**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| July 24, 2022 |  7th Sunday after Pentecost (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

BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN Hosea 1:2-10

Yet the number of the people of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which can be neither measured nor numbered…

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

 *Prelude* Guilmant

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER1

God chose us, before we were even aware of it,

to be bearers of light.

***We are God’s light, shining brightly for all to see.***

We are God’s living word, spoken loudly and freely.

 ***We give voice and flesh to God’s compassion,***

 ***in and through our own tenderness, care, and fidelity.***

Indeed, we are bearers of the love of God who is love.

Let us unite in prayer:

 ***Loving God, we rejoice in having been chosen to be bearers of your light, your word, your love, and your life. We rely on you to guide us on our journey. Send us your Holy Spirit, the Spirit of wisdom, understanding, and fortitude to light our way. Send us your compassion, so that as one***

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***community we can unleash your power among and through us. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”*** #587

\*RESPONSIVE COMMITMENT TO DISCIPLESHIP

Gracious God, without your light nothing makes sense.

***Send us your light and give us what we need.***

Help us, good and loving God

***To hear your call of love above the noise of hectic lives.***

Help us, good and loving God

***To risk being open.***

Help us, good and loving God

***To live with uncertainties.***

Help us, good and loving God

***To listen to others and serve them well.***

Help us, good and loving God

***To change that which must be changed.***

Help us, good and loving God

 ***To give of ourselves without counting the cost.***

Help us, good and loving God

 ***To hold fast to our dreams and never lose hope.***

God knows and loves each of us

and has called us by name

to be light for the world.

Let us commit ourselves to be light,

especially in those places where there is great darkness.

 ***God has created me to serve and to love***

 ***and has committed some work to me***

 ***that was given to no one else.***

 ***I am in some way necessary*** ***for God’s purposes in the***

 ***world.***

 ***I am a part of God’s great work.***

 ***I shall be an instrument of peace,***

 ***one who speaks the truth.***

 ***I shall bear God’s light for all to see.***

 ***I will serve God with all my heart.***

God of light,

there is no light apart from you.

Give us the courage and fortitude

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to always embrace your light,

to live in your light and to share it

with all whom we meet. Amen.

**PRESENTATION OF BENEVOLENT FUND GIFTS**

INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

 Community Care Center

 Good Samaritan House

 TWIGS Family Treehouse

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

 Vss. 1 & 3 #571

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

EPISTLE LESSON Colossians 2:6-19 pg. 189

SPECIAL MUSIC *Change Our Hearts* Joan Fabischer

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 11:1-13 pg. 67

REFLECTION

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“Seek Ye First”*** #349

PASTORAL PRAYER

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

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION

OFFERTORY *Receive* Joan Fabischer

\*SUNG RESPONSE ***“For the Life That You Have Given”*** #684

***For the life that you have given,***

***for the love in Christ made known,***

***with these fruits of time and labor,***

***with these gifts that are your own:***

***here we offer, Lord, our praises;***

***heart and mind and strength we bring;***

***give us grace to love and serve you,***

***living what we pray and sing.***

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\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

 ***These are good gifts which we give with joy, O Lord, knowing that they will accomplish good things. Bless them, and all our shared ministries, as we seek to persevere in shining your light of love everywhere. May our “Strengthen the Church” special offerings expand the mission of your church in the Illinois South Conference and beyond. Bless us all to be faithful disciples growing in Spirit-filled service, in Jesus’ name. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“You Call Us, Lord”***  #583

\*BENEDICTION

\*SUNG RESPONSE Traditional ***“Praise God”*** #34

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;***

***Praise him, all creatures here below;***

***Praise him above, ye heavenly host:***

***Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

\*POSTLUDE  *A Joyous Postlude* Mallard

1Taken from *Together We Pray*, © 2005 by Ave Maria Press. All rights reserved.

Dear family, welcome to this time of worship. Share a word of peace with someone now.

The **bulletin** is given in loving memory of my Dad, John Koester, by Connie Ahlers.

If you would like to place **flowers on the altar**, and pick them up Monday, please call **Veronica Douglas** at (618) 806-4899. If you would like to sponsor the **bulletins**, please call the **church office** at (618) 877-6060. The next available date to sponsor the bulletin is August 14.

Thank you to **Jessie Curran** for serving as liturgist today.

Thank you to **Jade Wyatt** for greeting today.

Thank you to **Joan Fabischer** for providing special music today.

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**THIS WEEK**

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

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

 Benevolent Endowment Fund Gifts

 Dedicate Strengthen the Church Offering

 Christian Concert at Civic Park, 6:00 p.m.

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

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

 Bible Study, 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday: TOPS, 9:00 a.m.

Thursday: Church Women United, 9:30 a.m.

 Budget Committee, 3:00 p.m.

Saturday: CE/W/F Events Workday, 9:00 a.m.

Next Sunday: **Mum Orders Due**

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

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

 5th Sunday Cash Plate for General Fund

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

**MISSION OF THE MONTH**

Our July Mission of the Month is collecting school supplies for the Granite City School District. The greatest need now for schools is Walmart gift cards to buy emergency supplies for children, so clearly marked money gifts for Walmart gift cards or cards from scrip are suggested.



**SECOND ANNUAL FALL MUM SALE**

We are selling mums again! Order forms were available in the July edition of the Herald and are currently available on the table in the Narthex, in the church office, and for download on the church website. Forms are due **next Sunday, July 31st** and should be given to Mike Seibold. The mums are perennials, thus

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will grow the following year. Of course, how they are planted or left in the original container can determine if they come back the following year. Weather conditions are also a factor in growth. Mums will be delivered in mid-September; a specific date will be given at a later time. Profits from this sale will be used for evangelism projects, remodeling the Sunday School classrooms, and general fund expenses. We sold 475 mums last year, so let’s see if we can meet or beat that number this year.

**SCRIP**

Appreciation to all who placed July orders. Many ordered Walmart gift cards which were on the Mission of the Month school supply wish list. A small rebate will be made to the church’s general fund plus those purchasing saved shopping time and gas. The scrip program is a win-win situation! Next order is August 21st. Contact Melissa Lane or Betty Meszaros for more information.



**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**

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**FOOD BOX DONATIONS**

Thanks to everyone who has contributed food items to the September Food Box project. We have received enough to fulfill the required amount for certain items, specifically cereal, mac & cheese dinners, soup, and canned vegetables. We are still in need of the following items:

1. Applesauce (40 oz or near that size) – Ruler Foods has a price under $2.00
2. Canned Chili
3. Canned Stew
4. Juice (Apple, Cranapple, Cranberry, Grape – 64 oz or similar) Walmart has juice for $2.00 or a little less
5. Canned Chicken
6. Rice (2 lb bag)

Thank you again for all your contributions so far. Your efforts make it possible to better assist our community.



**TRIVIA AUCTION RAFFLE BASKETS**

“Baskets” will be displayed on August 7, 14 and 21 with winning entries drawn at the August 21st Rally Day. Complete description of items will be published along with directions to participate if not attending in person. Several generous members of the congregation are donating baskets and a few more are needed. Would you consider donating sporting event, concert or theater tickets? Services such as oil change, grass cutting, food preparation, golf lessons? Holiday Décor ~ wreaths, live mums, Christmas? Committee will combine your items with other donations to create baskets. Gift cards can be added or committee will use cash to purchase additional items. Need by JULY 27th. Call Betty Meszaros (618-451-1968) if questions or to arrange pick up of your items. Thank you.

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**CHURCH BARBECUE**

We are hosting another barbecue on Saturday, August 13, 2022. It will take place in the church parking lot from 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. or until we sell out. Our dinner options will be the same as our last barbecue:

 Pork steak dinner w/ 2 sides - $12

 Brat dinner w/ 2 sides - $12

 Hot dog dinner w/ 1 side - $5

The side choices will include Relleke Corn on the Cob, baked beans, and potato salad. Desserts will also be available. We need volunteers! Volunteer sign up will be posted in the Narthex on next Sunday, July 31st. Tickets are available for purchase in the church office or can be purchased from Mike Seibold. We’ll have ticket packets available so you can sell tickets to friends and family!

**BBQ DESSERTS**

We are in search of eight bakers to make cakes, cobblers or brownies to be sold at the August 13th barbecue. Please contact Betty Meszaros (618-451-1968) with questions or to sign up.



**CHRISTIAN CONCERT**

Today, Sunday, July 24 at 6:00 p.m., there will be a concert featuring the Christian band *The Sound*. The concert will take place at Civic Park in downtown Granite City (1301 Niedringhaus Ave.). A flyer is posted on our bulletin board in the elevator entrance and a copy can also be found on our church website under the events tab.

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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, Bill McAmish, Sandy Mueller, Cliff Robertson, Merle Rose, Marge Schmidt, and June Stille.

**Illinois South Conference**

Staunton St. Paul UCC, Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins. Stone Church St. Peter’s UCC. Retired Pastor, Rev. Jerry Bennett, Highland, IL.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Colossians 2:6-19**

**6**As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, **7**rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. **8**Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ. **9**For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, **10**and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. **11**In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by the removal of the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; **12**when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. **13**And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, **14**erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. **15**He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it. **16**Therefore, do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food or drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or Sabbaths. **17**These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the body belongs to Christ. **18**Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, initiatory visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, **19**and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole

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body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and tendons, grows with a growth that is from God.

**Luke 11:1-13**

**11**He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” **2**So he said to them, “When you pray, say: Father, may your name be revered as holy. May your kingdom come. **3**Give us each day our daily bread. **4**And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial.” **5**And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, **6**for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.’ **7**And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’ **8**I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs. **9**“So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. **10**For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. **11**Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? **12**Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? **13**If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

***“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.***

***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.***

***“Seek Ye First”***

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***Seek ye first the kingdom of God***

***And its righteousness,***

***And all these things shall be added unto you;***

***Allelu, alleluia!***

***Ask, and it shall be given unto you,***

***Seek and ye shall find,***

***Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you;***

***Allelu, alleluia!***

***“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.***

***“You Call Us, Lord”***

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***You call us, Lord, to be***

***A people set apart,***

***To feel with thoughtful mind***

***And think with tender heart.***

***Thus chosen, now, O Lord, we ask***

***For faith in your unfailing grace***

***To make us equal to the task.***

***You call us, Lord to care***

***For self and neighbor too,***

***To take the risk, and dare***

***To show what love can do.***

***Thus chosen, now, O Lord, we ask***

***For faith in your unfailing grace***

***To make us equal to the task.***

***You call us, Lord to be***

***Good stewards of the earth;***

***To tend it as a place***

***Of blessedness and worth***

***Thus chosen, now, O Lord, we ask***

***For faith in your unfailing grace***

***To make us equal to the task.***

***You call us, Lord to serve:***

***To die that we may live,***

***To know we best receive***

***When joyfully we give.***

***Thus chosen, now, O Lord, we ask***

***For faith in your unfailing grace***

***To make us equal to the task.***

\*\*”Make Me a Channel of Your Peace” not printed due to copyright.