**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| July 25, 2021 | 9th Sunday after Pentecost |
| Rev. Karla Frost, Pastor | Ritch Alexander, Organist |
| 9:30 Zoom & In-Person Worship | 9:30 Sunday School for Children |
| 2901 Nameoki Road | Granite City, IL 62040 |
| E-stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com | (618) 877-6060 |

Web-stjohnuccgranitecity.com

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

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, WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN 2 Samuel 11:1-15 pg. 271

In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel with him…But David remained at Jerusalem. (2 Sam. 11:1)

PRELUDE *The Lost Chord* Sullivan

 Ritch Alexander and Carolyn Jenkins

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER1

This is the hour to bend our knee before God.

This is a time to offer our best to our Creator.

 ***We gather before God, who sees all our deeds.***

 ***We open our hearts to One who knows all our thoughts.***

Fools say in their hearts, “There is no God.”

We come together proclaiming, “God is with us!”

 ***We come to be strengthened in our inner being.***

 ***We seek to pattern our actions after Christ Jesus.***

God’s presence evokes our joyous worship.

The Holy Spirit empowers our service.

 ***To God be highest glory in the church.***

 ***To God be endless adoration in the world.***

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Let us pray together:

***We are seeking after you, loving God, for you are our refuge. Your power is at work within and among us, even when we are unaware. We want to respond as faithful friends of Jesus. We have come to discover the riches we did not know we possessed. We are here to offer our best for the good of all. Use us, we pray, to accomplish in and through this church, far more than we can ask or imagine. All glory be to you, amazing God, in this and every hour, forever and ever. Amen.***

\*HYMN  ***“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”*** #71

\*RESPONSIVE PSALTER READING Psalm 145:8-19

The Lord is gracious and merciful,

slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

 ***The Lord is good to all,***

 ***and his compassion is over all that he has made.***

All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,

and all your faithful shall bless you.

 ***They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom,***

 ***and tell of your power,***

To make known to all people your mighty deeds,

and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

 ***Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,***

 ***and your dominion endures throughout all generations.***

The Lord is faithful in all his words,

and gracious in all his deeds.

 ***The Lord upholds all who are falling,***

 ***and rises up all who are bowed down.***

The eyes of all look to you,

and you give them their food in due season.

 ***You open your hand,***

 ***satisfying the desire of every living thing.***

The Lord is just in all his ways,

and kind in all his doings.

 ***The Lord is near to all who call on him,***

 ***to all who call on him in truth.***

He fulfills the desire of all who fear him;

he also hears their cry, and saves them.

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**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

EPISTLE LESSON Ephesians 3:14-21 pg. 182

SPECIAL MUSIC *March (from the 5th Symphony)* Beethoven

 Ritch Alexander and Carolyn Jenkins

GOSPEL LESSON John 6:1-21 pg. 91

SERMON

 **WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“Break Now the Bread of Life”*** #665

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 AND BENEVOLENT ENDOWMENT FUND INCOME GIFTS

 Community Care Our Good Samaritan Fund

 Good Samaritan House TWIGS

OFFERTORY  *Arioso* Handel

\*SUNG RESPONSE

 ***“As Saints of Old Their First-Fruits Brought”*** Vs. 2 #570

Words: Frank von Christierson, alt. © 1961, Ren. 1989 The Hymn Society (Admin. Hope Publishing Company)

***A world in need now summons us to labor, love, and give,***

***to make our life an offering to God, that all may live.***

***The church of Christ is calling us to make the dream come true:***

***a world redeemed, by Christ-like love, all life in Christ made new.***

***With gratitude and humble trust we bring our best to you,***

***not just to serve your cause but share your love with neighbors too.***

***O God, who gave yourself to us in Jesus Christ your Son,***

***help us to give ourselves each day until life’s work is done.***

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\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

 ***With Christ in our hearts we offer our gifts with love and hope. May they accomplish even more than we can imagine. And, may we not fear to do as much good as possible throughout our lives, because Jesus is with us always. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“Rise Up, O Saints of God”***  #590

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE *Rise Up and Serve the Lord* Harris

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Welcome! This morning may Christ “dwell in your hearts through faith,” and may you “grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ” (Ephesians 3:17-18, NIV).

The **bulletin** is given in loving memory of my Dad, John Koester by Connie Ahlers.

If you would like to place **flowers on the altar**, and pick them up Monday, please call **Mary Jo Seibold** at (618) 792-0120. If you would like to sponsor the **bulletins**, please call the **church office** at 877-6060. The next available dates are August 1 & 15.

**Thank you** to Greg Young for serving as liturgist today, and to Ritch Alexander & Carolyn Jenkins for providing special music.

**THIS WEEK**

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

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

 Benevolent Fund Recognitions

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

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

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

 Bible Study, 12:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

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

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

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

 Communion & Noisy Offering

 **Mum Orders Due**

Fellowship Hall Reserved, 11:30-4:30

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**RUMMAGE SALE**

This year’s Rummage Sale will take place September 23 & 24. Items for the sale may be dropped off starting September 5, 2021. Setup will take place September 21 & 22. We will need volunteers. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 877-6060.

**MISSION OF THE MONTH**

Once again, our July mission is to collect school supplies for the coming school year that begins in August. The students will need notebooks, paper, pencils, markers, crayons, and backpacks. And anything else you can come across that you know the students use. Just bring your donations to the sanctuary during the week or on Sunday. We will see that they get distributed to the requested location. Thanks to everyone for helping with this project.



**FIRST ANNUAL FALL MUM SALE**

Reminder that mum order forms are due no later than August 1, 2021. A completed order form consists of the buyer’s name, phone number, number and color of mums, and full payment at the time of the order. Forms were included in the July edition of the Herald, but printed copies are available in the church office if you find yourself in need of another. It is also available for download on the church website under the “Events” tab. Forms and payment can be submitted after each Sunday church service or to the church office during the week. All members are encouraged to sell these mums to those they know. Proceeds from this fundraiser are earmarked for multiple areas in the sanctuary where the plaster needs to be repaired, the balcony outer wall being one of them. Since the outside of the church has been cleaned and sealed, it is time to repair the water damage that occurred on the inside of the church. Bev Meyer will be in the Narthex to take orders, distribute order forms, or answer questions.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Ephesians 3:14-21**

**14**For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, **15**from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. **16**I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, **17**and that Christ may

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dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. **18**I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, **19**and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. **20**Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, **21**to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

**John 6:1-21**

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. **2**A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. **3**Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. **4**Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. **5**When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?” **6**He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. **7**Philip answered him, “Six months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.” **8**One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, **9**“There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?” **10**Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. **11**Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. **12**When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, “Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.” **13**So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. **14**When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, “This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.” **15**When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself. **16**When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, **17**got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. **18**The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. **19**When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. **20**But he said to them, “It is I; do not be afraid.” **21**Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

**OUR PRAYERS**

***Nursing & Assisted Living***

**Cedarhurst of Granite City**, 3450 Village Ln., Granite City, IL 62040

Loretta Cook,#507

**Cedarhurst of Granite City, Memory Care**, 3432 Village Lane, Granite City, IL 62040

 JoAnn King, #215

**The Fountains of West County**, 15826 Clayton Rd, Ellisville, MO 63011

Ruth Buer, #215

**Granite Nursing & Rehab**, 3500 Century Dr, Granite City, IL 62040

 Karen Luddeke

**Meridian Village**, 27 Auerbach Pl., Glen Carbon, IL 62034

Mary Lee Krohne, #611

**Villas of Holly Brook**, 121 S. Bluff Rd, Collinsville, IL 62234

 Hilde Few, #208

***At Home***

**Ritch Alexander**, 2243 Cleveland, Granite City, IL 62040

**Rose Marie Bauer**, 1438 Schaefer Rd. Granite City, IL 62040

**Isabella Boyer**, 20 Englewood Dr., Glen Carbon, IL 62034

**Nancy Boyer**, 26 Hickory Hill Lane, Glen Carbon, IL 62034

**Marlene Brokaw**, 112 Summit Rdg., Maryville, IL 62062

**Myra Cook**, 4034 Stearns Ave., Granite City, IL 62040

**Janet Cowley**, 2905 Sunset Drive, Granite City, IL 62040

**Randy Fischer**, 2517 Edison Ave., Granite City, IL 62040

**Bonnie Fornaszewski**, 200 Carlson Ave., Apt. 17D, Washington, IL 62040

**Mary Franz**, 3117 Willow Ave., Granite City, IL 62040

**Norman Hente**, 3708 Joyce St., Granite City, IL 62040

**Bill McAmish**, 3320 Colgate Pl., Granite City, IL 62040

**Sandy Mueller**, 308 Warson Ln., Granite City, IL 62040

**David Oliver Jr.**, 2716 Dale Ave., Granite City, IL 62040

**Karen Orr**, 421 Edwardsville, Apt 1, Troy, IL 62294

**Cliff Robertson**, 2336 O’Hare Ave., Granite City, IL 62040

**Merle Rose**, 2447 Waterman Ave., Granite City, IL 62040

**Marge Schmidt**, 4857 Danielle Court, Granite City, IL 62040

**June Stille**, 49 Riviera, Granite City, IL 62040

**Linda Sturman**, 144 Stonebridge Crossing, Maryville, IL 62062

**Don Young**, 112 Summit Rdg., Maryville, IL 62062

***Illinois South Conference***

Lebanon St. Paul UCC, Rev. Dr. Don (Nancy) Wagner. Lenzburg St. Peter’s UCC, Rev. Bob Coffey. Retired Pastor, Rev. Dr. Robert E. and Jay Lee, Swansea, IL.

**CALL FOR INFORMATION**

Bell Choir – Talk to Kathy Morris, 618-210-6095

Cemetery - Talk to 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, 618-877-6060 church office

Heavenly Stars – Talk to Betty Meszaros, 618-451-1968

Karen Gaines, 618-288-0845

Herald – Talk to Angela Potter 618-877-6060 church office

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,

Dave Douglas, 618-452-3336

Quilters – Talk to Sandy Dawson 618-931-3467

Doris Peterson 618-877-1606

Sausage Dinner – Talk to Donna Brandes, 618-802-1072

 Nancy Jacobs, 618-931-0673

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

Sunday School – Talk to Donna Brandes, 618-802-1072

Youth Fellowship – Talk to Sharon O’Toole, 618-797-1802

***“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”***

***Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!***

***O my soul, praise him,***

***For he is your health and salvation!***

***Come, all who hear; now to his temple draw near,***

***Join me in glad adoration!***

***Praise to the Lord, above all things so wondrously reigning;***

***Sheltering you under his wings,***

***And so gently sustaining!***

***Have you not seen all that is needful has been***

***Sent by his gracious ordaining?***

***Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you:***

***Surely his goodness and mercy***

***Shall daily attend you.***

***Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,***

***If with his love he befriends you.***

***Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!***

***All that has life and breath,***

***Come now with praises before him.***

***Let the Amen sound from his people again;***

***Gladly forever adore him.***

***“Break Now the Bread of Life”***

***Break now the bread of life, dear Lord, to me***

***As once you broke the loaves beside the sea.***

***Beyond the sacred page I seek you, Lord;***

***My spirit longs for you, O living Word.***

***Bless your own Word of truth, dear Lord, to me,***

***As when you blessed the bread by Galilee.***

***Then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall;***

***And I shall find my peace, my All in all!***

***You are the bread of life, dear Lord, to me;***

***Your holy Word the truth that rescues me.***

***Give me to eat and live with you above;***

***Teach me to love your truth, for you are love.***

***O send you Spirit now, dear Lord, to me,***

***That he may touch my eyes and make me see.***

***Show me the truth made plain within your Word,***

***For in your book revealed I see the Lord.***

***“Rise Up, O Saints of God!”***

***Rise up, O saints of God!***

***From vain ambitions turn;***

***Christ rose triumphant that your hearts***

***With nobler zeal might burn.***

***Speak out, O saints of God!***

***Despair engulfs earth’s frame;***

***As heirs of God’s baptismal grace,***

***His word of hope proclaim.***

***Rise up, O saints of God!***

***His kingdom’s task embrace;***

***Redress sin’s cruel consequence;***

***Give justice larger place.***

***Give heed, O saints of God!***

***Creation cries in pain;***

***Stretch forth your hand of healing now,***

***With love the weak sustain.***

***Commit your hearts to seek***

***The paths which Christ has trod;***

***And quickened by the Spirit’s power,***

***Rise up, O saints of God!***