**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| November 7, 2021 |  24th 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 Hebrews 9:24-28

So Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. (Hebrews 9:28)

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

 *The Lord’s My Shepherd* Powell

CALL TO WORSHIP AND LITANY OF CONFESSION1

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth; serve the Lord with gladness. Come before him, singing for joy. Christ is with us!

 ***He is with us indeed!***

In joy and contrition we come before God.

Let us confess our sins.

***Gracious God, Creator and Father, we come before you a rebellious people. We have denied your intentions for us; we have preferred our way to Christ’s way; we have disobeyed your commandments; and we have worshiped ourselves and the things we have made. Forgive us, restore in us the knowledge of who we are, and make us alive to serve you in faith, obedience, and joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

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Hear the promises of God: “Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.” “If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins.” I announce, therefore, in the name of Jesus Christ, that we are forgiven.

***Amen.***

\*HYMN  ***“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”*** #71

\*RESPONSIVE PSALTER READING Psalm 146

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

 ***I will praise the Lord as long as I live;***

 ***I will sing praises to my God all my life long.***

Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals,

in whom there is no help.

 ***When their breath departs, they return to the earth;***

 ***on that very day their plans perish.***

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,

whose hope is in the Lord their God,

 ***[The one] who made heaven and earth,***

 ***the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;***

[The one] who executes justice for the oppressed;

who gives food to the hungry.

 ***The Lord sets the prisoners free;***

 ***the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.***

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

the Lord loves the righteous.

 ***The Lord watches over the strangers;***

 ***he upholds the orphan and the widow,***

 ***but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.***

The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.

 ***Praise the Lord!***

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17 pg. 231

SOLO *Praise the Lord, He Never Changes* Linda Mizell

GOSPEL LESSON Mark 12:38-44 pg. 46

REFLECTION

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**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”***  #393

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & SUNG LORD’S PRAYER

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

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION

OFFERTORY *Let Us with a Gladsome Mind* Roberts

\*RESPONSE ***“Give Thanks”*** #359

Words and Music: Henry Smith © 1978 Integrity’s Hosanna! Music

***Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ his Son.***

***Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ his Son.***

***And now let the weak say “I am strong,”***

***let the poor say “I am rich,”***

***because of what the Lord has done for us.***

***And now let the weak say “I am strong,”***

***let the poor say “I am rich,”***

***because of what the Lord has done for us, Give thanks!***

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION1

 ***O God, we are made glad by the good news of your love for us and all people. We thank you for creating us and giving us all that is necessary for life. We thank you for your action in Christ by which our lives are measured, found wanting, and renewed. Help us to remember your gifts, that we may praise you with lives of joy and service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

**THE COMMUNION LITURGY**1

INVITATION, PRAYER & PARTAKING

Luke the Evangelist wrote of our risen Lord, that when he was at table with two of the disciples, he took bread and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them, and their eyes were opened, and they recognized him.

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***In company with all believers in every time and beyond time, we come to this Sacrament to know him in the breaking of the bread.***

For the Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and, when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Lift up your hearts.

 ***We lift them to the Lord.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord God.

 ***It is good that we do.***

We give you thanks, Lord God, our Creator, for bringing the worlds into being, for forming us in your likeness, for recalling us when we rebel against you, and for keeping the world in your steadfast love. We praise you especially for Jesus Christ; who was born of Mary and lived as one of us; who knew exactly the life we know, and yet was obedient to your purposes, even to his death on a cross. We thank you that you stamped his death with victory by raising him in power and by making him head over all things. We rejoice in the continuing presence of the Holy Spirit in the church you have gathered, in its take of obedience, and in the promise of eternal life. With the faithful in every place and time, we praise with joy your holy name.

***Holy, holy, holy, God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God, Most High.***

Therefore bless now, by your Word and Spirit, both us and these gifts of bread and wine, that in receiving them, and in offering here our faith and praise, we may be united with Christ and one another, and remain faithful to the tasks he sets before us.

***In the strength Christ gives we offer ourselves to you, giving thanks that you have called us to serve you. Amen.***

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ.

*(Pastor breaks the loaf)*

Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives.

*(Pastor pours the chalice)*

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*(Open your prepared bread)*

Eat this, for it is the body of Christ, broken for you. (Eat)

*(Open your prepared cup)*

Drink this, for it is the blood of Christ, shed for you. (Drink)

Let us give thanks.

***We give thanks, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of your Son, Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

\*HYMN AND NOISY OFFERING

 ***“Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory”***  #730

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE  *Song of Triumph* Rogers

1Liturgy from “Service of Word and Sacrament II” in The Hymnal of the United Church of Christ, Copyright 1974 United Church Press.

Welcome to this gathering of the saints, both here and in the heavenly kingdom. Let us worship God together!

If you would like to place **flowers on the altar**, and pick them up Monday, please call **Patty Bade** at 618-610-0350. The next available dates to order flowers are November 14, 21, and 28. 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 Linda Mizell for serving as liturgist today and 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 12:15-4:00 p.m.

 Daylight Saving Time Ends (Fall Back)

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

 Brotherhood, 6:30 p.m.

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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.

 Bell Choir, 6:00 p.m.

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.

 New Member Covenant

 Fellowship Hour Sponsored by Evangelism

 Annual Meeting Books Distributed

**SCRIP (GIFT CARDS)**

Purchasing gift cards through the scrip program is so easy. (1) Give your order form or a note to Betty Meszaros or send it to the church office. Please include your check payable to St. John UCC. (2) Pick up your gift cards after worship or arrange a delivery with Betty. Orders will be submitted November 7th and 21st, 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 you 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. 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. Rebate is automatically sent to the church. Please contact Melissa Lane 314-575-7627 or Betty Meszaros 618-451-1968 with questions Betty’s cell is 617-670-5267 and email blmesz@yahoo.com.



**TOTENFEST**

Totenfest, when we remember loved ones who died during the past liturgical year, will be held on Sunday, November 21, during our 9:30 a.m. worship service.

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**HARVEST HOME**

Harvest Home will be celebrated on Sunday November 21, with decorations and special liturgy, scripture and music.



**ADVENT BEGINS**

On Sunday, November 28 we will begin the new liturgical year with the first Sunday in Advent. Therefore, Saturday, November 27, will be the day for preparations. Everyone is invited to come and help all the Altar Guild members decorate throughout our buildings and grounds beginning at 9:00 a.m. Bring a mask and come and work off the extra Thanksgiving turkey and pie from November 25, and help to quickly change the seasons from Thanksgiving to Advent.

**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 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 CHRISTMAS DECORATING**

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

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**POINSETTIA ORDERS**

It’s time to place orders for poinsettias! 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 **Monday, November 29, 2021**. When filling out order forms, please print clearly

**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**

**Nursing & Assisted Living**

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

**In Hospital**

Lou Hasse: Barnes Hospital

**At Home**

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

**Illinois South Conference**

Valmeyer St. John UCC, Rev. Steven Boorsma. Waterloo St. Paul UCC, Rev. Jeff McCarn. Retired Pastor, Rev. Robert and Doris Utke, St. Paul, MN.

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**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17**

Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, “My daughter, I need to seek some security for you, so that it may be well with you. **2**Now here is our kinsman Boaz, with whose young women you have been working. See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing floor. **3**Now wash and anoint yourself, and put on your best clothes and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make

yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. **4**When he lies down, observe the place where he lies; then, go and uncover his feet and lie down; and he will tell you what to do.” **5**She said to her, “All that you tell me I will do.”

**13**So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. When they came together, the Lord made her conceive, and she bore a son. **14**Then the women said to Naomi, “Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without next-of-kin; and may his name be renowned in Israel! **15**He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has borne him.” **16**Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her bosom, and became his nurse. **17**The women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, “A son has been born to Naomi.” They named him Obed; he became the father of Jesse, the father of David.

**Mark 12:38-44**

**38**As he taught, he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, **39**and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! **40**They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.” **41**He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. **42**A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. **43**Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. **44**For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

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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

Angela Potter, 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



***“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”***

***Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,***

***The King of creation!***

***O my soul, praise him,***

***For he is your health and salvation!***

***Come, all who hear;***

***Now to his temple draw near,***

***Join me in glad adoration!***

***Praise to the Lord, above all things***

***So wondrously reigning:***

***Sheltering you under his wings,***

***And so gently sustaining!***

***Have you not seen***

***All that is needful has been***

***Sent by his gracious ordaining?***

***Praise to the Lord, who will prosper***

***Your work and defend you:***

***Surely his goodness and mercy***

***Shall daily attend you.***

***Ponder anew***

***What the Almighty can do,***

***If with his love he befriends you.***

***Praise to the Lord!***

***O let all that is in me adore him!***

***All that has life and breath,***

***Come now with praises before him.***

***Let the Amen***

***Sound from his people again;***

***Gladly forever adore him.***

***“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”***

***Blest be the tie that binds***

***Our hearts in Christian love;***

***The fellowship of kindred minds***

***Is like to that above.***

***Before our Father’s throne***

***We pour our ardent prayers;***

***Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,***

***Our comforts and our cares.***

***We share our mutual woes,***

***Each other’s burdens bear;***

***And often for each other***

***Flows the sympathizing tear.***

***From sorrow, toil, and pain,***

***And sin we shall be free;***

***And perfect love and friendship reign***

***Through all eternity.***

***“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.***

***“Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory”***

***Mine eyes have seen the glory***

***Of the coming of the Lord;***

***He is trampling out the vintage***

***Where the grapes of wrath are stored;***

***He hath loosed the fateful lightning***

***Of his terrible swift sword;***

***His truth is marching on.***

***Glory, glory, hallelujah!***

***Glory, glory, hallelujah!***

***Glory, glory, hallelujah!***

***His truth is marching on.***

***I have seen him in the watch-fires***

***Of a hundred circling camps,***

***They have builded him an altar***

***In the evening dews and damps;***

***I can read his righteous sentence***

***By the dim and flaring lamps;***

***His day is marching on.***

***Glory, glory, hallelujah!***

***Glory, glory, hallelujah!***

***Glory, glory, hallelujah!***

***His truth is marching on.***

***He has sounded forth the trumpet***

***That shall never call retreat;***

***He is sifting out the hearts of all***

***Before his judgment seat.***

***O be swift, my soul, to answer him;***

***Be jubilant, my feet!***

***Our God is marching on.***

***Glory, glory, hallelujah!***

***Glory, glory, hallelujah!***

***Glory, glory, hallelujah!***

***His truth is marching on.***

***In the beauty of the lilies***

***Christ was born across the sea,***

***With a glory in his bosom***

***That transfigures you and me;***

***As he died to make us holy,***

***Let us die to make all free,***

***While God is marching on.***

***Glory, glory, hallelujah!***

***Glory, glory, hallelujah!***

***Glory, glory, hallelujah!***

***His truth is marching on.***





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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# OF POINSETTIAS ORDERED

TOTAL ENCLOSED

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

POINSETTIA

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IN GRATITUDE FOR\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

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# OF POINSETTIAS ORDERED

TOTAL ENCLOSED

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

**ONLINE GIVING**

Our online giving platform, Vanco, now has the option to send memorials and order poinsettias through their site.

Now, when you select “contribute” to either of these, you’ll have the ability to enter a designation.

These designations are **required** in order to complete your order.

Below, you’ll find instructions on how to make quick and convenient offerings online.

**GIVEPLUS**

Powered by Vanco Payment Solutions.

To make electronic offerings, simply follow these easy steps:

1. Visit the church website at stjohnuccgranitecity.com
2. Click the “Donate” button in the upper right-hand corner (if you’re on a mobile phone, you’ll click the three bars for the dropdown menu and then click “Donate”). You will be redirected to Vanco’s secure site.
3. Multiple tiles will appear. Click the “Sign Up” button in the upper right-hand corner.
4. Follow the onscreen instructions tile to create an online profile and to schedule your contributions.
5. Select the fund or organization you would like to contribute to, click “Contribute” and you will be prompted to fill in the amount and complete the transaction (if you selected “memorial” or “poinsettias”, you must enter the designation). Multiple funds can be contributed to with one transaction. The “basket” will keep track.
6. Credit cards, debit cards, and check drafts are accepted.
7. A receipt will be sent to the email address given in the profile.

This site is secured through Vanco. The transaction fee is less than those charged by major banking institutions. There is a button to click before the final transaction is completed if the donor would like to cover the transaction fee. The amount is 2-4%, depending on the form of payment.

No personal information is shared or sold to third parties. Profiles are saved and used for each subsequent login.

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6. Credit cards, debit cards, and check drafts are accepted.
7. A receipt will be sent to the email address given in the profile.

This site is secured through Vanco. The transaction fee is less than those charged by major banking institutions. There is a button to click before the final transaction is completed if the donor would like to cover the transaction fee. The amount is 2-4%, depending on the form of payment.

No personal information is shared or sold to third parties. Profiles are saved and used for each subsequent login.