**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| November 27, 2022 | First Sunday of Advent (A) | | | |
| 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

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*Episode on ‘Veni, Emmanuel’* Smith

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE**

Diagram

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ADVENT LITURGY AND SCRIPTURE

SUNDAY SCHOOL LIGHTING OF THE FIRST BLUE CANDLE

UNISON PRAYER

***O God, we thank you that Jesus brought hope into our world. By the good news of the Bible and the faithful, you are still bringing hope to people. Help us to be ready to***

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***welcome Jesus Christ so that we may think good thoughts and do good deeds, and so that we may be a people of hope in our world.***  ***Amen.***

HYMN ***Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*** Verse 1 #153

CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER Isaiah 2:1-5

The prophet declared: In days to come the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills:

***All the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.”***

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples:

***They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks:***

Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

***O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!***

Let us pray together.1

***We come before you in awe and adoration, gracious God: in awe at the wonders of creation; in awe of the gift of your son; in awe of the presence of your Spirit among us. As we begin today a new church year, help us to watch and wait, with courage and patience, for the coming of your new age, made real to us in Bethlehem’s child. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates”*** #176

\*RESPONSIVE PSALTER READING Psalm 122

I was glad when they said to me,

“Let us go to the house of the Lord!”

***Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.***

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Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together.

***To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,***

***as was decreed for Israel,***

***to give thanks to the name of the Lord.***

For there the thrones for judgment were set up,

the thrones of the house of David.

***Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:***

***“May they prosper who love you.***

Peace be within your walls,

and security within your towers.”

***For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say,***

***“Peace be within you.”***

For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,

I will seek your good.

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

EPISTLE READING Romans 13:11-14 pg. 152

ANTHEM *Even So, Lord, Quickly Come* Chancel Choir

GOSPEL READING Matthew 24:36-44 pg. 26

REFLECTION

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”***  #154

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.***

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION

OFFERTORY *Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne* arr. Varner

\*RESPONSE ***“The First Noel”*** Vs. 5 #229

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***Then entered in those wise men three,***

***full reverently upon their knee,***

***and offered there in his presence***

***their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.***

***Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.***

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION1

***O God, you chose so long ago to come among us as a little child, to give yourself to us in the person of Jesus.***

***Through him, you have touched our lives with blessings we cannot number. We come to you now, responding to your mercies, and asking you to receive us and our gifts, that we may, in turn, become blessings for others. All this we ask in Jesus’ name. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“The King of Glory Comes”*** #159

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Lift up Your Heads* arr. Smith

1Edited by Sharilyn A. Figueroa, Logos Productions Inc.

Today is the first Sunday of Advent and a new church year. Welcome to this rich season of worship.

The **bulletin** is given in celebration of the 65th Wedding Anniversary of Cliff & Marilyn Robertson by Robin & Steve Totten.

The **altar vases** are given in honor of the 75th birthday of our loving Aunt, Karen Orr by Paul, Lindsey, Carson, Wyatt, Ally, Eli, Nolan, Emma, Ella and Emmett Richter.

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.

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Thank you to **Charles Preston** for serving as liturgist, to **today’s Confirmand** for serving as acolyte, to **Rae-Ellen Vogeler** for greeting, and to **Chris McMillan** for serving as guest organist today.

**THIS WEEK**

Today:First Sunday of Advent

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.

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

**Poinsettia Orders Due**

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

Bible Study, 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday: TOPS, 9:00 a.m.

Bell Choir, 5:30 p.m.

Chancel Choir, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday: **Hatfield-Gaines Scholarship Deadline**

Cemetery Meeting, 5:00 p.m.

Granite City Community Band, 6:15-9:45 p.m.

Master’s Voice Concert, 9:00 p.m.

Friday: Master’s Voice Concert, 9:00 p.m.

Saturday: Fellowship Hall Reserved

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

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

Communion & Noisy Offering

Installation of Council & Altar Guild

Fellowship Hour by Marilyn Robertson

Confirmation, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

**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.

**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.

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**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 **TOMORROW, 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.

Logo

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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 **TOMORROW, Monday, November 28, 2022**. When filling out order forms, please print clearly.

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**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.

A picture containing text, book

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**MASTER’S VOICE CONCERT**

“It’s Beginning to Sound a Lot Like Christmas” when the Masters Voice Choir presents their annual Christmas concert on Thursday, December 1 and Friday, December 2 at 9:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 2160 Delmar in downtown Granite City. No ticket purchases required (love offering will be accepted).

A picture containing text, vector graphics

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**GRANITE CITY COMMUNITY BAND CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Get in the Christmas spirit by attending a free Christmas Concert performed by the Granite City Adult Community Band at 7 p.m. on Friday, December 9, 2022 at Unity Baptist Church (formerly Suburban Baptist), 2500 St. Clair Ave, Granite City. Donations will be accepted to support the St. John UCC Food Box Distribution program that provides free boxes of nutritious food to the Granite City community. The band thanks St. John UCC for allowing them to use their facility for weekly rehearsals.

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**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.

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

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welcome, as well as Amazon and Walmart gift cards. For those who want to make individual donations, and are technologically astute, we do have:

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.

**Illinois South Conference**

Fairview Heights St. John UCC, Rev. Rosemary Captain. Farina Friedens UCC, Dr. Jerry (Cathy) Gesell, Sr. Retired Pastor, Rev. Russell and Doris Miller, Metropolis, IL.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Romans 13:11-14**

**11**Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; **12**the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; **13**let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. **14**Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

**Matthew 24:36-44**

**36**“But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. **37**For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. **38**For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, **39**and

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they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. **40**Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. **41**Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. **42**Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. **43**But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. **44**Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

**Try our QR code! This little square will take you directly to our secure MyVanco website where you can contribute to any of our various funds. Just follow three simple steps:**

1. **Qr code

   Description automatically generatedOpen your smart phone’s camera app**
2. **Aim the camera at the black and white square below and a link will appear on your screen.**
3. **Click the link and you’ll be directed to our donations website. From there, you can select a fund to which you’d like to make a contribution.**

**Thank you!**

***“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”***

***Come, thou long-expected Jesus,***

***Born to set thy people free;***

***From our fears and sins release us;***

***Let us find our rest in thee.***

***Israel’s strength and consolation,***

***Hope of all the earth thou art;***

***Dear Desire of every nation,***

***Joy of every longing heart.***

***“Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates”***

***Lift up your heads, O mighty gates:***

***Behold, the King of glory waits!***

***The King of kings is drawing near,***

***The Savior of the world is here.***

***Fling wide the portals of your heart:***

***Make it a temple set apart***

***From earthly use for heaven’s employ,***

***Adorned with prayer and love and joy.***

***Redeemer, come! I open wide***

***My heart to you: here, Lord, abide!***

***Let me your inner presence feel:***

***Your grace and love in me reveal.***

***So come, my Sovereign, enter in!***

***Let new and nobler life begin!***

***Your Holy Spirit guide us on,***

***Until the glorious crown be won.***

***“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”***

***O come, O come, Emmanuel,***

***And ransom captive Israel,***

***That mourns in lonely exile here,***

***Until the Son of God appear.***

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel***

***Shall come to thee, O Israel!***

***O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer***

***Our spirits by thine advent here;***

***Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,***

***And death’s dark shadows put to flight.***

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel***

***Shall come to thee, O Israel!***

***O come, thou Wisdom from on high,***

***And order all things far and nigh;***

***To us the path of knowledge show,***

***And cause us in her ways to go.***

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel***

***Shall come to thee, O Israel!***

***O come, Desire of nations, bind***

***All peoples in one heart and mind;***

***Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;***

***Fill the whole world with heaven’s peace.***

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel***

***Shall come to thee, O Israel!***

***“The First Noel”***

***Then entered in those wise men three,***

***Full reverently upon their knee,***

***And offered there in his presence***

***Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.***

***Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,***

***Born is the King of Israel.***

*\*\*\*“The King of Glory Comes”* not printed due to copyright.

A black and white drawing of a plant

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A black and white drawing of a plant

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POINSETTIA

### ORDER FORM

Plants will cost **$12.00** each and are **available in RED ONLY.**  Fill in the lines below exactly as you wish it to appear in the bulletin; (i.e., Mr., or Mrs., or Miss, etc.) DEADLINE to order poinsettias is **November 28, 2022** (Please attach payments to this form and either place in the offering plate or bring/mail to the church office.) PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!!!!

IN LOVING MEMORY OF\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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# OF POINSETTIAS ORDERED

TOTAL ENCLOSED

(Make checks payable to: St. John United Church of Christ)

POINSETTIA

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