**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

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| --- | --- |
| August 7, 2022 | 9th Sunday after Pentecost (C) |
| Rev. Ritch Alexander, Pastor | Chris McMillan, 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 Psalm 50:23

“Those who bring thanksgiving as their sacrifice honor me; to those who go the right way I will show the salvation of God.”

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”* arr. Tom Birchwood

CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER

God of the ages, we sing your praises

in the vineyards of our lives.

***Tend the garden of our love.***

Where we have become ragged and wild,

prune us in the way we should grow.

***Nurture the soil of our hope.***

Let your hand be upon us, leading us to Jesus,

the perfecter of our faith.

***Heal the roots of our faith.***

Bring us rain in drought, shade in scorching heat,

and protection in the wilderness.

***Protect the growth of our spirit.***

Let us pray.

***Lord of the vineyard, we ask for your presence and your guidance. In your holy wisdom, tend the vines of our hearts.***

-2-

***Teach us your righteousness, that our lives may flower with justice. We come as wild grapes, yearning to grow fruitful in your love. Show us the way, through Jesus your Son, to discern your will, hear your word, and grow in your ways, as we deepen the roots of our faith.***

\*HYMN  ***“How Firm a Foundation”*** #411

\*RESPONSIVE PSALTER READING Isaiah 1 & Luke 12

God of compassion and justice, forgive our many shortcomings.

***We have not always been a faithful church. We have forgotten our baptismal vows, taken in by the lies of the world.***

We have refused to share what we have with others, giving scorpions instead of eggs, and snakes instead of fish, to those in need.

***We have held grudges against those who have hurt us, ignoring our own faults, and denying our responsibility for the hurts we have caused others. Help us turn away from sin, to become once again your holy people.***

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 12:32-40 pg. 70

SPECIAL MUSIC *Above All Powers* Ginny Sallee

GOSPEL LESSON Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 pgs. 211-212

MEDITATION

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”*** #419

PASTORAL PRAYER

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

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION

***Loving Gardener, we offer ourselves into your nurturing hands. Receive the devotions of our labors, the fruits of our***

-3-

***vines, and all that we are and know, that we may make a difference: in our homes, in our communities, and in our world. Receive these sacrifices, as a pledge to live our beliefs, through Jesus Christ, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.***

OFFERTORY *Amazing Grace, My Chains Are Gone*

Ginny Sallee

\*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.***

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***Generous God, you offer us unfailing treasure in heaven. In love and gratitude for your gifts to us, we return these gifts and offerings to you. Use them and stretch them for the poor and the widow, the orphan and the downtrodden. Use and stretch us, to do good, to seek justice, and to be your light in the world. Amen.***

CONFESSION AND INVITATION

Let us confess our sins and seek to be at peace.

***God of unfailing love, you ask us to share our wealth with those in need, yet we hoard our possessions and guard our wealth; you call us to rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, and plead for the widow, yet our pursuits are often self-serving, ignoring those in need of our care. Forgive us and cleanse us, O God. Move us to be a people of justice and propel us on the path of love. Though our sins are like scarlet, do not be afraid, for God has washed us clean. The Lord takes pleasure in opening God’s realm to us. Rejoice and come in!***

Since we are saved by grace, we have peace with God and with one another.

-4-

***Therefore, let us partake together in the unity of the beloved family of God.***

PRAYER, BREAKING, POURING AND PARTAKING

\*UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

***God who makes all things new, we thank you for gathering us at this table to share in this meal. Thank you for filling us with Jesus’ power, his healing compassion, and his commitment to justice for all people. We thank you that through this Sacrament we have been strengthened to work together as Jesus’ disciples, freely carrying on his mission from age to age. Amen.***

\*HYMN & NOISY OFFERING  ***“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”*** #72

\*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  *“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”*

arr. Joseph Prentiss

In the name of Jesus – teacher, friend, healer, Lord, Messiah, Savior – I welcome you to worship.

The **bulletin** is given in loving memory of my husband, Daryl Few on his August 11th birthday by Hilde Few.

The **altar vases** are given in loving memory of Annette Stevenor by the St. John Sunday School.

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 dates to sponsor the bulletin are October 2 & 30.

-5-

Thank you to **Connie Ahlers** for serving as liturgist, to **Christie Roth** for greeting, to **Ginny Sallee** for providing special music, and to **Chris McMillan** for serving as guest organist.

**THIS WEEK**

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

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

Communion & Noisy Offering

Distribute Catch-Up Letters & Envelopes

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

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

Bible Study – **Canceled**

Hilltoppers, 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday: TOPS, 9:00 a.m.

Thursday: Council Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

Saturday: **Church BBQ, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. or until sold out**

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

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

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We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of **Bill McAmish** who has passed away. Arrangements are pending and will be shared at a later date.

**MISSION OF THE MONTH**

Our August Mission of the Month is designated for the General Fund to assist with costs for Rally Day on August 21st.

**SCRIP**

Appreciation to all who placed July orders. Next order is August 21st. Contact Melissa Lane or Betty Meszaros for more information.

**TRIVIA AUCTION RAFFLE BASKETS**

Come on down to Fellowship Hall after worship today. Raffle baskets are on display and chances can be purchased. Descriptive list of basket items and guidelines for remote purchases are on the insert in today’s bulletin. Please share with

-6-

family and friends to help make this a successful fundraising event. Contact Betty Meszaros at 618-451-1968 for more information.

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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**

A drawing of a house

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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

-7-

1. Canned Stew
2. Juice (Apple, Cranapple, Cranberry, Grape – 64 oz or similar) Walmart has juice for $2.00 or a little less
3. Canned Chicken
4. Rice (2 lb bag)

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

A picture containing logo

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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. Ticket packets are also available so you can sell tickets to friends and family!

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Cedarhurst of Granite City**, 3450 Village Lane, Granite City, IL 62040

Don Young, #411

**Cedarhurst of Granite City, Memory Care**, 3432 Village Lane, Granite City, IL 62040

JoAnn King, #113

**The Fountains of West County**, 15826 Clayton Rd, Ellisville, MO 63011

Ruth Buer, #215

-8-

**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)

Leonard Schaefer, #475

**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

Bonnie Fornaszewski, 200 Carlson Ave., Apt. 17D, Washington, IL 61571

Mary Franz, 3117 Willow Ave., G.C., IL 62040

Luitgard Fries, 4117 Old Alton Rd., G.C., IL 62040

Lou Hasse, 2689 Westmoreland Dr. Unit 2, G.C., IL 62040

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

Chuck King, 3258 Kilarney Dr., G.C., IL 62040

Sandy Mueller, 308 Warson Ln., 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

**Illinois South Conference**

Trenton St. John UCC, Rev. Christy Eckert. Troy Friedens UCC, Rev. Tim (Danielle) Harrison. Retired Pastor, Rev. Robert and Doris Utke, St. Paul, MN.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Luke 12:32-40**

**32**“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. **33**Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. **34**For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. **35**“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; **36**be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon

-9-

as he comes and knocks. **37**Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. **38**If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. **39**“But know

this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. **40**You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

**Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16**

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. **2**Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. **3**By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

**8**By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. **9**By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. **10**For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. **11**By faith, with Sarah’s involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+11%3A1-3%2C+8-16+++++++++++&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-30167a)] him faithful who had promised. **12**Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

**13**All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, **14**for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. **15**If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. **16**But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

-10-

**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 Caslyn Brandes, President, 618-802-1152

Kiki Cochran, Vice President, 618-797-2511

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

***“How Firm a Foundation”***

***How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,***

***Is laid for your faith in excellent Word!***

***What more can he say than to you he has said,***

***To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?***

***“Fear not, I am with you, O be not dismayed,***

***For I am your God, and will still give you aid;***

***I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,***

***Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.***

***“When through the deep waters I call you to go,***

***The rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;***

***For I will be with you in trouble to bless,***

***And sanctify to you your deepest distress.***

***“When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,***

***My grace, all sufficient, shall be your supply;***

***The flame shall not hurt you, I only design***

***Your dross to consume, and your gold to refine.***

***“The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose,***

***I will not, I will not desert to its foes;***

***That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,***

***I’ll never, no, never, no never forsake!”***

***“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”***

***My faith looks up to thee,***

***Thou Lamb of Calvary,***

***Savior divine!***

***Now hear me while I pray,***

***Take all my guild away;***

***O let me from this day***

***Be wholly thine!***

***May thy rich grace impart***

***Strength to my fainting heart,***

***My zeal inspire;***

***As thou hast died for me,***

***O may my love to thee***

***Pure, warm, and change-less be,***

***A living fire!***

***While life’s dark maze I tread,***

***And griefs around me spread,***

***Be thou my guide;***

***Bid darkness turn to day,***

***Wipe sorrow’s tears away,***

***Nor let me ever stray***

***From thee aside.***

***When ends life’s transient dream,***

***When death’s cold, sullen stream***

***Shall o’er me roll;***

***Blest Savior, then, in love,***

***Fear and distrust remove;***

***O bear me safe above,***

***A ransomed soul!***

***“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”***

Words: Thomas O. Chisholm. Music: William M. Runyan. Words and Music © 1923, Ren. 1951 Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted by permission, CCLI License #1334401

***Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,***

***There is no shadow of turning with thee;***

***Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;***

***As thou has been thou forever wilt be.***

***Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!***

***Morning by morning new mercies I see;***

***All I have needed thy hand hath provided –***

***Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!***

***Summer and winter, and spring-time and harvest,***

***Sun, moon and stars in their courses above***

***Join with all nature in manifold witness***

***to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.***

***Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!***

***Morning by morning new mercies I see;***

***All I have needed thy hand hath provided –***

***Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!***

***Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,***

***Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;***

***Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,***

***Blessings all min, with ten thousand beside.***

***Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!***

***Morning by morning new mercies I see;***

***All I have needed thy hand hath provided –***

***Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!***