**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| October 29, 2023 | Reformation Sunday (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 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.***

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth should change…

CENTERING THOUGHT1

Seek God’s presence, that God’s goodness, mercy, and grace may bless and strengthen you.

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*Come As You Are* Crowder

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CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER1 Based on Psalm 90 & Matt. 22

God has been our dwelling place in all generations.

***Before the mountains were brought forth,***

Before the earth and sky were formed,  
 ***God was from everlasting to everlasting.***

We come to worship this day,  
 ***That God may gather us in.***

We will be close to God’s heart,  
 ***And we will dwell in God’s grace.***

We will love God fully,

***And we will love one another well.***

Let us pray:

***God of Life, your memory is longer than time; your love longer still. Your giving nature amazes us. You have given us yourself. You have given us your work. You only ask for love in return, for you and for the world. You put your ministry into our hands, trusting us to be your hands. Bless the work of our hands and the ministries of our hearts, O God, as we seek to do your will. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”***  #507

\*LITANY OF CONFESSION AND PARDON1

God of Mercy, we hear your command to love one another.

***These words are easy to say, yet so difficult to do.***

If only loving could be as natural as breathing, but it takes work and dedication.

***Even when we think we are following you, God, it is easy to get distracted, overwhelmed, turned around, even lost.***

We turn to the loud praise of the world, rather than the quiet whisper of your blessing.

***We do the simple, the least-resistant, and leave the difficult behind.***

Turn us around, God.

***Turn us back to you when we have wandered, when we have suffered, or when we bring suffering on others.***

Show us once more what love looks like and send us into the world to try again.

***Amen.***

When we lose our way;

***When we are confused and confounded,***

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God waits with compassion, to turn us back to love, to grace, to God’s own face.

***Even before we ask for mercy,***

God has already forgiven us.

***God sweeps away our mistakes and misdeeds and calls us home.***

May the love of God, the peace of Christ, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be our dwelling place, now and forevermore.

***Amen.***

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON Deuteronomy 34:1-12 pg. 184

SPECIAL MUSIC *Who Am I* Casting Crowns

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 22:34-46 pg. 24

REFLECTION

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”***  #461

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 *God Alone* Unbroken

\*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.***

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***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

***Gracious God, you have given us mercy. You have given us love. You have been our calling, and you have been our home. Take now our hands and feet, O God, and use them for your purposes. Take now the offering of our hearts, minds, and souls. Transform them into your love, your mercy, and your everlasting grace for all the world. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“Faith of Our Fathers”*** #530

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE  *Sheep May Safely Graze* Bach

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Jesus, only in you do I find truth, and your truth sets me free (John 8:32). I thank and praise, bless and love you.

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.

Thank you to **Connie Ahlers** for serving as liturgist, to **Dorothy Kinney** for serving as Greeter, and to **Dan Comer** for serving as music technician.

**ANNUAL MEETING**

Our Annual Meeting will be held after worship and fellowship hour on Sunday, November 19, 2023. Please plan to attend.

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**THIS WEEK**

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

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

5th Sunday Cash Plate

Special Council Meeting, 10:45 a.m.

Trunk or Treat, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

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

Monday: Al-Anon, 9:30 a.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 Committee, 6:00 p.m.

GCC Band Rehearsal, 6:15-9:45 p.m.

Friday: Meat Sale Pick-up, 9:00-Noon

Saturday: Meat Sale Pick-up, 9:00-Noon

Christkindl Craft & Vendor Fair, 9:00-3:00

Next Sunday: Daylight Savings Time ends

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

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

Communion and Noisy Offering

Budgets Informational Meeting after Worship

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

Today is the last Sunday for our annual Neighbors in Need United Church of Christ special offering. Thank you to everyone who supports the work of caring for all God’s people.

**CELEBRATE THE CARDINALS**

No World Series for the 2023 Saint Louis Cardinals but what a year! Adam Wainwright’s historic 200th game winner, Jordan Walker’s rookie year in the big leagues, unbelievable defensive plays –– all captured in beautiful photographs. Many of these memories will be included in the Cardinals official 2024 calendar. The calendar measures 17” by 15” and includes the 2024 game schedule. Orders will be taken until November 12th with delivery in time for Christmas gift-giving. Cost of the calendar

will be the same $17 as last year. Each order also entitles the purchaser to one entry for the “Celebrate the Cardinals” gift basket. Basket includes two $20 gift certificates to Ravanelli‘s Steakhouse,

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book on history of Sportsman’s Park, Yadi Molina photo on wooden plaque and replica jersey plus so much more! Additional chances may be purchased $1 each or six for $5. Chances may also be purchased if no calendar order. Proceeds to benefit St. John Cemetery projects. Betty Meszaros will be in Fellowship Hall after worship services with order forms and raffle tickets or call the cemetery office at 618-876-5811 if questions.



**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 are sponsoring the 2nd Annual Trunk-Or-Treat today 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 any time 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](mailto:donnabrandes@yahoo.com)

**EVENING GUILD**

The Evening Guild will meet on Tuesday, Nov. 6th at 6:30 p.m. Please bring gently used treasures for the annual white elephant auction.

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**CHRISTKINDL CRAFT & VENDOR FAIR**

Next Saturday, November 4, 2023, 9:00-03:00, our Christkindl Craft & Vendor Fair will be held on the Youth Side and Fellowship Hall. Many exciting activities are planned including a visitor from the North Pole, face painting, food sales and various crafts and vendors. Volunteers are needed, and there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Please sign up today!



We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of Earl Buenger who died on Thursday, October 19, 2023. A funeral service was held on Monday, October 24, 2023. May the peace and comfort that come from God sustain his loved ones during this time of grief.

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Hospital**

**Nursing, Assisted, & Independent Living**

Bob Braundmeier, Marcia Buenger, Ruth Buer, Myra Cook, Hilde Few, Bonnie Fornaszewski, JoAnn King, Karen Luddeke, and Marjorie Schmidt.

**At Home**

Chloe Affolter, Karen Anders, Isabella Boyer, Mary Franz, Luitgard Fries, Melba Grady, Chuck Hasse, Lou Hasse, Barbara Houston, Chuck King, Mina McBrian, Cindy Meyer, Sandy Mueller, Cliff Robertson, June Stille, Janice Weeks, and Nancy Wilson.

**Illinois South Conference**

Jerseyville Peace UCC, Rev. Debbie Lawson. Godfrey Congregational Church. Retired Pastor Rev. Diane Grohmann.

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**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Deuteronomy 34:1-12**. Then Moses went up from the plains of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, which is opposite Jericho, and the Lord showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan, **2**all Naphtali, the land of Ephraim and Manasseh, all the land of Judah as far as the Western Sea, **3**the Negeb, and the Plain—that is, the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar. **4**The Lord said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants.’ I have let you see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there.” **5**Then Moses, the servant of the Lord, died there in the land of Moab, at the Lord’s command. **6**He buried him in a valley in the land of Moab, opposite Beth-peor, but no one knows his burial place to this day. **7**Moses was one hundred twenty years old when he died; his sight was unimpaired, and his vigor had not abated. **8**The Israelites wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days; then the period of mourning for Moses was ended. **9**Joshua son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him, and the Israelites obeyed him, doing as the Lord had commanded Moses.

**10**Never since has there arisen a prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face. **11**He was unequaled for all the signs and

wonders that the Lord sent him to perform in the land of Egypt, against Pharaoh and all his servants and his entire land, **12**and for all the mighty deeds and all the terrifying displays of power that Moses performed in the sight of all Israel.

**Matthew 22:34-46.** **34**When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, **35**and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. **36**“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” **37**He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ **38**This is the greatest and first commandment. **39**And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ **40**On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

**41**Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: **42**“What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” **43**He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spiritcalls him Lord, saying, **44**‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet” ’?

**45**“If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” **46**No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

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Thank you to **Carol & John Relleke** for all the pumpkins, gourds, goonies, edible squash, corn stalks and straw bales donated for the Country Store and for decorating the elevator and ramp entrances. Thank you to the employees at Relleke Farm, **Mary & Lynn**, for all of your assistance in getting all that was needed and all the extras.

Thank you to **Leroy Schaefer** for transporting all the goodies for the Country Store and decorations from the farm to the church. Thank you, **Leroy** and **Rusty Crider** for unloading all the goodies.

Without all of you and your donations of time, talent and treasure, the Country Store would be half full and there would be no beauty outside our church entrances.

Thank you to all who worked and made donations to the bazaar and who helped set up and clean up.

Christie Roth

**NOVEMBER HERALD**

Due to new computer issues and the changes in secretarial staff, the November Herald has not been prepared or mailed. We hope to send something during the first week of November.

**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. **Qr code

   Description automatically generatedOpen 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.**

**Thank you!**

**CALL FOR INFORMATION**

Bell Choir – Kathy Morris, 618-210-6095

Cemetery -- Kathy Montgomery, 618-876-5811

Chancel Choir – John Nitchman, President, 618-288-5297

Council – Kiki Cochran, President, 618-797-2511 or Donna Brandes, Vice President, 618-802-1072

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Evening Guild – Christie Roth, 618-931-6194

Financial Reports – Mike Seibold, Treasurer, 618-792-4301

or 618-877-6060 church office

Heavenly Stars – Betty Meszaros, 618-451-1968

Karen Gaines - 618-288-0845

Herald – 618-877-6060 church office

Hilltoppers – Dee Roethemeyer, 618-876-6860

Historian – Sandy Dawson, 618-791-8246

Men’s Brotherhood – Chuck Hasse, 618-876-0936,

Dave Douglas, 618-452-3336

Quilters – Sandy Dawson 618-791-8246

Doris Peterson 618-877-1606

Sausage Dinner – Donna Brandes, 618-802-1072

Nancy Jacobs -- 618-931-0673

Scrip Orders – Melissa Lane, 314-575-7627 or Betty Meszaros 618-451-1968

Sunday School – Donna Brandes, 618-802-1072

Youth Fellowship – Sharon O’Toole, 314-420-1548

**UPCOMING COMMUNITY & CHURCH EVENTS**

Granite City Community Band Concert, November 10, 7:00 p.m. at Grace Baptist Church in Granite City.

Music of the Spheres presents Don Stratton in concert on Saturday, November 11, 7:00 p.m. at First United Presbyterian Church in Granite City.

Master’s Voice Christmas Concert November 30 and December 1, 7:00, at First United Presbyterian Church.

Totenfest, November 26, 9:30 a.m., during Sunday Worship.

Parsonage Open House, Sunday, December 3, 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Christmas Ensemble Concert, Sunday, December 10, 1:00 p.m. featuring pianist Sun Hye Chung here at St. John UCC.

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