**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

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| --- | --- |
| September 26, 2021 |  18th 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

**Currently face masks are REQUIRED for all.**

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 Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

Mordecai sent letters to all the Jews…enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year,…that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor. (From Esther 9)

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

 *Ancient of Days* Hughes

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER Response from Psalm 124:8

On this day, we have come to worship the Lord of all our days.

***Our help is in the name of the Lord,***

 ***who made heaven and earth.***

In all our days, the Lord is with us and hears our daily prayers.

***Our help is in the name of the Lord,***

***who made heaven and earth.***

Through daily prayers, our hearts and patience are strengthened.

 ***Our help is in the name of the Lord,***

 ***who made heaven and earth.***

With spiritual strength, we know the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

 ***Our help is in the name of the Lord,***

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 ***who made heaven and earth.***

Let us pray:

***Inspire our worship, O Lord, and grant us your Spirit to pray and sing together. Open our thoughts to pray for the suffering, to offer forgiveness to the offending, and to seek peace with one another. Remind us that all the faithful are united in purpose. Help and bless us, we pray, for doing good works and serving in your name. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“God of the Ages, History’s Maker”*** #78

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH From a New Zealand Prayer Book

You, O God, are supreme and holy.

You create our world and give us life.

Your purpose overarches everything we do.

 ***You have always been with us.***

 ***You are God.***

You, O God, are infinitely generous, good beyond all measure.

You came to us before we came to you.

You have revealed and proved your love for us in Jesus Christ,

who lived and died and rose again.

 ***You are with us now.***

 ***You are God.***

You, O God, are Holy Spirit.

You empower us to be your gospel in the world.

You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.

 ***You are our God. We worship you.***

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

EPISTLE LESSON James 5:7-11, 13-16 pg. 217

SPECIAL MUSIC *Amazing Grace* Amenz

George Cochran, Jack Dawson, John Nitchman

GOSPEL LESSON Mark 9:38-50 pg. 42

REFLECTION

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“Come, Great God of All the Ages”*** #548

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & UNISON LORD’S PRAYER

 ***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

OFFERTORY  *When All of God’s Singers Get Home* Amenz

George Cochran, Jack Dawson, John Nitchman

\*RESPONSE ***“As Saints of Old”*** Vs. 3 #570

Words: Frank von Christierson, alt. Music: English melody; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams. Words © 1961, Ren. 1989 The Hymn Society (Admin. Hope Publishing Company). Reprinted by permission, CCLI License #133401

***With gratitude and humble trust we bring our best to you,***

***not just to serve your cause,***

***but share your love with neighbors too.***

***O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ your Son, help us to give ourselves each day until life’s work is done.***

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

 ***Bless our gifts, O God, for the work of your church. May they do deeds of power in Jesus’ name. Bless our daily discipleship, O Lord, as we do what is good for minds, bodies, and spirits—for ourselves and others, and for the health of your creation. Amen.***

\*HYMN  ***“O Jesus, I Have Promised”***  #458

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE *Festive Postlude*  DeCou

As our Creator designed green leaves to turn fiery yellow, orange and red, may today’s worship rekindle your faith with the fire of the Holy Spirit. Welcome.

The **bulletin** is given in loving memory of George Few’s September 24th birthday by the Family.

The **altar vases** are given in loving memory of the September 30th birthday of Wallace Roethemeyer from his Family.

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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 dates are October 3, 10, & 31.

**Thank you** to George Cochran for serving as liturgist today and to Amenz--George Cochran, Jack Dawson and John Nitchman for providing special music.

**THIS WEEK**

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

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

 Game Night, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

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

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

 Bible Study, 12:30 p.m.

 Budget Committee Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

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

 Bell Choir, 6:00 p.m.

Thursday: Granite City Community Band Rehearsal, 6:45-9:30 p.m.

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

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

 Communion & Noisy Offering

 World Communion Sunday

 Fellowship Hall Reserved 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

 Fall Festival at DuBois

**JUSTINE WALKER MEMORIAL NUT & CANDY SALE 2021**

Reminder that orders are due today, September 26th! Thanks to all who have placed orders for helping make this fundraiser a success.

**ANNUAL SAUSAGE DINNER**

This year’s Sausage Dinner will be held on Sunday, October 17 from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. or until we run out. All dinners are $10.00 and include sausage, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, sauerkraut, apple sauce, bread, and cake. Due to the ongoing pandemic, this year’s Sausage Dinner will be drive-thru carry out only, just like last year. All food preparation is done in the church using safety guidelines and the social distancing of workers and customers is observed as much as possible. A flyer for the event has been included in this week’s bulletin.

**MAKING APPLE SAUCE**

We will be making the apple sauce for Sausage Dinner in the church basement on Thursday, Oct 14th. We will start at 8:30 a.m. Please bring your favorite cutting tools and a bowl!

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**SCRIP (GIFT CARDS)**

The scrip program has resumed. Plans are to submit orders the first and third Sundays with delivery the subsequent first and third Sundays. Exception would be that the order is not large enough to cover shipping expenses. Are you looking at recipes for fall baking? Consider a purchase of gift cards for all of your supplies. Schnucks no longer participates in their rebate program. However, there are many other vendors such as Dierbergs, Gordon Food Service, Walmart, Sam’s, etc. Revised “favorites” order forms are on the table in the narthex. There is also an update list of ALL vendors for our review. Use a revised form or one from last year. Check payable to St. John UCC or cash should accompany order. Please give your order to Betty Meszaros. Not attending worship in person? No problem as you can still order cards. Just send a note with your payment to the church office. Delivery arrangements will be coordinated. Cost is face amount of gift card. No tax or service fee. Rebate is automatically sent to the church. Please contact Melissa Lane 314-575-7627 or Betty Meszaros 618-670-5267 with questions. Appreciation to all supporting this fundraiser for the church’s general fund.

**WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY**

We will again celebrate World Communion Sunday on the first Sunday in October by bringing bags of flour for the local food pantries. Please bring as many pounds as possible on Sunday, October 3, or drop them off the week before so we can have a big fun pound count to announce.

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Nursing & Assisted Living**

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

**At Home**

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

**Illinois South Conference**

Pana United in Faith, Rev. Leon Goff. Pinckneyville St. Paul UCC, Rev. Jason (Petrice) Eisele. Retired Pastor, Rev. Earl and Johanna Crecelius, Freeburg, IL.

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**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**James 5:7-11, 13-16**

**7**Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. **8**You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. **9**Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! **10**As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. **11**Indeed we call blessed those who showed endurance. You have heard of the endurance of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful. **13**Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. **14**Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. **15**The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. **16**Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

**Mark 9:38-50**

**38**John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someonecasting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” **39**But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. **40**Whoever is not against us is for us. **41**For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward. **42**“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. **43**If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. **45**And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. **47**And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, **48**where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. **49**“For everyone will be salted with fire. **50**Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

***“God of the Ages, History’s Maker”***

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***God of the ages, history’s Maker,***

***Planning our pathway, holding us fast,***

***Shaping in mercy all that concerns us:***

***Father, we praise you, Lord of the past.***

***God of this morning, gladly your children***

***Worship before you, trustingly bow:***

***Teach us to know you always among us***

***Quietly sovereign – Lord of our now.***

***God of tomorrow, strong overcomer,***

***Princes of darkness own your command:***

***What then can harm us? We are your people,***

***Now and forever kept by your hand.***

***Lord of past ages, Lord of this morning,***

***Lord of the future, help us, we pray:***

***Teach us to trust you, love and obey you,***

***Crown you each moment, Lord of today.***

***“Come, Great God of All the Ages”***

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***Come, great God of all the ages,***

***Make your early mission known;***

***Speak through every deed and person,***

***Let your way and will be shown.***

***Guide the church to true commitment,***

***Give direction now, we ask;***

***Fit us for the work of building,***

***Dedicate us to the task.***

***Come, Christ Jesus, flesh and spirit,***

***Sure foundation, cornerstone,***

***Help us form the church eternal,***

***May your vision be our own.***

***Send a message to each follower,***

***Lead all people to your way;***

***Urge us to strong faith and action***

***As we build the church today.***

***Come, great Spirit, in and with us,***

***Tune our ears to hear your call;***

***Through the moving of your presence,***

***Let redeeming love recall***

***Ministry in dedication,***

***Love embodied in our deeds;***

***Challenge us to do your bidding,***

***See your purpose, fill all needs.***

***Come, O come, in celebration,***

***Household of the one true God,***

***In commitment and rejoicing***

***Let us go where Christ has trod;***

***As we act in faith and reverence,***

***Let us, Lord, the future see,***

***Place us in the church triumphant,***

***Now and for eternity.***

***“O Jesus, I Have Promised”***

***O Jesus, I have promised***

***To serve you to the end;***

***Remain forever near me,***

***My Master and my Friend:***

***I shall not fear the battle***

***If you are by my side,***

***Nor wander from the pathway***

***If you will be my guide.***

***O let me hear you speaking***

***In accents clear and still,***

***Above the storms of passion,***

***The murmurs of self will.***

***O speak to reassure me,***

***To hasten or control;***

***Now speak and make me listen,***

***O guardian of my soul.***

***O Jesus, you have promised***

***To all who follow you***

***That where you are in glory,***

***Your servant shall be too;***

***And, Jesus, I have promised***

***To serve you to the end;***

***O give me grace to follow,***

***My Master and my Friend.***



**ATTENTION MEMBERS**

Time is rapidly moving and we are, too! We’re getting ready for the Sausage Dinner on October 17, 2021. It takes the entire church family to make it a huge success. We are asking for your help during the day of the dinner in different areas. If you’re able to help, please fill out the form below with your name and telephone number. You can drop it in the offering plate, take it to the office, or give it to Nancy Jacobs or Donna Brandes.

You can also call:

Church: 618-877-6060

Donna Brandes 618-802-1072

Nancy Jacobs 314-712-6388

**Please fill out the information below if you’re willing to work.**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Please check mark whether you’d like to work inside or outside.**

INSIDE OUTSIDE

**Please check mark the time you’d like to work.**

First Shift (11:00 am – 2:00 pm)

Second Shift (2:00 pm – 5:00 pm)

Third Shift (5:00 pm – Clean up)

**THANK YOU!**