**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

March 14, 2021 Fourth Sunday in Lent

9:30 a.m. Worship (618) 877-6060

2901 Nameoki Road Granite City, IL 62040

E-stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com Web-stjohnuccgranitecity.com

**To follow safety guidelines, please**

**keep social distance, mask up, speak softly, and no singing**

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY

**Girl Scout Promise**

On my honor, I will try:
    To serve God and my country,
    To help people at all times,
    And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

Prayer for Girl Scouts of Christian Faith: ***Dear Father in Heaven, we know we are your children, we want to serve you faithfully, and we want to keep our Girl Scout Promise. Help us to listen to your voice; help us to be willing and quick to do your work; help us to be friendly and loving; and help us to thank you every day for all your gifts to us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN Ephesians 2:1-10

For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life. (Ephesians 2:10)

PRELUDE *Jesus, Who Didst Ever Guide Me* Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Adapted from *Worship Services for Lent* produced by the United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership © 1992.

-2-

God so loved the world, that God sent his only Son:

***The Word became a human being, and lived among us, full of grace and truth.***

God’s love was shown to the poor and the lonely:

 ***The doors of God’s realm were opened to all.***

And now we are called both to worship and wonder,

 ***To lift up our hearts and our voices in praise.***

Glory to God, today and forever,

 ***Glory to God, and peace to God’s world.***

Let us pray: Adapted from Psalm 107

 ***With the psalmist we give thanks to you, Lord, for you are good, your steadfast love endures forever. With those you have redeemed from trouble and gathered from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south, we worship you. You have saved your redeemed from distress, and delivered them from destruction. We thank you for your steadfast love. Amen.***

HYMN ***“To God Be the Glory”***

Words: Fanny J. Crosby. Music: William H. Doane

***To God be the glory, great things he hath done;***

***so loved he the world that he gave us his Son,***

***who yielded his life an atonement for sin,***

***and opened the life-gate that all may go in.***

***Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!***

***O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,***

***and give him the glory, great things he hath done.***

***O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,***

***to every believer the promise of God;***

***the vilest offender who truly believes,***

***that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.***

***Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!***

***O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,***

***and give him the glory, great things he hath done.***

***Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,***

***and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;***

-3-

***but purer, and higher and greater will be***

***our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.***

***Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!***

***O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,***

***and give him the glory, great things he hath done.***

LITANY OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Adapted from *Worship Services for Lent* produced by the United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership © 1992.

If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

***We all have fallen short of the glory of God.***

We depend upon the Holy One to lead us in the ways of life. Let us praise God.

***There is no God besides you who has the care of all creation as a priority. There is no God besides you who is so loving, lenient, and accepting.***

Knowing God gives us ground for hope. God encourages repentance for our sins; we offer confession.

***Just and kind Savior, you know our sins. You know the ways we have been spiritually dead. We have followed the course of the world and have forgotten your will. We believe that you are rich in mercy and offer a great love for each one of us. We believe we are saved by your initiative and not our own deeds. We trust that you will enable us to experience immeasurable riches as all things are made new again. Renew a right spirit within us. Amen.***

What will separate us from the love of God? Will famine, flood, or sword? No! God is stronger than all these things. God forges us, encourages us to repent, and renews the everlasting covenant with us.

 ***Thanks be to God.***

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON Numbers 21:4-9

SOLO *Beautiful Saviour* Ritch Alexander

GOSPEL LESSON John 3:14-21

-4-

REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE 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.***

RESPONSE *Still, Still with Thee* Mendelssohn

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION & BLESSING PRAYER

 Written by Karen Ellis for One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday

 ***Holy One, since the beginning of time, you have been creating and redeeming, sustaining and healing, all of creation. In your mercy, you have brought forth possibilities of new life within your people. Help us respond to your great gifts by offering forgiveness and healing, and by sharing the light of Christ with those we meet. Empower us for the ministry that lies ahead, in the name of Christ. Amen.***

HYMN ***“Softly and Tenderly”***

Words and Music: Will L. Thompson

***Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,***

***calling for you and for me:***

***see, on the portals he’s waiting and watching,***

***watching for you and for me.***

***Come home, (come home) come home, (come home)***

***ye who are weary, come home;***

***earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,***

***calling, O sinner, come home!***

***Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,***

***pleading for you and for me?***

***Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,***

***mercies for you and for me?***

***Come home, (come home) come home, (come home)***

***ye who are weary, come home;***

***earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,***

***calling, O sinner, come home!***

-5-

***O for the wonderful love he has promised,***

***promised for you and for me!***

***Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,***

***pardon for you and for me.***

***Come home, (come home) come home, (come home)***

***ye who are weary, come home;***

***earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,***

***calling, O sinner, come home!***

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Light of Lights, Lord of Lords* Birchwood

God is rich in mercy, loves you greatly, makes you alive through Christ (Ephesians 2:4-5) and welcomes you to this time of worship and fellowship.

The **bulletins** are given in honor of **Girl Scout Sunday** by Karen Orr, Connie Ahlers, Christy Dawson, Cindy Wallace, Marcia Buenger, Christie Roth, Karen Luddeke, Ruth Hubbard, Trish Stromlund, Sandy Dawson, Linda Mizell, Donna Brandes, Rachel Reynolds and Jessie Curran.

The **Altar Vases** are filled in honor of **Girl Scout Sunday** also by those who gave the bulletins.

If you would like to place flowers on the altar, and pick them up Monday, please call Sharon O’Toole at 314-420-1548. If you would like to sponsor the bulletins, please call the church office at 877-6060. The next available bulletin dates are April 25, and May 2, 16, & 30.

Please use the Meeting ID: **842 0206 5327** and Passcode: **384480** on the **Wednesdays of Lent** at noon to Zoom in for a 15-minute devotional service. It will be a simple service of reading with scripture and prayer. Maundy Thursday service will be at 7:00 p.m. on April 1.

**One Great Hour of Sharing**

Every year on the fourth Sunday in Lent United Church of Christ congregations and others make special offerings to support One Great Hour of Sharing. Therefore, we dedicate our gifts today, although you may give at any time during March. Envelopes were attached to the Herald. A guiding theme is **“You are here.”** “In the midst of suffering, where is God? God is here. Where are you? When you give to OGHS, you are here. Our gifts through the offering allow

-6-

the church to show up and be here when people need it most.” Read Matthew 25:31-46 for inspiration, and consider how “**You are here**” shows the church uniting to respond to needs,” and also “your answer to the question ‘Where do I fit in this picture?’ When God’s love abides in us, we are moved to respond with our own material goods to the needs of other members of the human family.”



**Sunday School for young children** **has** **resumed**. Everyone enters through the elevator entrance and follows all Covid19 procedures, including wearing masks at all times. No snacks are offered. Older youth are encouraged to attend worship in the Sanctuary or on Zoom.

In the envelope packets there are special Lenten envelopes. Coin folders are available on request. This year the Council has designated our **Lenten and Maundy Thursday** offerings to be for the Illinois South Conference DuBois Center and all its camp programs. Generations have been blessed to experience the wonders of DuBois and grow in faith. Our support will help continue offering this mission year to year.

The **Easter Lily** order deadline is tomorrow, Monday, March 15. Order forms were in the Herald and are in this bulletin. The cost is $12 per plant.

**THIS WEEK**

Today: Sunday School for Children

 One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

 Daylight Savings Time Begins. Spring Forward!

Monday: Lily Order Deadline

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

 Zoom Bible Study, 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday: Zoom Wednesday Devotional Service, Noon

 842 0206 5327 384480

Sunday: Sunday School for Children

 In-person and Zoom Worship

 Herald Deadline

**OUR PRAYERS**

**In Sympathy**

We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of **Deborah K. Reeves** who died on April 7, 2020. Due to Covid19 and weather issues, a graveside service was now held on Monday, March 8, 2021 at St. John

-7-

UCC Cemetery, Maryville Road. May the peace and comfort that come from God sustain her loved ones during this time of grief.

We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of **Earl L. Luehmann Jr.** who died on March 4, 2021. A memorial service was held on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at Irwin Chapel. May the peace and comfort that come from God sustain his loved ones during this time of grief.

**Nursing and Assisted Living**

Ruth Buer, Loretta Cook, Hilde Few, JoAnn King, Mary Lee Krohne, Karen Luddeke, and Nadine Ryan.

**Hilde Few** has moved to Villas of Holly Brook. Her new address is 121 S. Bluff Rd, Room 208, Collinsville, IL 62234

**At Home**

Ritch Alexander, Rose Marie Bauer, Isabella Boyer, Paul Boyer, Marlene Brokaw, Myra Cook, Randy Fischer, Mary Franz, Norman Hente, Bill McAmish, Billie Meyer, Cliff Robertson, Valara Schorfheide, Marge Schmidt, Merle Rose, June Stille, and Don Young.

**Illinois South Conference**

Biddleborn Trinity UCC, Pastor Julie Kies, Breese St. John’s UCC, Rev. James (Barbara) Donahue, Retired Pastor Rev. Paul Thompson, Jr., Red Bud, IL

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Numbers 21:4-9**

**4**From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. **5**The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.”**6**Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. **7**The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. **8**And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.”**9**So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever

a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

-8-

**John 3:14-21**

**14**And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, **15**that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

**16**“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

**17**“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. **18**Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. **19**And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. **20**For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. **21**But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”



-9-

**Want Information?**

Bell Choir – Talk to Kathy Morris, 618-345-7741

Cemetery – Kathy Montgomery, 618- 876-5811

Chancel Choir – Talk to Ritch Alexander

618-451-5092

Council – Talk to Karen Orr, President

618-558-4192

Caslyn Brandes, Vice-President 618-802-1152

Dine to Donate – Talk to Bev Meyer

618-451-6849

Evening Guild – Talk to Christie Roth

618-931-6194

Financial Reports – Talk to Mike Seibold,

 Treasurer, 618-792-4301

Diane Gerdt, church office

618-877-6060

Heavenly Stars – Talk to Betty Meszaros

618-451-1968

Karen Gaines, 618-288-0845

Herald – Talk to Office, 618-877-6060

Hilltoppers – Talk to Dee Roethemeyer

618-876-6860

Historian – Talk to Sandy Dawson,

618-931-3467

Men’s Brotherhood – Talk to Chuck Hasse

618-876-0936 or Dave Douglas,

618-452-3336

Quilters – Talk to Sandy Dawson

618-931-3467

or Doris Petersen 618-877-1606

Sausage Dinner – Talk to Donna Brandes

618-802-1072 or Nancy Jacobs,

618-931-0673

Schnuck’s Rebate – Talk to Betty Meszaros

 618-451-1968

Scrip Orders – Talk to Melissa Lane

314-575-7627

Sunday School – Talk to Donna Brandes

618-802-1072

Trivia Night – Talk to Kara Wright

 618-407-3591

Youth Fellowship – Talk to Sharon O’Toole

 618-797-1802

-10-

Please order a lily for me. Plants will cost **$12.00** each. Fill in the lines below exactly as you wish it to appear in the bulletin; (i.e., Mr., or Mrs., or

Miss, etc.) **DEADLINE** to order a lily is March 15, 2021.

(Please attach payments to this form and place either in the offering plate or bring/mail it to the church office.) PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY !!!!

IN LOVING MEMORY OF\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

OR

IN HONOR OF\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

OR

IN GRATITUDE FOR\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

BY

NAME:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# OF LILIES ORDERED \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED

(Make checks payable to: St. John United Church of Christ)



**SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION**

We know that children 5th grade and younger are excited about Easter for many reasons, and it is vital that they learn why we celebrate this day. **CHRIST IS RISEN!** That’s the lesson taught for all ages. Whether at home or in the church, that’s the lesson to be shared with children, so they know it by heart.

This year, of course, we will teach and celebrate the same message, but a little differently than in previous years. Covid19 safety practices must be followed for the sake of all ages. Therefore, children will need to be pre-registered to attend Sunday School on **Easter Sunday, April 4, beginning at 9:30 a.m.** This will enable class size location, planning, and preparation, as well as attendance recording. We will not have a traditional Easter Egg Hunt. Pre-filled baskets will be distributed as children leave the Sunday School area with family members. Please do not bring any personal baskets or goodies to Sunday School. No eating or drinking will be allowed to ensure that everyone wears a mask at all times. Enter through the elevator entrance which opens at 9:00 a.m., and then follow directions for classes. No other doors will be unlocked.

Please fill out and return the attached form for any children 5th grade and younger who will attend Easter Sunday School. Older youth will attend worship in the sanctuary. Thanks for your assistance in making this a safe, faith-filled, fun celebration.





Planning to come for Easter Sunday Sunday School?

Please sign-up so we can plan on you!

**Return this form by Sunday, March 28!!!!**

CHILDREN

CHILD’S NAME\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 CHILD’S AGE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

CHILD’S NAME\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 CHILD’S AGE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

CHILD’S NAME\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 CHILD’S AGE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

CHILD’S NAME\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 CHILD’S AGE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

CHILD’S NAME\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 CHILD’S AGE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

ADULT BRINGING CHILD/CHILDREN

NAME\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 ADDRESS\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 HOME PHONE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 CELL PHONE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

MAIL OR BRING FORM TO

ST. JOHN U.C.C., 2901 NAMEOKI RD., GRANITE CITY, IL 62040

OR TELEPHONE 618-877-6060 AND LEAVE A MESSAGE

OR EMAIL stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com

**See you Sunday, April 4, at 9:30 a.m.**