**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

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| August 22, 2021 |  13th 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

**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 John 6:56-69 pg. 93

Simon Peter answered [Jesus], “Lord to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.” (John 6:68-69)

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

 *Introduction and Allegro* Stanley

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER Based on “Lead On, O King Eternal”

Lead on, O King Eternal, the day of march has come;

 ***Through days of preparation your grace has made us strong.***

Lead on, O King Eternal, till sin’s fierce war shall cease,

And holiness shall whisper the sweet Amen of peace;

***For not with swords loud clashing, nor roll of stirring drums,***

***With deeds of love and mercy the heavenly kingdom comes.***

Let us pray together:

***Lead on, O King Eternal, we follow without fear, for wherever we are, you are with us. Thank you for the light of this new day in which we worship and serve you. May your light always shine through us, as we stand firm in faith and discipleship, now and forever. Amen.***

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\*HYMN  ***“How Lovely, Lord, How Lovely”*** #545

Karla will tell a story about this before we sing it.

\*RESPONSIVE PSALTER READING Selected Verses from Psalm 84

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

***My soul longs for the courts of the Lord;***

My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

***Happy are those who live in your house,***

***ever singing your praise.***

Happy are those whose strength is in you,

in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

 ***They go from strength to strength;***

 ***the God of gods will be seen in Zion.***

For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

***I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness.***

For the Lord God is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor.

 ***O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.***

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON 1 Kings 8:27-30, 41-43 pg. 298

SOLO *As Christ Is for Us* Joan Fabischer

EPISTLE LESSON Ephesians 6:10-20 pg. 184

SERMON

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“Lord, Speak to Me”*** #593

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & UNISON 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.***

PRAYER RESPONSE  *Receive* Joan Fabischer

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STEWARDSHIP INVITATION

OFFERTORY *In God Alone* Joan Fabischer

\*RESPONSE ***“Soldiers of Christ, Arise”*** Vs. 1

Tune is “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

***Soldiers of Christ, arise, and put your armor on,***

***strong in the strength which God supplies***

***thru his eternal Son;***

***strong in the Lord of Hosts, and in his mighty power,***

***who in the strength of Jesus trusts is more than conqueror.***

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

 ***Lord, you call us to serve with conviction and honor. You call us to resist the temptation to sit back and do nothing. And so, we pray faithfully, and use our time, talents and treasure as the Spirit leads us. Bless our offerings, and each of us, to be ambassadors of your eternal peace. Amen.***

\*HYMN  ***“Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus”*** #513

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE *Honor and Glory* Rinck

We rejoice that you have joined us today! Let us worship God together: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The **bulletin** is given in Celebration of Karla & Charles’ Anniversary from Caslyn and Donna Brandes.

The **altar vases** are given in loving memory of my parents, Charles and Wilma Parmley’s Wedding Anniversary and in loving memory of my Grandmother, Ethel Lambert’s birthday, From Bev Partney.

The **altar centerpiece** is given in recognition of Sandy Dawson’s August 21 birthday, from her loving husband.

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 October 3, 10, & 31.

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**Thank you** to Bev Partney for serving as liturgist today and to Joan Fabischer for providing special music.

A rose has been placed on the altar in celebration of the birth of **Emmett Paul Richter**. Hewas born on August 16, 2021 and is the son of Paul and Lindsay Richter and the great-nephew of Karen Orr.

**THIS WEEK**

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

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

 Catch-Up Sunday

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

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

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

Thursday: Church Women United, 9:30 a.m.

 Karla back from vacation

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

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

 5th Sunday Cash Plate for Renee’s Rescue Sanctuary

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

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

At the August Council Meeting, it was decided to continue with our current schedule of 9:30 a.m. Worship in-person and on Zoom, and 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for children. This decision will be re-visited in December.

**RUMMAGE SALE**

This year’s Rummage Sale will take place Thursday, September 23, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Friday, September 24, from 8:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m. Items for the sale may be dropped off on September 5 and then from Tuesday, September 7 until September 22. Items may **not** be dropped off on September 6 because the office will be closed for Labor Day. Setup will take place September 21 & 22. **We will need many volunteers,** so please come any time after 9:00 a.m. if you’re able to help. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 877-6060. Masks will be required.

**Calling all EVENING GUILD AND BROTHERHOOD MEMBERS**

**Date: Monday, September 13, 2021**

**Time:  6:30 pm**

**Place: Fellowship Hall**

It is time for our Joint meeting of Evening Guild and Brotherhood. The meal will be catered by Margie’s Catering.  The cost is $10 per

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person.  This will include dessert and drink. The entertainment will be the Florissant Valley Barbershop Chorus. Please, call Dave Douglas for a reservation at 452-3336 by September 7th.  Leave a message if no answer. You can prepay or pay the night of the meeting.  Please make checks payable to St. John Brotherhood. ALL are welcome to attend. You do not need to be a member to come to our joint meeting. Come enjoy the wonderful food and awesome music.  We will have dinner, enjoy the beautiful music and then join our perspective groups for a short meeting. If you have questions you may call Dave Douglas at 452-3336 or Christie Roth at 931-6194.  Hope to see you all there!

**SCRIP (GIFT CARDS)**

Plans are to resume the scrip (gift card) program in September. Orders would be submitted the first and third Sundays with delivery the

subsequent first and third Sundays. Exception would be that the order is not large enough to cover shipping expenses. “Favorites” order forms can be picked up in fellowship hall after worship service or will be on the table in the narthex. Check payable to St. John UCC should accompany order. Cost is face amount of gift card. No tax and rebate is automatically sent to the church. Not attending worship in person? No problem as you can still order cards. Just send a note with your payment to the church office.  Delivery arrangements will be coordinated. Please contact Melissa Lane 314-575-7627 or Betty Meszaros 618-670-5267 with questions or see them at the “scrip table” in fellowship hall.  Appreciation to all supporting this project

**MISSION OF THE MONTH**

Our August mission of the month is collecting donations to cover the cost of paper goods for sausage dinner. Sausage Dinner will be held on **October 17, 2021**. The format of Sausage Dinner, whether it is drive thru like last year or otherwise, will be determined at a later date.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**1 Kings 8:27-30, 41-43**

**22**Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. **23**He said, “O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart, **24**the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your

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hand. **25**Therefore, O Lord, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, ‘There shall never fail

you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.’ **26**Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David.

**27**“But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! **28**Regard your servant’s prayer and his plea, O Lord my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; **29**that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, ‘My name shall be there,’ that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. **30**Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling place; heed and forgive.

**41**“Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name **42**—for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm—when a foreigner comes and prays toward this house, **43**then hear in heaven your dwelling place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and so that they may know that your name has been invoked on this house that I have built.

**Ephesians 6:10-20**

**10**Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. **11**Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. **12**For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. **13**Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. **14**Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. **15**As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. **16**With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. **17**Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. **18**Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. **19**Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, **20**for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

**OUR PRAYERS**

*Nursing and Assisted Living*

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

Don Luddeke (room unknown), Loretta Cook,#507 (Loretta is currently at Anderson Hospital in Room 202)

**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 (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

**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

**Trish Stromlund**, 1359 Kyle Dr., Apt B, St. Charles, MO 63304

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

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

**Illinois South Conference**

Moro St. John’s UCC of Midway, Rev. Lori (Wayne) Schafer. Murphysboro St. Peter’s UCC. Retired Pastor, Rev. Chris and Lena Edwards, Converse, TX.

**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

***“How Lovely, Lord, How Lovely”***

Words: Arlo D. Duba; para. Psalm 84. © 1986 Hope Publishing Company. Music: Hal H. Hopson. © 1983 Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted by permission. CCLI License #1334401

***How lovely, Lord, how lovely***

***Is your abiding place;***

***My soul is longing, fainting,***

***To feast upon your grace.***

***The sparrow finds a shelter,***

***A place to build her nest;***

***And so your temple calls us***

***Within its walls to rest.***

***In your blest courts to worship,***

***O God, a single day***

***Is better than a thousand***

***If I from you should stray.***

***I’d rather keep the entrance***

***And claim you as my Lord***

***Than revel in the riches***

***The ways of sin afford.***

***A sun and shield forever***

***Are you, O Lord Most High;***

***You shower us with blessings;***

***No good will you deny.***

***The saints, your grace receiving,***

***From strength to strength shall go,***

***And from their life shall rivers***

***Of blessing over flow.***

***“Lord, Speak to Me”***

***Lord, speak to me, that I may speak***

***In living echoes of your tone;***

***As you have sought, so let me seek***

***Your wandering children, lost, alone.***

***O lead me, Lord, that I may lead***

***The stumbling and the straying feet;***

***And feed me, Lord, that I may feed***

***Your hungry ones with manna sweet.***

***O teach me, Lord, that I may teach***

***The precious things which you impart;***

***And wing my words, that they may reach***

***The hidden depths of many a heart.***

***O fill me with your fullness, Lord,***

***Until my heart shall overflow***

***In kindling thought and glowing word,***

***Your love to tell, your praise to show.***

***“Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus”***

***Stand up, stand up or Jesus,***

***You soldiers of the cross,***

***Lift high his royal banner,***

***It must not suffer loss;***

***From victory unto victory***

***His army shall he lead,***

***Till every foe is vanquished***

***And Christ is Lord indeed.***

***Stand up, stand up for Jesus,***

***The trumpet call obey;***

***Forth to the mighty conflict***

***In this his glorious day.***

***You that are brave, now serve him***

***Against unnumbered foes;***

***Let courage rise with danger,***

***And strength to strength oppose.***

***Stand up, stand up for Jesus,***

***Stand in his strength alone;***

***The arm of flesh will fail you –***

***You dare not trust your own;***

***Put on the gospel armor,***

***Each piece put on with prayer;***

***Where duty calls, or danger,***

***Be never wanting there.***

***Stand up, stand up for Jesus,***

***The strife will not be long;***

***This day the noise of battle,***

***The next, the victor’s song:***

***To those who conquer evil***

***A crown of life shall be;***

***They with the King of glory***

***Shall reign eternally.***