**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

April 25, 2021 Fourth Sunday of Easter

Rev. Karla Frost, Pastor Ritch Alexander, Organist

9:30 a.m. Zoom & In-Person Worship 11:00 a.m. Outdoor Worship

9:30 a.m. Sunday School for Children (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 and sing moderately.**

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN Acts 4:5-12

Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed…by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. (Acts 4:8b-10)

PRELUDE *Trumpets in Praise* Hughes

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Jesus said: “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

***We thank God for our Shepherd who offers life.***

Jesus said: “I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me.”

***We thank God for our Shepherd who knows us.***

Jesus said: “I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also…”

***We thank God for our Shepherd who cares for everyone.***

Jesus said: “There will be one flock, one shepherd.”

 ***We thank God for our Shepherd who is love.***

Let us pray together:

***How wonderful it is to be loved by you, O God, in all of life—in easy and difficult times, in faithfulness and uncertainty, in plenty and in want, in safety and in***

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***danger—with your goodness and mercy surrounding us forever. Lead us to be your obedient followers, united by love shared in your name. Receive our praise and bless our Spirit-filled worship, this day and all the days of our lives. Amen.***

HYMN  ***“The Lord My Shepherd Guards Me Well”***

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. Music: James L. Bain, arr. Gordon Jacob. Words © 1990 Hope Publishing Company. Music © 1932 Oxford University Press. Reprinted by permission, CCLI License #1334401

***The Lord my Shepherd guards me well, and all my wants are fed;***

***amid green pastures made to lie, beside still waters led.***

***My care-worn soul grows strong and whole when God’s true path I tread.***

***Though I should walk in darkest ways through valleys like the grave,***

***no evil shall I ever fear; your presence makes me brave.***

***On my behalf your rod and staff assure me you will save.***

***For me a table has been spread where all my foes can see;***

***you bathe my head with fragrant oil to soothe and honor me.***

***My heart and cup are both filled up with joyful ecstasy.***

***Your steadfast love will follow me to shield me all my days***

***and bring me to your holy house, redeemed from error’s ways,***

***my whole life long to join the song of those who sing God’s praise.***

RESPONSIVE PSALTER READING The Message1 & King James Versions

God, my shepherd! I don’t need a thing.

***The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.***

You have bedded me down in lush meadows,

***He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:***

You find me quiet pools to drink from.

***He leadeth me beside the still waters.***

True to your word, you let me catch my breath,

 ***He restoreth my soul:***

And send me in the right direction.

***He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.***

Even when the way goes through Death Valley, I’m not afraid when you walk at my side.

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***Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;***

Your trusty shepherd’s crook makes me feel secure.

 ***Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.***

You serve me a six-course dinner right in front of my enemies.

***Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:***

You revive my drooping head; my cup brims with blessing.

 ***Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.***

Your beauty and love chase after me every day of my life.

***Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:***

I’m back home in the house of God for the rest of my life.

 ***And I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.***

EPISTLE LESSON 1 John 3:16-24

SOLO *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* Ritch Alexander

GOSPEL LESSON John 10:11-18

REFLECTION

HYMN ***“All the Way My Savior Leads Me”***

***All the way my Savior leads me; what have I to ask beside?***

***Can I doubt his tender mercy, who through life has been my guide? Heavenly peace, divinest comfort, here by faith in him to dwell, for I know, whate’er befall me, Jesus doeth all things well;***

***for I know, whate’er befall me, Jesus doeth all things well.***

***All the way my Savior leads me, cheers each winding path I tread, gives me grace for every trial, feeds me with the living bread; though my weary steps may falter, and my soul a-thirst may be, gushing from the rock before me, lo! A spring of joy I see;***

***gushing from the rock before me, lo1 a spring of joy I see.***

***All the way my Savior leads me; O the fullness of his love!***

***Perfect rest to me is promised in my Father’s house above;***

***when my spirit, clothed immortal, wings its flight to realms of day, this my song through endless ages, Jesus led me all the way;***

***this my song through endless ages, Jesus led me all the way.***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

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 ***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 & BLESSING PRAYER

 ***Source of all Love, you give us love to share, love that goes beyond thoughts and words, and takes action. Bless our offerings to be love in action, as we listen to your voice and obey your commandments. Amen.***

HYMN ***“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”***

***Savior, like a Shepherd lead us, much we need thy tender care;***

***in thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use thy folds prepare: Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast bought us, thine we are; blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast bought us, thine we are.***

***We are thine, do thou befriend us, be the guardian of our way; keep thy flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray: Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear, O hear us when we pray;***

***blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear, O hear us when we pray.***

***Thou hast promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be; thou hast mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free: Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to thee;***

***blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, early let us turn to thee.***

***Early let us seek thy favor, early let us do thy will;***

***blessed Lord and only Savior, with thy love our bosoms fill: Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast loved us, love us still; blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, thou hast loved us, love us still.***

BENEDICTION Charles Preston

POSTLUDE *Hymn Medley* Karla Frost

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Welcome to worship as we continue to rejoice in the good news of Christ’s resurrection.

Last week’s **altar flowers** were given in honor of the 37th Birthday of Joshua David Douglas With Love from his parents, David and Veronica.

This week’s **altar flowers** are given in loving memory of George Rothemeyer by Dee Roethemeyer and Bob and Nancy Jacobs.

If you would like to place **flowers on the altar**, and pick them up Monday, please call **Sue Goedeke** at (618) 791-0137. If you would like to sponsor the **bulletins**, please call the **church office** at 877-6060. The next available dates are May 2, 16, & 30.

**Sunday School for children** **in the classroom by the nursery** 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.

**THIS WEEK**

Today: Sunday School for Children

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

 Outdoor Service 11:00 a.m.

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

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

 Zoom Bible Study, 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday: Tops, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Saturday: ISC virtual Day of Discipleship

Next Sunday: Sunday School for Children

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

 Outdoor Service 11:00 a.m.

 Communion & Noisy Offering

We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of Bill Monse, Cindy Wallace’s brother, who passed from this life on Wednesday, April 20, 2021. We ask that you keep his family in your prayers. May the peace and comfort that come from God sustain his loved ones during this time of grief.

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Nursing and Assisted Living**

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

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**At Home**

Ritch Alexander, Rose Marie Bauer, Isabella Boyer, Marlene Brokaw, Myra Cook, Randy Fischer, Bonnie Fornaszewski, Mary Franz, Norman Hente, Don Luddeke, Bill McAmish, Billie Meyer, Sandy Mueller, David Oliver Jr., Cliff Robertson, Merle Rose, Valara Schorfheide, Marge Schmidt, June Stille, and Don Young.

**Illinois South Conference**

Darmstadt Holy Ghost UCC, DuBois St. Mark’s UCC, Pastor Tom (Marcia) Ellison, Retired Pastor, Rev. David and Kathryn Reibeling, Fults, IL.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**1 John 3:16-24**

**16**We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. **17**How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20John%203%3A16-24&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-30579a)] in need and yet refuses help? **18**Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. **19**And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him **20**whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. **21**Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; **22**and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. **23**And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. **24**All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

**John 10:11-18**

**11**“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. **12**The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. **13**The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. **14**I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, **15**just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. **16**I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. **17**For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. **18**No one takes[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2010%3A11-18&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-26489a)] it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

Our ministries, our ways of connecting with our members and our community, and our ways of utilizing technology have changed and evolved during the past year. Let’s gather to learn how we can share resources and ideas which can strengthen the work of the Church. The event will take place on Zoom with the opportunity to attend 3 of 6 different workshops.

**Workshop Choices – *You will choose your workshops during the event.***

**Workshop #1 – “Blest Be the Zoom that Binds”**

*Panelist – Rev. Christy Eckert, St. John UCC Tenton and Dale Ritzel, COGS, Carbondale:* Learn more about using Zoom for worship services, meetings, & staying connected. Join a frank discussion about pros & cons, costs, what works & what doesn’t, & future possibilities for using Zoom

**Workshop #2 – “From the Mail Box to the Zoom Box: Communicating Effectively with Multiple Generations”**

*Panelist – Rev. Michelle Torigian, St. Paul UCC Belleville:* This past year has made us rethink much of the way we communicate with each other. While many are embracing Zoom, others are still relying on newsletters, phone calls, and radio. Let’s talk about creative ways to communicate with ALL generations in our churches and communities to ensure that no one gets left out of our communications.

**Workshop #3 – “From Virtual to Hybrid --- How do we choose?”**

*Panelist – Katie Hotze-Wilton, Eden Theological Seminary:* There is so much technology to choose from and so much to learn.What questions should we be asking? And who will become the tech steward? Finding the answers together.

**Workshop #4 – “Live Streaming Your Church Events”**

*Panelists: Ev. Jeremy Wood, Salem UCC, Alhambra and Rev. Don Wagner, St. Paul UCC, Lebanon:* Live-streaming is not as scary as it sounds. With the expertise of two of our ISC churches that have been live-streaming their services, you can learn why you should and how you can implement live-streaming, as well as learn how to avoid the pitfalls of live broadcasting.

**Workshop #5 – “Mental Health & Isolation During the Pandemic”**

*Panelist – Rev. Tim Darmour-Paul, Grantfork UCC & Rev. Lori Schafer, St. John Midway UCC Moro:* We focused last year’s Day of Discipleship on mental health, having no idea that just a few weeks later we would be thrown into a pandemic that none of us had before navigated. We will discuss isolation caused by the pandemic, the rise in suicides in the past year, and ways to help as told by some of our WISE congregations (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged).

**Workshop #6 – “Town Hall Conversation with Low-Tech & No-Tech Congregations”**

*Panelist – Rev. Andy Wilson, St. John’s UCC Smithton & Rev. Rosemary Captain, St. John UCC Fairview Heights:* Are you a member of a low-tech or no-tech congregation, and are you feeling overwhelmed by all the technological demands of the pandemic? Do you feel like your congregation is being left behind in ministry and outreach because your congregation is not technologically savvy? This breakout session will talk about engaging in fruitful ministry, even though they are not serving technologically advanced churches. Also, this will be a space for open dialog and exchange of ideas for all churches (laity and clergy alike) to share their experiences.

* **Fee for the event:** $25/person. *If you need assistance with the fee, please contact the ISC registrar at* *jriechmann@iscucc.org*

Register at <http://www.iscucc.org>

* **Schedule for the day:**

8:45 am – 9:00 am Participants log in

 9:00 am – 9:30 am Opening devotion and presentation of schedule

 9:30 am – 10:10 am Workshop 1

 10:20 am – 11:00 am Workshop 2

 11:10 am – 11:50 am Workshop 3

The 40-minute workshop times are intended to offer the last ten minutes (at least) for questions and comments from the attendees. Ten-minute breaks between the workshops will allow all participants to get away from the screens for a bit and choose their next workshop. **All six sessions will be available for all three workshop times.**