**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

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| September 11, 2022 | 14th 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.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC, WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. John 15:12

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*It Is Well With My Soul* Bliss

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER

*“A Gift from God”* John P. Read

Love can’t be described.

It has no shape, it has no form.

***Love is not an object.***

***Love does not conform.***

Love enters our lives

The moment we are born.

***From the cradle to the grave,***

***Love’s in everyone.***

Love burns like a candle

That sometimes flickers but never dies.

***Love may be invisible,***

***Although it’s right before your eyes,***Love is all around you.

There’s plenty of love to spare.

***You cannot see or touch it,***

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***But love is everywhere.***

Love’s the greatest power,

And yet it is so small.

***Love’s a gift from God***

***To be shared amongst us all.***

Let us unite in prayer:

***Bless us with love, O Merciful God. Because we have not yet learned to love everyone, it is hard for us to understand and accept the boundless love that you freely give to us each and every day. We pray you will guide our hearts and minds this morning as we seek to learn through your word. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“Spirit of the Living God”*** #492

\*RESPONSIVE PSALTER READING Psalm 36:7-12 (NIV)

How priceless is your unfailing love, O God!

People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

**They feast on the abundance of your house;**

**you give them drink from your river of delights.**

For with you is the fountain of life;

in your light we see light.

**Continue your love to those who know you,**

**your righteousness to the upright in heart.**

May the foot of the proud not come against me,

nor the hand of the wicked drive me away.

**See how the evildoers lie fallen—**

**thrown down, not able to rise!**

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

SCRIPTURE LESSON I John 4:15-21

SPECIAL MUSIC*Sweet Hour of Prayer* Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE LESSON I Corinthians 13:1-8a

REFLECTION – The Lord’s Prayer (based upon a skit written by members of St. John UCC – Collinsville)

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“Be Thou My Vision”***  #502

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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

OFFERTORY  *Medley* Sikes

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION -

***Dear Lord, Help us to understand that your love for us does not depend on what we do for you or how many prayers we say. You freely give us your love day after day. It is both unchanging and unconditional. Show us how to reflect your love through us to others so that we might all work together to make this world deserving of your grace. Amen.***

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

\*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  *God Bless America* Berlin

On this first Sunday of the new program year, we welcome everyone to St. John Church, where all may share in worshiping God and growing in faith.

The **bulletin** is given in memory of the September 17th birthday of Martha Bischoff by Herb & Jeanie Bischoff.

The **altar centerpiece** is in celebration of the September 9th marriage of Patrick Seibold and Keeley Nakamoto in Colorado from Mom, Dad, Beth and Raffi.

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If you would like to place **flowers on the altar**, and pick them up after church or on Monday, please call **Beth Ravanelli** at (618) 530-7789. 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 is October 30.

Thank you to **Karen Gaines** & **Connie Ahlers** for leading worship and to **Dorothy Kinney** for greeting 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.

Monday: Evening Guild & Brotherhood Potluck, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

Bible Study, 12:30 p.m.

Hilltoppers, 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday: TOPS, 9:00 a.m.

Bell Choir, 5:30 p.m.

Chancel Choir, 6:30 p.m.

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

Saturday: **Food Box Distribution, 10:00 a.m.**

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

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

Fellowship Hour by Altar Guild & Ushering

3rd Grade Bible Presentations

**MISSION OF THE MONTH**

Our September Mission of the Month is dedicated to committing random acts of kindness.

**EVENING GUILD & BROTHERHOOD**

All are invited to attend the Monday, September 12th joint meeting of the Evening Guild and Brotherhood. The event begins at 6:30 p.m. with a potluck dinner. The Evening Guild will provide the meat

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and drinks so please bring a side dish or dessert to share. The guest speaker will be Mayor Mike Parkinson who will present

information on exciting happenings in Granite City. Have you heard about “The District”? Curious to know what is going on at the old Shop ‘N’ Save and K-Mart? This meeting will be an opportunity to learn the facts and be of interest even to non-residents. Reservations are recommended. Contact Evening

Guild President Christie Roth (618-931-6194) or Brotherhood representatives Chuck Hasse (618-876-0936) or Dave Douglas (618-452-3336) to make a reservation or if you have any questions.

**SCRIP**

The next scrip order will be submitted September 18th. Order forms of “favorites” and the master list of vendors are located on the table in the Narthex. Give your order form along with your check payable to St. John UCC to Betty Meszaros or mail it to the church office. If you do not have an order form, just include a note of what you want to purchase. You can also give Betty a call and she will email the vendor list to you. Purchase cards for personal use, as gifts or for donations. Cost is face value of card with no tax or service fee. Saves you shopping time and gas. Plans are to submit an order the third Sunday of October which is the day of the annual Sausage Dinner. Cards should arrive before Halloween should you want to give to your favorite trick or treater. Many fast food restaurants participate in the program offering a $10 denomination card. Contact Melissa Lane 314-575-7627 or Betty Meszaros 618-451-1968 for additional information.

**CHURCH WOMEN UNITED**

Church Women United will meet on September 29th at 9:30 a.m. Light refreshments will be served. This meeting date was changed from its regular date of the 22nd due to the St. John Rummage Sale. We would like you to join us if you can. At this meeting there

will be a speaker on Bread for the World. Bread for the World emphasizes the power of our voice to speak up for those who are oppressed and vulnerable. In this meeting we will hear about policies that have proven effective over time. 30,000 more people will suffer from hunger by 2030. What prevents us from sharing is

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we feel overwhelmed or we think advocacy, writing letters and meeting with Congress doesn’t work.

One of our members, Carol Shanks, recently was invited to Washington D.C. to participate in a conference of Bread for the World. She will be at the next meeting along with the speaker.

Through a CWU State grant our Unit recently was able to donate, along with a private donation, enough money to Good Samaritan House for playground equipment. Also from our recent fundraiser, we donated resources for discretionary funds for the 49 mothers and 94 children they have serviced over the years.

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**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

We will need volunteers to assist in distributing the boxes on Saturday, September 17th at 10:00 a.m. We need a few people to come in earlier that day to help move the boxes form the basement out to the parking lot at 8:30 a.m.

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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. We are now accepting items for drop off through September 21st. Please do not drop off between 9 and 11 a.m. on Wednesdays as it conflicts with the TOPS meeting in Fellowship Hall. 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

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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**

**JUSTINE WALKER MEMORIAL NUT & CANDY SALE**

It’s that time again to order your Nut and Candy Goodies, from Terri Lynn Nut and Candy. All funds raised will go to support St. John Cemetery. Look for printed brochures in the Narthex and Tower on September 11th and as an attachment in the online bulletin. Please take a brochure home and choose your products. Once you choose your products be sure to fill in your order form, which will be on the last page. Payment at the time of ordering is required. Cash and checks are acceptable. Please make checks payable to St. John Cemetery. Joan Mueller will be in Fellowship Hall after service on September 18th and 25th to take orders. If ordering remotely, you can submit orders by:

* Phone to Joan Mueller (618-830-0647)
* Email to [stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com](mailto:stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com)
* You can either drop off your payment at the church OR mail to Joan Mueller – 4480 New Poag Road, Edwardsville, IL 62025

Please **DO NOT** use the donate button on the web page as it is not set up for fund raisers. All orders and payments must be received by Sunday, October 2nd. Your order will be delivered to you at church late October/early November. If anyone is interested in taking orders outside of church, please let Joan Mueller know so you can be given brochures and order forms. We look forward to filling your orders and supporting our cemetery and their vital works. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Joan Mueller (618-830-0647). Thank you!

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**OUR PRAYERS**

**Nursing & Assisted Living**

**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

**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**

Belleville St. Paul UCC, Rev. Michelle (Aaron Brent Coleman) Torigian. Belleville Trinity UCC, Pastor Tim (Shea) Powers-Reed. Retired Pastor, Rev. Donald and Anne Sabbert, Crestwood, MO.

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**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**I John 4:15-21**

**15**God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. **16**So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. **17**Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. **18**There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. **19**We love because he first loved us. **20**Those who say, “I love God,” and hate a brother or sister are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. **21**The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

**I Corinthians 13:1-8a**

If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. **2**And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. **3**If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing. **4**Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant **5**or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; **6**it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. **7**It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. **8**Love never ends.

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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 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

***“Spirit of the Living God”***

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***Spirit of the living God,***

***Fall afresh on me;***

***Spirit of the living God,***

***Fall afresh on me.***

***Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.***

***Spirit of the living God,***

***Fall afresh on me.***

***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.***

***“Be Thou My Vision”***

***Be thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;***

***Naught be all else to me, save that thou art –***

***Thou my best thought, by day or by night,***

***Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.***

***Be thou my Wisdom, and thou my true Word,***

***I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;***

***Thou and best only, first in my heart,***

***High King of heaven, my Treasure thou art.***

***High King of heaven, my victory won,***

***May I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heaven’s Sun!***

***Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,***

***Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.***

***“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.***