**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

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| --- | --- |
| May 15, 2022 |  Fifth Sunday of Easter(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 RECOMMENDED.**

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

 Introduction to WISE Karen Gaines

BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN Revelation 21:1-6

See, the home of God is among mortals…[God] will wipe every tear from their eyes…

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

 *On Jordan’s Stormy Banks*  Hustad, Arr.

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER1

We gather in the presence of the One who abandons no one.

***Come Holy Spirit, our advocate and comforter.***

All are welcome in this sacred place,

made holy through your presence with us.

 ***Open our hearts and minds this day,***

 ***guide us into a loving relationship with all your children.***

We gather as God’s beloved people, leaving no one outside.

 ***Spark us with a word of life and radical belonging—***

 ***a message that we share with others***

 ***as we seek to live out Christ’s love.***

We call on the name of God,

who creates, redeems, and sustains us,

and who hears our prayers.

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***O God, come into our place of worship this day and enliven us. You have created each of us in your image and made us one body, each as holy vessels of your presence to one another. Give us hearts and minds of purpose, courage, and beauty, we pray,***

 ***To be open to human vulnerability,***

***To listen to each other with patient and thoughtful attention and support.***

***To perceive the grace of the differences in our embodied experience,***

 ***To resist what excludes and diminishes,***

***To dismantle what acts as barriers to flourishing together in love and justice.***

***O God, help us to trust your Spirit’s work to make us whole, together in relationships of mutuality and partnership, in sacred rhythms of giving and receiving. Gather us together to be your people in the world, as in Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.***

\*HYMN  ***“O God in Whom All Life Begins”*** #388

\*LITANY OF NAMING

On this Mental Health Sunday, we join in this Litany of Naming.

***As a congregation we are glad to lift up our voices and our spirits to break the silence that often happens when we are confronted with mental illness.***

As a faith community, we name the gifts and the often-unnamed experiences which come to those who live with a mental health issue. We name:

***The Hope which upholds our spirit through honest sharing;***

The Pain when people turn away because of fear;

***The Courage to speak in a safe place the way that Jesus spoke truth with love;***

The Strength from being with others who listen compassionately.

 ***The Isolation that comes when no one knows what to say;***

The Realization that mental health can be managed;

***The Exhaustion that comes with living with mental health issues as well as for those who are caregivers;***

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The Welcome of mental health as part of our church’s ministry and outreach;

***The Wisdom that comes when we become educated about mental health;***

The Spirituality that comes when we walk alongside those who show both resilience and vulnerability in their lives affected by mental health issues;

***We receive these gifts that we have named, those which are welcomed and those that are challenges. We come before you, our God, knowing we are not alone and that You will show us a way to be and live. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.***

\*SUNG 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.***

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Acts 11:1-18 pg. 122

ANTHEM *Faith Unlocks the Door Medley* Amenz

GOSPEL LESSON John 13:31-35 pg. 102

MEDITATION

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”***

Vss. 1, 2, & 3 #446

PASTORAL PRAYER & 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

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OFFERTORY *I Feel Like Traveling On* Amenz

\*SUNG RESPONSE ***“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”***

***O for a thousand tongues to sing*** Vss. 1 & 2 #96

***my great Redeemer’s praise,***

***the glories of my God and King,***

***the triumphs of his grace!***

***My gracious Master and my God,***

***assist me to proclaim,***

***to spread thro’ all the earth abroad***

***the honors of your name.***

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

 ***Loving God, open us to a new world where there is no longer least and greatest, rich and poor, haves and have nots—a world where all are treated as beloved, precious children—a world where mental health is understood to be physical health and cared for without stigma or judgement. Until that day comes, bless our contributions of time, talent and treasures that they may work toward the building of your new world. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“Healer of Our Every Ill”***  #630

\*BENEDICTION

\*SUNG RESPONSE ***“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”***

***To God all glory, praise, and love*** Vs. 5 #96

***be now and ever given***

***by saints below and saints above,***

***the church in earth and heaven.***

\*POSTLUDE  *Stand Up for Jesus* Afton

1Worship and liturgy adapted from the United Church of Christ Mental Health Network’s Health and Wellness Worship Resource Guide.

The psalmist calls all creation – sun and water, trees and mountains, animals and people – to praise the Lord (Psalm 148). And so we shall. Welcome!

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

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like to sponsor the **bulletins**, please call the **church office** at (618) 877-6060. The next available date to sponsor the bulletin is May 22.

Thank you to **Carol Relleke** for serving as liturgist, thank you to **Justin Gibson** for greeting, and thank you to **Amenz** - George Cochran, Jack Dawson, and John Nitchman for providing special music today.

**THIS WEEK**

Today: Mental Health Sunday

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

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

 Fellowship Hour Sponsored by Sopranos and Altos

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

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

 Bible Study, 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday: TOPS, 9-11 a.m.

 Bell Choir, 6:00 p.m.

Saturday: **Herald Deadline**

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

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

**MISSION OF THE MONTH**

Our May Mission of the Month is dedicated to the Wounded Warriors Project. The WWP mission is to honor and empower Wounded Warriors who incurred a physical or mental injury, illnesses, or wound, co-incident to military service on or after September 11, 2001.

**GRADUATES**

Please email, mail, or call the office with information about our graduates to put in the June Herald. (Name, School, Future Plans, etc.)

**CHURCH WORLD SERVICE**

 **BLANKETS AND TOOLS OFFERING**

Once again we are supporting the ministry of Church World Service through financial gifts to the Blankets and Tools Offering gathered from Mother’s Day through Father’s Day. Please clearly

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mark any donations so our counters can properly designate them for Church World Service.

Our gifts do make a difference throughout the world.

\*$250 provides lightweight blankets for five families left homeless by a tornado.

\*$500 provides warm blankets for a small women’s shelter.

\*$750 provides 75 blankets for a homeless street ministry.

\*$1200 provides blankets for an organization doing neighborhood outreach.

\*$2000 provides blankets for beds in a temporary shelter following a hurricane.

**PENTECOST SUNDAY**

Pentecost Sunday is June 5 this year, since it is always 50 days after Easter. Plan ahead to wear red that day and come to be filled with the Spirit of astounding discipleship.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

VBS is back! (We hope...assuming all goes well in the next few weeks...). This year’s VBS theme is Knights of North Castle: Quest for the King’s Armor. Throughout the week, we will be armoring up with truth, justice, peace, faith and salvation by learning about the strength of Jesus, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, David, Mary, Paul and Silas. Registration forms for VBS participants and volunteers are included with this bulletin. Volunteers are always welcome and greatly appreciated. This year we will need additional volunteers for games. If you are interested in helping in any capacity, please contact Jessie Curran, Carol Relleke, or Kathy Morris.

What: VBS Knights of North Castle

Dates: **Sunday, June 19 – Thursday, June 23**

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Where: Youth Side of the basement

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**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR NURSERY CLEAN UP!!**

Since the sanctuary has been repainted and our upstairs bathrooms updated, we need to make sure the rest of the church is looking just as beautiful!! The Christian Ed / Worship / Fellowship committee is looking for people willing to clean the nursery. The remodel generated some dust that needs to be cleaned, toys need to be sanitized, amongst other things to so that it can be inviting for anyone that might need to use the nursery. We always want to welcome new little ones into our church family. If you would be willing, please get in touch with Shara Young at 618-304-5797 or email shara-young@sbcglobal.net. A specific date/time has not been chosen because those who volunteer might be able to meet during the day.

**160TH ANNIVERSARY**

This year, we celebrate our 160th anniversary with a weekend full of activities. **On Friday, June 24th**, we begin with our weekend kickoff event at Busch Stadium for a Cardinals vs. Cubs game! Those who have purchased tickets will not only attend the game, but they’ll also see our church’s name and the names of our attendees flash on the big screen while they cheer and wave to fans watching at home. Didn’t buy a ticket? Well, we still have **FOUR** tickets available! See Mike Seibold if you’d like to purchase a ticket to attend the game. **On Saturday, June 25th**, we’ll be hosting an E-Recycle Drive & Paper Shredding event (limit of 2 boxes per vehicle). We’ll be accepting anything with an electrical cord **except** televisions. We’ll have popcorn and hot dogs available for everyone who brings items to recycle. **On Sunday, June 26th**, our worship service will be at **10:00 a.m.** with an anniversary dinner beginning at **11:45 a.m.** While payment is not required to attend, we are requiring reservations. To make a reservation, please fill out the reservation form that is included in this bulletin. **Please submit your reservations no later than June 12, 2022**. We look forward to a wonderful weekend celebrating our church anniversary.

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**RUMMAGE SALE**

If sorting & cleaning is in your plans, this will be the perfect time to hold aside items to donate to the all-church rummage sale. The event will be held September 22nd & 23rd this year and items can be brought to the stage in Fellowship Hall between September 6th and September 21st. No large electronics or heavy items please. General rule of thumb: If you would have to pay for it to be recycled, item cannot be accepted. This sale is sponsored by the Evening Guild with assistance appreciated from family and friends. All proceeds are given to church projects or local charitable organizations. Please mark the following important dates on your calendar:

 Tuesday, September 20th – 9:00 a.m. Set up

 Wednesday, September 21st – 9:00 a.m. Pricing

**Thursday, September 22nd – 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Open for Shoppers**

**Friday, September 23rd – 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Open for Shoppers**

**SCRIP (GIFT CARD) PROGRAM**

Interested in purchasing gift cards through the scrip program? Plans are to submit orders the third Sunday of each month with gift cards distributed the following week. Please give your orders along with your check payable to St. John UCC or cash to Betty Meszaros.  You can participate even if you are not attending in person worship service. Just send your order and check 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. Graduation parties coming up soon? What about baby or bridal showers? Give a gift card to the retail store on the registry and make it easier on you as well as the recipient not having to return duplicates.  Gift cards can also be ordered for the Evangelism Committee/Helping Hands project. Please contact Melissa Lane or Betty Meszaros if any questions or for additional information. Appreciation to the congregation for continued support of this fund-raising project for the church’s general fund.

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**OUR PRAYERS**

**Nursing & Assisted Living**

Ruth Buer, Hilde Few, JoAnn King, Mary Lee Krohne, Karen Luddeke, Leonard Schaefer, and Don Young.

**At Home**

Ritch Alexander, Isabella Boyer, Marlene Brokaw, Myra Cook, Bonnie Fornaszewski, Mary Franz, Luitgard Fries, Lou Hasse, Norman Hente, Chuck King, Gayle Lindsay, Bill McAmish, Sandy Mueller, Cliff Robertson, Merle Rose, Marge Schmidt, and June Stille.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Acts 11:1-18**

Now the apostles and the brothers and sisters who were in Judea heard that the gentiles had also accepted the word of God. **2**So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, **3**saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” **4**Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, **5**“I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners, and it came close to me. **6**As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. **7**I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ **8**But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ **9**But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ **10**This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. **11**At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. **12**The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. **13**He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; **14**he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ **15**And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning.

**16**And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had

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said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ **17**If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” **18**When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

**John 13:31-35**

**31**When he had gone out, Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. **32**If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. **33**Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ **34**I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. **35**By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”



***“O God in Whom All Life Begins”***

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***O God in whom all life begins,***

***Who births the seed to fruit,***

***Bestow your blessing on our lives;***

***Here let your love find root.***

***Bring forth in us the Spirit’s gifts***

***Of patience, joy and peace;***

***Deliver us from numbing fear, and grant our faith increase.***

***Unite in mutual ministry***

***Our minds and hands and hearts***

***That we may have the grace to seek***

***The power your peace imparts.***

***So let our varied gifts combine***

***To glorify your Name***

***Then send us forth in power and faith***

***To live the words we say.***

***Through tears and laughter, grief and joy,***

***Enlarge our trust and care;***

***So bind us in community***

***That we may risk and dare***

***Be with us when we gather here***

***To worship, sing, and pray,***

***Then send us forth in power and faith***

***To live the words we say.***

***“O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”***

***O Love that will not let me go,***

***I rest my weary soul in thee;***

***I give thee back the life I owe,***

***That in thine ocean depths its flow***

***May richer, fuller be.***

***O Light that followest all my way,***

***I yield my flickering torch to thee;***

***My heart restores its borrowed ray,***

***That in thy sunshine’s blaze its day***

***May brighter, fairer be.***

***O Joy that seekest me through pain,***

***I cannot close my heart to thee;***

***I trace the rainbow through the rain,***

***And feel the promise is not vain***

***That morn shall tearless be.***

***“Healer of Our Every Ill”***

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***Healer of our every ill,***

***Light of each tomorrow,***

***Give us peace beyond our fear,***

***And hope beyond our sorrow.***

***You who knows our fears and sadness,***

***Grace us with your peace and gladness.***

***Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts.***

***Healer of our every ill,***

***Light of each tomorrow,***

***Give us peace beyond our fear,***

***And hope beyond our sorrow.***

***In the pain and joy beholding,***

***How your grace is still unfolding.***

***Give us all your vision, God of love.***

***Healer of our every ill,***

***Light of each tomorrow,***

***Give us peace beyond our fear,***

***And hope beyond our sorrow.***

***Give us strength to love each other,***

***Every sister, every brother.***

***Spirit of all kindness, be our guide.***

***Healer of our every ill,***

***Light of each tomorrow,***

***Give us peace beyond our fear,***

***And hope beyond our sorrow.***

***You who know each thought and feeling,***

***Teach us all your way of healing.***

***Spirit of compassion, fill each heart.***

***Healer of our every ill,***

***Light of each tomorrow,***

***Give us peace beyond our fear,***

***And hope beyond our sorrow.***