**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| June 25, 2023 |  4th 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.comWeb-stjohnuccgranitecity.com |  (618) 877-6060Instagram: @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 21:8-21

And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, “What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him.”

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

 *His Eye Is on the Sparrow*

CENTERING THOUGHT1

*Come into God’s presence and relinquish all fear. Let go of life as you know it and discover life everlasting.*

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER1 Psalm 86, adapted

-2-

Incline your ear, O God.

Hear the praises of your people.

 ***Gladden the hearts of your servants,***

 ***as we lift up our souls to you.***

For you, O God, are good and forgiving,

abounding in steadfast love.

 ***In the day of trouble we call on you,***

 ***knowing you will answer.***

Your people everywhere glorify your name,

 ***For you are slow to anger,***

 ***and abound in steadfast love.***

Turn to us and be gracious, O God.

Receive our worship and prayer:

***Thank you, Loving Spirit, for the warmth of summer and for your invitation to embrace abundant life. Your promise of resurrection allows past troubles to die, as we rise with you to new life. Inspire us to follow your lead, even when it requires us to bear a cross of sacrifice in your name. May our love for you be complete, as we share words and acts of compassion with a world that yearns for your peace. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“Praise and Thanksgiving Be to God”*** #140

\*RESPONSIVE READING2 *Close to Thee* Adapted

Thou my everlasting portion, more than friend or life to me,

All along my pilgrim journey, Savior, let me walk with thee.

 ***Close to thee, close to thee,***

 ***All along my pilgrim journey, Savior let me walk with thee.***

Not for ease or worldly pleasure, nor for fame my prayer shall be; gladly will I toil and suffer, only let me walk with thee.

***Close to thee, close to thee,***

***gladly will I toil and suffer, only let me walk with thee.***

Lead me through the vale of shadows, bear me o’er life’s fitful sea; then the gate of life eternal may I enter, Lord, with thee.

***Close to thee, close to thee,***

***then the gate of life eternal may I enter, Lord, with thee.***

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

EPISTLE LESSON Romans 6:1b-11 pg. 146

-3-

ANTHEM *I Saw the Light* Amenz

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 10:24-39 pg. 10

SERMON

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“When Peace Like a River”*** #428

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 *I’ve Got Peace Like a River* Spiritual

\*SUNG RESPONSE ***“Jesus Calls Us o’er the Tumult”***

Vss. 1 & 4 #345

***Jesus calls us o’er the tumult of our life’s wild, restless sea; day by day his sweet voice soundeth,***

***saying, “Christian, follow me.”***

***Jesus calls us—by thy mercies, Savior, may we hear thy call, give our hearts to thine obedience,***

***serve and love thee best of all.***

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

 ***Generous God, your morning sun gives life; your evening breeze refreshes the soul. As life grows to its fullest this summer, let us give generously and repeatedly. Through our gifts, may the hungry be fed, the lonely find good friends, and the grieving find comfort. With these offerings, we offer our own lives, that we may rise again to live with you. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“Blessed Assurance”*** #426

\*BENEDICTION

-4-

\*POSTLUDE  *Listen to Your Children* Medema

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

2Words by Fanny J. Crosby, 1874.

The **bulletin** is given in loving memory of my niece, Stacy, by Glenda Mitchell.

The **altar vases** are given in honor of the 85th birthday of Nancy Wilson and the 25th birthday of Hannah Weeks by Janice and Mom. The **altar centerpiece** is given in loving memory of Leon Stromlund by his wife, Trish.

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 dates to sponsor the bulletin are July 16th & 30th.

Thank you to **Eleanor Reynolds** for serving as liturgist and to **Rae-Ellen Vogeler** for greeting.

**THIS WEEK**

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

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

 Church Community Alliance in Fellowship Hall, 3:00 p.m.

 Game Night, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

 **Vacation Bible School, 6:00-8:00 p.m.**

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

 **Vacation Bible School, 6:00-8:00 p.m.**

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

 Bible Study, 12:30 p.m.

 **Vacation Bible School, 6:00-8:00 p.m.**

Wednesday: TOPS, 9:00 a.m.

Cremains Garden Groundbreaking at Maryville Rd. 10:00 a.m.

 **Vacation Bible School, 6:00-8:00 p.m.**

Thursday: **Vacation Bible School, 6:00-8:00 p.m.**

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

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

 Communion & Noisy Offering for Concrete Steps

-5-

**JULY 4TH**

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.

**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 for Eleanor Reynolds’ Girl Scout bench project. Bottle caps should be put in the tub in the Narthex.

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Nursing, Assisted, & Independent Living**

Earl Buenger, Marcia Buenger, Ruth Buer, Hilde Few, JoAnn King, Karen Luddeke, Donna Petrillo (Nancy Jacob’s Cousin), Marjorie Schmidt, and Jerry Shonk.

**At Home**

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

**Illinois South Conference**

Biddleborn Trinity UCC, Rev. Tarrah (Jasen) Vaupel. Breese St. John UCC. Retired Pastors, Revs. Bob Goddard and Janis Dashner, O’Fallon, IL.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Romans 6:1b-11**

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? **2**By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? **3**Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? **4**Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life. **5**For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. **6**We know that our old self was crucified

-6-

with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. **7**For whoever has died is freed from sin. **8**But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. **9**We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. **10**The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. **11**So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

**Matthew 10:24-39**

**24**“A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; **25**it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! **26**“So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. **27**What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. **28**Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. **29**Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. **30**And even the hairs of your head are all counted. **31**So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. **32**“Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, **33**but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. **34**“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword. **35**For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law, **36**and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household. **37**“Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, **38**and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. **39**Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

**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. **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 where you**

**can contribute to our various funds.**

***“When Peace Like a River”***

***When peace like a river attendeth my way,***

***When sorrows like sea billows roll,***

***Whatever my lot, thou has taught me to say,***

***“It is well, it is well with my soul.”***

***It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul),***

***It is well, it is well with my soul.***

***Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,***

***Let this blest assurance control:***

***That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,***

***And has shed his own blood for my soul.***

***It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul),***

***It is well, it is well with my soul.***

***My sin - O, the bliss of this glorious thought,***

***My sin - not in part but in whole,***

***Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more:***

***Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!***

***It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul),***

***It is well, it is well with my soul.***

***And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,***

***The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,***

***The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend:***

***“Even so” - it is well with my soul.***

***It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul),***

***It is well, it is well with my soul.***

***“Blessed Assurance”***

***Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!***

***O what a foretaste of glory divine!***

***Heir of salvation, purchase of God,***

***Born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.***

***This is my story, this is my song,***

***Praising my Savior all the day long;***

***This is my story, this is my song,***

***Praising my Savior all the day long.***

***Perfect submission, perfect delight,***

***Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;***

***Angels descending, bring from above***

***Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.***

***This is my story, this is my song,***

***Praising my Savior all the day long;***

***This is my story, this is my song,***

***Praising my Savior all the day long.***

***Perfect submission, all is at rest,***

***I in my Savior am happy and blest,***

***Watching and waiting, looking above,***

***Filled with his goodness, lost in his love.***

***This is my story, this is my song,***

***Praising my Savior all the day long;***

***This is my story, this is my song,***

***Praising my Savior all the day long.***

\*\* *“Praise and Thanksgiving Be to God” not printed due to Copyright*

**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

**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