**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| June 11, 2023 | 2nd 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 12:1-9

Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. (Vss.1-3a)

***Father Abraham had many [kids], many [kids] had Father Abraham,***

***I am one of them and so are you, so let’s all praise the Lord.***

***(Right arm—Left arm—Right foot—Left foot—Chin up—***

***Turn around—Sit down)***

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*Lord of the Dance* Shaker Melody

CENTERING THOUGHT1

*God’s grace makes human faith possible. In this circle of grace and faith, miracles enter and bless our world.*

-2-

CALL TO WORSHIP AND CONFESSION1

Come into God’s presence.

***All are welcome here.***

Come, saints and sinners alike.

***We are all God’s children.***

Faith has brought us here.

***Grace will make us whole.***

Come! Let us worship and pray.

***Faithful and loving God, your grace makes our faith possible. May we live and go about our lives as people who place our trust in you. May we love and care for others as people who turn to you for help. Where there is doubt or distrust, renew our faith. Where there is fear or insecurity, grant us courage. Where there is fatigue and weariness, give us amazing strength. Where there is confusion of purpose, give us wisdom. Where there is sorrow and loss, bring us peace. In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“We Have Come to Join in Worship”*** #647

\*LITANY OF YEARNING AND ASSURANCE1

Loving God, we yearn to be as merciful with others as you are with us.

***We long to set aside past grudges and love others for who they are now.***

We are tired of sitting in judgment and failing to see others as your beloved children.

***Fill us with your grace, that we might have enough faith to walk in your ways and to seek the healing of your world. Amen.***

By the grace of God, our faith has made us well.

***In the grace of Christ, our faith has led us home.***

Through the grace of the Holy Spirit, our faith has made us whole.

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

EPISTLE LESSON  Romans 4:13-25 pg. 145

SPECIAL MUSIC *El Shaddai*  Card

-3-

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26 pg. 8

SERMON

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“Amazing Grace”*** #422

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 *O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come* Schumann

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

Words & Music: Kurt Kaiser © 1969 Bud John Songs (Admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing). Reprinted by permission, CCLI License #1334401

***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

***God of all the earth, you bless our lives that we might be blessings to others. May our offerings given with happy hearts and hands, spread your healing and hope to all, including both the judged and the judgmental. May we live our faith in all that we do, in the name of Jesus. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“Trust and Obey”*** #443

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE  *Faith of Our Fathers* Hemy

1From The Abingdon Worship Annual 2023. Copyright © 2022 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.”

-4-

“The earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord” (Psalm 33:5, ESV). Welcome to worship. Let us together praise God!

The **bulletin** is given in celebration of their 41st Wedding Anniversary on June 19th by Steve & Robin Totten.

If you would like to place **flowers on the altar**, and pick them up after church or on Monday, please call **Pam Sullivan** (618-540-0098). 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 **Joan Mueller** for serving as liturgist and to **Rae-Ellen Vogeler** for greeting

A picture containing logo

Description automatically generated

**THIS WEEK**

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

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

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

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

Bible Study, 12:30 p.m.

Hilltoppers, 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday: TOPS, 9:00 a.m.

Next Sunday: **Father’s Day**

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

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

Dedicate Blankets & Tools Offering

Fellowship Hour by Sopranos & Altos

**MISSION OF THE MONTH**

Our May & June Mission of the Month is dedicated to the Church World Service Blankets and Tools offering. Envelopes were included in the May edition of the Herald. Additional envelopes can be found on the table in the Narthex. Checks should be made out to St. John UCC

-5-

**SCRIP**

Thank you to all who continue to support the scrip program. Next order will be submitted third Sunday in June, so next Sunday. Master list of vendors and St. John “favorites” order forms are on the table in the narthex. Give order form and check payable to St John UCC to Betty Meszaros at any time. You can also participate if worshipping on zoom—just mail check and note of cards you want to purchase to church. Cash is also happily accepted but only if giving order to Betty in person. Cost is face value of the card with no tax or service fee. Rebate is automatically sent to church. Contact Melissa Lane at 314-575-7627 or Betty Meszaros at 618-451-1968 if any questions.

**CHAIRS FOR THE CEMETERY**

You may have seen the wish list in the Herald of chairs for the cemetery. You may also have wondered why patrons of the cemetery would need chairs! The chapel/office at the Maryville Road site was dedicated in 1995 and has been undergoing a refresh. The chairs, similar to those in fellowship hall, are actually for use in the chapel. The chapel can be utilized for memorial services and chairs would allow additional seating to replace some of the pews which are broken and becoming unsafe. Cost is $57 each. Thank you to the Brotherhood which just donated ten chairs. Donations appreciated of any amounts – – portions or a chair or ten (like the Brotherhood) or balance of the 30 needed. Please contact the cemetery office at 618 876-5811 if questions.



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. Donations of non-chocolate individually wrapped candy are needed. 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.

-6-



**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.



Vacation Bible School will take place Sunday, June 25th to Thursday, June 29th, and will be held each day from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Additional information and applications are included in the insert of this bulletin and on the table in the Narthex.



**GRADUATES**

If you or someone you know is graduating from high school or college, we’d like to celebrate their accomplishment in the upcoming July Herald. Please send the name of the graduate, their school, degrees (if applicable), any special honors, and their plans for the future.

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Nursing, Assisted, & Independent Living**

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

JoAnn King, #113,

-7-

**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

**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

**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

Merle Rose, 2447 Waterman 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**

Belleville Christ UCC, Pastor John (Lisa) Tinge. Belleville Concordia UCC, Rev. Joan (John) Mier. Retired Pastor, Rev. Ivan and Vivian Horn, Waterloo, IL.

-8-

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Romans 4:13-25**

**13**For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. **14**For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. **15**For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

**16**For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, **17**as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. **18**Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So shall your descendants be.” **19**He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), and the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. **20**No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, **21**being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

**22**Therefore “it was reckoned to him as righteousness.”

**23**Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone **24**but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, **25**who

was handed over for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

**Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26**

**9**As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him. **10**And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with Jesus and his disciples. **11**When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” **12**But when he heard this, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. **13**Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy,

-9-

not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners.”

**18**While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader came in and knelt before him, saying, “My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.” **19**And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. **20**Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, **21**for she was saying to herself, “If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well.” **22**Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, “Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And the woman was made well from that moment. **23**When Jesus came to the leader’s house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, **24**he said, “Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him. **25**But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. **26**And the report of this spread through all of that district.

**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!**

-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 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, 618-931-3467

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, 314-420-1548