



THE REMINDER

April 19, 2024

Glen Ed Pantry

For over 40 years, the Glen Ed Pantry has been serving the residents of the Edwardsville school district. And for over 40 years, St. John's has joined with many other churches and local organizations to support the pantry. Their services include providing clothing and housewares in the Second Chance store (where clients get items for free, and non-clients may shop at very affordable prices); school supplies and PE uniforms in the fall; and special "dinner" baskets for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. In addition, the pantry is the collection & sorting location for many area ministries, such as the Overnight Warming Locations, the SAK (serving area kids) program, and the Faith Coalition Clothing Ministry for Edwardsville students. The pantry is also a central hub where clients can connect with other agencies that can help with housing, medication costs, job training and more. Over the years, St. John's has supported the pantry in many ways:

- Our mission garden provides fresh nutritious vegetables that are greatly needed, as the pantry tries to offer healthy choices for clients.
- We collect annually for the Thanksgiving baskets, which provide clients with all the fixings for a holiday dinner.
- The Mission Team contributes to the Pantry Utility fund, which provides assistance with utility bills.
- We provide volunteers to help with several seasonal collections, such as school supplies, Scouting for food, Shop Out Hunger, and Stamp Out Hunger. Several St. John's members have served as regular pantry volunteers, drivers and board members.



Donations and volunteers are always needed for distributing food, sorting donations, answering phones, and picking up donations that come from area restaurants, grocery chains and the St. Louis Food Bank. Pick up a "12 months of Giving" flyer or watch the Pantry Facebook page for seasonal collections. This time of year, the pantry encourages all gardeners to "Plant a row for the Pantry" to increase the supply of fresh food. Non-perishable donations may be left in the Helping Hallway at St. John's (in Fellowship Hall). [Click here for more information.](#) In the next few years, the pantry is planning to expand their space to be able to provide more services including changing rooms for the Second Chance store, office space for partner agencies, and meeting rooms for public education classes. Watch for information on an upcoming capital funds drive, and please give generously so that the pantry can continue to serve the needs of our community.



Why does **CHURCH HURT** sometimes?

SERMON NOTES

- I. Despite Jesus' prayer for unity, Christ followers have been passionately divided from the beginning.
- II. Infighting can tarnish our witness, but it does not get to derail God's kingdom.
- III. Life is too short and eternity is too long to harbor bitterness.

FOR DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION

- Do you have a restaurant, musician, show or something that you love, but everyone else seems to dislike it? What is one of your controversial favorites?
- In John 17:20-24, Jesus is praying for the disciples to experience unity in Him. What are some of the benefits of unity in the church? Are there any drawbacks to focusing on unity?
- A major division in the early church occurred between those who were called legalists and those who were called lawless. How can it be helpful for us to know that the early church had infighting as well?
- We're not given a clear description about how Paul, Barnabas and John Mark were reconciled, but there is evidence that they did. What do you imagine needed to happen for these Christ followers to find peace with one another again?
- Without naming names, picture someone in the church with whom you may have passionate disagreement. Is there a way to recognize the validity of the disagreement without also holding bitterness against that person? What does that look like for you?
- What is God saying to you through today's scripture?





Why does **CHURCH HURT** sometimes?

Scripture of the Week

Acts 15:36-41

After some time Paul said to Barnabas, "Let's go back and visit each city where we previously preached the word of the Lord, to see how the new believers are doing." Barnabas agreed and wanted to take along John Mark. But Paul disagreed strongly, since John Mark had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in their work. Their disagreement was so sharp that they separated. Barnabas took John Mark with him and sailed for Cyprus. Paul chose Silas, and as he left, the believers entrusted him to the Lord's gracious care. Then he traveled throughout Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches there.



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April 22 Earth Day

The Methodist Church designates the Sunday closest to Earth Day as the Festival of God's Creation, celebrating God's gracious work in creating the Earth and all living things. This year, Earth Day is Monday, April 22, and Festival Sunday is Sunday, April 21.

Genesis says it was God who created the very first Earth Day: *"The second day God said, 'Let there be space to divide the waters into two parts.' And it was so. God called the space Sky. 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place and let dry land appear.' ... God called the dry land Earth and the waters that were gathered together, Seas. God saw that it was good."* Genesis 1:9-10, New Revised Standard Version.

On April 22, 1970, the United States began celebrating Earth Day annually, creating a movement that now motivates people around the world to use the day to consider the planet, demonstrate their love for it and enact ways to protect it. Organizers anticipate more than one billion people around the globe will take part in events this year engaging in environmental issues.

This Earth Week, we encourage you to find ways to care for our planet. These may include:

- Meatless Monday- Eat less meat or choose vegetarian options for meals
- Transit Tuesday- Walk, bike or ride the bus to work, school or church activities
- Waste Wednesday- Save kitchen scraps for your own or St. John's Mission Garden compost
- Thirsty Thursday- Monitor water usage by collecting rainwater or shortening shower time
- Forest Friday- Plant a tree or donate to plant a tree on our property
- Sustainable Saturday- Support community efforts to end plastic pollution by joining a litter cleanup crew

Newcomers Welcome Lunch

Sunday, April 28, is our next Welcome Lunch. If you are a newcomer to St. John's, please have lunch with us on the 28th at noon in Fellowship Hall, immediately after second service.

This is an opportunity for you to meet St. John's staff and to learn more about our small groups, missions, etc. and for us to get to know each other. You are not making any kind of commitment by attending. Come, eat, visit, and enjoy.

The church nursery will be available for little ones after they have eaten. We should be finished by 1:30 p.m. It isn't required, but we would appreciate knowing if you are coming, so we will know how much food to prepare. Please contact Sylvia Frank sylviafrank22@icloud.com or by phone or text at 618-304-3562.

Book Group, April 28

Lois Green will lead the discussion of *The Guncle* by Rowley, a novel about a single gay uncle who has been given temporary custody of his niece and nephew while their Dad is trying to put his life back together after the death of his wife. While this book does show handling grief can take many forms, there are many delightful events as the former TV star tries to find ways to navigate the new way of life with a six and nine year old. Anyone who wishes to join us is welcome at 6:30PM at Jeri Lampman's house. Participants read the book before the meeting, but that is not a requirement for anyone wanting to come and enjoy the company of the group.



United Methodist General Conference Updates

Delegates from around the world representing the United Methodist Church will come together for the gathering known as General Conference that typically occurs once every four years. This General Conference is taking place in Charlotte, North Carolina from April 23 to May 3. This group of delegates will reflect on the theology, governance and practices of the United Methodist Church in ways that will impact United Methodist people all around the globe. Please pray for this gathering and the future of the denomination of which St. John's is a part. If you would like more information about General Conference, please visit: <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/churchwide/general-conference-2020>



Youth Sunday

SAVE THE DATE!

May 5,
2024

The UWF CINNAMON ROLL Sale is Sunday, April 21, at a cost of \$3.00 each!!!

Get in line immediately following the 9:00am worship service. They sell out quickly!

All proceeds support our mission work.



If you have children in 6th-8th grade, join us at noon this Sunday for Family, Faith and Fellowship! These informal lunch meetings are a chance to meet the Sunday School teachers and other parents, and get your questions answered about programs & upcoming events for families at St. John's! RSVP SammyRawson@TheNewStJohns.com

• HEARTLAND CAMPS •

ST. JOHN'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Day Camp

June 10th-14th, 2024

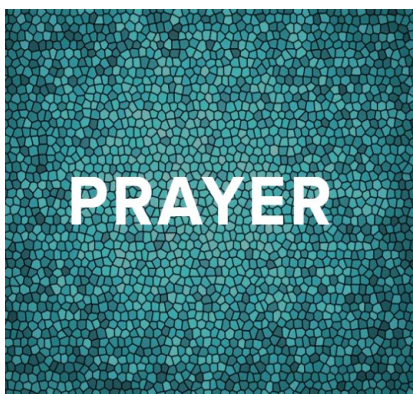
HeartlandCamps.org/St-Johns-UMC



JOIN THE ST. JOHN'S UMC TEAM!

PART TIME DIRECTOR OF CONNECTION AND DISCIPLESHIP:

Responsible for facilitating healthy and helpful first steps into the life of the church, following up with guests and visitors, and promoting discipleship through internal and invitational communication. View full job description and apply: [Director of Connections and Discipleship](#)



Prayer & Care

How can we pray for you? Submit a request at thenewstjohns.com/prayer

Prayers and Praises:

- All unspoken prayers and praises of our congregation.

Call (618) 792-0171 for Pastoral Care.

ST. JOHN'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CONNECT with us:

The church office is open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Monday through Thursday.

7372 Marine Road - Edwardsville, IL

62025 (618) 656-1853 thenewstjohns.com



/thenewstjohns



St. Johns UMC

Access all happenings @ thenewstjohns.com/calendar



St. John's United Methodist Church

WORSHIP WITH US!

9:00 a.m. Traditional | 11:00 a.m. Contemporary

in-person & online at thenewstjohns.com/worship

Our Vision

to be a beacon of faith and service, focusing our passions and gifts to reflect Christ's love to the world.

Our Purpose

to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

Our Values

knowing,
loving and
serving God.