**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

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| --- | --- |
| August 8, 2021 |  11th 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

**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 Psalm 130

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope…for with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem.” (Psalm 130:5, 7)

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

 *O, When Shall I See Jesus* American Melody

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER

We have come to worship, drawn by belief,

***And yet searching for belief.***

We have come to thank God for life,

***And yet searching for life.***

We have come to share love,

***And yet searching for love.***

We have come to offer peace,

 ***And yet searching for peace.***

Let us pray together:

***Holy One, we intend to be as steadfast in faith as you are in love for us. Sometimes we lose our way, though, and turn aside from following your Way. Save us, we pray,***

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***and help us return to building up your kingdom. As your beloved children, may we choose to forgive others and ourselves, as you mercifully do. And may we hear your Spirit guiding and uniting us to continue growing as faithful disciples, in Jesus’ name. Amen.***

\*HYMN  ***“Lord, Speak to Me”*** #593

\*RESPONSIVE READING *Put Peace into Each Other’s Hands*

Words: Fred Kaan, © 1989 Hope Publishing Company.

Put peace into each other’s hands

and like a treasure hold it;

***Protect it like a candle flame,***

***with tenderness enfold it.***

Put peace into each other’s hands

with loving expectation;

***Be gentle in your words and ways,***

***in touch with God’s creation.***

Put peace into each other’s hands,

like bread we break for sharing;

 ***Look people warmly in the eye:***

 ***our life is meant for caring.***

Put Christ into each other’s hands,

he is love’s deepest measure;

 ***In love make peace, give peace a chance***

 ***and share it like a treasure.***

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

EPISTLE LESSON Ephesians 4:25-5:2 pg. 183

SPECIAL MUSIC *Give Me Jesus* Margery Handy

GOSPEL LESSON John 6:35, 41-51 pg. 92

SERMON

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”*** #587

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & UNISON LORD’S PRAYER

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 ***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.***

PRAYER RESPONSE  *The Prayer*

Margery Handy & Miles Wadlington

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION

OFFERTORY *Deep River* Miles Wadlington

\*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

 ***Loving God of all creation and peoples, we offer these gifts with gratitude for your blessings. We have learned of your love and believe your promises. Use these gifts so more may also know and believe in Jesus, the bread of life for all the world. Amen.***

\*HYMN  ***“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”***  #712

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE *Light of Lights, Lord of Lords* Birchwood

Jesus invites all with these words: “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty” (John 6:35). Welcome to worship.

The **bulletin** is given in loving memory of my husband, Daryl Few, on his August 11th birthday by Hilde Few.

The **altar vases** are given in loving memory of Annette Stevener from St. John Sunday School.

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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 for today.

**Thank you** to Miles Wadlington and Margery Handy for providing special music.



**Nathan Adam Schulte** was born on August 3, 2021. He is the son of Adam and Tara Schulte, and the grandson of Leesa Duckworth Boyer and the great-grandson of Larry and Ruth Hubbard.

**THIS WEEK**

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

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

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

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

 Bible Study, 12:30 p.m.

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

Thursday: Council Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

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

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

 Rally Day: 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.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.

**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. Masks will be required.

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**RALLY DAY**

Come one, come all! This year’s Rally Day will be next Sunday, 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 waterslide 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!

**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.

**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**

Marion Zion UCC, Rev. John (Sara) Holst. Marissa Friedens UCC, Pastor Brett (Carolyn) Palmer. Retired Pastor, Rev. Libby and Jane Feagans-King, Springfield, IL.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Ephesians 4:25-5:2**

**25**So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. **26**Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, **27**and do not make room for the devil. **28**Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. **29**Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but

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only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. **30**And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. **31**Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, **32**and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

**1**Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, **2**and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

**John 6:35, 41-51**

**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.

**41**Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” **42**They were saying, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven’?” **43**Jesus answered them, “Do not complain among yourselves. **44**No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. **45**It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. **46**Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. **47**Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. **48**I am the bread of life. **49**Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. **50**This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. **51**I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

***“Lord, Speak to Me”***

***Lord, speak to me, that I may speak***

***In living echoes of your tone;***

***As you have sought, so let me seek***

***Your wandering children, lost, alone.***

***O lead me, Lord, that I may lead***

***The stumbling and the straying feet;***

***And feed me, Lord, that I may feed***

***Your hungry ones with manna sweet.***

***O teach me, Lord, that I may teach***

***The precious things which you impart;***

***And wing my words, that they may reach***

***The hidden depths of many a heart.***

***O fill me with your fullness, Lord,***

***Until my heart shall overflow***

***In kindling thought and glowing word,***

***Your love to tell, your praise to show.***

***“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”***

Words: Omer Westendorf © 1964 World Library Publications

***Sent forth by God’s blessing our true faith confessing,***

***The people of God from this dwelling take leave.***

***The service is ended, O now be extended***

***The fruits of our worship in all who believe.***

***The seed of the teaching, receptive souls reaching,***

***Shall blossom in action for God and for all.***

***God’s grace did invite us, and love shall unite us***

***To work for God’s kingdom and answer the call.***

***With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,***

***The tasks of our everyday life we will face.***

***Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,***

***Embracing God’s children of each tribe and race.***

***With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us;***

***Unite us as one in this life that we share.***

***Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving***

***Give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.***