**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| July 2, 2023 | 5th Sunday after Pentecost (A) |
| Rev. Karla Frost, Pastor | Dave Ekstrand, Dir. Of Music |
| 9:30 Zoom & In-Person Worship | 9:30 Sunday School for Children |
| 2901 Nameoki Road | Granite City, IL 62040 |
| [E-stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com](mailto:E-stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com)  Web-stjohnuccgranitecity.com | (618) 877-6060  Instagram: @stjohnucc2901gc |

YouTube: gcstjohnucc Facebook: Search St. John UCC Granite City

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 AND BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*GREETING ONE ANOTHER “Peace be with you!”

\*SUNG PRAISE RESPONSE ***“Glory Be to the Father”*** #734

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,***

***and to the Holy Ghost;***

***as it was*** ***in the beginning,***

***is now, and ever shall be,***

***world without end. Amen, Amen.***

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN Genesis 22:1-14

But the angel of the LORD called to [Abraham] from heaven, and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.”…..So Abraham called that place “The LORD will provide…”

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL PRESENTATION

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*God Bless the USA*

CENTERING THOUGHT1

*Whether climbing a treacherous path or walking a journey of grace, we are welcomed, received, and accompanied by God. Christ invites us to do the same for others—whoever they are and wherever they are on life’s journey.*

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CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER1

Come to the mountain of God,

***The place of God’s holy presence.***

No matter how steep the climb,

***God journeys with us and helps us along the way.***

Let us pray together.

***God of ages past and days yet to come, journey with us today. Journey with us all our days, whether on treacherous paths or beside still waters. Guide our steps to find solid ground, so that we may know the firm foundation of your constant presence. Open our minds to the blessings and miracles we encounter along the way. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand”***

Vss. 1 & 2 #728

\*LITURGY OF CONFESSION AND PARDON1

The psalmist cried “How long must I bear pain in my soul, and have sorrow in my heart all day long?” Let us confess the pain and sorrow of sin and be set free.

***God of grace and God of glory, shower us with your mercy and forgiveness. When we can’t see the way forward, be our navigation system. When we make a wrong turn, correct us. When we neglect our health and wellness, heal us with your love. When we neglect or harm your world and its peoples, reveal your righteousness and guidance, that we may be forgiven and reconciled with you and with your beloved creation. Amen.***

In Christ, we are set free. We are reconciled through the power of love and grace.

\*SUNG RESPONSE

***“God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand”*** Vs. 4 #728

***Refresh your people on their toilsome way,***

***lead us from night to never ending day;***

***fill all our lives with heaven-born love and grace,***

***and songs of praise we’ll lift before your face!***

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

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EPISTLE LESSON Romans 6:20-23 pg. 146

ANTHEM *America’s Blessed* Chancel Choir

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 10:40-11:1 pg. 10

REFLECTION

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“Grace Alone”*** #436

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONSE ***“The Lord’s Prayer”*** (One Amen) #740

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION

OFFERTORY *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory*

\*SUNG RESPONSE ***“God of Grace and God of Glory”***

Vss. 1 & 4 #569

***God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your power;***

***crown your ancient Church’s story bring its bud to glorious flower.***

***Grant us wisdom, grant us courage***

***for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.***

***Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;***

***let the gift of your salvation be our glory evermore.***

***Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,***

***serving you whom we adore, serving you whom we adore.***

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***God of love and grace, bless these gifts with your wisdom and power as you provide all that is needed. Gladly serving you through our ministries and our generosity, may others know your loving welcome and your gracious mercy through us. Amen.***

INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER

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BREAKING, POURING AND PARTAKING

All confessing Christians are welcome to the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Please hold each element when served in the pews so all may partake together. The inner circle of cups contains white grape juice. The outer circles are wine.

\*UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

***Thank you, O God, for by your Spirit you make us one with Christ at his table, one with the heavenly hosts, one with each other, and one in mission to all the world. In every age, as we freely live in the light of Christ, may your Spirit birth life into our welcoming, caring acts of discipleship. Amen.***

\*HYMN & NOISY OFFERING FOR CONCRETE STEPS

***“My Country, ‘Tis of Thee”*** #731

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE  *Go My Children with My Blessing*

1Adapted from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2023. Copyright © 2022 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

The **bulletin** is given in loving memory of the July 4th birthday of Daryl Lamar Few by Hilde Few.

The **altar centerpiece** is given in loving memory of our son, Daryl Lamar Few, on his July 4th birthday by the family.

If you would like to place **flowers on the altar**, and pick them up after church or on Monday, please call **Barb Houston** (618-610-1884). Flower Emporium offers $25 (small), $30 (medium), or $35 (large) arrangements. If you would like to sponsor the **bulletins**, please call the **church office** at (618) 877-6060. The next available date to sponsor the bulletin is July 16th.

Thank you to **Eleanor Reynolds** for serving as liturgist and to **Justin Gibson** for greeting.

**THIS WEEK**

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

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

Communion & Noisy Offering for Concrete Steps

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

Tuesday:  **OFFICE CLOSED**

Fireworks viewing in parking lot, 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

TOPS, 9:00 a.m.

Trivia Night Committee, 5:00 p.m.

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

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

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

**MISSION OF THE MONTH**

The July MOM is the Madison County Advocacy Center. A list of items needed for donations is enclosed in the Herald. Donations can be placed on a table in the Narthex.



Remember that the 4th of July fireworks are fairly visible from our church parking lot, so come and join us if you don’t want to be in the midst of the bigger crowds. These treats will be available after 8:30 p.m., to offer our hospitality to visitors. We need more volunteers to help distribute them this year, so please volunteer to Karen Gaines or Pastor Karla.

**STRENGHTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING**

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ with ½ used by the Illinois South Conference for local projects and ½ sent to the national office for churchwide projects. Many churches receive this offering on Pentecost Sunday, but we have moved it to July. This year we will dedicate the Strengthen the Church Offering on July 23. Please use the special envelopes or clearly designate

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that your separate gift is for this (STC) offering in order to keep it separate from the general fund offering. It would also help the counters if you write your envelope number on your Strengthen the Church Offering. Envelopes were included in the July edition of the Herald and are available on the table in the Narthex.



Mark your calendars and put your thinking caps on! Our Trivia Night planning team is working on a great evening of fun and friendly competition for Saturday, August 26, in Fellowship Hall. Watch the bulletins and August Herald for more details.



**3RD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATIONS**

Any of our children entering 3rd grade next August may receive a special Bible on Sunday, September 17, during 9:30 a.m. worship. Please call the church office at 618-877-6060 to give name and address for letters to be sent inviting them to participate.

**PLASTIC BOTTLE CAP COLLECTION**

We are collecting plastic bottle caps to assist Eleanor Reynolds in her Girl Scout bench project. Bottle caps should be put in the tub in the Narthex.

Text

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If sorting & cleaning are 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 28th & 29th** this year and items can be brought to the stage in Fellowship Hall between September 5th

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and September 27th. 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. **Volunteers are especially needed during Set Up and Pricing**:

Tuesday, September 26th – 9:00 a.m. Set up

Wednesday, September 27th – 9:00 a.m.

Pricing

**Thursday, September 28th – 8:30 a.m. to**

**3:00 p.m. Open for Shoppers**

**Friday, September 29th – 8:30 a.m. to 12:00**

**p.m. Open for Shoppers**

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Nursing, Assisted, & Independent Living**

**Cedarhurst of Granite City, Memory Care**, 3432 Village Lane, Granite City, IL 62040

JoAnn King, #113,

**Eden Village**, 200 S. Station Rd., Glen Carbon, IL 62034

Earl & Marcia Buenger, Apt 9219

**The Fountains of West County**, 15822 Clayton Rd, Ellisville, MO 63011

Ruth Buer

**Granite Nursing & Rehab**, 3500 Century Dr, Granite City, IL 62040

Karen Luddeke

Jerry Shonk

**Liberty Village of Maryville Rehabilitation**, 6955 IL-162, Maryville, IL 62062

Merle Rose

**Stillwater Senior Living**, 1111 University Dr., Edwardsville, IL 62025

Marjorie Schmidt, #101

**Villas of Holly Brook**, 121 S. Bluff Rd, Collinsville, IL 62234

Hilde Few, #208

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**At Home**

Chloe Affolter, 577 Newhart Dr., G.C., IL 62040

Isabella Boyer, 4722 S. Hazel, Edwardsville, IL 62025

Carol Braundmeier, 2228 Nevada, G.C., IL 62040

Christopher Clark, 2223 Lincoln Ave., G.C., IL 62040

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

Chuck King, 3258 Kilarney Dr., G.C., IL 62040

Cindy Meyer, 2206 Lynch Ave., G.C. IL 62040

Sandy Mueller, 308 Warson Ln., G.C., IL 62040

Cliff Robertson, 2336 O’Hare Ave., G.C., IL 62040

June Stille, 49 Riviera, G.C., IL 62040

Nancy Wilson, 4062 Sarah St. Apt 81, G.C., IL 62040

**Illinois South Conference**

Brighton St. John’s UCC, Rev. John Pawloski. Retired Pastors, Rev. Paul Thompson, Jr., Red Bud, IL. Rev. Jack Spratte and Barbara Van Ausdall, Mascoutah, IL.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Romans 6:20-23**

**20**When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. **21**So what fruit did you then gain from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. **22**But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the fruit you have leads to sanctification, and the end is eternal life. **23**For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Matthew 10:40-11:1**

**40**“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. **41**Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, **42**and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one

of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

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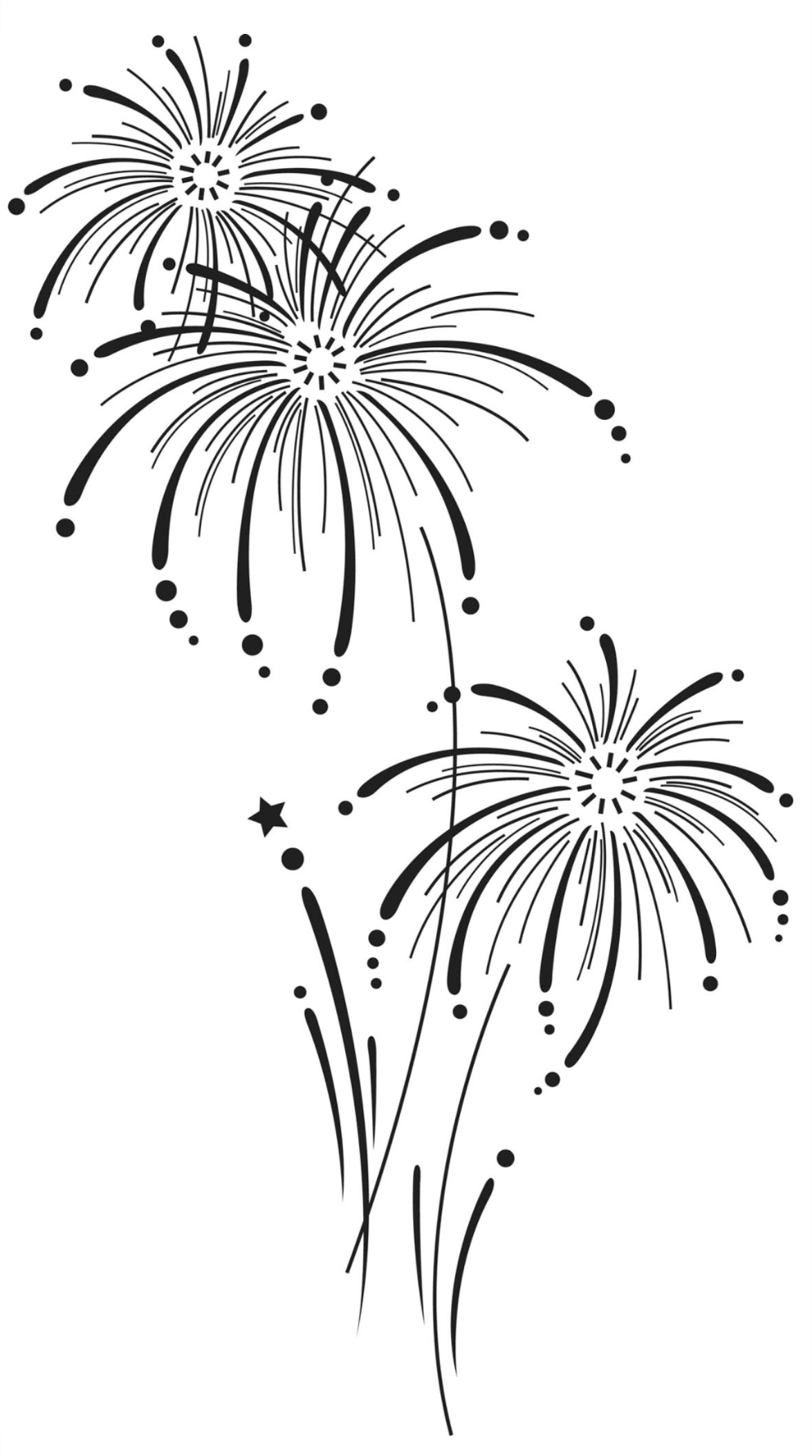
**1**Now when Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and proclaim his message in their cities.

**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. **Open your smart phone’s camera app**
2. **Qr code

   Description automatically generatedAim 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!**

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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 John Nitchman, President, 618-288-5297

Council – Talk to Kiki Cochran, President, 618-797-2511 or Donna Brandes, Vice President, 618-802-1072

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, 618-791-8246

Men’s Brotherhood – Talk to Chuck Hasse, 618-876-0936,

Dave Douglas, 618-452-3336

Quilters – Talk to Sandy Dawson 618-791-8246

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, 314-420-1548

***“God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand”***

***God of the ages, whose almighty hand***

***Leads forth in beauty all the starry band***

***Of shining worlds in splendor through the skies,***

***Our grateful songs before your throne arise.***

***Your love divine has led us in the past,***

***In this free land by you our lot is cast;***

***Be now our ruler, guardian, guide, and stay,***

***Your Word our law, your paths our chosen way.***

***“Grace Alone”***

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***Every promise we can make,***

***Every prayer and step of faith;***

***Every difference we will make***

***Is only by his grace.***

***Every mountain we will climb,***

***Every ray of hope we shine;***

***Every blessing left behind***

***Is only by his grace.***

***Grace alone which God supplies;***

***Strength unknown he will provide.***

***Christ in us, our cornerstone,***

***We will go forth in grace alone.***

***Every soul we long to reach,***

***Every heart we hope to teach;***

***Everywhere we share his peace***

***Is only by his grace.***

***Every loving word we say,***

***Every tear we wipe away;***

***Every sorrow turned to praise***

***Is only by his grace.***

***Grace alone which God supplies;***

***Strength unknown he will provide.***

***Christ in us, our cornerstone,***

***We will go forth in grace alone.***

***“The 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.***

***“My Country, ‘Tis of Thee”***

***My country, ‘tis of thee, sweet land of liberty,***

***Of thee I sing:***

***Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrims’ pride,***

***From every mountain side let freedom ring!***

***My native country, thee, land of the noble free,***

***Thy name I love;***

***I love thy rocks and rills, thy woods and templed hills;***

***My heart with rapture thrills like that above.***

***Let music swell the breeze, and ring from all the trees***

***Sweet freedom’s song:***

***Let mortal tongues awake, let all that breathe partake;***

***Let rocks their silence break, the sound prolong.***

***Our fathers’ God, to thee, Author of liberty,***

***To thee we sing:***

***Long may our land be bright with freedom’s holy light;***

***Protect us by thy might, great God, our King!***

**FOOD BOX PROJECT**

On Saturday, September 9th, we will continue our church’s Food Box Give-Away Program to help fight hunger in the community. Food prices are high, as we all know, which means it will cost more to fill the boxes. To offset the costs, we are once again asking for donations of food from the congregation. Also, if anyone has any contacts for food donations, such as grocery stores, produce markets, food manufacturers, dairies, etc., please let us know. During the March distribution, we gave away 180 boxes. We are hoping to distribute at least 150 - 175 boxes.

For those who would like to donate food for this project, the following is a suggested list to follow. Dates of collection for specific items have been included. If anyone has items to donate that do not appear on the list or would like to donate them on a different Sunday than what is listed, feel free to do so. Please make sure items being donated are not expired. Both Name Brand items and store brands are acceptable items to donate. Watch for sales at Schnucks, Ruler (they send out coupons), Aldi, Walmart, Sam’s, etc. The congregation’s generosity and participation has been tremendous for this project as well as all the others that have been implemented.

Suggested donations and dates:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Sun, 6-11-23** | Canned soup (chicken noodle, vegetable, tomato, etc.) or vegetable canned goods\* |
| **Sun, 6-18-23** | Canned chili & stew\* |
| **Sun, 6-25-23** | Boxed cereal (Cheerios, Rice Krispies, Corn Flakes, avoid sugary cereals such as Froot Loops) |
| **Sun, 7-2-23** | Peanut butter 16 oz jar (Ruler has the lowest price to date) |
| **Sun, 7-9-23** | Jars of applesauce (The Kroger brand is inexpensive) |
| **Sun, 7-16-23** | Canned Spaghetti Os (Campbells) or Spaghetti & Meat Balls or Lasagna (Chef Boyardee). It can be similar products under other manufacturers as well. |
| **Sun, 7-23-23** | Canned tuna or 2lb bag of rice |
| **Sun, 7-30-23** | 64 oz bottles of juice - apple cranberry, grape - (Dollar Tree has inexpensive options) |
| **Sun, 8-6-23** | Mac & cheese dinners |
| **Sun, 8-13-23** | Vegetable canned goods\* |
| **Sun, 8-20-23** | 5 lb bag of flour |
| **Sun, 8-27-23** | Canned chili & stew\* |

\*These items are listed twice due to the high volume needed

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