**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

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| --- | --- |
| September 18, 2022 |  15th 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 1 Timothy 2:1-7

“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone…” (1 Timothy 2:1)

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

 *Lead, Kindly Light* Dykes

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER Adapted from Hymn #575

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Lord, whose love through humble service

 ***Bore the weight of human need,***

Who upon the cross, forsaken,

 ***Offered mercy’s perfect deed;***

We, your servants, bring the worship

 ***Not of voice alone, but heart,***

Consecrating to your purpose

 ***Every gift that you impart.***

As we worship, grant us vision,

 ***Till your love’s revealing light***

In its heights and depth and greatness,

***Dawns upon our quickened sight,***

Making known the needs and burdens

 -2-

 ***Your compassion bids us bear,***

Stirring us to tireless striving,

 ***Your abundant life to share.***

Let us unite in prayer:

 ***Generation to generation, you have called your people to acts of compassion and mercy for the hurting, O God. Open your Word to us and send your Spirit to inspire our response. Kindle in us the desire to make whole what is broken, as we serve in Jesus’ name. Amen.***

\*HYMN  ***“Thy Word”***  #664

\*LITANY OF WISDOM BASED ON PROVERBS 3

 My children, says the Lord, do not forget my teaching,

 but let your heart keep my commandments;

 ***For length of days and years of life they will give us.***

 Do not let loyalty and faithfulness forsake you, says the Lord.

 ***Inscribe them on the tablet of our heart!***

 Then, O Lord, shall we find favor in your sight,

 ***And good repute among the people.***

Trust in the Lord with all your heart,

 ***And do not rely on your own understanding.***

In all your ways acknowledge him,

 ***And he will make straight your paths.***

Honor the Lord and turn away from evil.

 ***It will be healing and refreshment for your body.***

Keep sound wisdom and prudence,

 ***And they shall be life for your soul.***

Then you shall walk on your way securely,

 ***For the Lord will be our confidence.***

**PRESENTATION OF BIBLES**

SCRIPTURE READINGS Proverbs 9:9-10

 Philippians 1:27

 John 3:16

PRESENTATIONS

SONG ***“The B-I-B-L-E”*** (Sing 3 times; faster each time!)

 ***The B-I-B-L-E, yes, that’s the book for me,***

 ***I stand alone on the Word of God, the B-I-B-L-E.***

-3-

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS TIME

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON Jeremiah 8:18-19:1 pg. 667

SPECIAL MUSIC *Sweet By and By* Amenz

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 16:1-13 pg. 74

REFLECTION

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“For the Healing of the Nations”*** #621

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 *Unclouded Day* Amenz

\*SUNG RESPONSE ***“Pass It On”*** Vs. 1 #557

***It only takes a spark to get a fire going,***

***and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing;***

***that’s how it is with God’s love, once you’ve experienced it: you spread God’s love to everyone, you want to pass it on.***

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

 ***We are your hands and heart of compassion in our days, O God, and we are glad to share our gifts. May the hungry in body and spirit be blessed through our care. May this church glow with your love for all year after year, in Jesus’ name. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“O God, Your Constant Care and Love”***  #503

\*BENEDICTION

-4-

\*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  *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* Bradbury

The psalmist tells us: “From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised” (Psalm 113:3, NRSV). So we gather to worship him now. Welcome!

The **bulletin** is given in celebration of the 22nd birthday on September 22nd of my Grandson, Spencer Gray, by Glenda Mitchell.

If you would like to place **flowers on the altar**, and pick them up after worship 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 are October 2 & 30.

Thank you to **Kiki Cochran** for serving as liturgist, to **Rae-Ellen Vogeler** for greeting, and to **Amenz – George Cochran, Jack Dawson, and John Nitchman** for providing special music today.



**THIS WEEK**

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

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

 3rd Grade Bible Presentations

 Fellowship Hour by Altar Guild & Ushering

 1st Confirmation Class, 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

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

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

Bible Study, 12:30 p.m.

 CE/W/F Committee, 6:00 p.m.

 **Rummage Sale Set-up**

-5-

Wednesday: **Herald Deadline**

 TOPS, 9:00 a.m.

 Bell Choir, 5:30 p.m.

 Chancel Choir, 6:30 p.m.

 **Rummage Sale Set-Up**

Thursday: **Rummage Sale, 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**

Friday: **Rummage Sale, 8:30 a.m.-Noon**

Mums arrive for pre-order pickup

Saturday: **Mum Sale, 9:00 a.m.**

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

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

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

**MISSION OF THE MONTH**

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

**CONFIRMATION CLASS**

The first confirmation class meets today from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. in the All Purpose Room.

**SCRIP**

The scrip order will be submitted today, 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.

-6-



**RUMMAGE SALE**

The Rummage Sale will be held this Thursday & Friday, September 22nd & 23rd. We are 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 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**

**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. Perhaps 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 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

-7-

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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**SAUSAGE DINNER UPDATES**

Mark your calendars for APPLESAUCE MAKING DAY on Thursday, Oct. 13th. Let Nancy Jacobs or Donna Brandes know if you plan on coming. If you don’t know until the last minute, just show up about 9 am with a paring knife and a bowl.

Advanced sale tickets are available now. Please get a packet from Connie Ahlers or Mike Seibold and try to sell drive-thru dinner tickets prior to Sausage Dinner Day on Oct. 16th. Connie will be in the narthex before worship services and in the Fellowship Hall afterwards.

Don’t forget that we will have the Country Store on the Youth side. Donations of baked goods, candy, relishes, jellies, etc. are needed. Gently used jewelry and craft items and nice attic treasures will also be needed to make this a success.

If you haven’t volunteered to work on the day of the dinner yet, please see Nancy Jacobs or Donna Brandes so they can get their workers assigned to various jobs.

*We would greatly appreciate cash donations to help offset the rising costs of the food and supplies needed for the dinner.*



**SPREADING CHRISTMAS CHEER**

The residents of Granite City Nursing and Rehab need a little Christmas cheer and we are going to help them!!! Thirty-seven residents need a sponsor to buy them a few small Christmas gifts. The Activities Director will send us wish lists with 1 want, 1

-8-

need, and 1 splurge gift (usually around $25 value in all). Please consider filling out the form included with this bulletin, or you can call or text Kiki Cochran at 618-503-3608 and sponsor 1 or more residents. We will receive their wish list after we sign up! Thank you in advance for your generosity!

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Nursing & Assisted Living**

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

**At Home**

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

**Illinois South Conference**

Biddleborn Trinity UCC, Rev. Tarrah (Jansen) Vaupel. Breese St. John’s UCC, Rev. Jim (Barb) Donahue. Retired Pastors, Revs. Bob Goddard and Janis Dashner, O’Fallon, IL.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Jeremiah 8:18-19:1**

**18**My joy is gone; grief is upon me; my heart is sick. **19**Listen! The cry of the daughter of my people from far and wide in the land: “Is the Lord not in Zion? Is her King not in her?” (“Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their foreign idols?”) **20**“The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.” **21**For the brokenness of the daughter of my people I am broken, I mourn, and horror has seized me. **22**Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of the daughter of my people not been restored?

O that my head were a spring of water and my eyes a fountain of tears, so that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!

**Luke 16:1-13**

Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. **2**So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any

-9-

longer.’ **3**Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. **4**I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ **5**So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ **6**He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ **7**Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ **8**And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. **9**And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes. **10**“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. **11**If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? **12**And if you have not been faithful with

what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? **13**No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

-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

***“Thy Word”***

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***Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet***

***And a light unto my path.***

***When I feel afraid,***

***Think I’ve lost my way,***

***Still you’re there right beside me.***

***And nothing will I fear***

***As long as you are near.***

***Please be near me to the end.***

***Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet***

***And a light unto my path.***

***I will not forget***

***Your love for me, and yet***

***My heart forever is wandering.***

***Jesus, be my guide***

***And hold me to your side;***

***And I will love you to the end.***

***Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet***

***And a light unto my path.***

***“For the Healing of the Nations”***

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***For the healing of the nations,***

***Lord, we pray with one accord,***

***For a just and equal sharing***

***Of the things that earth affords.***

***To a life of love in action***

***Help us rise and pledge our word.***

***Lead your people into freedom,***

***From despair your world release,***

***That, redeemed from war and hatred,***

***All may come and go in peace.***

***Show us how, through care and goodness,***

***Fear will die and hope increase.***

***All that kills abundant living,***

***Let it from the earth be banned:***

***Pride of status, race, or schooling,***

***Dogmas that obscure your plan.***

***In our common quest for justice***

***May we hallow life’s brief span.***

***You, Creator-God, have written***

***Your great name on humankind;***

***For our growing in your likeness,***

***Bring the life of Christ to mind;***

***That by our response and service***

***Earth its destiny may find.***

***“O God, Your Constant Care and Love”***

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***O God, your constant care and love***

***Are shed upon us from above,***

***Throughout our lives in every stage,***

***From infancy to later age.***

***We thank you, Lord, for dreams of youth,***

***For wisdom leading on to truth,***

***For memories gathered through the years,***

***And faith that grows from joys and tears.***

***All time is yours, O Lord, to give.***

***May we, in all the years we live,***

***Find that each day of life is new,***

***A celebration, Lord, with you.***

***Let not the passing of the years***

***Rob us of joy or cause us fears,***

***And may our faith, O Lord, hold true,***

***That we may always rest in you.***