**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| September 24, 2023 |  17th 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 Philippians 1:21-30

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit.” (Vs. 28)

CHILDREN’S SONG *I’m in the Lord’s Army*

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

 *O Master Let Me Walk With Thee* Gladden

CENTERING THOUGHT1

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*God showers us with blessings, even when we complain. Perhaps especially when we complain. This is good news indeed!*

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER Fromthe late 18th century

 hymn text *Forward Through the Ages* by Frederick L. Hosmer

Forward through the ages, In unbroken line,
Move the faithful spirits At the call divine.
Gifts in diff'ring measure, Hearts of one accord,
Manifold the service, One the sure reward;

***Forward through the ages, In unbroken line,
Move the faithful spirits At the call divine.***

Wider grows the kingdom, Reign of love and light;
For it we must labor, Till our faith is sight.
Prophets have proclaimed it, Martyrs testified,
Poets sung its glory, Heroes for it died.

***Forward through the ages, In unbroken line,
Move the faithful spirits At the call divine.***

Not alone we conquer, Not alone we fall;
In each loss or triumph Lose or triumph all.
Bound by God’s far purpose In one living whole,

Move we on together To the shining goal!

***Forward through the ages, In unbroken line,
Move the faithful spirits At the call divine.***

Let us pray:

***Merciful and loving God, we take our marching orders from you, even when we struggle to accept them and answer your call. Like the Israelites in the wilderness, we complain and blame when we struggle to accept that life isn’t perfect for us. Like laborers treated unequally, we complain and blame when we struggle to accept your generosity of spirit with others. Yet we choose to worship you and give thanks that your mercy and love are unbroken and unending for all. And, we choose to move forward in faith and discipleship, united by answering your call, and led by your Spirit in each generation. Amen.***

\*HYMN  ***“Onward, Christian Soldiers”***  #509

 From the late 18th century hymn text by Sabine Baring-Gould

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\*RESPONSIVE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH2

Isaiah said:

“It shall come to pass that the peoples

shall beat their swords into plowshares,

and their spears into pruning hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation,

neither shall they learn war anymore.”

***This is our vision:***

***That a world of harmony and peace***

***will replace our world of injustice and war.***

Jesus said:

“Blessed are the peacemakers,

for they shall be called children of God.”

***This is our calling:***

***To know God’s ways of peace,***

***and so to make peace,***

***in our family and community,***

***our nation and world.***

Paul said:

“In Christ God was reconciling the world…

not counting their trespasses against them,

and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.”

 ***This is our faith:***

 ***That in Jesus, we meet God,***

 ***who makes peace***

 ***with our wayward and hurting world;***

 ***and that by this reconciling love,***

 ***we are moved to bridge the chasms***

 ***of fear and estrangement.***

May it be so.

***Amen.***

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON Exodus 16:2-15 pg. 60

SPECIAL MUSIC *In This Very Room* Chancel Choir

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 20:1-16 pg. 20

REFLECTION

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**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“Morning Has Broken”***  #35

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 *Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service* Bayly

\*SUNG RESPONSE3 ***“I Then Shall Live”*** Vs. 3 #372

***Your kingdom come around and through and in me,***

***your power and glory, let them shine through me;***

***your hallowed name, oh, may I bear with honor,***

***and may your living kingdom come in me.***

***The Bread of Life, oh, may I share with honor,***

***and may you feed a hungry world through me.***

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

 ***Holy One, we pray that our offerings may become your bread of life for hurting people. Guide them to the greatest need. Bless and multiply them for your mission of mercy and generosity, as we actively serve in Jesus’ name. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”*** #501

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE  *O Jesus, I Have Promised* Bode

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Family of Christ, grace and peace be with you as we gather to worship in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The **bulletin** is given in loving memory of George Few’s September 24th birthday by the family.

If you would like to place **flowers on the altar**, and pick them up after church or on Monday, please call **Christie Roth** (618-931-6194). 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 **Diane Peach** for serving as liturgist and to **Dorothy Kinney** for greeting.

**THIS WEEK**

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

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

 Youth Meeting on Youth Side, 10:45 a.m.

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

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

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

 **Rummage Sale Set-up, 9:00 a.m.**

 Bible Study, 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday: TOPS, 9:00 a.m.

 **Rummage Sale Set-up, 9:00 a.m.**

 Bell Choir, 5:30 p.m.

 Chancel Choir, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday: **Rummage Sale, 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**

Church Women United, 9:30 a.m.

Friday: **Rummage Sale, 8:30 a.m.-Noon**

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

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

 Communion & Noisy Offering

 Flour Collection for World Communion Sunday

 Begin Neighbors in Need Offering

**MISSION OF THE MONTH**

The September MOM is collecting children’s socks, undergarments, leggings, etc. to donate to the local school district’s social workers to distribute to district children in need.

**EVENING GUILD**

Our next meeting is October 2nd and we’ll be making advent calendars.

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**YOUTH MEETING**

There will be a Youth Meeting in the basement on the Youth Side at 10:45 a.m. today.

**WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY**

World Communion Sunday is October 1st. We ask that everyone bring bags of flour that will be donated to community agencies.

**NEIGHBORS IN NEED**

On October 1st, we will begin collecting the Neighbors in Need offering. Offering envelopes can be found on the table in the Narthex and will be 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!

**SCRIP**

Appreciation to all who continue supporting this fundraising project for the church. Next order submitted third Sunday of October (Sausage Dinner Day).  Orders and check payable to St John UCC can be given to Betty Meszaros at any time and will be held until October 15th.

**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

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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**



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

**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

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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
* 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**

**Hospital**

Carol Braundmeier is at Anderson Hospital.

**Nursing, Assisted, & Independent Living**

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, Ruth Hubbard, Chuck King, Mina McBrian, Cindy Meyer, Sandy Mueller, Cliff Robertson, June Stille, 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 16:2-15**

**2**The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. **3**The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and ate our fill of bread, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

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**4**Then the Lord said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. **5**On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” **6**So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, **7**and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord. For what are we, that you complain

against us?” **8**And Moses said, “When the Lord gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the Lord has heard the complaining that you utter against him—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the Lord.”

**9**Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites: ‘Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.’ ” **10**And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. **11**The Lord spoke to Moses, **12**“I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’ ” **13**In the evening quails came up and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. **14**When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. **15**When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.

**Matthew 20:1-16**

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. **2**After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. **3**When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, **4**and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. **5**When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. **6**And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ **7**They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ **8**When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ **9**When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. **10**Now when the first came, they thought they would receive

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more; but each of them also received a denarius. **11**And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, **12**saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ **13**But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? **14**Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. **15**Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’**16**So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

**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!**

***“Onward, Christian Soldiers”***

***Onward, Christian soldiers,***

***Marching as to war,***

***With the cross of Jesus***

***Going on before:***

***Christ, the royal Master,***

***Leads against the foe;***

***Forward into battle,***

***See his banners go.***

***Onward Christian soldiers,***

***Marching as to war,***

***With the cross of Jesus***

***Going on before.***

***Like a mighty army***

***Moves the Church of God;***

***Christians, we are treading***

***Where the saints have trod;***

***We are not divided,***

***All one body we,***

***One in hope and doctrine,***

***One in charity.***

***Onward Christian soldiers,***

***Marching as to war,***

***With the cross of Jesus***

***Going on before.***

***Crowns and thrones may perish,***

***Kingdoms rise and wane,***

***But the Church of Jesus***

***Constant will remain;***

***Gates of hell can never***

***‘gainst that Church prevail;***

***We have Christ’s own promise,***

***And that cannot fail.***

***Onward Christian soldiers,***

***Marching as to war,***

***With the cross of Jesus***

***Going on before.***

***Onward, then, you people,***

***Join our happy throng,***

***Blend with ours your voices***

***In the triumph song;***

***Glory, laud, and honor***

***Unto Christ the King:***

***This thro’ countless ages***

***With the angels sing.***

***Onward Christian soldiers,***

***Marching as to war,***

***With the cross of Jesus***

***Going on before.***

*“Morning Has Broken”* not printed due to Copyright.

***“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”***

***Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,***

***Pilgrim through this barren land;***

***I am weak, but thou art mighty --***

***Hold me with thy powerful hand:***

***Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,***

***Feed me till I want no more, (want no more,)***

***Feed me till I want no more.***

***Open now the crystal fountain,***

***Whence the healing stream doth flow;***

***Let the fire and cloudy pillar***

***Lead me all my journey through:***

***Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,***

***Be thou still my strength and shield, (strength and shield,)***

***Be thou still my strength and shield.***

***When I tread the verge of Jordan,***

***Bid my anxious fears subside;***

***Bear me through the swelling current,***

***Land me safe on Canaan’s side:***

***Songs of praises, songs of praises***

***I will ever give to thee, (give to thee,)***

***I will ever give to thee.***