**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

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| --- | --- |
| July 11, 2021 | 7th 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.**

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN Revelation 3:20-22

Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me…Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.” (Rev. 3:20, 22)

PRELUDE *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* Nettleton

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER From Psalm 24

Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors!

***That the King of glory may come in.***

Who is the King of glory?

***The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.***

Let us pray together:

***O Lord, we lift our hearts to you in prayer, and our voices in praise. You are Lord of all the ages and places of creation, and of all the peoples of the earth. We worship you and give thanks that you open the way of salvation. Grant us your Spirit, that we might bring glory to you by telling of your power and mercy, now and forever. Amen.***

HYMN  ***“The King of Glory Comes”*** #159

RESPONSIVE PSALTER READING From Psalm 24

-2-

The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it,

the world, and those who live in it;

***For he has founded it on the seas,***

***and established it on the rivers.***

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?

And who shall stand in his holy place?

***Those who have clean hands and pure hearts,***

***who do not lift up their souls to what is false,***

***and do not swear deceitfully.***

They will receive blessing from the Lord,

and vindication from the God of their salvation.

***Such is the company of those who seek him,***

***who seek the face of the God of Jacob.***

Lift up your heads, O gates!

And be lifted up, O ancient doors!

***That the King of glory may come in.***

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Acts 3:1-10 pg. 112

SPECIAL MUSIC *What a Lovely Name* Amenz

Ritch Alexander, George Cochran, Jack Dawson, John Nitchman

GOSPEL LESSON John 10:1-11 pg. 97

REFLECTION

HYMN ***“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”*** #504

Note that we sing Verse 1 and the Refrain,

then Verse 2 and the Refrain, and then Verse 3 and the Refrain.

THE COVENANT OF MEMBERSHIP Insert

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, THE LORD’S PRAYER & RESPONSE

***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.***

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION

-3-

OFFERTORY  *Amen*  Amenz

Ritch Alexander, George Cochran, Jack Dawson, John Nitchman

SUNG RESPONSE *His Name Is Wonderful* #102

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***His name is Wonderful, his name is Wonderful,***

***his name is Wonderful, Jesus, my Lord;***

***he is the mighty King, Master of everything,***

***his name is Wonderful, Jesus, my Lord.***

***He’s the great Shepherd, the Rock of all ages,***

***Almighty God is he;***

***bow down before him, love and adore him,***

***his name is Wonderful, Jesus my Lord.***

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***Bless our gifts, O Lord, the silver and gold we give to financially support the work of the church, the life-renewing love we share with others, and the commitments we make to follow you in life. Thank you for calling us to you and sending us out for faithful service as your disciples. Amen.***

HYMN ***“Savior, Again to Your Dear Name”***  #711

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Postlude in G* Peterson

Sisters and brothers in Christ, it is a joy to gather with you for worship! Please take a moment to greet those around you in the name of the Lord.

The **bulletin** is given in loving memory of Harriet Bunselmeyer by the Bunselmeyer Family.

If you would like to place **flowers on the altar**, and pick them up Monday, please call **Mary Seibold** at (618) 792-0120. If you would like to sponsor the **bulletins**, please call the **church office** at 877-6060. The next available dates are July 18 and August 1 & 15.

This year’s **Rummage Sale** will take place September 23 & 24. Items for the sale may be dropped off starting September 5, 2021. Setup will take

-4-

place September 21 & 22. We will need volunteers. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 877-6060.

**Thank you** to Karen Gaines for serving as liturgist today.

**Thank you** to Ritch Alexander and 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.

New Member Covenant

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

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

Bible Study, 12:30 p.m.

Hilltoppers, 12:30 p.m.

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

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

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

Dedicate Strengthen the Church Offering



**MISSION OF THE MONTH**

Once again, our July mission will be to collect school supplies for the coming school year that begins in August. The students will need notebooks, paper, pencils, markers, crayons, and backpacks. And anything else you can come across that you know the students use. Just bring your donations to the sanctuary during the week or on Sunday. We will see that they get distributed to the requested location. Thanks to everyone for helping with this project.

**STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH**

The Strengthen the Church Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. Special offering envelopes were enclosed in the July edition of the Herald. If you did not receive an envelope, please clearly indicate that your offering is designated for Strengthen the Church. You can also make an electronic donation via the church’s website. Click on the donate tab at the top of the page and scroll down to the Strengthen the Church tile. Offerings will be dedicated next Sunday, July 18, 2021. **By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ**

-5-

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Nursing & Assisted Living**

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

**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**

Irvington Friedens UCC, Rev. Stacy (Mark) Tate. Sr. Pastor. Irvington Friedens UCC Rev. Tarrah (Jason) Vaupel, Associate Pastor. Jamestown St. Paul UCC. Retired Pastor, Rev. Andrew and Sandra Kramer, Belleville, IL.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Acts 3:1-10**

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, at three o’clock in the afternoon. **2**And a man lame from birth was being carried in. People would lay him daily at the gate of the temple called the Beautiful Gate so that he could ask for alms from those entering the temple. **3**When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked them for alms. **4**Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said, “Look at us.” **5**And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. **6**But Peter said, “I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk.” **7**And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. **8**Jumping up, he stood and began to walk, and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. **9**All the people saw him walking and praising God, **10**and they recognized him as the one who used to sit and ask for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

**John 10:1-11**

“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. **2**The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. **3**The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. **4**When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. **5**They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him

-6-

because they do not know the voice of strangers.” **6**Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. **7**So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. **8**All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. **9**I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. **10**The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. **11**“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

**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

**THE COVENANT OF MEMBERSHIP**

INVITATION AND QUESTIONS

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (The U.C.C. Doxology of Faith)

Let us unite with the church in all times and places

in confessing our faith in the triune God.

***We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,***

***God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,***

***and to your deeds we testify:***

***You call the worlds into being,***

***create persons in your own image,***

***and set before each one***

***the ways of life and death.***

***You seek in holy love***

***to save all people from aimlessness and sin.***

***You judge people and nations***

***by your righteous will***

***declared through prophets and apostles.***

***In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth,***

***our crucified and risen Savior,***

***You have come to us and shared our common lot,***

***conquering sin and death***

***and reconciling the world to yourself.***

***You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,***

***creating and renewing the church***

***of Jesus Christ,***

***binding in covenant faithful people***

***of all ages, tongues, and races.***

***You call us into your church***

***to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,***

***to be your servants in the service of others,***

***to proclaim the gospel to all the world***

***and resist the powers of evil,***

***to share in Christ’s baptism and eat at his table,***

***to join him in his passion and victory.***

***You promise to all who trust you***

***forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,***

***courage in the struggle for justice and peace,***

***your presence in trial and rejoicing,***

***and eternal life in your realm which has no end.***

***Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.***

QUESTION OF PARTICIPATION AND WELCOME

Let us, the members of St. John United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

***We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God’s knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.***

PRAYER AND PRESENTATIONS

RESPONSE ***“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”*** #581 Vs. 1

MC900343897[1]

Barbara Houston

25 Kingston Rd.

Collinsville, IL 62234

618-610-1884 cell

***“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”***

***I am weak, but thou art strong;***

***Jesus, keep me from all wrong;***

***I’ll be satisfied as long***

***As I walk, let me walk close to thee.***

***Just a closer walk with thee,***

***Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,***

***Daily walking close to thee:***

***Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.***

***Through this world of toil and snares,***

***If I falter, Lord, who cares?***

***Who with me my burden shares?***

***None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.***

***Just a closer walk with thee,***

***Grant it, Jesus, is my plea.***

***Daily walking close to thee:***

***Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.***

***When my feeble life is o’er,***

***Time for me will be no more;***

***Guide me gently safely o’er***

***To thy kingdom shore, to thy shore.***

***Just a closer walk with thee,***

***Grant it, Jesus, is my plea.***

***Daily walking close to thee:***

***Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.***

***“Savior, Again to Your Dear Name”***

***Savior, again to your dear name we raise***

***With one accord our parting hymn of praise;***

***We give you thanks before our worship cease,***

***And now departing, wait your word of peace.***

***Grant us your peace upon our homeward way;***

***With you began with you shall end of day;***

***Guard now the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,***

***That in this house have called upon your name.***

***Grant us your peace, Lord, through the coming night;***

***Turn all our darkness to your perfect light;***

***Then, while we sleep, our hope and strength renew,***

***For dark and light are both alike to you***

***Grant us your peace through-out our earthly life:***

***Comfort in sorrow, courage in the strife;***

***Then, when your voice shall make our conflict cease,***

***Call us, O Lord, to your eternal peace.***

***“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”***

***Called as partners in Christ’s service, Called to ministries of grace,***

***We respond with deep commitment Fresh new lines of faith to trace.***

***May we learn the art of sharing,***

***Side by side and friend with friend,***

***Equal partners in our caring***

***To fullfill God’s chosen end.***