**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| August 13, 2023 | 11th 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 RESPONSE ***“Let There Be Peace on Earth”*** #614

***Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;***

***let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.***

***With God our creator, children all are we.***

***Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.***

***Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.***

***With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:***

***to take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.***

***Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.***

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN Romans 10:5-15

The same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (Romans 10:12b-13)

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand* Dorsey

CENTERING THOUGHT1

*Jesus called to his friends as they were rocked by fear: “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.” Find shalom (peace) and rest in the midst of daily anxiety.*

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CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER From Psalm 105

O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name,

make known his deeds among the peoples.

***Sing to him, sing praises to him;***

***tell of all his wonderful works.***

Glory in his holy name;

let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

***Seek the Lord and his strength;***

***seek his presence continually.***

Remember the wonderful works he has done,

his miracles, and the judgments he uttered.

***O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.***

Praise the Lord! Let us pray and praise together:

***It is time again to pray, O Lord. Sometimes we pray alone, and sometimes together. Sometimes we are afraid and cry out in prayer. Sometimes we are grateful and joyful in prayer. We pray in so many ways, O Lord. In this time together today, grant us your Spirit to open our hearts to your presence here, and everywhere, as we reach out to you in trust and faith. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”*** #74

\*LITURGY OF CONFESSION AND PARDON1  Adapted

We will hear the dramatic story of Joseph being thrown into a pit and then sold into slavery by his brothers. We too have known what it is to be betrayed. We too have known the feeling of being trapped and afraid. However, we too have been pulled in directions we do not wish to go and have often given in to go along. As we hear Joseph’s story, we honor our own stories of pain and regret. Let us pray.

***Lord of all our journeys, like Joseph’s brothers, we too find expedient ways to get rid of our problems; we too have cracks in our own families and communities that deepen with every unkind word, and with the rejection of those we could love. Betrayers turn their backs on their own and on those different from themselves. Forgive us when we resort to sinful ways and forget that we all belong to you. Grant us your peace, we pray. Amen.***

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“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Everyone who risks the uncertain walk of life and reaches out for the Lord, may take heart and not be afraid, for the Lord who saves is present.

***Truly the Lord is with us. Thanks be to God!***

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 pg. 32

SPECIAL MUSIC  *Where’er You Walk* Handel

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 14:22-33 pg. 15

REFLECTION

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“Jesus Calls Us o’er the Tumult”*** #345

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 *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less* Mote

\*SUNG RESPONSE2 ***“Spirit of the Living God”*** Vs. 2 #492

***Spirit of the living God, move among us all;***

***make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love: humble, caring, selfless, sharing.***

***Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love.***

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***We believe you are Lord of all, and that you care for everyone, O God our Creator, Savior, and Advocate. May our offerings of time, talent, and treasure reflect our personal response to your care for us, and our faith that you***

***bless them to do more than we may ever know. Amen.***

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\*HYMN ***“I Sing the Almighty Power of God”*** #31

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE  *Wonderful Words of Life* Bliss

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A joyous and blessed Sabbath to you, brothers and sisters in Christ! Welcome to worship.

The **bulletin** is given in loving memory of my husband Daryl Few on his August 11th birthday by Hilde Few.

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 dates to sponsor the bulletin are October 15th & 29th.

Thank you to **Greg Young** for serving as liturgist and to **Rae-Ellen Vogeler** for greeting.

A picture containing logo

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**THIS WEEK**

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

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

Fellowship Hall Reserved for June Stille’s birthday,

1:00 p.m.

Trivia Planning Meeting After Worship

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

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday: TOPS, 9:00 a.m.

Saturday: Barbecue, 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. or until sold out

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

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

Rally Day, 11:00 a.m.

Fellowship Hour by Worship/Fellowship/Christian

Ed.

Cement Step Replacement Begins This Week



We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of **Merle Rose** who died on Friday, August 4, 2023. A private funeral service was held on Thursday, August 10, 2023. May the peace and comfort that come from God sustain her loved ones during this time of grief.

**MISSION OF THE MONTH**

The August MOM is the church’s Food Box Distribution Program.

**SCRIP**

Thank you to all who continue to support this fundraising program and to those members of our church family who purchased gift cards for the trivia night “Great Gift Card Giveaway”. Contact Melissa Lane (314-575-7627) or Betty Meszaros (618-451-1968) with any questions. Next order submitted on the third Sunday of September.



On August 19, 2023 we will be having our church barbecue fundraiser. It will take place from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or until we sell out of items. The menu includes the following:

1lb Pork Steak & 2 Sides - $12.00

Bratwurst & 2 Sides - $12.00

¼ lb Hot Dog & 1 Side - $6.00

Side options will include Relleke Corn, baked beans, and potato salad. Desserts will also be available for an additional cost. Tickets will be available for pre-sale soon.

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Trivia Night is back! For the first time since 2019, plans are in progress for a fun-filled Trivia Night on Saturday, August 26th.  Invite family and friends. Since this is an alcohol-free event, older children are welcome IF they can be disconnected from cell

phones. Cost is **$120 per table** if you have one or any number up to the maximum of eight players per table. First and second place prizes awarded to winning tables. Popcorn, lemonade, tea and water are included and you can bring your own food and beverages (no alcohol please). Rather than the traditional silent auction offered only to those attending the event, this raffle will be open to all who purchase an entry slip.

**August 13** - Entry slips for the “Great Gift Card Giveaway” will be sold in fellowship hall after worship service TODAY. Total value will be announced. Charge will be $1 each, six for $5 , twelve for $10 or twenty-five for $20. Drawing will be at the August 26 Trivia Night. Winner need not be present.

**August 19** - “Great Gift Card Giveaway” chances sold during the Church Barbecue.

**August 20** - Raffle chances sold at Rally Day.

**August 23** - Deadline to register your table. Registration forms on back of inserts in bulletin. Pre-payment is appreciated but sometimes not logistically possible so payment accepted night of the event. Contact church office at 618-877-6060 if questions.

Proceeds from event will be used to purchase new computer equipment for church office and chairs for cemetery chapel.

**ANNUAL FALL MUM SALE**

It’s time to order your mums in our Annual Fall Mum Sale! Mums are 9 inches and $12.00 each with the color choices of bronze/orange, red, white, yellow, and pink/purple. Order forms are available on the table in the Narthex. Forms are due to the church office no later than **Sunday, August 27th**, with estimated pick-up being either September 16th or 23rd. Payment is due at the time your order is placed. If you have any questions, please call the church office at 618-877-6060.

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**FOOD BOX DISTRIBUTION**

On Wednesday, September 6th we will need help packing the food boxes beginning at 9:00 a.m. The distribution of those boxes will be the following Saturday, September 9th. We will also need

volunteers on Saturday starting at 8:0 a.m. for set up, with distribution beginning at 10:00 a.m.



**3RD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATIONS**

Any of our children entering 3rd grade this year 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.

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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 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

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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**

Carol Braundmeier, Earl Buenger, Marcia Buenger, Ruth Buer, Myra Cook, Hilde Few, JoAnn King, Karen Luddeke, Marjorie Schmidt, and Jerry Shonk.

**At Home**

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

**Illinois South Conference**

Dupo Christ UCC, Rev. Todd (Suzanne) Mushaney. Dupo First Congregational UCC, Rev. Julie Kies. Retired Pastor, Rev. David & Kathryn Riebeling, Fults, IL.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28**

Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. **2**These are the descendants of Jacob.

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father’s wives, and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. **3**Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children because he was the son of his old age, and he made him an ornamented robe. **4**But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.

**12**Now his brothers went to pasture their father’s flock near Shechem. **13**And Israel said to Joseph, “Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them.”

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He answered, “Here I am.” **14**So he said to him, “Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock, and bring word back to me.” So he sent him from the valley of Hebron.

He came to Shechem, **15**and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, “What are you seeking?” **16**“I am seeking my brothers,” he said; “tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock.” **17**The man said, “They have gone away, for I heard them say, ‘Let us go to Dothan.’ ” So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan. **18**They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them they conspired to kill

him. **19**They said to one another, “Here comes this dreamer. **20**Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams.” **21**But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, “Let us not take his life.” **22**Reuben said to them, “Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him”—that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. **23**So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the ornamented robe that he wore, **24**and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

**25**Then they sat down to eat, and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. **26**Then Judah said to his brothers, “What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? **27**Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.” And his brothers agreed. **28**When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

**Matthew 14:22-33**

**22**Immediately he made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. **23**And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, **24**but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. **25**And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. **26**But when the

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disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. **27**But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

**28**Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” **29**He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. **30**But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” **31**Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” **32**When they got into the

boat, the wind ceased. **33**And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

**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. From there, you can select a fund to which you’d like to make a contribution.**

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**Thank you!**

***“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”***

***Eternal Father, strong to save,***

***Whose arm has bound the restless wave,***

***Who told the mighty ocean deep***

***Its own appointed bounds to keep:***

***O hear us when we cry to thee***

***For those in peril on the sea.***

***O Christ, whose voice the waters heard***

***And hushed their raging at your word,***

***Who walked across the surging deep***

***And in the storm lay calm in sleep:***

***O hear us when we cry to thee***

***For those in peril on the sea.***

***Creator Spirit, by whose breath***

***Were fashioned sea and sky and earth;***

***Who made the stormy chaos cease***

***And gave us life and light and peace:***

***O hear us when we cry to thee***

***For those in peril on the sea.***

***O Trinity of love and power,***

***Preserve their lives in danger’s hour;***

***From rock and tempest, flood and flame,***

***Protect them by your holy name,***

***And to your glory let there be***

***Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.***

***“Jesus Calls Us o’er the Tumult”***

***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 from the worship***

***Of the vain world’s golden store,***

***From each idol that would keep us,***

***Saying, “Christian, love me more.”***

***In our joys and in our sorrows,***

***Days of toil and hours of ease,***

***Still he calls, in cares and pleasures,***

***“Christian, love me more than these.”***

***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.***

***“I Sing the Almighty Power of God”***

***I sing the almighty power of God***

***That made the mountains rise,***

***That spread the flowing seas abroad***

***And built the lofty skies.***

***I sing the wisdom that ordained***

***The sun to rule the day;***

***The moon shines full at his command***

***And all the stars obey.***

***I sing the goodness of the Lord***

***That filled the earth with food;***

***He formed the creatures with his word***

***And then pronounced them good.***

***Lord, how your wonders are displayed Where’er I turn my eye,***

***If I survey the ground I tread***

***Or gaze upon the sky!***

***There’s not a plant or flower below***

***But makes your glories known;***

***And clouds arise and tempests***

***Blow by order from your throne;***

***While all that borrows life from you***

***Is ever in your care,***

***And everywhere that I may be,***

***You, God, are present there.***

A poster for a trivia night

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St. John UCC Trivia Night

Table Registration Form

**This form is due in the church office by Wednesday, August 23rd.**

You can also submit your registration by phone (call 618-877-6060) or by email (send information to stjohnuccevents@gmail.com)

CONTACT NAME \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT ENCLOSED (please circle one) YES NO

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and the game will start at 7:00 p.m. Cost is $120.00 per table, with a max of 8 players at each table. Cash Prizes will be awarded to the 1st & 2nd place tables. Prizes will also include:

* 1 Super-Duper Gift Card Basket Drawing (chances sold before August 26th and during the evening of the 26th before the drawing)
* 50/50 drawing
* 1 Attendance prize drawing per round

Popcorn, iced tea, lemonade, coffee and ice will be provided at no additional cost.

*This event is smoke & alcohol free.*

**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