**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

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| --- | --- |
| August 20, 2023 |  12th 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 WITH A WAVE

\*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 Genesis 45:1-15

”You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me…..” And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him. (Gen. 45:10a, 15)

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

 *This Little Light of Mine* Spiritual

CENTERING THOUGHT1

*How good it is that sisters and brothers live together in human dignity. As we celebrate our common humanity this day, let us lift up a humane spirituality in song and silence, prayer and practice.*

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CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER Adapted from Hymn #596

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;

***Teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.***

Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe

***We are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and live.***

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life

***We struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.***

Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,

***To love them as we find them, or as they may become.***

Let us pray:

***Lord, we are glad that you accept us, and pray that in response we accept and love others. May we know by heart the gift of forgiveness, and laughter’s healing art. Give us new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on. Renew us with your Spirit; Lord, make us one! Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”*** #80

**BLESSING OF BACKPACKS**

Adapted from Resources

INTRODUCTION

RESPONSIVE READING

The Bible has many verses about teaching and learning.

Now we will read just a few.

***Psalm 78 says: Give ear, O my people to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth…We will not hide them from the children; we will tell them to the coming generation.***

Luke 11 says: Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.”

***Psalm 25 says: Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.***

John 14 says: Jesus said “I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you.

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***Proverbs 1 says: [Proverbs are] For learning about wisdom and instruction, for understanding words of insight, for gaining instruction in wise dealing, righteousness, justice, and equity; to teach shrewdness to the simple, knowledge and prudence to the young—to let the wise also hear and gain in learning, and the discerning acquire skill.***

Philippians 4 says: Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

***Mark 10 says: People were bringing little children to [Jesus] in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs.***

Teaching and learning happen in many ways and places, and with everyone of every age.

 ***We teach and learn during worship and Sunday School.***

We teach and learn at home and on the job.

***We teach and learn in the classroom and in activities, music rooms, sports, and more;***

On work sites and websites, in offices and kitchens, and more.

***Every day and everywhere, we set our minds to teaching and learning, and to sharing the wisdom God gives to everyone.***

BLESSING PRAYER

HYMN ***“Thy Word”***  #664

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD FROM THE YOUTH**

SKIT Adapted from John 21

Ms. Donna Brandes, Baylee Fischer, Eleanor Reynolds,

Conyr Fischer, and Allison Reynolds

CHILDREN’S SONG

BLESSING PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“Lord, Speak to Me”*** #593

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 *People Need the Lord* Nelson

\*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

 ***Lord, you invite us to eat with you—to be strengthened for the ministry you give each of us to do. You send us out to feed your sheep with your love. Bless our offerings to go where we may not be able to go, and to help in ways we may not individually be able to help. Bless us as we learn more ways of teaching the world of your love through our words and deeds, offered as you teach us to be faithful disciples. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“Alleluia No. 1”*** #291

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE  *This Little Light of Mine (Reprise)* Spiritual

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2Words: Daniel Iverson; vs. 2, Michael Baughen. Music: Daniel Iverson. Words & Music © 1935, Ren. 1963 Birdwing Music (Admin. EMI Christian Music

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Paul writes: “The gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable” (Romans 11:29, NRSV). God has called you, so receive his gifts for you today: his love, his forgiveness, his life.

The **bulletin** is given in celebration of Karla & Charles’ anniversary from Caslyn & Donna Brandes.

The **altar centerpiece** is given in celebration of our 35th wedding anniversary today by Rev. Karla Frost & Rev. Charles Preston.

The **altar vases** are given in memory of my grandmother, Ethel Lambert, and in memory of Mom & Dad’s, Charles & Wilma Parmley’s, anniversary by Bev Partney.

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 **Connie Ahlers** for serving as liturgist and to the **Sunday School Kids** for greeting.



**THIS WEEK**

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

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

 Fellowship Hour by Worship/Fellowship/Christian

 Ed.

 Rally Day, 11:00 a.m.

 Cement Step Replacement Begins This Week

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

 **Herald Deadline**

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Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday: TOPS, 9:00 a.m.

Thursday: Church Women United, 9:30 a.m.

Saturday: Trivia Night, 6:00/7:00 p.m.

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

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

 Mum Order Deadline

 Dedicate Catch-Up Offerings

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

**OFFICE REQUEST**

Do you have an old, rectangular recycling receptacle you’re no longer using? We are in need of a larger container for the recycling in the church office. If you have one to donate and are willing, it would be greatly appreciated.

**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.



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

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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.

**TODAY**, 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. The “basket” contains 31 gift cards at 23 area retailers, with a total of $650 dollar in value!

**August 23** is the 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 **next 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.

**MASTERS VOICE CHOIR GOSPEL CONCERT**

On August 24th and 25th at 7:00 p.m., there will be a gospel concert given by the Masters Voice Choir at First United Presbyterian Church on Delmar & 22nd St.

**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 8:00 a.m. for set up, with distribution beginning at 10:00 a.m.

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**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.



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 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**

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**OUR PRAYERS**

**Rehabilitation, Nursing, Assisted, & Independent Living**

**Anderson Rehabilitation Institute**, 3402 Anderson Healthcare Dr., Edwardsville, IL 62025

 Ruth Hubbard, #211

**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

**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

Melba Grady, 2727 Sunset Dr., G.C., IL 62040

Lou Hasse, 2689 Westmoreland Dr. Unit 2, G.C., IL 62040

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

Mina McBrian, 43 Eduardo, 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

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Janice Weeks, 2650 Iowa, G.C., IL 62040

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

**Illinois South Conference**

DuQuoin St. John’s UCC, Rev. Robert Morwell. East St. Louis Good Shepherd of Faith, Pastor Norma Patterson. Retired Pastor, Rev. Allen & Lynn Reiter, Hamel, IL.

**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!**

***“He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”***

***He’s got the whole world in his hands,***

***He’s got the whole world in his hands,***

***He’s got the whole world in his hands,***

***He’s got the whole world in his hands.***

***He’s got the wind and the rain in his hands,***

***He’s got the wind and the rain in his hands,***

***He’s got the wind and the rain in his hands,***

***He’s got the whole world in his hands.***

***He’s got the tiny little baby in his hands,***

***He’s got the tiny little baby in his hands,***

***He’s got the tiny little baby in his hands,***

***He’s got the whole world in his hands.***

***He’s got you and me, brother, in his hands,***

***He’s got you and me, sister,***

***In his hands,***

***He’s got all of us together in his hands,***

***He’s got the whole world in his hands.***

***“Thy Word”***

Words: Amy Grant; para. Psalm 119:105. Music: Michael W. Smith. Words & Music © 1984 Meadowgreen Music (Admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing) and Word Music. Reprinted by permission, CCLI License #1334401.

***Thy word is a lamp unto my feet***

***And a light unto my path.***

***When I feel afraid,***

***Think I’ve lost my way,***

***Still you’re there right beside me,***

***And nothing I will fear***

***As long as you are near.***

***Please be near me to the end.***

***Thy word is a lamp unto my feet***

***And a light unto my path.***

***I will not forget***

***Your love for me, and yet***

***My heart forever is wandering.***

***Jesus, be my guide***

***And hold me to your side;***

***And I will love you to the end.***

***Thy word is a lamp unto my feet***

***And a light unto my path.***

***“Lord, Speak to Me”***

***Lord, speak to me, that I may speak***

***In living echoes of your tone;***

***As you have sought, so let me seek***

***Your wandering children, lost, alone.***

***O lead me, Lord, that I may lead***

***The stumbling and the straying feet;***

***And feed me, Lord, that I may feed***

***Your hungry ones with manna sweet.***

***O teach me, Lord, that I may teach***

***The precious things which you impart;***

***And wing my words, that they may reach***

***The hidden depths of many a heart.***

***O fill me with your fullness, Lord,***

***Until my heart shall overflow***

***In kindling thought and glowing word,***

***Your love to tell, your praise to show.***

***“Alleluia No. 1”***

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***Alleluia, alleluia!***

***Give thanks to the risen Lord,***

***Alleluia, alleluia!***

***Give praise to his name!***

***Jesus is Lord of all the earth.***

***He is the King of creation***

***Alleluia, alleluia!***

***Give thanks to the risen Lord,***

***Alleluia, alleluia!***

***Give praise to his name!***

***Spread the good news o’er all the earth.***

***Jesus has died and has risen.***

***Alleluia, alleluia!***

***Give thanks to the risen Lord,***

***Alleluia, alleluia!***

***Give praise to his name!***

***We have been crucified with Christ.***

***Now we shall live forever.***

***Alleluia, alleluia!***

***Give thanks to the risen Lord,***

***Alleluia, alleluia!***

***Give praise to his name!***

***Come, let us praise the living God,***

***Joyfully sing to our Savior.***

***Alleluia, alleluia!***

***Give thanks to the risen Lord,***

***Alleluia, alleluia!***

***Give praise to his name!***