. It is hard to express just how much your words of loving support meant to me during the most challenging time in my life. Losing my beloved mother has been unbelievably hard. I am still struggling from day to day, but I was comforted and encouraged by your prayers and kind note of condolence.

I was able to travel home (Kenya) on 04/05/23 and bid last farewell sendoff of my mother which was held on 04/08/2023 at her farmyard grave. My mother lived 88 years and had touched the lives of many. Therefore, funeral attendance was over twelve hundred heads of people. We thank God for successful funeral plans and travelled back safely to Eden Seminary.

God bless you as you purpose to serve God and beloved community.

Kind Regards.  
Rev. Beatrice Stephen.

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL and ANGEL TEAM FORMS

The St. Philip's Outreach Ministry met on April 26, and decided to update the Emergency Medical Forms and the Angel Team Forms. Changes and additions were made to both forms so please complete new ones even if you have done so recently.

Angel Team is a program designed to complement Pastoral Care and match volunteers with members of the St. Philips Community during times of illness, stress grief and family emergencies.

Copies of the new forms will be included in bulletins in the near future. Please complete the forms and return them to members of the Outreach Ministry. They will be kept in the office for reference as needed.

Outreach Ministry  
Jeanine Navratil  
Sue Meyers  
Shirley Oldani  
Barbara Barnes

## ST. PHILIP'S PRINTER CARTRIDGE RECYCLING

Thank you for bringing your used Canon and HP cartridges to church for recycling. Please continue to put them in the collection box in the entry space.

## **March 2023 General Fund Summary**

### Receipts

Sunday Offering	8,351.00	
Interest Income	158.25	
MPR Rental	25.00	
Early Childhood Center	<u>9,500.00</u>	
Total		18,034.25

### Expenses

<u>Spiritual Life Ministry</u>	261.97	
Learning Ministry	864.79	
Financial Ministry	1,403.35	
Church Property Ministry	6,634.10	
Personnel	<u>8,422.11</u>	
Total		<u>17,586.32</u>

March Surplus	447.93
Previous Balance	<u>15,122.34</u>
March 31 Balance	<u>15,570.27</u> =====

## **March Building Fund Summary**

Beginning Balance	6,023.23
Building Fund Offering	628.00
Capital Improvement Fund	<u>(417.00)</u>
March Ending Balance	<u>6,234.23</u> =====

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SJ = St. John UCC SP = St. Philip's UCC	1	2	3 5:30 SP LOGOS	4	5	6 MPR Rental
7 Pastor Laura @ St. Philip's 9:00 SJ Worship 9:30 SP Sunday Worship In-person & Facebook 9:45 SP Sunday School	8 6:00 SJ Church Council Meeting 7:00 SP Church Council Meeting	9 6:00 SJ Fire & Brimstone	10 noon SP Lunch Bunch @ Bob Evans 5:30 SP LOGOS	11	12	13 MPR Rental
14 Mother's Day Pastor Laura @ St. John 9:00 SJ Worship 9:30 SP Sunday Worship In-person & Facebook 9:45 SP Sunday School	15	16	17	18	19 5:30 9 Mile Food Trucks & Music SP Floor Waxing	20 SP Floor Waxing (see details in article)
21 Pastor Laura @ St. Philip's 9:00 SJ Worship 9:30 SP Sunday Worship In-person & Facebook 9:45 SP Sunday School	22 4:45 SP ECC Board Meeting June CRIER Articles Due	23 6:00 SJ Fire & Brimstone	24	25	26 SP Floor Waxing	27 SP Floor Waxing (see details in article)
28 Pentecost Sunday Pastor Laura @ St. John 9:00 SJ Worship 9:30 SP Sunday Worship In-person & Facebook 9:45 SP Sunday School 10:15 SP Book Club	29 Memorial Day	30	31	<b>MAY</b>		