**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| February 27, 2022 | Transfiguration Sunday (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

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. (2 Corinthians 3:17)

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*Out of My Bondage* Stebbins

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER1

A cloud came upon the disciples on that day long ago.

***Listen for the voice of God.***

God spoke of the Son, the chosen one.

***Listen for the Word of God.***

God speaks to us still.

***Listen for the call of God.***

Holy is God!

***We tremble with respect!***

Mighty is God!

***We tremble with awe!***

Radiant is God!

***We tremble with joy!***

Let us pray together:

***God of justice and equity, we receive your holy words with hope for a transformed heart—a heart that seeks***

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***justice and healing. Help us be transformed like Christ, into witness, healer, and teacher. Send us down from the mountaintop to go forth into the world, shining your glory for all to see. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding”*** #245

\*RESPONSIVE PSALTER READING Psalm 99

The Lord is king; let the peoples tremble!

***He sits enthroned upon the cherubim;***

***let the earth quake!***

The Lord is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples.

***Let them praise your great and awesome name.***

***Holy is he!***

Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity;

you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.

***Extol the Lord our God; worship at his footstool.***

***Holy is he!***

Moses and Aaron were among his priests,

Samuel also was among those who called on his name.

***They cried to the Lord, and he answered them.***

He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud;

they kept his decrees, and the statutes that he gave them.

***O Lord our God, you answered them;***

***you were a forgiving God to them,***

***but an avenger of their wrongdoings.***

Extol the Lord our God, and worship at his holy mountain;

***For the Lord our God is holy.***

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON Exodus 34:29-35

SPECIAL MUSIC *I’ve Been with Jesus* Amenz

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 9:28-36, 37-43a

SERMON

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“Fairest Lord Jesus”*** #123

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, LORD’S PRAYER & RESPONSE

***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 *I Go to the Rock* Amenz

\*\*RESPONSE ***“Spirit of the Living God”*** Vs. 2 #492 ***Spirit of the living God, move among us all;***

***make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love; humble, caring, selfless, sharing.***

***Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love.***

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION1

***Gracious God, you have loved us so deeply and given us so much that we cannot help but praise you. Take these humble gifts and transform them for your purposes, that together we may bring your radiant love to the world. Amen.***

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

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE  *Loyalty to Christ* Cassel

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\*\*Words: Daniel Iverson; vs. 2, Michael Baughen. Music: Daniel Iverson. Words & Music © 1935, Ren. 1963 Birdwing Music (Admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing). Words vs. 2 © 1982 Jubilate Hymns (Admin. Hope Publishing Company) Reprinted by permission, CCLI License #1334401.

On the Mount of Transfiguration, God said, “This is my Son ... listen to him” (Luke 9:35). We gather to listen to Jesus. Welcome to all.

If you would like to place **flowers on the altar**, and pick them up Monday, please call **Rosalie Watson** at (618) 741-2979. If you would like to sponsor the **bulletins**, please call the **church office** at 877-6060. The next available date to sponsor bulletins is March 27.

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Thank you to **Rev. Ritch Alexander** 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.

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

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

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

Cemetery Cleanup, 9:00 a.m.

Bible Study, 12:30 p.m.

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

Chancel Choir, 6:15 p.m.

**Ash Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.**

Thursday:GCC Band Rehearsal, 6:15-9:30 p.m.

Cemetery Meeting, 5:00 p.m.

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

Communion & Noisy Offering for Rebuilding Together

**JUST A REMINDER**

Please be extra thoughtful about caring for others when participating in church activities. Beginning tonight, properly worn masks are still recommended, although no longer required. Food and drink will be allowed for gatherings. Staying home when feeling ill will continue to protect others from not only Covid, but from all the seasonal illnesses. Let’s get through this together, and prepare to celebrate both the building upgrades and our church anniversary with joy.



**ASH WEDNESDAY**

This year Ash Wednesday is on March 2. Our service will be held at 7:00 p.m., in Fellowship Hall and on Zoom. The Imposition of Ashes for those present in-person, and the Sacrament of Holy Communion, will be celebrated. Please plan to participate and begin the Lenten season with spiritual guidance.

**SCRIP**

The scrip program is being resumed in March. Plans are to submit orders the third Sunday of each month with gift cards distributed the following week. Please give you orders along with you check payable to St. John UCC to Betty Meszaros. You can participate even if you are

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not attending in person worship service. Just send your order and payment to the church. Delivery of your gift cards will be arranged. Cards are great to have on hand for your personal use or as gifts. Please contact Melissa Lane or Betty Meszaros (618-451-1968 or 618-670-5267 cell) if any questions.

**CEMETERY CLEANUP**

The Cemetery needs volunteers on March 1st at 9:00 for cleanup. We’ll meet at the garage and lunch will be served.

**MISSION OF THE MONTH**

Our February Mission of the Month is designated for our next food box giveaway. With the success of our first giveaway on January 22, 2022, we are excited to provide for our community once again. More details for the giveaway will be made available at a later date.

**EVENING GUILD**

Our meeting on March 7th will feature a guest speaker from the Granite City Senior Center. They will be discussing the various programs they offer to seniors.

**BROTHERHOOD**

The Men’s Brotherhood will be holding their St. Patrick’s Day party on Monday, March 14. Doors will open at 6:00 with dinner starting at 6:30. Tickets are $13.00 and reservations are **required**. Reservations must be submitted to Dave Douglas no later than **Monday, March 7.**

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On the Fourth Sunday of Lent (March 27, 2022), the United Church of Christ and our Ecumenical Partners join together for the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. Be sure to clearly label offerings so the counters can properly credit them.

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Nursing & Assisted Living**

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

**At Home**

Ritch Alexander, Isabella Boyer, Bobbie Braden, Marlene Brokaw, Myra Cook, Bonnie Fornaszewski, Mary Franz, Luitgard Fries, Norman Hente, Gayle Lindsay, Bill McAmish, Sandy Mueller, Cliff Robertson,

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Merle Rose, Marge Schmidt, June Stille, Trish Stromlund, Janice Weeks, and Don Young.

**Hospital**

Lou Hasse is at Missouri Baptist.

**Illinois South Conference**

Freeburg St. Paul’s UCC, Rev. Rick Mortimer. Godfrey Congregational Church, Rev. Richard (Sarah) McCreary. Retired Pastor, Rev. Nancy Spier-Lee and Kevin Lee, Dupo, IL.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Exodus 34:29-35**

**29**Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. **30**When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. **31**But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. **32**Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. **33**When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; **34**but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, **35**the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

**Luke 9:28-36, 37-43a**

**28**Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. **29**And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. **30**Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. **31**They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. **32**Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. **33**Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said. **34**While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. **35**Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” **36**When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

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*And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.*

*– 1 Cor. 13:13*

When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you deploy resources to people in need all around the world, and in our own communities. When man-made or natural disasters strike, love responds. Not just for the immediate future, but for the long haul. When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you are working alongside families to restore not only structures, but hope. Your giving ensures that no matter how difficult the situation, ***Love remains.***

On Memorial Day 2019, tornadoes swept through the Miami Valley of Ohio, destroying thousands of homes and apartments and leaving a trail of downed trees and power lines in their wake. Many of the tornado-affected families have had to relocate multiple times since the tornadoes due to substandard housing conditions and inflated rent.

Two years after the storm, the Stephens family were still unable to find adequate living quarters. The family of ten was forced to live apart. In addition to dealing with unscrupulous contractors, the family had to haggle with insurance companies as they tried to rebuild their home. The Stephenses, like so many other families, remained in temporary housing and separated, pending the completion of repairs.

Yet all was not lost. The Stephens family connected with the Miami Valley Long-Term Recovery Operations Group, and volunteer teams finished the repairs.

Alongside these traditional home repair projects, and with support from One Great Hour of Sharing, the MVLTROG helped launch the Tornado Survivors’ Pathways to Homeownership Project to help alleviate the housing crunch in the Dayton area. Volunteers and local nonprofits work together to transition “nuisance” properties and vacant lots into affordable, single-family housing options for tornado survivors who were displaced from rental housing, stabilizing both families and the community. First-time homeowners receive the support they need to build for their futures.

Sammy Deacon, Brethren Disaster Ministries Long-Term Project Leader, says “When you reach out to help someone else, the blessing comes back to you as well. An important aspect of the recovery effort is listening to people’s stories and knowing you have the opportunity to help them – physically and spiritually.”

With support for long-term recovery, including innovative programs like the Pathways to Homeownership Project, One Great Hour of Sharing helps create opportunities for families to thrive after disasters. Because love remains.

\*This insert was provided by UCC resources and was edited to remove photos for St. John UCC’s printing purposes.

The Evangelism Committee is planning another food give away to take place in September. Our plan is to provide the majority of the food through church member donations. Listed below is a donation calendar with dates when to bring in each food item.

**Food Donation Calendar**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Week of March 6th | Canned Soups |
| Week of March 13th | Canned Chili with/without beans |
| Week of March 20th | Canned Stew |
| Week of March 27th | Unsweetened Applesauce – **40 oz jar** |
| Week of April 3rd | Canned Vegetables\*\* |
| Week of April 10th | Canned Vegetables\*\* |
| Week of April 17th | Canned Tuna |
| Week of April 24th | Peanut Butter – **40 oz jar** |
| Week of May 1st | Boxed Cereal – 18-20oz Cheerios, Corn Flakes or Rice Krispies |
| Week of May 8th | Either Apple Juice, Cranberry Juice or Grape Juice\*\* |
| Week of May 15th | Either Apple Juice, Cranberry Juice or Grape Juice\*\* |
| Week of May 22nd | 2 lb. bag of White Rice |
| Week of May 29th | 5 lb. bag of All Purpose Flour |
| Week of June 5th | Mac-N-Cheese Box Dinners |

\*\* These items are listed twice because of the amount needed

* Designated, labeled tables will be set up for you to place your donations on.
* If donations are brought in during the week, or you would like to purchase and bring in all of the items at once give them to Rusty and he will put them where they belong.
* Ideas where to shop economically: Ruler Foods, Sam’s Club, Costco, Aldi, Schnucks (checking weekly ads for sales), Target and Wal-Mart.
* Any amount you can donate is helpful. The church will purchase additional food items as needed.
* Please purchase and donate food brands that you would feed your family.
* As you are purchasing these items, please be aware of expiration dates, as we will be giving this food away in September.
* Monetary donations for this project are always appreciated and should be specifically marked for the food drive when turned in.



Please order a lily for me. Plants will cost **$12.00** each. 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 a lily is **March 28, 2022**.

(Please attach payments to this form and place either in the offering plate or bring it to the church office.) PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY !!!!

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

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# OF LILIES ORDERED \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED

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



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

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# OF LILIES ORDERED \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

***“We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding”***

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. Music: Leavitt’s *The Christian Lyre*, 1830; arr. Jack Schrader. Words © 1988 Hope Publishing Company. Music Arr. © 2001 Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted by permission, CCLI License #1334401.

***We have come at Christ’s own bidding***

***To this high and holy place,***

***Where we wait with hope and longing***

***For some token of God’s grace.***

***Here we pray for new assurance***

***That our faith is not in vain,***

***Searching like those first disciples***

***For a sign both clear and plain.***

***Light breaks through our clouds and shadows,***

***Splendor bathes the flesh-joined Word,***

***Moses and Elijah marvel***

***As the heavenly voice is heard.***

***Eyes and hearts behold with wonder***

***How the Law and Prophets meet:***

***Christ with garments drenched in brightness,***

***Stands transfigured and complete.***

***Strengthened by this glimpse of glory,***

***Fearful lest our faith decline,***

***We, like Peter, find it tempting***

***To remain and build a shrine.***

***But true worship gives us courage***

***To proclaim what we profess,***

***That our daily lives may prove us***

***People of the God we bless.***

***“Fairest Lord Jesus”***

***Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature,***

***O thou of God and man the Son,***

***Thee will I cherish, thee will I honor,***

***Thou my soul’s glory, joy and crown!***

***Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,***

***Robed in the blooming garb of spring:***

***Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,***

***Who makes the woeful heart to sing.***

***Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,***

***And all the twinkling, starry host:***

***Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer,***

***Than all the angels heaven can boast.***

***Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!***

***Son of God and Son of man!***

***Glory and honor, praise, adoration,***

***Now and forevermore be thine!***

***“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.***