In 1891, a group of German farm families living in the community of Lake (now Hog Hollow) and the Creve Coeur Lake bottoms area, began to dream of forming a new congregation. They met with their spiritual leader, the Rev. Theodore Uhdau, a pastor serving St. Paul’s Evangelical Church, and after prayer and meditation adopted a name and a constitution. This new congregation took the name St. John’s Evangelical Congregation of Bellefontaine, Missouri; indicating their desire to follow the example of love demonstrated by the disciple whom Jesus loved. There were seventeen signers to St. John’s organizing document. Many of their families – now represented by fourth, fifth, and even sixth generation descendants – continue to participate in the life of the church.

The first church building was a simple wood frame sanctuary, built over five weeks in 1893, at a cost of $1,8000. A Service of Dedication for the new building was held on October 15, 1893, with five pastors officiating and one thousand people in attendance. The offering collected that day totaled $110! The fledgling congregation was accepted into the membership of the Evangelical Synod on January 25, 1898.
Over the decades St. John’s has been served by approximately fifteen settled pastors; a handful of interim pastors, and a number of professional musicians, educators, youth leaders and others. As the congregation and its ministry has evolved and matured, building additions have been added, the cemetery has expanded, and the original frame sanctuary has been completely replaced. The oldest part of the current church building dates to 1958.

Beyond buildings and pastors and even particular ministry programs, the heart of St. John’s over 125 years has been the relationships shared in community. These relationships of friendship and love and mutual support have been and continue to be rooted in the love for all that God makes visible in Jesus Christ. It is these relationships, nurtured and guided by the Holy Spirit, that are leading the people of St. John’s UCC, Chesterfield, through the present challenges of being the church in 21st Century America, toward God’s unfolding future. May St. John’s journey continue for at least another 125 years!