**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

June 20, 2021 4th Sunday after Pentecost

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

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**Following current guidelines, face masks are optional for those vaccinated, and REQUIRED for those not vaccinated.**

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN 1 Samuel 17:1a, 4-11, 19-23, 32-49

But David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with sword and spear and javelin; but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.” (1 Samuel 17:45)

PRELUDE *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* Zundel

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER1

Gather in awe before God, who laid the foundations of the earth.

Open your hearts to the steadfast love God offers.

***The deeds of God are beyond our knowing.***

***Yet we catch glimpses of God’s mercy and care.***

God does not forsake us when we are dismayed and afraid.

Our Creator is with us in all times and places.

***God is a stronghold for the oppressed and troubled.***

***The needy and the poor are not forgotten.***

God is ready to listen to us in these moments together.

See, now is the acceptable time, the day of salvation.

 ***Surely God will meet us here in our faith community!***

 ***How good it is when we sense our unity in Christ!***

Let us pray together:

***We sing praises to you, O God, for you have been gracious to us amid the storms of life. We do battle with many***

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***enemies within and among us, but you give us confidence and courage to face them. Out of the whirlwind, you answer when we call. We have gathered to listen for the voice we sometimes cannot hear in the daily clamor of our lives. Help us to discard the excess baggage and unnecessary armor that keeps us from the fullness of life you intend for us. Amen.***

***Amen.***

HYMN  ***“God of Grace and God of Glory”***

***God of grace and God of glory,***

***on your people pour your power;***

***crown your ancient church’s story,***

***bring its bud to glorious flower.***

***Grant us wisdom, grant us courage***

***for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.***

***Lo! The hosts of evil round us***

***scorn your Christ, assail his ways!***

***Fears and doubts too long have bound us—***

***free our hearts to work and praise.***

***Grant us wisdom, grant us courage***

***for the living of these days, for the living of these days.***

***Heal your children’s warring madness,***

***bend our pride to your control;***

***shame our wanton, selfish gladness,***

***rich in things and poor in soul.***

***Grant us wisdom, grant us courage***

***lest we miss your kingdom’s goal,***

***lest we miss your kingdom’s goal.***

***Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;***

***let the gift of your salvation be our glory evermore.***

***Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,***

***serving you whom we adore, serving you whom we adore.***

LITANY *Stand by Me* Verses 1, 2 & 3

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When the storms of life are raging, stand by me;

 ***When the storms of life are raging, stand by me.***

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When the world is tossing me like a ship upon the sea,

 ***Thou who rulest wind and water, stand by me.***

In the midst of tribulation, stand by me;

 ***In the midst of tribulation, stand by me.***

When the hosts of sin assail, and my strength begins to fail,

 ***Thou who never lost a battle, stand by me.***

In the midst of faults and failures, stand by me;

 ***In the midst of faults and failures, stand by me.***

When I’ve done the best I can, and my friends misunderstand,

 ***Thou who knowest all about me, stand by me.***

EPISTLE LESSON 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

SOLO *All the Time in the World* Linda Mizell

GOSPEL LESSON Mark 4:35-41

REFLECTION

HYMN ***“Be still, My Soul”***

Words: Katherina von Schlegel; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, alt. Music: Jean Sibelius; arr. *Hymnal 1933*. Music Arr. © 1933, Ren. 1961 Presbyterian Board of Education (Admin. Westminster John Knox Press). Reprinted by permission, CCLI License #1334401

***Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side!***

***Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;***

***leave to your God to order and provide—***

***in every change he faithful will remain.***

***Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly friend***

***through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.***

***Be still, my soul: your God will undertake***

***to guide the future as he has the past;***

***your hope, your confidence let nothing shake—***

***all now mysterious shall be bright at last.***

***Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know***

***his voice who ruled them while he dwelt below.***

***Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on***

***when we shall be forever with the Lord,***

***when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,***

***sorrow forgot, love’s purest joys restored.***

***Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,***

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***all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, THE LORD’S PRAYER & RESPONSE

 ***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 PRAYER1

“BLANKETS & TOOLS” ANNUAL OFFERING & WEEKLY OFFERINGS

 ***Thank you, God for meeting us in our need. We give that others in even greater need might not be forgotten. We are grateful for the trust you place in us. We give that others might respond to the good news of your love. We are hearing the word Jesus spoke in the midst of a storm: “Peace! Be still!” With fresh calm and confidence, we give of ourselves that others might live. Thank you, God, for your steadfast love endures forever. Amen.***

HYMN ***“Faith of Our Fathers”***

***Faith of our fathers, living still***

***in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword.***

***O how our hearts beat high with joy***

***whene’er we hear that glorious Word!***

***Faith of our fathers, holy faith,***

***we will be true to you till death.***

***Faith of our mothers, we will love***

***both friend and foe in all our strife,***

***and preach it, too, as love knows how,***

***by kindly words and virtuous life!***

***Faith of our mothers, holy faith,***

***we will be true to you till death.***

***Faith of the martyrs who, though bound,***

***were still in heart and conscience true.***

***How blest would be their children’s fate,***

***if they, like them, should live for you!***

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***Faith of the martyrs, holy faith,***

***we will be true to you till death.***

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *March Pontificale* Barringer

1The Call to Worship & Prayer and the Blessing Prayer are Reprinted by permission of United Church Press from *Led by Love* by Lavon Bayler. Copyright 1996 by United Church Press.

A blessed Father’s Day to the dads and father figures among us, and a blessed Sabbath day to all! Welcome to worship.

The **bulletin** is given in loving memory of their father, Alvin Henry Willaredt by Stephen Willaredt and family.

The **altar vases** are given in loving memory of Marty Wright by Kara, Aaron, Christine, Genevieve and Drew Wright.

The **altar centerpiece** is given in honor of the June 23rd birthday of Josie Dawson by Grandma and Grandpa.

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 date is July 18.

**Thank you** to Kiki Cochran for serving as liturgist today.

**Thank you** to Linda Mizell for providing special music.

The **Schnucks rebate program** will be discontinued June 30th.  Appreciation to all who have supported this fundraising opportunity for our church. We have been part of this program for a long time and have received monies for our general fund throughout the years.  Thank you to Donna Brandes who coordinated the program at its inception. Please note this is separate from the scrip (gift cards) project which will be continued. Now that Covid restrictions are being lifted and church activities are starting, the plan is to resume the scrip program in the fall. Orders will be taken following certain worship services.  Details will be announced.

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**THIS WEEK**

Today: **Father’s Day**

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

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

 Outdoor Service, 11:00 a.m.

 Dedicate CWS Blankets & Tools Offering

Monday: Herald Deadline

 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.

Thursday: Church Women United, 10:00 a.m.

Friday: 64th Anniversary of the United Church of Christ

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

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

 Outdoor Service, 11:00 a.m.

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

We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of Valara Schorfheide who passed from this life on Monday, June 14, 2021. A funeral service was held on Friday, June 18, 2021. 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 Colby Dennis Smith, who passed from this life on May 16, 2021. A funeral service was held on Thursday, May 27, 2021. He was interred at St. John Cemetery on Wednesday, June 16, 2021. 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.

**At Home**

Ritch Alexander, Rose Marie Bauer, Isabella Boyer, Marlene Brokaw, Myra Cook, Janet Cowley, Randy Fischer, Bonnie Fornaszewski, Mary Franz, Norman Hente, Denise Lofink, Bill McAmish, Sandy Mueller, David Oliver Jr., Karen Orr, Cliff Robertson, Merle Rose, Marge Schmidt, June Stille, and Don Young.

**Illinois South Conference**

Grantfork UCC, Rev. Timothy (Rev. Janet) Darmour-Paul. Hamel Immanuel UCC, Rev. Dana Schindler. Retired Pastor, Rev. James and Lelynna Langdoc, Sun City Center, FL.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**2 Corinthians 6:1-13**

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. **2**For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.” See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! **3**We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, **4**but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, **5**beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; **6**by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, **7**truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; **8**in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; **9**as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; **10**as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything. **11**We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. **12**There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. **13**In return—I speak as to children—open wide your hearts also.

**Mark 4:35-41**

**35**On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” **36**And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. **37**A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. **38**But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” **39**He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. **40**He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” **41**And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”