**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| November 20, 2022 | Reign of Christ/Totenfest/Harvest Home | | | |
| Rev. Karla Frost, Pastor | | Chris McMillan, Guest 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, Timothy 6:6-19

**6**Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment, **7**for we brought nothing into the world, so thatwe can take nothing out of it.

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* arr. James Mansfield

CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER

Adapted from Hymns #14 & #81

We gather together to ask the Lord’s blessing;

***Now thank we all our God***

***with heart and hands and voices.***

Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,

***Now thank we all our God***

***with heart and hands and voices.***

We all do extol thee, our leader triumphant,

***Now thank we all our God***

***with heart and hands and voices.***

Let us pray together.

O bounteous God, near us through all of life, cheering and guiding us, we give our praise and thanks to you.

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With all in heaven, we adore you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and evermore. Amen.

HYMN ***“Rejoice, the Lord Is King”*** #342

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Apostles’ Creed, Adapted

Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing

our faith in the triune God.

***I believe in God the Father Almighty,***

***Maker of heaven and earth:***

***And in Jesus Christ***

***his only begotten Son, our Lord;***

***who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,***

***born of the Virgin Mary,***

***suffered under Pontius Pilate,***

***was crucified, dead and buried;***

***he descended into hell;***

***the third day he rose again from the dead;***

***he ascended into heaven,***

***and sitteth on the right hand***

***of God the Father Almighty;***

***from thence he shall come to judge***

***the quick and the dead.***

***I believe in the Holy Spirit;***

***the one Holy Universal Christian Church;***

***the communion of saints;***

***the forgiveness of sins;***

***the resurrection of the body;***

***and the life everlasting. Amen.***

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

EPISTLE READING Colossians 1:11-20 pg. 188

ANTHEM *We Gather Together* Chancel Choir

GOSPEL READING John 6:25-35 pg. 92

REFLECTION

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

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HYMN ***“Hymn of Promise”***  #515

LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE (see insert)

HYMN ***“For All the Saints***” Vss. 1, 2, 5 & 6 #529

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, LORD’S PRAYER & RESPONSE

***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.***

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

“So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.” (Deuteronomy 26:10)

OFFERTORY *Praise!* Gilbert M. Martin

RESPONSE ***“As Saints of Old Their First-fruits Brought”***

Vs. 1#570

***As saints of old their first-fruits brought***

***of vineyard, flock, and field***

***to God, the giver of all good,***

***the source of bounteous yield;***

***so we today our first-fruits bring:***

***the wealth of this good land,***

***of farm and market, shop and home,***

***of mind and heart and hand.***

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***With these offerings we show that we believe in you, Eternal God, and choose to do your works. Bless them, and us, to share your bread of life with all who hunger. We rejoice to be generous and faithful disciples, following the example of the saints before us, in Jesus’ name. Amen.***

HYMN ***“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”*** #113

BENEDICTION

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POSTLUDE *Postlude on ‘Italian Hymn’* arr. Edward Broughton

In the name of Christ the King, I welcome you to worship on this final Sunday of the church year. Let us together praise and worship our God.

The **bulletin** is given in memory of Cotton Johannigmeier by Linda & Dennis Sturman.

If you would like to place **flowers on the altar**, and pick them up after church or on Monday, please call **Karen Orr** at (618) 558-4192. If you would like to sponsor the **bulletins**, please call the **church office** at (618) 877-6060.

Thank you to **Linda Mizell** for serving as liturgist, to **Baylee Fischer** for serving as acolyte, to **Justin Gibson** for greeting, and to **Chris McMillan** for serving as guest organist 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.

Fellowship Hour by Youth

**Totenfest**

**Harvest Home**

**Annual Meeting**

Quilt Raffle Drawing

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

**Herald Deadline (Combined Dec/Jan Herald)**

Begin Third Floor Asbestos Abatement

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday: TOPS, 9:00 a.m.

Bell Choir, 5:30 p.m.

Chancel Choir, 6:30 p.m.

Finish Third Floor Asbestos Abatement

Thursday: **OFFICE CLOSED (Thanksgiving Day)**

Friday: **OFFICE CLOSED**

Saturday: Christmas Decorating, 9:00 a.m.

Fellowship Hall Reserved

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.

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We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of **Ritch Alexander**, who died on November 13, 2022. A funeral service was held at First United Presbyterian on Friday, November 18, 2022. May the peace and comfort that come from God sustain his loved ones during this time of grief.

**MISSION OF THE MONTH**

Our November Mission of the Month is dedicated to the USO. This organization strengthens America’s military service members by keeping them connected to family, home and country, throughout their service to the nation.

**PARSONAGE OPEN HOUSE**

The parsonage open house scheduled for Sunday, December 4th has been canceled.

**NUT AND CANDY ORDERS**

If you have not picked up your nut and candy orders, they are in the church office and can be picked up during regular office hours or on Sunday mornings.

**UPCOMING DECEMBER/JANUARY HERALD**

As a reminder, the deadline for the Herald is **tomorrow, November 21**. Because of the close proximity to the Thanksgiving holiday and the slower nature of our current mail system, no late articles will be accepted. This will ensure that the Heralds arrive in a timely fashion.

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**EVENING GUILD**

The Evening Guild Christmas potluck will be Monday, December 5, at 6:00 p.m. Remember to bring a side dish to share. There will be no meeting in January.

**SCRIP**

If purchasing gift cards is part of your Christmas shopping list, please consider the convenience of ordering through the program at church plus our church receives an automatic rebate to the general fund. December 11th will be the last time orders will be submitted in 2022. Shipment will hopefully arrive for distribution the following week. 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 at any time. It will be held until December 11th. If you mail your order to the church office, please give Betty a quick call to alert her as mail delivery is unpredictable. If you do not have an order form, just include a note of what you want to purchase. Cost is face value of card with no tax or service fee. Saves you shopping time and gasoline. No orders will be submitted in January. Contact Melissa Lane 314-575-7627 or Betty Meszaros 618-451-1968 for additional information.

**CEMETERY DECORATIONS**

Volunteers are needed to place grave blankets and other Christmas floral decorations on both cemetery sites on Monday, November 28th. We’ll start on Nameoki at 9:00 a.m. then proceed to Maryville Road. Lunch will be provided. No advance signup required, just show up wearing warm clothes! Call Kathy Montgomery at the cemetery office 618-876-5811 if any questions.

**ADVENT BEGINS**

Next Sunday, November 27, we will begin the new liturgical year with the first Sunday in Advent. Therefore, Saturday, November 26, will be the day for preparations. Everyone is invited to come and help all the Altar Guild members decorate throughout our buildings and grounds beginning at 9:00 a.m. Come and work off

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the extra Thanksgiving turkey and pie from November 24 and help to quickly change the seasons from Thanksgiving to Advent.

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It’s time to start placing orders for poinsettias. Plants will cost $12.00 and are available in **red only**. Fill out the included order form exactly as you wish it to appear in the bulletin; (i.e., Mr., or Mrs., or Miss, etc.) The deadline to order poinsettias is **next** **Monday, November 28, 2022**. When filling out order forms, please print clearly.

**HATFEILD-GAINES SCHOLARSHIP**

The deadline to submit an application for the Hatfield-Gaines Scholarship is **Thursday, December 1, 2022**. Applications are available in the church office. If you have any questions, call the office at 618-877-6060.

**SHOP WITH A COP**

On **December 18th** we will be hosting a luncheon in Township Hall which will service over 100 people who participate in the shop with a cop program. We will need volunteers to serve the food! Please contact Mike Seibold (618-792-4301) or the church office to sign up.

**UNI-PRES KINDERCOTTAGE**

The Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy and the Illinois South Conference United Church of Christ have a 57 year history with Uni-Pres Kindercottage in East St. Louis. Pastors from both denominations saw a need to serve the children and families of East St. Louis, and began many years of blessing the community with this outreach ministry. Uni-Pres Kindercottage continues its work in East St. Louis providing day care and early learning

experiences, after school care, and support to many needy children and their families.

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In this holiday season, the children and families could use your help. Below are a number of opportunities that could make a difference in the lives of children and families.

1. A Wish List has been set up at Walmart which will help provide gifts for our little ones. If you want to collect items, we would be happy to pick up the items from the church. If you choose, you can also send gift cares, and we can purchase items for you. We would like these items by December 9th, if possible, so we have time to get things ready for giving.

2. Tuition for One of Our Students: Some of our families could use tuition assistance which can run from $100-$600 a month.

3. New Playground: Our current playground has seen its better days, and plans are in the works to purchase a new playground structure. This is a project that Brenda Crisp has wanted for many years, and it will be dedicated in her honor. The total cost is $82,000, including demolition/installation, artificial turf, the structure, and several stand alone pieces. We are already halfway there!

4. Other Donations: Our 22 year old building is always in need of some repair. Updates need to be constantly made for us to continue to receive accreditation. Like everywhere, the cost of supplies has also gone up. Monetary donations are always welcome, as well as Amazon and Walmart gift cards. For those who want to make individual donations, and are technologically astute, we do have a Cash App: $unipreskindercottage. Please contact Aimee Hart directly at Kindercottage for other ways to volunteer and donate.

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Nursing & Assisted Living**

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

**At Home**

Chloe Affolter, Isabella Boyer, Carol Braundmeier, Marlene Brokaw, Christopher Clark, Myra Cook, Bonnie Fornaszewski, Mary Franz, Luitgard Fries, Melba Grady, Lou Hasse, Norman Hente, Chuck King, Cindy Meyer, Sandy Mueller, John Relleke, Cliff Robertson, Merle Rose, Marge Schmidt, June Stille, and Nancy Wilson.

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**Illinois South Conference**

Edwardsville St. Paul UCC, Rev. Dana Schindler. Evansville St. John UCC, Pastor Kevin Hirsch. Retired Pastor, Revs. Charles Preston and Karla Frost, Granite City, IL.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Colossians 1:11-20**

**11**May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully **12**giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. **13**He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, **14**in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. **15**He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, **16**for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. **17**He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. **18**He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. **19**For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, **20**and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

**John 6:25-35**

**25**When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” **26**Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate your fill of the loaves. **27**Do not work for the food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.” **28**Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” **29**Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” **30**So they said to him, “What sign are you going to give us, then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? **31**Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from

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heaven to eat.’ ” **32**Then Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. **33**For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” **34**They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.” **35**Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

**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

St. John United Church of Christ

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TOTENFEST REMEMBRANCE

Sunday, November 20, 2022

9:30 a.m.

**LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE**

As baptized believers in Christ, we are also baptized into Christ’s death. In doing so, we are united with Christ through his resurrection, so that we might share in eternal life with him. Let us now remember those brothers and sisters who have been called home this past year, and who are now sharing in the power of that eternal life…..(Naming and Tolling)

***St. John U.C.C. Memorial List***

***(December 2021 – November 2022)***

*Cheri L. Wheeler*

*(February 11, 1957 – December 20, 2018)*

*Robert W. Wheeler*

*(November 17, 1947 – January 29, 2021)*

*Loretta M. Cook*

*(June 22, 1934 – December 1, 2021)*

*Rose Marie Bauer*

*(August 21, 1926 – December 14, 2021)*

*Patricia E. Luchini*

*(June 20, 1938 – December 27, 2021)*

*Judith M. Schatz*

*(April 5, 1941 – December 24, 2021)*

*Charles R. Sullivan*

*(January 12, 1943 – January 30, 2022)*

*David R. Oliver, Jr.*

*(March 25, 1988 – January 31, 2022)*

*John J. Miller*

*(February 27, 1931 – February 4, 2022)*

*Carol G. Hildebrand*

*(July 14, 1941 – March 4, 2022)*

*Mabel Kennerly*

*(February 9, 1921 – April 12, 2022)*

*Carol J. Kovach*

*(November 29, 1952 – May 27, 2022)*

*Dawn A. Mayford*

*(January 14, 1967 – May 25, 2022)*

*Bill D. McAmish*

*(November 10, 1936 – August 5, 2022)*

*Betty R. Hermes*

*(June 24, 1937 – August 18, 2022)*

*Bruce O. Wright, Sr.*

*(July 31, 1935 – August 22, 2022)*

*Donald D. Young*

*(January 27, 1931 – August 31, 2022)*

*Ritchie L. Alexander*

*(June 25, 1948 – November 13, 2022)*

Let us now have a moment of silence to remember our loved ones who have been called home, not only this past year, but also in the years past…..

O God, this hour revives in us memories of loved ones who are no longer with us. What happiness we shared when they walked among us! What joy, when, loving and loved, we lived our lives together!

***Their memory is a blessing forever.***

Months or years may have passed, yet we feel near to them. Our hearts yearn for them. Though the bitter grief may have softened, a duller pain abides, for the place where once they stood is empty now forever. The links of life are broken, but the links of love and longing cannot break.

***Their souls are bound up in ours forever.***

We see them now with the eyes of memory, their faults forgiven, their virtues grown larger. Thus does goodness live, and weakness fade from sight. We remember them with gratitude and bless their names.

***Their memory is a blessing forever.***

And we remember, as well, the men and women who but yesterday were part of our congregation and community. To all who cared for us and labored for the well-being of our people and of humanity, we pay tribute. May we prove worthy of carrying on the tradition of our people and our faith, for now the task is ours.

***Their souls are bound up in ours forever.***

Merciful God, let the memory never fade of the faithful and upright who have given their lives to hallow your name. Even in death they continue to speak to us of faith and courage. Their deeds endure, and their sacrifices will not be forgotten. Their souls are bound up in the bonds of eternal life. No evil shall touch them; they are at peace.

***We will remember, and never forget them.***

In gratitude for all the blessings our loved ones have brought to us, we dedicate ourselves anew to the sacred faith for which they lived and died, and to the tasks they have bequeathed to us. Let them be remembered as a blessing, Eternal God, together with the righteous of all peoples, and let us say: Amen.

***Amen.***

***“Rejoice, the Lord Is King!”***

***Rejoice, the Lord is King!***

***Your Lord and King adore!***

***Rejoice, give thanks, and sing,***

***And triumph evermore:***

***Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!***

***Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!***

***Our Savior, Jesus, reigns,***

***The God of truth and love;***

***When he had purged our stains,***

***He took his seat above:***

***Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!***

***Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!***

***His Kingdom cannot fail,***

***He rules both earth and heaven;***

***The keys of death and hell***

***Are to our Jesus given:***

***Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!***

***Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!***

***Rejoice in glorious hope***

***For Christ the Judge shall come***

***To gather all his saints***

***To their eternal home:***

***Lift up your heart, lift up your voice!***

***Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!***

***“Hymn of Promise”***

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***In the bulb there is a flower;***

***In the seed, an apple tree;***

***In cocoons, a hidden promise:***

***Butterflies will soon be free!***

***In the cold and snow of winter***

***There’s a spring that waits to be,***

***Unrevealed until its season,***

***Something God alone can see.***

***There’s a song in every silence,***

***Seeking word and melody;***

***There’s a dawn in every darkness***

***Bringing hope to you and me.***

***From the past will come the future;***

***What it holds, a mystery,***

***Unrevealed until its season,***

***Something God alone can see.***

***In our end is our beginning;***

***In our time, infinity;***

***In our doubt there is believing;***

***In our life, eternity;***

***In our death, a resurrection;***

***At the last, a victory,***

***Unrevealed until its season,***

***Something God alone can see.***

***“For All the Saints”***

***For all the saints***

***Who from their labors rest,***

***Who thee by faith***

***Before the world confessed,***

***Thy name, O Jesus,***

***Be forever blest.***

***Alleluia! Alleluia!***

***Thou wast their rock,***

***Their fortress and their might;***

***Thou, Lord, their captain***

***In the well-fought fight;***

***Thou in the darkness drear,***

***Their one true light.***

***Alleluia! Alleluia!***

***But lo! There breaks***

***A yet more glorious day:***

***The saints triumphant***

***Rise in bright array;***

***The King of glory***

***Passes on his way.***

***Alleluia! Alleluia!***

***From earth’s wide bounds***

***And ocean’s farthest coast,***

***Through gates of pearl streams***

***In the countless host,***

***Singing to Father,***

***Son, and Holy Ghost:***

***Alleluia! Alleluia!***

***“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”***

***Rejoice, ye pure in heart,***

***Rejoice, give thanks and sing;***

***Your festal banner wave on high,***

***The cross of Christ your King.***

***Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, rejoice,***

***Rejoice give thanks and sing.***

***Bright youth and snow-crowned age,***

***Strong souls and spirits meek,***

***Raise high your free, exulting song,***

***God’s wondrous praises speak.***

***Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, rejoice,***

***Rejoice give thanks and sing.***

***With voice as full and strong***

***As ocean’s surging praise,***

***Send forth the hymns the saints have loved,***

***The psalms of ancient days.***

***Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, rejoice,***

***Rejoice give thanks and sing.***

***Yes, on through life’s long path,***

***Still chanting as you go,***

***From youth to age, by night and day,***

***In gladness and in woe.***

***Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, rejoice,***

***Rejoice give thanks and sing.***