**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

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| --- | --- |
| September 12, 2021 |  16th 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

**Currently face masks are REQUIRED for all.**

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 Psalm 19

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork…..There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the earth. (Psalm 19:1, 3-4a)

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

 *Sweet Rivers of Redeeming Love* Hustad

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER Adapted from Psalm 19

“The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;

the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;

***The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;***

The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever;

The ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

***More to be desired are they than gold, much fine gold; sweeter also than the drippings of the honeycomb.”***

We have come to worship the Lord,

giver of all that is wise and good;
   ***We have come to remember those who taught us,***

 ***and to commit to teaching new generations.***

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Let us pray together:

***Holy One, we join the Psalmist to pray: “Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.” Amen.***

\*HYMN  ***“Borning Cry”*** #680

**GRANDPARENTS’ DAY CELEBRATION**

INTRODUCTION AND PHOTOGRAPHS

NAMING PRAYER

We thank God for grandparents who "grandly" love, nurture, and lead.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

 Exodus 20:12

 Matthew 1:1, (2-15) 16

 2 Timothy 1:3-5

READING Selections from *Grandad’s Prayers of the Earth*

Douglas Wood

UNISON PRAYER ***Find Us Faithful***

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 ***O may all who come behind us find us faithful; may the fire of our devotion light their way. May the footprints that we leave lead them to believe, and the lives we live inspire them to obey. O may all who come behind us find us faithful. Amen.***

RESPONSE  ***“Hymn of Promise”***  Vs. 2 #515

***There’s a song in every silence, seeking word and melody; there’s a dawn in every darkness bringing hope to you and me.***

***From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.***

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

EPISTLE LESSON James 3:1-12 pg. 216

SPECIAL MUSIC *The Fountain*  Ritch Alexander

GOSPEL LESSON Mark 8:27-38 pg. 41

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REFLECTION

**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.***

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION

OFFERTORY *Suite Algerienne* Saint-Saens

\*RESPONSE ***“As Saints of Old”*** Vs. 3 #570

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***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.***

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

 ***From our hearts and hands come blessings through the work of the church. From our hearts and mouths come blessings and encouragement, love and teaching, generation to generation. Thank you, God, for blessings, and for inspiring us to serve, in Jesus’ name. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“He Leadeth Me”***  #499

\*BENEDICTION

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

The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. ... The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart” (Psalm 19:7-8, NIV). Welcome to worship, where the Word of God refreshes us.

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The **bulletin** is given in loving memory of the September 14th birthday of Martha Bischoff by Herb and Jeanie Bischoff.

The **altar vases** are given in celebration of the 31st birthday of Justin Gibson.

The **altar centerpiece** is given in celebration of the 9th birthday of our wonderful Granddaughter Chloe, from Dave and Karen Gaines.

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.

**Thank you** to Connie Ahlers for serving as liturgist today.

**Thank you** to Ritch Alexander for providing special music.

**THIS WEEK**

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

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

 Grandparents’ Day

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

 Evening Guild & Brotherhood Joint Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

 Hilltoppers, 12:00 p.m.

 Bible Study, 12:30 p.m.

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

 Bell Choir, 6:00 p.m.

Thursday: Granite City Community Band Rehearsal, 6:45-9:30 p.m.

Friday: Mums Arrive/Mum Pickup

Saturday: Mum Pickup Continues

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

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

 3rd Grade Bible Presentations

 Fellowship Hour Sponsored by Altar Guild & Ushering

**CHURCH WOMEN UNITED**

The Church Women United meeting will be held on Thursday, September 23 at 9:30 a.m. This is the same day as the Rummage Sale, so the meeting will occur on the youth side of the building, down the ramp.

**EVENING GUILD AND BROTHERHOOD**

The Evening Guild and Brotherhood joint meeting will be on Monday, September 13, 2021 at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall. The meal will be

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catered by Margie’s Catering and the cost is $10 per person. This will include dessert and drink. The entertainment will be the Florissant Valley Barbershop Chorus. If you did not prepay at the time of your reservation, you may pay the night of the meeting. Please make checks payable to St. John Brotherhood. Come and enjoy the wonderful food and music. If you have any questions you may call Dave Douglas at 452-3336 or Christie Roth at 931-6194. Hope to see you all there!



**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. Please continue bringing items for the sale. Setup will take place September 21 & 22. **We will need many volunteers,** so if you’re able to help, please come any time after 9:00 a.m. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at 877-6060. Masks will be required.



**JUSTINE WALKER MEMORIAL NUT & CANDY SALE 2021**

We are back and excited to once again be offering goodies from Terri Lynn Nut and Candy in support of St. John Cemetery. In person orders will be taken in Fellowship Hall, after the 9:30 service today, September 12th, and next Sunday, September 19th. Take home brochures and order forms are available in the Church Office and in both the Narthex and Tower. Once you choose your products be sure to fill in your order form. Payment at the time of ordering is required. Checks and cash are acceptable. If ordering remotely you can submit your orders by phone to Joan Mueller (618-830-0647) or email to rjmfarms@gmail.com. You can either drop off your payment at church or mail to Joan Mueller – 4480 New Poag Road, Edwardsville, IL 62025. **Please do NOT use the donate button on the web page** as it is not set up for fund raisers. All orders and payments must be received by Sunday, September 26th. I will add your items to the overall order. All items will be ordered at one

time. Your order will be delivered to you at church in late October / early November. If anyone is interested in taking orders outside of church, please let me know so I can provide brochures and order forms. We look forward to filling your orders and supporting our cemetery and their

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vital works. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Joan Mueller (618-830-0647). Thanks!

**SCRIP (GIFT CARDS)**

The scrip program has resumed and thank you for placing orders for gift cards. Plans are to submit orders 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. Revised “favorites” order forms are on the table in the narthex. Use a revised form or one from last year. Check payable to St. John UCC or cash should accompany order. Please give your order to Betty Meszaros. 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. Cost is face amount of gift card. No tax or service fee. Rebate is automatically sent to the church. Please contact Melissa Lane 314-575-7627 or Betty Meszaros 618-670-5267 with questions. Appreciation to all supporting this fundraiser for the church’s general fund.

**MUM PICKUP**

Mums will be delivered Friday, September 17th. An exact time has not been given. We hope mum pickups can begin in mid-afternoon and continue into Saturday. We will have mums for sale to the community on those days. Volunteers will be needed for both days.

**MISSION OF THE MONTH**

Our mission of the month for September is collecting funds for a special project at our cemetery sites. Please clearly mark any gifts designated for this project.

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Nursing & Assisted Living**

Ruth Buer, Loretta Cook, Hilde Few, JoAnn King, Mary Lee Krohne, Don Luddeke, 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, Gayle Lindsay, Bill McAmish, Sandy Mueller, David Oliver Jr., Karen Orr, Cliff Robertson, Merle Rose, Marge Schmidt, June Stille, Trish Stromlund, and Don Young.

**Illinois South Conference**

O’Fallon UCC, Rev. Dr. Martha Thierheimer. Ohlmann St. Paul UCC, Rev. Dr. Steve (Debbi) Nance. Retired Pastor, Rev. Dr. Sheldon Culver, Columbia, IL.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**James 3:1-12**

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. **2**For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. **3**If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. **4**Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. **5**So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! **6**And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. **7**For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, **8**but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. **9**With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. **10**From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. **11**Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? **12**Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

**Mark 8:27-38**

**27**Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” **28**And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” **29**He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” **30**And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. **31**Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. **32**He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. **33**But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” **34**He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. **35**For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. **36**For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? **37**Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? **38**Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

***“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 staying 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.***

***“He Leadeth Me”***

***He leadeth me, O blessed thought!***

***O words with heavenly comfort fraught!***

***Whate’er I do, where-e’er I be,***

***Still ‘tis God’s hand that leadeth me.***

***He leadeth me, he leadeth me,***

***By his own hand he leadeth me;***

***His faithful follower I would be,***

***For by his hand he leadeth me.***

***Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine,***

***Nor ever murmur nor repine;***

***Content whate’er my lot may be,***

***Since ‘tis my God who leadeth me.***

***He leadeth me, he leadeth me,***

***By his own hand he leadeth me;***

***His faithful follower I would be,***

***For by his hand he leadeth me.***

***And when my task on earth is done,***

***When by thy grace the victory’s won,***

***E’en death’s cold wave I will not flee,***

***Since God through Jordan leadeth me.***

***He leadeth me, he leadeth me,***

***By his own hand he leadeth me;***

***His faithful follower I would be,***

***For by his hand he leadeth me.***