**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

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| --- | --- |
| July 4, 2021 | 6th 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.**

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN Psalm 48

We ponder your steadfast love, O God, in the midst of your temple. Your name, O God, like your praise, reaches to the ends of the earth. (Psalm 48:9-10a)

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*My Country, ‘Tis of Thee* Broughton

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER Inspired by Psalm 48

Great is the Lord!

***And greatly to be praised!***

We ponder your steadfast love, O God,

***In the midst of your temple,***

In the cities and countryside,

***And throughout your kingdom.***

Great are you, Lord of all!

***Your steadfast love is with us,***

And we praise you generation to generation.

Let us pray together:

***We lift your name in praise, O God, and worship you. Place your Spirit within us to guide us, as we unite to take your name to the ends of the earth, from mountains high to valleys low, from sea to sea. Astound us with your***

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***merciful power, and bless us to share the joy of your steadfast love forever. Amen.***

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

LITANY OF CONFESSION AND PARDON1

Let us give voice to our anxiety before God. Let us bring to God the panic we feel when we measure our inner resources against the outward challenges of our frantic lives. Let us dare to confess the ways we fall short of God’s expectations. God already knows them, but we need to face them.

***When we ponder the vast universe at your command, O God, we are astounded. We are nothing, except that you have given us life. How often we have squandered that gift in meaningless pursuits, killing time we might have invested in honoring you! Instead, we have belittled your prophets and made light of your commands. We alternate between boasting over our personal accomplishments and near-panic at our inability to cope with life’s challenges. O God, we confess our desperate need for healing, forgiveness, and a new perspective on life. Amen.***

Rejoice in the judgments of God that are ever tempered with mercy. God understands our weakness and is acquainted with our needs. The grace of God is sufficient to cover our sin, for power is made perfect in weakness. When we recognize our weakness, God can strengthen us. When we accept the reign of love among us, we are empowered to be the church, reaching out to a sick and troubled world. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 pg. 267

SOLO *My Tribute* Ritch Alexander

Crouch

GOSPEL LESSON Mark 6:1-13 pg. 38

MEDITATION

HYMN ***“Lord, You Give the Great Commission”***

#592 vss. 1, 2, & 3

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SUNG RESPONSE ***The Lord’s Prayer*** (1 Amen) #740

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION

OFFERTORY *Battle Hymn*  Traditional

RESPONSE ***“Sing a New Church”*** #577 vs. 5

***Draw together at one table all the human family;***

***shape a circle ever wider and a people ever free.***

***Let us bring the gifts that differ and in splendid, varied ways,***

***sing a new church into being, one in faith and love and praise.***

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***Our gifts represent our belief that your steadfast love, O God, is greater than the troubles of the world. May what we give proclaim your Truth and bring hope in your name. Thank you for inspiring our efforts and strengthening our shared ministries, in Jesus’ name. Amen.***

INVITATION AND COMMUNION PRAYER

PREPARING AND SHARING THE ELEMENTS

(All confessing Christians are invited to partake from the Table of the Lord.)

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

From *Book of Worship: United Church of Christ*

***Grant, O God, that the ears which have heard the voice of your song may be closed to the voice of clamor and dispute; that the eyes which have seen your great love may also behold your blessed hope; that the tongues which have sung your praise may speak the truth; that the feet which have walked your courts may walk in the region of light; and that the bodies which have tasted your living body may be restored in newness of life. Glory be to you, O God! Amen.***

HYMN ***“America, the Beautiful”***  #727

BENEDICTION

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POSTLUDE *God Bless America* Berlin

1Litany of Confession and Pardon Reprinted by permission of United Church Press from *Led by Love* by Lavon Bayler. Copyright 1996 by United Church Press.

As our nation celebrates Independence Day, let us remember and proclaim that God so loved the whole world that he sent Jesus to share in this life. Let us join in praise!

The **bulletin** is given in loving memory of the July 4th birthday of Daryl Lamar Few by Hilde Few.

The **altar centerpiece** is given in loving memory of our son Daryl Lamar Few by the Family.

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 July 18 and August 1 & 15.

**Thank you** to Karen Gaines for serving as liturgist today.

Granite City will be having a fireworks show this evening, **Sunday, July 4**, beginning when dark, or around 8:45 p.m. Viewing from our parking lot/field is a fun family option. Bring your lawn chairs and come and

enjoy them together!

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.

**THIS WEEK**

Today: **Independence Day**

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

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

Communion & Noisy Offering

Fireworks Viewing, around 8:45 p.m.

Monday: **Office Closed (observing Independence Day)**

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

Bible Study, 12:30 p.m.

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

Thursday: Council Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

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

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

New Member Covenant

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**MISSION OF THE MONTH**

Once again, our July mission will be 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.

**STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH**

The Strengthen the Church Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. Special offering envelopes were enclosed in the July edition of the Herald. If you did not receive an envelope, please clearly indicate that your offering is designated for Strengthen the Church. You can also make an electronic donation via the church’s website. Click on the donate tab at the top of the page and scroll down to the Strengthen the Church tile. Offerings will be collected Sunday, July 18, 2021. **By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10**

Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron, and said, “Look, we are your bone and flesh. **2**For some time, while Saul was king over us, it was you who led out Israel and brought it in. The Lord said to you: It is you who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you who shall be ruler over Israel.” **3**So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron; and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord, and they anointed David king over Israel. **4**David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. **5**At Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months; and at Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years.

**9**David occupied the stronghold, and named it the city of David. David built the city all around from the Millo inward. **10**And David became greater and greater, for the Lord, the God of hosts, was with him.

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**Mark 6:1-13**

He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. **2**On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, “Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! **3**Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. **4**Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown, and among their own kin, and in their own house.” **5**And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a

few sick people and cured them. **6**And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching. **7**He called the twelve

and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. **8**He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; **9**but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. **10**He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. **11**If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” **12**So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. **13**They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.



**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 (Mary is currently at Barnes. Please call Linda Nitchman for updates)

**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

**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

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

***Illinois South Conference***

Hookdale St. Peter UCC, Rev. P. Jerry Bennett. Hoylton Zion Evangelical UCC, Rev. Sharon Patton. Retired Pastor, Rev. Kevin and Shellie Strope, Carlinville, IL.

**CALL FOR INFORMATION**

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

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, praise him 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.***

***“Lord, You Give the Great Commission”***

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***Lord, you give the great commission:***

***“Heal the sick and preach the word.”***

***Lest the church neglect its mission***

***And the gospel go unheard,***

***Help us witness to your purpose with renewed integrity:***

***With the Spirit’s gifts empower us for the work of ministry.***

***Lord, you call us to our service:***

***“In my name baptize and teach.”***

***That the world may trust your promise,***

***Life abundant meant for each,***

***Give us all new fervor, draw us closer in community:***

***With Spirit’s gifts empower us for the work of ministry.***

***Lord, you make the common holy:***

***“This my body this my blood.”***

***Let us all, for earth’s true glory,***

***Daily lift life heavenward,***

***Asking that the world around us share your children’s liberty:***

***With the Spirit’s gifts empower us for the work of ministry.***

***“America, the Beautiful”***

***O beautiful for spacious skies,***

***For amber waves of grain,***

***For purple mountain majesties***

***Above the fruited plain!***

***America! America!***

***God shed his grace on thee,***

***And crown thy good with brotherhood***

***From sea to shining sea!***

***O beautiful for pilgrim feet,***

***Whose stern, impassioned stress***

***A thoroughfare for freedom beat***

***Across the wilderness!***

***America! America!***

***God mend thine every flaw,***

***Confirm thy soul in self-control***

***Thy liberty in law!***

***O beautiful for heroes proved***

***In liberating strife,***

***Who more than self their country loved,***

***And mercy more than life!***

***America! America!***

***May God thy gold refine,***

***Till all success be nobleness,***

***And every gain divine!***

***O beautiful for patriot dream***

***That sees beyond the years***

***Thine alabaster cities gleam,***

***Undimmed by human tears!***

***America! America!***

***God shed his grace on thee,***

***And crown thy good with brotherhood***

***From sea to shining sea!***