**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

Observing Epiphany and Baptism of the Lord

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| January 8, 2023 | 2nd Sunday after Christmas Day |
| 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 Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?”

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*March of the Kings* Carl Simone, Arr.

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER Adapted from Hymn 247

Sing of God made manifest

***in a child robust and blest,***

To whose home in Bethlehem

***where a star had guided them,***

Magi came and gifts unbound,

***signs mysterious and profound:***

Myrrh and frankincense and gold,

***grave and God and King foretold.***

Sing of God made manifest

***when at Jordan John confessed,***

“I should be baptized by you,

***But your bidding I will do.”***

Then from heaven a double sign—

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***Dove-like Spirit, voice divine—***

Hailed the true Anointed One:

***“This is my beloved Son.”***

Let us pray together:

***In all of time, O God, you have made yourself known to your creation in many and various ways—through commands and pronouncements, miracles and prophecy—to guide your people in the light of life. May your Spirit make known to us how we shall live as disciples of your beloved Son, and shine his light in these days, and forever. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“We Three Kings of Orient Are”***  #233

Sing Verse 1 and the Refrain

Sing Verses 2, 3, and 4 without the Refrain

Sing Verse 5 and the Refrain

\*RESPONSIVE READING Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,

and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

***For darkness shall cover the earth,***

***and thick darkness the peoples;***

But the Lord will arise upon you,

and his glory will appear over you.

***Nations shall come to your light,***

***and kings to the brightness of your dawn.***

Lift up your eyes and look around;

they all gather together, they come to you;

***Your sons shall come from far away,***

***your daughters shall be carried on their nurses’ arms.***

Then you shall see and be radiant;

your heart shall thrill and rejoice,

***Because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.***

A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come.

***They shall bring gold and frankincense,***

***and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.***

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

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NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Acts 10:34-43 pg. 121

ANTHEM *There’s a Song in the Air* Chancel Choir

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 3:13-17 pg. 3

REFLECTION

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“When Jesus Came to Jordan”*** #241

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 *God, We Praise You* Lani Smith, Arr.

\*SUNG RESPONSE ***“What Child Is This”***  Vs. 3 #184

***So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,***

***come peasant, king, to own him;***

***the King of kings salvation brings,***

***let loving hearts enthrone him.***

***Raise, raise the song on high, the Virgin sings her lullaby; joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!***

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***Light of the World, in this new day we bring our offerings with joy. Bless and multiply them, we pray, to shine your light of love through us and in every nation, for you are Lord of all. Amen.***

\*HYMN  ***“Arise, Your Light Is Come”***  #231

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE  *Joy to the World*  Franklin Ritter, Arr.

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Welcome, beloved of God! As the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus at his baptism, so does God’s Spirit rest on us as we gather today — and always.

If you would like to place **flowers on the altar**, and pick them up after church or on 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 bulletins are January 29th and February 5th.

Thank you to **Christie Roth** for serving as liturgist, to **Eleanor Reynolds** 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.

Confirmation, 10:45-11:30 a.m.

Monday: Brotherhood, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

Hilltoppers, 12:30 p.m.

Bible Study, 12:30 p.m.

Cemetery Garden Committee, 5:00 p.m.

ESOS Committee, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday: TOPS, 9:00 a.m.

Bell Choir, 5:30 p.m.

Chancel Choir, 6:30 p.m.

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

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

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

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

**MISSION OF THE MONTH**

Our January Mission of the Month is designated for the TWIGS Building Fund. The TWIGS program is in the process of building a facility to hold their supplies that enable them to make an important impact with children in our community.

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**FIRST QUARTER NOISY OFFERING**

Our first quarter Noisy Offering is designated for the Kielce Polish church in Ukraine.

**5TH SUNDAY CASH PLATE**

Our 5th Sunday Cash Plate is designated for Got your Six Support Dogs. Their organization is committed to providing specialized service dogs to veterans and first-responders suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and other traumas. Their mission is to help people regain their lives through the healing power of dogs.

A black and white drawing of a snake

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**SPAGHETTI DINNER**

The Spaghetti Dinner is back! After a two-year hiatus, the Evening Guild and Brotherhood are excited to put on this event. The dinner will be January 21st from 4:00-6:30 p.m. Tickets will be $10.00 for adults, $6.00 for children ages 5 to 12, and free for children 4 and under.

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Nursing, Assisted, & Independent Living**

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

**At Home**

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

**Illinois South Conference**

Hookdale St. Peter’s UCC, Rev. Jerry Bennett. Hoyleton Zion Evangelical UCC, Rev. Sharon Patton. Retired Pastor, Rev. Gus and Suzanne Kuether, Belleville, IL. Rev. Shana Johnson, Conference Minister.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Acts 10:34-43**

**34**Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, **35**but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. **36**You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. **37**That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in

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Galilee after the baptism that John announced: **38**how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. **39**We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea

and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, **40**but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, **41**not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. **42**He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. **43**All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

**Matthew 3:13-17**

**13**Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. **14**John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” **15**But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. **16**And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God’s Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. **17**And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

**Qr code

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1. **Open 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!**

***“We Three Kings of Orient Are”***

***We three kings of Orient are,***

***Bearing gifts we traverse afar,***

***Field and fountain, moor and mountain,***

***Following yonder star.***

***O star of wonder, star of night,***

***Star with royal beauty bright,***

***Westward leading, still proceeding,***

***Guide us to thy perfect light.***

***Born a king on Bethlehem’s plain,***

***Gold I bring to crown him again,***

***King forever, ceasing never***

***Over us all to reign.***

***Frankincense to offer have I,***

***Incense owns a deity nigh;***

***Prayer and praising, voices raising,***

***Worshiping God on high.***

***Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume***

***Breathes a life of gathering gloom:***

***Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,***

***Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.***

***Glorious now behold him arise,***

***King and God a Sacrifice;***

***Alleluia! Alleluia!***

***Sounds through the earth and skies.***

***O star of wonder, star of night,***

***Star with royal beauty bright,***

***Westward leading, still proceeding,***

***Guide us to thy perfect light.***

***“When Jesus Came to Jordan”***

Words: Fred Pratt Green; para. Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:21-22. © 1980 Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted by permission, CCLI License #1334401.

***When Jesus came to Jordan***

***To be baptized by John,***

***He did not come for pardon***

***But as the sinless one.***

***He came to share repentance***

***With all who mourn their sins,***

***To speak the vital sentence***

***With which good news begins.***

***He came to share temptation,***

***Our utmost woe and loss,***

***For us and our salvation***

***To die upon the cross.***

***So when the dove descended***

***On him, the Son of Man,***

***The hidden years had ended,***

***The age of grace began.***

***Come, Holy Spirit, aid us***

***To keep the vows we make;***

***This very day invade us,***

***And every bondage break.***

***Come, give our lives direction,***

***The gift we covet most;***

***To share the resurrection***

***That leads to Pentecost.***

*“Arise, Your Light is Come!”* not printed due to copyright.

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| **WHERE**  St. John UCC  2901 Nameoki Rd.  Granite City, IL 62040 | **WHEN**  Saturday,  February 18th, 2023  4:00-7:00 p.m. |

Tickets are $10 and that buys you UNLIMITED soup and chili tasting, crackers, and 2 ballots to vote for your favorite entries!

Drinks and desserts will be available for an additional cost.

Local chefs and some of our own church chefs will be providing their specialty soups and chili!

Plan to make this an evening of fun! A 50/50 drawing and soup recipes will make this a great time for all!

Questions? Give us a call at 618-877-6060 or email us at [stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com](mailto:stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com)

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**Spaghetti Dinner**

St. John United Church of Christ

Brotherhood & Evening Guild

Saturday, January 21, 2023

4:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Adults - $10

Children 5-12 - $6

Children 4 & under – Free

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| 2901 Nameoki Road | 618-877-6060 |
| Granite City, IL 62040 | Wheelchair Accessible |