**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| November 28, 2021 | First Sunday of Advent (C) |
| 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

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*Hark! The Glad Sound* James

Diagram

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**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING1**

READINGS BY PASTOR AND LITURGIST

UNISON PRAYER

***God of Advent, we are an impatient and busy people. We are propelled into Christmas and swept away by activity. Help us to slow down and savor Advent. Teach us in this rhythm of expectation to see you at work in our lives and in the world. Your son was not born in a castle to strong rulers. He was born in a barn to a vulnerable young woman. That teaches us something about you. Open our***

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***eyes to the vulnerable around us in our own communities and in our global home. Guard every child that is in need. Equip us, your people, to fill in the valleys and make the rough smooth. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.***

SONG ***Light a Candle Bright and Tall*** Verse 1

***Light a candle bright and tall***

***For the Hope within our world.***

***Hope that heard the ages’ call***

***As the stars and planets whirled.***

***Shine within our hearts today;***

***Come, O Hope, to us, we pray.***

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYERFrom Jeremiah 33:14-16

The days are surely coming, says the Lord,

***When I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.***

In those days and at that time

***I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.***

And this is the name by which it will be called:

***“The Lord is our righteousness.”***

Let us pray together.

***Righteous and Just God, in this season of preparation, help us to be alert to the signs of hope that you give us. Grant us the strength to live well, no matter what troubles come. We trust in your promised salvation, and offer our thanks and praise, as we worship you with open hearts. Amen.***

\*HYMN  ***“Prepare the Way, O Zion”*** #152

\*UNISON AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(Adapted from John 1 and the Nicene Creed)

***In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing was created. The life that was in him became light for all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.***

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***We believe in the one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.***

***Let your light shine in us and through us. O Child of Bethlehem, come to us. Amen.***

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 11:1-9 pg. 602

SPECIAL MUSIC *Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming*

Becky Kriegel, Kiki Cochran, Jack Dawson, George Cochran

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 3:1-6 pg. 56

REFLECTION

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”*** #155

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 *Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring* Bach

\*RESPONSE ***“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”*** Vs. 1 #154

***O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,***

***that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!***

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***While we rejoice to know the gift of a promised Savior, O God, there are many who do not know of your righteous mercy. May our offerings help reach those who mourn, and***

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***bring hope into all the world—hope for peace, joy and love in all creation. Amen.***

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

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE  *Alleluia! Alleluia!* Arneston

**1**http://storage.cloversites.com/imagodeichristiancommunityhawaii/documents/Advent\_Candle\_Readings-2011.pdf

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Happy Advent! We direct our hearts and our worship now toward the coming of Jesus at Christmas and at the end of time. Welcome.

The bulletin is given in celebration of the 64th Wedding Anniversary of Cliff & Marilyn Robertson by Robin & Steve Totten.

If you would like to place **flowers on the altar**, and pick them up Monday, please call **Patty Bade** at 618-610-0350. If you would like to sponsor the **bulletins**, please call the **church office** at 877-6060. The next available date to sponsor bulletins is December 26.

**Thank you** to George Cochran for serving as liturgist today.

**THIS WEEK**

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

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

First Sunday of Advent

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

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

Karla on Vacation

Cemetery Christmas Decorating, ~10:00 a.m.

**Poinsettia Orders Due**

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

Bible Study, 12:30 p.m.

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

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Bell Choir, 6:00 p.m.

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

Granite City Community Band Rehearsal,

6:45-9:30 p.m.

Saturday: Choir Christmas Party at Kriegel’s

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

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

Communion & Noisy Offering

Installation of Council & Altar Guild

Fellowship Hall Reserved 11:00-5:00

**SCRIP (GIFT CARDS)**

Remember when you were a child and it seemed like Christmas would never come? Now, as an adult, there is never enough time to shop, clean, cook, wrap, decorate and all of the other projects that need to be finished! Purchasing gift cards through the scrip program can help you check off some items on your “to do” list. 1) Give your order form or a note to Betty Meszaros. Please include your check payable to St. John UCC. 2) Pick up your gift cards after worship the following week or arrange delivery with Betty. Orders will be submitted December 5th and 12th. Taking a break in January so consider stocking up. Revised “favorites” order forms are on the table in the narthex. There is also an updated list of ALL vendors for your review. Take an order form home with you and do your Christmas shopping from the comfort of your living room. No driving around from store to store and no lines. Complimentary cardholders while supplies last. Not attending worship in person? No problem as you can still order cards. Just send a note with your payment to the church office. Cost is face amount of gift card. No tax or activation fee. Please contact Melissa Lane 314-575-7627 or Betty Meszaros 618-451-1968 with questions. Betty’s cell is 618-670-5267 and email blmesz@yahoo.com.

**MISSION OF THE MONTH**

The November Mission of the Month has been designated for Granite City’s Community Care Center. As the cold weather sets in and with the upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, this organization can use all the help and support that our church

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can offer. We have been blessed as a church and as individuals, so let’s do what we can to pass on these blessings.

And our Thanksgiving offering has been designated to Got Your Six Support Dogs. Located in Maryville, this organization trains dogs to be support animals for veterans and first-responders. Please give as much as you are able. Let’s make St. John UCC proud of what we are able to contribute.

**CEMETERY HELP WANTED!!!**

St. John Cemetery is STILL looking to fill a 15 hour a week Groundskeeper position. Hours will be flexible. Job requires that you be able to lift 50 lbs. If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact the cemetery office at 618-876-5811. Submit resumes to stjohnucccemetery@gmail. Applications will be accepted through January 15, 2022.

**CEMETERY CHRISTMAS DECORATING**

The cemetery needs help this Monday, November 29, 2021 around 10:00 a.m. (time is subject to change) to begin decorating for Christmas. If you are able to help, it is greatly appreciated.

A black and white drawing of a plant

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**POINSETTIA ORDERS**

Last chance to place poinsettia orders!!! Plants cost $12.00 and are available in **red only**. Fill out the included order form exactly as you wish it to appear in the bulletin; (i.e., Mr., or Mrs., or Miss, etc.) The deadline to order poinsettias is **THIS MONDAY, November 29, 2021**. When filling out order forms, please print clearly.

**QUILT RAFFLE WINNERS**

The winners of the quilt raffle are:

Hedy Mees – Quilt

Christie Roth – Afghan

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A picture containing text

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**CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

There will be a rehearsal for the Children’s Christmas Program on December 11th at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP**

This year, we will offer a Christmas Eve Candlelight worship service which will begin with pre-service organ music. The lighting of the Christ Candle will occur at 11:00 p.m. and we will close with the traditional candlelight *Silent Night*.

**EVENING GUILD**

Want to join the TOW Club? Not another roadside assistance plan, but Together On Wheels for members or guests wanting to attend an Evening Guild meeting the first Monday of a month at 6:30 PM. If you are no longer comfortable driving at night or if you would be willing to give someone else a ride, please contact Evening Guild member Betty Meszaros @ 618-670-5267. Matchups will be arranged if possible. The December 6th meeting is a potluck Christmas party. Great food and a fun evening! No meeting in January.

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Cedarhurst of Edwardsville**, 7108 Marine Road, Edwardsville, IL 62025

Carol Hildebrand, Room B18

**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)

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

Loretta Cook, #502 (Loretta is currently at Christian Hospital)

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

Hilde Few, #208

**At Home**

Ritch Alexander, 2243 Cleveland, 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

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

Lou Hasse, 2689 Westmoreland Dr. Unit 2, G.C., IL 62040 **(Lou has been transferred to Rehabilitation Institute of St. Louis, 4455 Duncan Ave.)**

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

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

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

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

Janice Weeks, 2650 Iowa, G.C., IL 62040

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

**Illinois South Conference**

Belleville Christ UCC, Pastor Jon (Lisa) Tinge. Belleville Concordia UCC, Rev. Joan (John) Mier. Retired Pastor, Rev. Ivan and Vivian Horn, Waterloo, IL.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Isaiah 11:1-9**

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. **2**The spirit of the Lord shall rest on

him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. **3**His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what

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his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; **4**but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. **5**Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. **6**The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. **7**The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. **8**The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder’s den. **9**They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

**Luke 3:1-6**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, **2**during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. **3**He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, **4**as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. **5**Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; **6**and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

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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 or Angela Potter, 618-877-6060 church office

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

or 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,

or Dave Douglas, 618-452-3336

Quilters – Talk to Sandy Dawson 618-931-3467

or Doris Peterson 618-877-1606

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

or 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

***“Prepare the Way, O Zion”***

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***Prepare the way, O Zion,***

***Your Christ is drawing near!***

***Let every hill and valley***

***A level way appear.***

***Greet One who comes in glory,***

***Foretold in sacred story.***

***Oh, blest is Christ that came***

***In God’s most holy name.***

***He brings God’s rule, O Zion;***

***He comes from heaven above.***

***His rule is peace and freedom,***

***And justice, truth, and love.***

***Lift high your praise resounding,***

***For grace and joy abounding.***

***Oh, blest is Christ that came***

***In God’s most holy name.***

***Fling wide your gates, O Zion;***

***Your Savior’s rule embrace.***

***His tidings of salvation***

***Proclaim in every place.***

***All lands will bow before him,***

***Their voices will adore him.***

***Oh, blest is Christ that came***

***In God’s most holy name.***

***“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”***

***“Comfort, comfort now my people;***

***Tell of peace!” so says our God.***

***Comfort those who sit in darkness***

***Mourning under sorrow’s load.***

***To God’s people now proclaim***

***That God’s pardon waits for them!***

***Tell them that their war is over;***

***God will reign in peace forever!***

***For the herald’s voice is crying***

***In the desert far and near,***

***Calling us to true repentance***

***Since the Kingdom now is here.***

***Oh, that warning cry obey!***

***Now prepare for God a way!***

***Let the valleys rise to meet him,***

***And the hills bow down to greet him!***

***Straight shall be what long was crooked,***

***And the rougher places plain!***

***Let your hearts be true and humble,***

***As befits his holy reign!***

***For the glory of the Lord***

***Now on earth is shed abroad,***

***And all flesh shall see the token***

***That God’s word is never broken.***

*\*“The King of Glory Comes” not printed due to copyright\**

A black and white drawing of a plant

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A black and white drawing of a plant

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POINSETTIA

### ORDER FORM

Plants will cost **$12.00** each and are **available in RED ONLY.**  Fill in the lines below exactly as you wish it to appear in the bulletin; (i.e., Mr., or Mrs., or Miss, etc.) DEADLINE to order poinsettias is **November 29, 2021** (Please attach payments to this form and either place in the offering plate or bring/mail to the church office.) PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!!!!

IN LOVING MEMORY OF\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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BY

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

ADDRESS:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# OF POINSETTIAS ORDERED

TOTAL ENCLOSED

(Make checks payable to: St. John United Church of Christ)

POINSETTIA

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