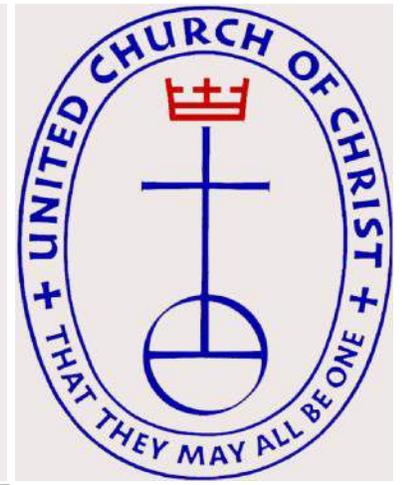


# The Hilltop News



## “MAKING CHOICES”

*Joshua said, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel." - Joshua 24:22-23*

Over the years out of necessity, I have read quite a bit about addiction – both chemical and emotional. Chemical addictions are certainly debilitating and life destroying – alcohol, cocaine, nicotine, caffeine. They wreck our relationships and ruin our lives. However, they seem like an answer to prayer if a person arrives at a place in life that seems unbearable. The drug makes it bearable.

Some drugs we recognize because they go by brand names and doctors prescribe them for pain: Fiorinal with Codeine, Robitussin A-C, Tylenol with Codeine, Demerol, OxyContin, Percodan, and Percocet. These are all easily addictive.

However, some of these same drugs have street names because your doctor may stop prescribing them when you become addicted. You may have to buy them on the street as: Captain Cody, Schoolboy, Doors & Fours, Pancakes & Syrup, Miss Emma, Monkey, or White Stuff. They do work, but only temporarily.

The distressing thing is that

originally you may have taken one of these drugs to ease the pain without knowing you could become addicted. And then all of a sudden there you are – not able to get through the day without them.

It is even more distressing to me that much of our food supply in the United States is loaded with chemicals that destroy our food control centers and cause us to think we are hungry even when we have eaten a big meal. Chemicals sprayed, injected and added to much of what fills the shelves of our local grocery stores are often carcinogenic and mood altering. So, even though we think we are feeding our families nutritious meals, we may be poisoning them with every bite.

It is distressing that in spite of the cancer-producing effects of many of the additives in our food supply which extend shelf life and make it easier and cheaper to produce; they remain legal in the US even though they have been outlawed in many other countries. But

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JUNE 2017

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*Pastor*

Rev. Margaret Diz Philip

*Council*

Kelly Day, pres.

Neil Glaser, treas.

Liz Konneman, sec.

Dale Konneman, grounds  
Janet Moehsmer, bldg. fund

*Music Director*

June Jones

*Custodian*

Neil Glaser

*Office Admin.*

Gail Schneider

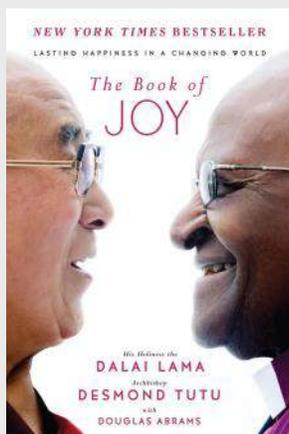
## New Book Club Selection for June

The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World by Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu, with Douglas Carlton Abrams

Nobel Peace Prize Laureates, His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, have survived more than fifty years of exile and the soul-crushing violence of oppression. Despite their hardships—or, as they would say, because of them—they are two of the most joyful people on the planet.

In April 2015, Archbishop Tutu traveled to the Dalai Lama's home in Dharamsala, India, to celebrate His Holiness's eightieth birthday and to create what they hoped would be a gift for others. They looked back on their long lives to answer a single burning question: How do we find joy in the face of life's inevitable suffering?

This book offers us a rare opportunity to experience their astonishing and unprecedented week together, from the first embrace to the final good-bye. An instant *New York Times* best seller.



*“The world needs joy and compassion more than ever before – and who better than Archbishop Tutu and the Dalai Lama to show us how it is done. This beautiful book takes us on the journey of their friendship and gives us the gift of their wisdom. A bright spot of hope and love in this world.”*  
—Sir Richard Branson

*Continued from page 1*

we continue to eat them unaware of the disastrous effects they will have on our health, because the additives themselves become addictive.

All of those other addictions including our American addiction to wealth, success and beauty (enough is never enough for any of us) pull us into the clutches of the foreign gods of which Joshua warned the people of Israel.

The one we refer to as God, the Holy Mystery of life, lives within each of us – this I believe. But it can become lost to our sight and hidden within the distractions of our chemical, emotional and food addictions. They make us sick and short tempered and unable to embrace the God in whom we live and breathe and have our being.

While some of us may not be able to get rid of our addictions by simply choosing to follow God – many do – consider the success of groups such as AA, ALANON, and NARANON. By accepting that life has become unmanageable and turning it over to a Higher Power, many find new life in their grasp.

Here’s the thing - we must make informed choices about what we eat, what drugs we take, what qualities of life we value most including how we treat one another and the rest of creation.

If we choose God, life becomes bearable for the long haul, and addicted to God we can find new ways of coping, new ways of being, and new life within the Holy Mystery present inside of us.

*Peace,  
Margaret*

## Summer WORSHIP TIMES

**MAY 28 - SEP 10**

**8:30 & 10AM**

**OUTDOOR WORSHIP: 2ND & 4TH SUNDAYS**

**(June 11—one service at 9am)**

# JUNE MINISTRY— CAMP MOVAL



Nestled amid rolling hills a few miles west of Union, Missouri, Camp MoVal is a Camp and Retreat Center operated by the Missouri Mid-South Conference of the United Church of Christ. As an outdoor ministries and worship experience, it provides a safe, sacred space where all guests feel welcome.

This Outdoor Ministry Program serves hundreds of campers and their families through extensive summer camp programs. It also serves as a site for additional Missouri Mid-South Conference programs throughout the spring and fall. The 2017 Summer Camp season is packed with multiple programs for all ages.

Camp MoVal is located on 280 acres that includes beautiful forest, native prairie, streams and a lake. Facilities include a dining and meeting hall, four lakeside cabins, two retreat lodges, two rustic camping villages, high and low ropes courses, a boat and fishing dock, game and archery fields, hiking trails, and more.

Camp MoVal is blessed by the generosity of churches, campers and guest groups. Listed below are opportunities to assist in its ministry and to ensure a safe and enjoyable stay for all guests. Contributions of goods or monetary donations are most appreciated.

## WISH LIST

Golf Cart for guest accessibility

Utility Tractor w/Loader

Log Splitter

New Chainsaw

Sofas & Chairs for Bldgs

Friendship Bracelet String

Lanyard String

Basketballs & Volleyballs

Gaga Pit

Soccer Goals

Kid Friendly Fishing Poles

Vest Life Jackets

Paddle Boards

Paddle Boats

Pool Toys

Pool Slide

Playground Equipment



American Camping Association

### **What is church?**

- a) Worship on Sunday mornings
- b) Protests and rallies in support of the least of these
- c) Helping to feed the hungry and support the addicted
- d) All of the above!

### **Where is church?**

- a) In the sanctuary and church building
- b) In breweries and coffee shops
- c) Around a dinner table
- d) All of the above!

### **Why church?**

- a) To love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength and our neighbor as ourselves
- b) To be united in Spirit and inspired by God's grace to welcome all, love all, and seek justice for all
- c) To vision a just world for all, united in Christ's love
- d) All of the above!

### **Where does Strengthen the Church money go?**

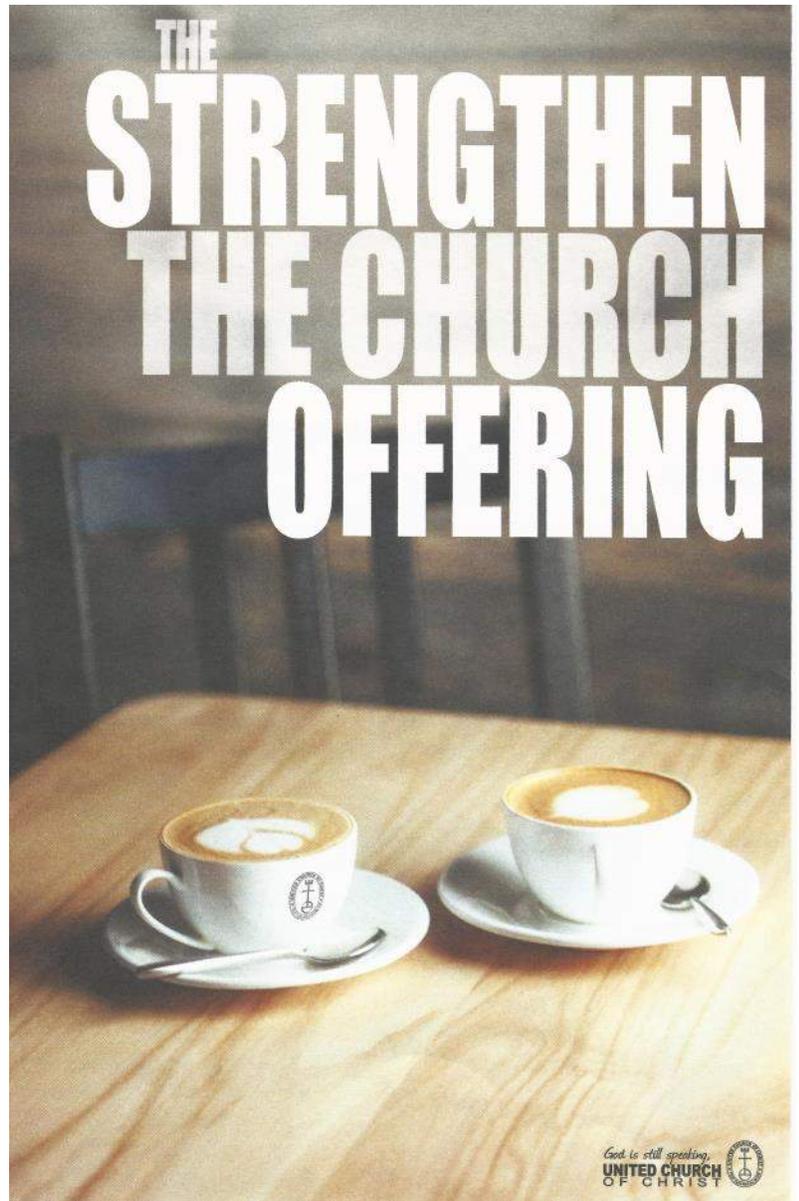
- a) To seed brand new churches that bring hope to people on the margins who wouldn't set foot in church otherwise
- b) To help established churches begin projects working with refugees and immigrants
- c) To fund creative ideas experimenting with new way Christian millennials are gathering
- d) All of the above . . . and so much more!

If you answered "d) all of the above!," then you're not only correct, but you're thinking outside of the buildings and boxes that have defined the message of Christianity for the last several decades. You're thinking on the forefront of the United Church of Christ and the way in which we are Strengthening the Church not only for the church we have grown up knowing, but for the church God is calling us to be!

### **Will you join us through our Special Mission Offering to Strengthen the Church? How?**

- a) Time - I will pray alongside the offering
- b) Talent - I will tell the stories of my own church's engaging a Just World For All ([justworld@ucc.org](mailto:justworld@ucc.org))
- c) Treasure - I will donate towards Strengthen the Church
- d) All of the above!

We will receive this offering on Pentecost Sunday, June 4.



## **PRIORITIES**

My father used to play with my brother and me in the yard. Mother would come out and say, "You're tearing up the grass."

"We're not raising grass," Dad would reply. "We're raising boys."

—Harmon Killebrew

# St. Thomas UCC Annual Chicken Dinner & Country Store



**From Highway 64/40 West: Take the Long Rd. Exit.**

**From Highway 64/40 East: Take Exit 14 for  
Chesterfield Airport Rd. & turn right onto Long Rd.**

**Then...**

**At the intersection of Long & Wild Horse Creek bear right  
onto Wild Horse Creek Road and travel 1.5 miles.**

**The church is atop a big hill on the left.**

**From Hwy 109 travel east on Wild Horse Creek Rd. for  
2 miles. The church is on the right.**

**Hope to see you!**

## Sunday, June 11, 2017

### 11:30am– 5:30pm

**Adults \$12    Children (6-11) \$6**

**St. Thomas UCC**

**17842 Wild Horse Creek Road**

**Chesterfield, MO 63005**

**636-532-3556    stthomasucc.org**

**ucc.st.thomas@gmail.com**

**Carry Outs Available!**



*If you have knowledge of someone on the Prayer List who no longer needs our prayers, please let us know.*

Content removed for web edition

Pasta Sauce - **CRITICAL**

Canned Chicken - **CRITICAL**

Spaghetti Sauce - **CRITICAL**

Tomato Products

Jelly

Rice/Dry Beans/ Dry Potatoes

Tampons

Laundry Soap

Dish Soap



## CIRCLE Needs

### Toddler Books!

The good news is that the children of clients take books home with them every time they visit Circle. The bad news is that they're almost out of books! They are especially looking for new or very gently used toddler/pre-school books. Can you help? Books can be placed in the shopping cart on the lower level. Thank you!

“Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.”  
—Winston Churchill

## COUNCIL CONTACTS

President	Kelly Day	314-307-7890 kmday44@gmail.com
Treasurer	Neil Glaser	636-391-0279 njglaser@att.net
Secretary	Liz Konneman	636-458-5643 enkonneman@live.com
Buildings & Grounds	Dale Konneman	636-458-5643 dalekonneman@hotmail.com
Building Fund	Janet Moehsmer	636-458-1058 jmoehsmer@gmail.com

# JUNE 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 Pentecost *Madison Kilburn	5	6 1:30pm Cen- tering Prayer	7 No Ladies Guild	8	9	10
11 10am Worship 1130am Chicken Dinner	12 *Macey Reich	13	14 Flag Day	15 *Patrick Barton 2pm Book Club	16 +Glen & Jeanne Clark +Todd & Katie Reich	17
18 Fathers Day *Ha1 Brock	19	20 1:30pm Cen- tering Prayer 1st day of Summer	21 *Nancy Partlow	22	23 *Heather Mudd +Greg & Leah Schnatmeier	24
25	26	27 +Cindy & Jim Crosby	28	29 *Madison Winchester	30	

St. Thomas UCC  
17842 Wild Horse Creek Road  
Chesterfield, MO 63005  
www.stthomasucc.org

Phone: 636-532-3556

E-mail: ucc.st.thomas@gmail.com

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE



Worship: 8:30 (summer) & 10:00 am (all year)

11:00 am Fellowship Time

We are ADA Accessible.

Childcare is provided during Worship.

Office Hours: 10 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Please call first if you need to stop by!

Office Phone: 636.532.3556

## About Us

### Mission Statement

We are St. Thomas UCC, a caring faith community welcoming all to share with us. You will find us supportive, nurturing, and encouraging. Our worship is traditional yet contemporary, applying scripture and Christ's teachings to everyday life. Accepting all who come as family, we are St. Thomas UCC.

### Value Statement

We are a close-knit welcoming community. We cherish and honor the traditions of our 100 years past. With respect and compassion we work together. We strive to grow in our faith by serving the community. We embrace and celebrate our youth and the promise of each new generation of God's children. We seek God's blessings and wisdom in the joys and challenges of our daily lives. We grow in our understanding of Christ's teachings while being respectful of our differences.

### Vision Statement

We seek to :

- Invite others to join in our faith journey
- Explore worship opportunities
- Enhance our fellowship and service outreach
- Expand our use of technology
- Increase our community involvement