**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

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| --- | --- |
| October 1, 2023 |  18th 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 ***“Majesty”*** #43

***Majesty, worship his majesty;***

***unto Jesus be all glory, honor, and praise.***

***Majesty, kingdom authority***

***flow from his throne unto his own, his anthem raise.***

***So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus;***

***magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus, the King.***

***Majesty, worship his majesty;***

***Jesus, who died, now glorified, King of all kings.***

MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN Psalm 78:4 We will not hide [teachings] from children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord and his might and the wonders he has done.

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

 *Alleluia*  Sinclair

CENTERING THOUGHT1

*Be of one mind, the mind of Christ. Be of one spirit, the Spirit of God’s love. Be of one purpose as beloved people of God.*

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER

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Today we gather around the Lord’s Table from near and far.

 ***Whether gathered or scattered,***

 ***we are the Body of Christ.***

Though we may differ in language, custom, and tradition,

 ***We are brothers and sisters in Christ!***

At the name of Jesus every knee bends in heaven and on earth and under the earth.

 ***There is one God and Father of us all.***

May the Holy Spirit bless the world communion of the Church

this day.

 ***For through Christ, we believe we are one family of God.***

Let us pray:

***Holy and gracious God, let us be open to your Spirit’s presence here and among all your people throughout time and creation. Unite us in worshiping and honoring you, this Sabbath day and always. Unite us in caring for your good creation. Unite us in continuing obedience to building justice and righteousness, peace and goodwill for all. Unite us, we pray, and inspire us for life-long service. Amen.***

\*HYMN  ***“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!”*** #106

\*RESPONSIVE EPISTLE READING Philippians 2:1-11

If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, make my joy complete:

***Be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.***

Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.

***Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others.***

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped,

***But emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, assuming human likeness.***

And being found in appearance as a human, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

***Therefore God exalted him even more highly and gave him the name that is above every other name,***

So that at the name given to Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

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***And every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.***

\*SUNG RESPONSE ***“At the Name of Jesus”*** Vs. 1 #321

***At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,***

***every tongue confess him King of glory now.***

***‘Tis the Father’s pleasure we should call him Lord,***

***who from the beginning was the mighty Word.***

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON Exodus 17:1-7 pg. 61

ANTHEM *Amazing Grace* Chancel Choir

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 21:23-32 pg. 22

MEDITATION

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“One Bread, One Body”*** #689

PASTORAL PRAYER

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

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION

OFFERTORY *Be Thou My Vision* Schrader

\*SUNG RESPONSE2 ***“Give Thanks”*** #359

***Give thanks with a grateful heart,***

***give thanks to the Holy One,***

***give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ his Son.***

***Give thanks with a grateful heart,***

***give thanks to the Holy One,***

***give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ his Son.***

***And now let the weak say “I am strong,”***

***let the poor say “I am rich,”***

***because of what the Lord has done for us.***

***And now let the weak say “I am strong,”***

***let the poor say “I am rich,”***

***because of what the Lord has done for us, Give thanks!***

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION1

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 ***Beloved and loving God, bless these gifts, that they may bring unity to a world in strife. Bless our lives, that we may bring love to everyone we meet. Bless this church, that our fellowship may be a place of unity and inclusion for all. Amen.***

INVITATION1

This is the table of unity and love.

***This is the table of mercy and grace.***

All are welcome; be of one mind and one heart.

 ***We come with joy, with the mind of love.***

Come, all things are ready.

 ***And all are welcome here.***

COMMUNION PRAYER1

God be with you.

 ***And also with you.***

Lift up your hearts.

 ***We lift them up to God.***

Let us give thanks to the God of unity and love.

 ***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

It is right and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere,

to give thanks to you, almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

 ***In the beginning, you created us from dust.***

 ***You called us to live in your image and to be of one mind.***

Even when we grumbled and complained,

and we argued and fought, you called us to unity and love.

***Even when we neglected your teachings and turned away from your call, you invited us back into your vineyard of mercy and grace.***

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

 ***Holy, holy, holy One, God of power and might,***

 ***heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

 ***Hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

Holy are you and blessed is your beloved name. In the fullness of time, you sent Christ Jesus to call us anew to abundant life, compassionate love, and unity with you and your people.

 ***With encouragement and grace, Christ calls us now***

 ***to join in unity with his followers around the world.***

 ***May we be of one mind, live as one people,***

 ***and love with the power of your grace.***

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Through this amazing grace, we are invited to your table, welcomed in your love, and reclaimed as sisters and brothers of Christ.

***As children of your mercy and grace, we come with humble hearts and open minds, remembering how Jesus shared a feast of love, and how he invites us even now to share this feast of love with one another.***

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the life and love of Christ, that we may be the body of Christ for the world, redeemed and unified by Christ’s love and grace.

***By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with one another, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at your heavenly banquet.***

Through Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,

all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forevermore. ***Amen.***

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 have wine.

\*UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING3

***We give thanks, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior.***

\*HYMN & NOISY OFFERING FOR CEMENT STEPS

 ***“They’ll Know We are Christians”*** #595

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE  *Lord Dismiss Us With Your Blessing* Blessing

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Welcome! God says: “Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth” (Psalm 78:1). Let us listen for God’s voice as we worship.

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The **bulletin** is given in loving memory of my husband, our parents, family & friends by Rae-Ellen Vogeler.

The **altar vases** are given in loving memory of the September 30th birthday of Wallace Roethemeyer by his family.

If you would like to place **flowers on the altar**, and pick them up after church or on Monday, please call **Rosalie Watson** (618-741-2979). 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 October 29th.

Thank you to **Rev. Charles Preston** for serving as liturgist.

**THIS WEEK**

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

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

 Communion & Noisy Offering

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

 Evening Guild, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

 Bible Study, 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday: TOPS, 9:00 a.m.

 Bell Choir, 5:30 p.m.

 Chancel Choir, 6:30 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.

 Fellowship Hour by Cemetery Committee

**OCTOBER MISSION OF THE MONTH: NEIGHBORS IN NEED**

Today, we begin collecting the Neighbors in Need offering. Offering envelopes can be found on the table in the Narthex and were included in the October edition of the Herald. In 2023, the Neighbors in Need

**“BEHOLD!”** theme continues. This year’s focus is on environmental impact. Plastics, electronics, and other non-compostable wastes are being shipped across, and even tossed into, our waterways, launched into space, as well as buried in landfills. As people of faith, we believe these acts are harmful to creation. We must be better stewards of our planet!

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**SCRIP**

The October scrip orders will be submitted 10/15 with delivery in time for Halloween. Gift cards are available in $10 denominations and great for favorite trick or treaters. It’s not too early to start Christmas

shopping. Orders submitted second Sunday in November and December due to holiday business closures. December 10th will be the deadline to order in time for Christmas delivery. Master list of vendors and St. John “favorites” order forms are on the table in the blue folder in the Narthex. Give order form and check payable to St. John UCC to Betty Meszaros at any time. Cash is also accepted but only if giving order to Betty in person. You can still participate in the program if not attending in-person worship. Just drop off or mail your check to the church with a note of cards you are ordering. Cost is face value of the card with no tax or service fee. Rebate is automatically sent to the church. Contact Melissa Lane 314 575-7627 or Betty Meszaros 618-451-1968 with questions.

**SAUSAGE DINNER**

The Annual Sausage Dinner is right around the corner! It will be held on Sunday, October 15th from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and will be available for both dine in and carry out. Pricing is as follows:

**Dine In:** (all you can eat)

Adults - $15.00

Children 6-12 - $10.00

Children under 6 - Free

**Carry Out:**

 All ages - $15.00

All dinners will include sausage, sauerkraut, applesauce, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, and dessert.

For those who can volunteer to help, there will be a sign up board in the back of the church for you to register.

**ATTENTION EVERYONE!!!!**

Yes, believe it or not, that time is rapidly drawing nearer! The Sausage Dinner and Country Store is just over a month away! It isn’t too early to start making the items you would love to make for the “Big Day” October 15th. Featured in the Country Store every year have been Christmas Items, quilts, afghans, craft items, candy, jams, jellies, home canned goods, and other baked goods. Put your best foot forward and roll up your sleeves so you can make this year’s Sausage Dinner and Country Store a Huge Success!

Thank you,

Donna Brandes, Chairperson 618-802-1072

Nancy Jacobs, Co-Chairperson 314-712-6388

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**TRUNK-OR-TREAT**

It is that time of year again when spooky things are all around us. The St. John Youth Group along with the Christian Education Group will be sponsoring the 2nd Annual Trunk-Or-Treat on Sunday, October 29, 2023 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. This event will take place rain or shine in the church parking lot. Listed below are three things we need to make this event a success.

1. **Trunks** - We need volunteers to fill the parking lot with Halloween decorated vehicles. Let’s spruce up our trunks and/or truck beds with crepe paper and pumpkins and fill them with treats for the kids. While you are decorating your vehicle, remember to dress up yourself! Costumes are encouraged for everyone!
2. **Treats** - While those decorating their cars will bring treats for the kids, we will also need candy for game prizes and to shore up any shortages. Don’t want to donate candy? We will take other treats as well, such as spider rings, vampire teeth, spooky stickers, etc. Please bring donations anytime before October 29th and drop off in the church office.
3. **Helpers** - Don’t feel like cleaning out the trunk or bed of your vehicle? That is ok. We can use you at the games. We intend to have various games set up and are looking for volunteers to supervise. Again, this is a great chance to bring out your capes and wigs to participate in the fun by dressing up!

New this year we will have at least 2 food trucks along with some spooky music playing. To volunteer in any capacity, please contact:

 Sharon O’Toole - 314-420-1548

 sharon.otoole66@gmail.com

 Donna Brandes - 618-802-1072

 donnabrandes@yahoo.com

**JUSTINE WALKER MEMORIAL NUT & CANDY SALE 2023**

It’s that time again to order your goodies from Terri Lynn Nut and Candy! All funds raised will go to support St. John Cemetery. Look for printed brochures in the Narthex and tower, as an attachment in the online bulletin and on the website. Please take a brochure home and choose your products. Once you choose your products be sure to fill in your order form, which will be on the last page. Payment at the time of ordering is required. Cash and checks are acceptable. Please make checks payable to St. John Cemetery.

If ordering remotely, you can submit your orders by:

* Phone to Joan Mueller 618-830-0647
* Email to stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com

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* You can either drop off your payment at church or mail to Joan Mueller - 4480 New Poag Road, Edwardsville, IL 62025

**PLEASE DO NOT USE THE DONATE BUTTON ON THE WEB PAGE AS IT IS NOT SET UP FOR FUND RAISERS.**

All orders and payments must be received by Sunday, October 8th. Your order will be delivered to you at church in late October/early November. If anyone is interested in taking orders outside of church, please contact Joan Mueller so she can provide brochures and order forms. We look forward to filling your orders and supporting our cemetery and their vital works. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Joan Mueller (618-830-0647). Thank you!

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Nursing, Assisted, & Independent Living**

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

**At Home**

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

**Illinois South Conference**

Godfrey Evangelical UCC, Rev. Jerry (Lori) MeCaskey. Granite City St. John UCC, Rev. Karla (Rev. Charles Preston) Frost. Retired Pastor, Rev. Michael and Elizabeth Marx, Sr., Owensboro, KY.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Exodus 17:1-7**

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. **2**The people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?” **3**But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” **4**So Moses cried out to the Lord, “What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” **5**The Lord said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. **6**I will be standing there in front of

you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of

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Israel. **7**He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

**Matthew 21:23-32**

**23**When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” **24**Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. **25**Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’ **26**But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” **27**So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

**28**“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ **29**He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. **30**The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. **31**Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. **32**For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.

**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!**

***“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!”***

***All hail the power of Jesus’ name!***

***Let angels prostrate fall;***

***Bring forth the royal diadem,***

***And crown him Lord of all;***

***Bring forth the royal diadem,***

***And crown him Lord of all!***

***Ye chosen seed of Israel’s race,***

***Ye ransomed from the fall,***

***Hail him who saves you by his grace,***

***And crown him Lord of all;***

***Hail him who saves you by his grace,***

***And crown him Lord of all!***

***Let every kindred, every tribe***

***On this terrestrial ball,***

***To him all majesty ascribe,***

***And crown him Lord of all;***

***To him all majesty ascribe,***

***And crown him Lord of all!***

***O that with yonder sacred throng***

***We at his feet may fall!***

***We’ll join the everlasting song,***

***And crown him Lord of all;***

***We’ll join the everlasting song,***

***And crown him Lord of all!***

*“One Bread, One Body”* not printed due to copyright

***“They’ll Know We Are Christians”***

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***We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord.***

***We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord.***

***And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.***

***And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.***

***Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.***

***We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand.***

***We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand.***

***And together we’ll spread the news that God is in our land.***

***And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.***

***Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.***

***We will work with each other; we will work side by side.***

***We will work with each other; we will work side by side.***

***And we’ll guard each one’s dignity and save each one’s pride.***

***And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.***

***Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.***

***All praise to the Father, from whom all things come.***

***And all praise to Christ Jesus, his only Son.***

***And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one.***

***And they’ll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.***

***Yes, they’ll know we are Christians by our love.***