**St. John United Church of Christ**

***“In Christ We Live, Celebrate, & Serve”***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| August 1, 2021 |  10th Sunday after Pentecost |
| Rev. Karla Frost, Pastor | Ritch Alexander, Organist |
| 9:30 Zoom & In-Person Worship | 9:30 Sunday School for Children |
| 2901 Nameoki Road | Granite City, IL 62040 |
| E-stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com | (618) 877-6060 |

Web-stjohnuccgranitecity.com

**Following current guidelines, face masks are optional for those vaccinated, and REQUIRED for those not vaccinated.**

Large print bulletins are available from the Ushers.

***Bold italic denotes congregation reads or sings.***

\*Denotes all who are able, please stand.

**WE COME TO WORSHIP GOD**

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC, WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a

But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord…..David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.”

(2 Sam. 11:27b, 12:13a)

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

 *A Communion Medley* Sikes

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER1

Jesus said, “I am the bread of life.”

***We are hungry for the bread of heaven.***

Jesus said, “The bread of God gives life to the world.”

***We are hungry for eternal life.***

Jesus said, “I am the bread of life.

Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,

and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

***We are here to become what we already are:***

***the body of Christ, food for a hungry world.***

Let us pray together:

***God of forgiveness and new beginnings, you feed our hearts with compassion, and nourish our souls with the***

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***bread of heaven. As Jesus fed the hungry crowds, knowing that they needed both physical bread and the bread of heaven, fill us with your generous Spirit and make us one with Christ. Amen.***

\*HYMN  ***“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”*** #501

\*RESPONSIVE PSALTER READING Psalm 51:1-12

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

***Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,***

***and cleanse me from my sin.***

For I know my transgressions,

and my sin is ever before me.

 ***Against you, you alone, have I sinned,***

 ***and done what is evil in your sight,***

So that you are justified in your sentence

and blameless when you pass judgment.

 ***Indeed, I was born guilty,***

 ***a sinner when my mother conceived me.***

You desire truth in the inward being;

therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

 ***Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;***

 ***wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.***

Let me hear joy and gladness;

let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

 ***Hide your face from my sins,***

 ***and blot out all my iniquities.***

Create in me a clean heart, O God,

and put a new and right spirit within me.

 ***Do not cast me away from your presence,***

 ***and do not take your holy spirit from me.***

Restore to me, the joy of your salvation,

and sustain in me a willing spirit.

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

EPISTLE LESSON Ephesians 4:1-16 pg. 182

SPECIAL MUSIC *He Was There All the Time* Amenz Ritch Alexander, George Cochran, Jack Dawson, John Nitchman

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GOSPEL LESSON John 6:24-35 pg. 92

MEDITATION

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“One Bread, One Body”*** #689

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & SUNG RESPONSE

 ***The Lord’s Prayer*** (1 Amen) #740

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION

OFFERTORY *Wonderful Grace of Jesus*  Amenz

 Ritch Alexander, George Cochran, Jack Dawson, John Nitchman

\*RESPONSE ***“Sing a New Church”*** #577 vs. 5

***Draw together at one table all the human family;***

***shape a circle ever wider and a people ever free.***

***Let us bring the gifts that differ and in splendid, varied ways,***

***sing a new church into being, one in faith and love and praise.***

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

 ***Lord, we come to you for life, and through these offerings we seek to help others also believe in you. Our ministries and missions share your love near and far. Bless our various works, and unite our global efforts, for the good of all and to your glory. Amen.***

INVITATION WITH SILENT CONFESSION

Jesus said: I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst. Therefore, we come to receive the gifts of Jesus, our risen Savior. Let us prepare ourselves by silently confessing our sins, for God is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness……………………………………

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, and we rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God in everlasting life. Now, in company with all who

hunger for spiritual food, we come to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.

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RESPONSIVE COMMUNION PRAYER with “Bread of the World”

Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and the gift of life, and for your abiding love which brings us close to you, the source of all blessing.

We thank you for revealing your will for us in the wisdom of ancient judges and preaching of the prophets.

We thank you especially that your Son Jesus came to live in our midst, to be our promise of salvation and life eternal. And so now we ask:

“Bread of the world, in mercy broken,

wine of the soul, in mercy shed,

by whom the words of life were spoken,

and in whose death our sins are dead:

 Look on the heart by sorrow broken,

 look on the tears by sinners shed;

 and be your feast to us the token

 that by your grace our souls are fed.”

We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to gather your church by which your work may be done in the world. Consecrate, therefore, by your Holy Spirit, our gifts of bread and wine.

And bless us, that as we partake we may offer you our faith and praise.

United with Christ and one another, may we continue faithful in all things.

In the strength Christ gives us, we offer ourselves to you, Eternal God, and give thanks that you have called us to be one body, one church, in all the world. Amen.

PREPARING AND SHARING THE ELEMENTS

(All confessing Christians are invited to partake from the Table of the Lord.)

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

 ***For the healing you have given us in the brokenness of bread and the pouring out of the cup, we thank you. For the community you have restored in us through the sharing of life and love, we thank you. For the courage and strength you have promised to us, we thank you. Send us forth from this place in love, letting justice be worked out with the gentleness and power that is known in the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace. Amen.***

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\*HYMN AND NOISY OFFERING

 ***“They’ll Know We Are Christians”***  #595

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE *Jesus Shall Reign* Hatton

1Call to Worship & Prayer Reprinted from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2012 Edition. Copyright © 2011 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

Through worship and fellowship, Lord God, equip each of us for the work of ministry, and build us up as the body of Christ. Amen.

The **altar centerpiece** is given in celebration of the 92nd birthday of **Doris Olive** from her Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren.

If you would like to place **flowers on the altar**, and pick them up Monday, please call **Mary Jo Seibold** at (618) 792-0120. If you would like to sponsor the **bulletins**, please call the **church office** at 877-6060. The next available date is August 15.

**Thank you** to Beverly Meyer for serving as liturgist today and to Amenz for providing special music.

**THIS WEEK**

Today: In-person and Zoom Worship, 9:30 a.m.

 Sunday School for Children, 9:30 a.m.

 Communion & Noisy Offering

 **Mum Orders Due**

Monday: Al-Anon: 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

 Bible Study, 12:30 p.m. in All Purpose Room

 Late Mum Orders Accepted

Wednesday: TOPS, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Thursday: Cemetery Meeting, 5:00 p.m.

Next Sunday: In-person and Zoom Worship, 9:30 a.m.

 Sunday School for Children, 9:30 a.m.



A graveside service will be held for **Mildred Hediger** on Thursday, August 12, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. at the Nameoki site. Our sympathy to her son, Nelson Hediger, and family.

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A visitation will be held for **Jacqueline “Jackie” “Queenie” Moore** on Monday, August 2, 2021, 5:00-7:00 p.m., followed by a service at 7:00

p.m. at Irwin Chapel. Our sympathy to her stepsons, Bobby Meszaros and Ryan Meszaros, and family.



**RUMMAGE SALE**

This year’s Rummage Sale will take place Thursday, September 23, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Friday, September 24, from 8:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m. Items for the sale may be dropped off on September 5 and then from Tuesday, September 7 until September 22. Items may **not** be dropped off on September 6 because the office will be closed for Labor Day. Setup will take place September 21 & 22. **We will need many volunteers,** so please come any time after 9:00 a.m. if you’re able to help. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 877-6060.

**MISSION OF THE MONTH**

Our August mission of the month will be collecting donations to cover the cost of paper goods for sausage dinner. Sausage Dinner will be held on **October 17, 2021**. The format of Sausage Dinner, whether it is drive thru like last year or otherwise, will be determined at a later date.

**FIRST ANNUAL FALL MUM SALE**

Thanks to all who have purchased mums in our first annual fall mum sale! Order forms are due **today** August 1, 2021. We will allow forms to be turned in late until **Tuesday**,August 3. We’re excited to move forward with repairs in the sanctuary and the funds collected from this sale will help with the cost.



**TRIVIA NIGHT UPDATE**

Because of the upward trend of positive cases in the area, the Trivia Committee has agreed it is best to postpone the Trivia Night tentatively scheduled for August 28th to August of 2022. We appreciate everyone's interest in the event and will schedule it when it is safe to do so.

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Hopefully a year from now positivity rates will be in a permanent decline and we can enjoy the fellowship so many of us miss. We would encourage those of you who can, to donate a "little something extra" in place of Trivia Night this year. Thank you for your support and we will see you next year!



**RALLY DAY**

Come one, come all! This year’s Rally Day will be August 15, 2021 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We’ll have hot dogs, chips, drinks and popsicles available. There will be a water slide bounce house, board games, card games and, of course, some good conversation! Don’t forget to bring your swimsuit, towels, and lawn chairs if you want to sit outside!

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Nursing & Assisted Living**

Ruth Buer, Hilde Few, JoAnn King, Mary Lee Krohne, and Karen Luddeke.

Loretta Cook is at Anderson Hospital in Room 201.

**At Home**

Ritch Alexander, Rose Marie Bauer, Isabella Boyer, Nancy Boyer, Marlene Brokaw, Myra Cook, Janet Cowley, Randy Fischer, Bonnie Fornaszewski, Mary Franz, Norman Hente, Bill McAmish, Sandy Mueller, David Oliver Jr., Karen Orr, Cliff Robertson, Merle Rose, Marge Schmidt, June Stille, Linda Sturman, and Don Young.

**Illinois South Conference**

Maeystown St. John UCC, Rev. Patrick (Kathy) Poole. Marine UCC, Rev. Phil (Sandee) Kershner. Retired Pastor, Rev. Louis Fluck, Marion, IL.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Ephesians 4:1-16**

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, **2**with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, **3**making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. **4**There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, **5**one Lord, one faith, one baptism, **6**one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. **7**But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ’s gift. **8**Therefore it is said,

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“When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people.” **9**(When it says, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? **10**He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) **11**The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, **12**to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, **13**until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. **14**We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people’s trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. **15**But

speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, **16**from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love

**John 6:24-35**

**24**So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. **25**When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” **26**Jesus answered

them, “Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. **27**Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.” **28**Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” **29**Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” **30**So they said to him, “What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? **31**Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” **32**Then Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. **33**For the bread of God is that whichcomes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” **34**They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.” **35**Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

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**CALL FOR INFORMATION**

Bell Choir – Talk to Kathy Morris, 618-210-6095

Cemetery - Talk to Kathy Montgomery, 618-876-5811

Chancel Choir – Talk to Ritch Alexander, 618-451-5092

Council – Talk to Karen Orr, President, 618-558-4192

Caslyn Brandes, Vice-President, 618-802-1152

Dine to Donate – Talk to Bev Meyer, 618-451-6849

Evening Guild – Talk to Christie Roth, 618-931-6194

Financial Reports – Talk to Mike Seibold, Treasurer, 618-792-4301

Diane Gerdt, 618-877-6060 church office

Heavenly Stars – Talk to Betty Meszaros, 618-451-1968

Karen Gaines, 618-288-0845

Herald – Talk to Angela Potter 618-877-6060 church office

Hilltoppers – Talk to Dee Roethemeyer, 618-876-6860

Historian – Talk to Sandy Dawson, 618-931-3467

Men’s Brotherhood – Talk to Chuck Hasse, 618-876-0936,

Dave Douglas, 618-452-3336

Quilters – Talk to Sandy Dawson 618-931-3467

Doris Peterson 618-877-1606

Sausage Dinner – Talk to Donna Brandes, 618-802-1072

 Nancy Jacobs, 618-931-0673

Scrip Orders – Talk to Melissa Lane, 314-575-7627 or Betty Meszaros 618-451-1968

Sunday School – Talk to Donna Brandes, 618-802-1072

Youth Fellowship – Talk to Sharon O’Toole, 618-797-1802

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***“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”***

***Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,***

***Pilgrim through this barren land;***

***I am weak, but thou art mighty –***

***Hold me with thy powerful hand:***

***Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,***

***Feed me till I want no more, (want no more,)***

***Feed me till I want no more.***

***Open now the crystal fountain,***

***Whence the healing stream doth flow;***

***Let the fire and cloudy pillar***

***Lead me all my journey through:***

***Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,***

***Be thou still my strength and shield, (strength and shield,)***

***Be thou still my strength and shield.***

***When I tread the verge of Jordan,***

***Bid my anxious fears subside;***

***Bear me through the swelling current,***

***Land me safe on Canaan’s side:***

***Songs of praises, songs of praises***

***I will ever give to thee, (give to thee,)***

***I will ever give to thee.***

***“They’ll Know We Are Christians”***

Words & Music: Peter Scholtes; para. John 13:35. Words & Music © 1966, 1967 F.E.L Publications. Assigned 1991 Lorenz Publishing Company.

***We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord.***

***We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord.***

***And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.***

***And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.***

***Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.***

***We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand.***

***We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand.***

***And together we’ll spread the news that God is in our land.***

***And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.***

***Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.***

***We will work with each other; we will work side by side***

***We will work with each other; we will work side by side***

***And we’ll guard each one’s dignity and save each one’s pride.***

***And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.***

***Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.***

***All praise to the Father, from whom all things come.***

***And all praise to Christ Jesus, his only Son.***

***And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one.***

***And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.***

***Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.***