**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| September 5, 2021 | 15th 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 Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

The rich and the poor have this in common: the Lord is the maker of them all…Do not rob the poor because they are poor or crush the afflicted at the gate; for the Lord pleads their cause and despoils of life those who despoil them. (Proverbs 22:2, 22-23)

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*Just As I Am* Arr. Gary Prim

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER Hymn #555

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When the Church of Jesus shuts its outer door,

lest the roar of traffic drown the voice of prayer:  
   ***May our prayers, Lord, make us ten times more aware that the world we banish is our Christian care.***

If our hearts are lifted where devotion soars

high above this hungry, suffering world of ours:  
     ***Lest our hymns should drug us to forget its needs, forge our Christian worship into Christian deeds.***

Lest the gifts we offer, money, talents, time,

serve to salve our conscience, to our secret shame:  
   ***Lord, reprove, inspire us by the way you give;***

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***teach us, dying Savior, how true Christians live.***

Let us pray together:

***Gracious God, we come before you today knowing that we often fall short of your call to love one another well. We allow ourselves to be blinded by wealth and power. We ignore those who suffer injustice and rejection. Help us see your impartiality, hear your word of mercy, and feel your love for all. Help us put our faith into faithful action, in Jesus’ name. Amen.***

\*HYMN  ***“Christ, You Call Us All to Service”*** #571

\*RESPONSIVE CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

***But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.***

Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

***Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and follow in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.***

Anyone in Christ becomes a new person altogether; the past is finished and gone, everything has become fresh and new. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

***In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.***

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

EPISTLE LESSON James 2:1-17 pg. 215

SPECIAL MUSIC *10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)* Lanier

Karen Gaines & Diane Peach

GOSPEL LESSON Mark 7:24-37 pg. 40

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MEDITATION

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“Here I Am, Lord”***  #559

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & SUNG RESPONSE

***“The Lord’s Prayer”***  (One Amen) #740

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION

OFFERTORY *Who You Are to Me* Tomlin

Karen Gaines & Diane Peach

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

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***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

***We dedicate ourselves to service, Lord, as your Spirit leads us. With these gifts, we also support the work of the church with neighbors here and in regions afar. May our actions take your healing love wherever there is need. Amen.***

INVITATION Adapted from Hymn #695

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Help us know, O God, your presence;

let our hearts and minds be stirred.

***Teach us through this holy banquet***

***how to make Love’s victory known.***

Turn our worship into witness

in the sacrament of life;

***Send us forth to love and serve you,***

***bringing peace where there is strife.***

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Gracious Spirit, help us summon

other guests to share that feast

***Where triumphant Love will welcome***

***those who had been last and least.***

There no more will envy bind us

nor will pride our peace destroy,

***As we join with saints and angels***

***to repeat the sounding joy.***

COMMUNION PRAYER

BLESSING AND PARTAKING

\*UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

***Thank you, Lord, for gathering us to you through this Spirit-filled Sacrament. Thank you for opening our hearts to compassion, our ears to hear your call, and our voices to tell your love for all. Send us to live our faith in the labors of each day, in your name. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”***  #698

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE *Trust and Obey* Arr. Gary Prim

Welcome to worship this Labor Day weekend! The Lord gives a wide array of talents and knowledge to us all so we may serve one another through both paid and unpaid work. Thanks be to God!

The **bulletin** is given in Celebration of the 33rd birthday of Lydia (Totten) Huff by Mom & Dad.

The **altar centerpiece** is given in memory of our mothers, Elda Sturman and Dorothy Johanningmeier, from Dennis and Linda.

The **altar vases** are given in memory of the September 5th birthday of Lois Hollenbeck and in celebration of the birthdays of Lauren & Lakin Luebbers on September 8th and Maren on September 11th, from Bob, Anna, & Alicia Hollenbeck.

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The **pulpit flowers** are given in honor of Karla’s September 7th birthday, from her Church Family.

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 Connie Ahlers for serving as liturgist today.

**Thank you** to Karen Gaines & Diane Peach 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

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

Start bringing items for Rummage Sale

Monday: **OFFICE CLOSED** (Do not bring Rummage Sale

items)

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

Bible Study, 12:30 p.m.

Resume bringing items for Rummage Sale

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

Choir Rehearsal will **not** resume

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

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.

Grandparents’ Day



We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of Bob Kratz who passed from this life on Saturday, August 28, 2021. May the peace and comfort that come from God sustain his loved ones during this time of grief.

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**GRANDPARENTS’ DAY**

Next Sunday, September 12, is Grandparents’ Day! We encourage those who are grandparents to bring a picture of their grandchildren that can be held up during a celebration and prayer. If you aren’t a grandparent, bring in a picture of your own grandparents to participate in the celebration!



**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.



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

We are back and excited to once again be offering goodies from Terri Lynn Nut and Candy in support of St. John Cemetery. In person orders will be taken in Fellowship Hall, after the 9:30 service on September 12th & 19th. Take home brochures and order forms are available in the Church Office and in both the Narthex and Tower. Once you choose your products be sure to fill in your order form. Payment at the time of ordering is required.

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Checks and cash are acceptable. If ordering remotely you can submit your orders by phone to Joan Mueller (618-830-0647) or email to rjmfarms@gmail.com. You can either drop off your payment at church or mail to Joan Mueller – 4480 New Poag Road, Edwardsville, IL 62025. **Please do NOT use the donate**

**button on the web page** as it is not set up for fund raisers. All orders and payments must be received by Sunday, September 26th. I will add your items to the overall order. All items will be ordered at one time. Your order will be delivered to you at church in late October / early November. If anyone is interested in taking orders outside of church, please let me know so I can provide brochures and order forms. We look forward to filling your orders and supporting our cemetery and their vital works. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Joan Mueller (618-830-0647). Thanks!

**MISSION OF THE MONTH**

Our mission of the month is collecting funds for a special project at our cemetery sites. Please clearly mark any gifts designated for this project.

**SCRIP (GIFT CARDS)**

We’re back!!! The scrip program has resumed and orders for gift cards will be accepted TODAY. 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. Revised “favorites” order forms are on the table in the narthex. Use a revised form or one from last year. Check payable to St. John UCC or cash should accompany order. Please give you order to Betty Meszaros. Betty will be in Fellowship Hall after worship today. Not attending worship in person? No problem as you can still order cards. Just send a note with you 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 or see them at the “scrip table” in Fellowship Hall. Appreciation to all supporting this fundraiser for the church’s general fund.

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**Nursing & Assisted Living**

**Cedarhurst of Granite City**, 3450 Village Ln., Granite City, IL 62040

Don Luddeke, #411

**Cedarhurst of Granite City, Memory Care**, 3432 Village Lane, Granite City, IL 62040

JoAnn King, #215,

**The Fountains of West County**, 15826 Clayton Rd, Ellisville, MO 63011

Ruth Buer, #215

**Granite Nursing & Rehab**, 3500 Century Dr, Granite City, IL 62040

Karen Luddeke

**Meridian Village**, 27 Auerbach Pl., Glen Carbon, IL 62034

Mary Lee Krohne, #611 (Call Linda Nitchman for updates)

**River Crossing of Edwardsville *(Riverside)***, 6277 Center Grove Rd., Edwardsville, IL 62025

Loretta Cook, #502

**Villas of Holly Brook**, 121 S. Bluff Rd, Collinsville, IL 62234

Hilde Few, #208

**At Home**

Ritch Alexander, 2243 Cleveland, G.C., IL 62040

Rose Marie Bauer, 1438 Schaefer Rd. G.C., IL 62040

Isabella Boyer, 4722 S. Hazel, Edwardsville, IL 62025

Marlene Brokaw, 112 Summit Rdg., Maryville, IL 62062

Myra Cook, 4034 Stearns Ave., G.C., IL 62040

Janet Cowley, 2905 Sunset Drive, G.C., IL 62040

Randy Fischer, 2517 Edison Ave., G.C., IL 62040

Bonnie Fornaszewski, 200 Carlson Ave., Apt. 17D, Washington, IL 62040

Mary Franz, 3117 Willow Ave., G.C., IL 62040

Norman Hente, 3708 Joyce St., G.C., IL 62040

Gayle Lindsay, 431 Arlington Dr., G.C., IL 62040

Bill McAmish, 3320 Colgate Pl., G.C., IL 62040

Sandy Mueller, 308 Warson Ln., G.C., IL 62040

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David Oliver Jr., 2716 Dale Ave., G.C., IL 62040

Cliff Robertson, 2336 O’Hare Ave., G.C., IL 62040

Merle Rose, 2447 Waterman Ave., G.C., IL 62040

Marge Schmidt, 4857 Danielle Court, G.C., IL 62040

June Stille, 49 Riviera, G.C., IL 62040

Trish Stromlund, 1359 Kyle Dr., Apt. B, St. Charles, MO 63304

Don Young, 112 Summit Rdg., Maryville, IL 62062

**Illinois South Conference**

New Hanover Zoar UCC, Rev. R.J. (Lisa) Morgan. Retired Pastors, Rev. Robert Tripp, Effingham, IL, Rev. Bill (Patti) Causer, Nashville, IL.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Mark 7:24-37**

**24**From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, **25**but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. **26**Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. **27**He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” **28**But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” **29**Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” **30**So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. **31**Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. **32**They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. **33**He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. **34**Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” **35**And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. **36**Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. **37**They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

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**James 2:1-17**

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? **2**For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, **3**and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, “Have a seat here, please,” while to the one who is poor you say, “Stand there,” or, “Sit at my feet,” **4**have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? **5**Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? **6**But you have dishonored the

poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? **7**Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

**8**You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” **9**But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. **10**For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. **11**For the one who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. **12**So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. **13**For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment. **14**What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? **15**If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, **16**and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? **17**So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

***“Christ, You Call Us All to Service”***

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***Christ, you call us all to service,***

***Call us all who follow you;***

***Plant in us a deep commitment***

***All your work and will to do.***

***Fire a passion for your justice,***

***In us kindle love of peace;***

***Help us heal the broken-hearted,***

***To the captive bring release.***

***Teach us how to work together,***

***Brothers, sisters, side by side,***

***Equal partners in the struggle,***

***In the cause of truth allied.***

***To each one some gift is given,***

***Man or woman, young or old;***

***Help us use each skill and talent***

***Your great purpose to unfold.***

***Let us be a servant people,***

***Reconciling, ending strife,***

***Seeking ways more just of sharing***

***And of ordering human life.***

***Fill us with a glowing vision***

***Of this world as it should be;***

***Send us forth to change that vision***

***Into blest reality.***

***“The 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.***

***“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”***

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***Let us talents and tongues employ,***

***Reaching out with a shout of joy:***

***Bread is broken,***

***The wine is poured,***

***Christ is spoken and seen and heard.***

***Jesus lives again,***

***Earth can breathe again,***

***Pass the word around: loaves abound!***

***Jesus lives again,***

***Earth can breathe again,***

***Pass the word around: loaves abound!***

***Christ is able to make us one,***

***At the table he set the tone,***

***Teaching people to live to bless,***

***Love in word and in deed express.***

***Jesus lives again,***

***Earth can breathe again,***

***Pass the word around: loaves abound!***

***Jesus lives again,***

***Earth can breathe again,***

***Pass the word around: loaves abound!***

***Jesus calls us in, sends us out***

***Bearing fruit in a world of doubt,***

***Gives us love to tell, bread to share:***

***God (Immanuel) everywhere!***

***Jesus lives again,***

***Earth can breathe again,***

***Pass the word around: loaves abound!***

***Jesus lives again,***

***Earth can breathe again,***

***Pass the word around: loaves abound!***