**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

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| --- | --- |
| October 24, 2021 | 22nd 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 Hebrews 7:23-28

Furthermore, the former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; but [Jesus] holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. (Hebrews 7:23-24)

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*Rondo Giososo* Based on Psalm 144:15

*Happy are the people to whom such blessings fall;*

*happy are the people whose God is the Lord.*

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER From Psalm 34

I will bless the Lord at all times;

***His praise shall continually be in my mouth.***

My soul makes its boast in the Lord;

***Let the humble hear and be glad.***

O magnify the Lord with me,

***And let us exalt his name together.***

Let us pray:

***We come to you, O Lord, happy to take refuge in your love and compassion. We know that you are with us everywhere and always. We know that you desire good for all your people. Inspire us to share your life-giving***

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***promise with the world so in need of hope and peace. Help us live our faith well, as we follow the One who heals our brokenness and unites us as family forever. Amen.***

\*HYMN  ***“We All Are One in Mission”*** #552

\*RESPONSIVE READING***“Help Us Accept Each Other”***#596

Pastor and pulpit side of congregation read verse 1

Liturgist and liturgist side of congregation read verse 2

Pastor and pulpit side of congregation read verse 3

Liturgist and liturgist side of congregation read verse 4

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

\*SUNG PREPARATION ***“Open Our Eyes”*** #491

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***Open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus,***

***to reach out and touch him, and say that we love him.***

***Open our ears, Lord, and help us to listen,***

***open our eyes, Lord, we want to see Jesus.***

FIRST GOSPEL LESSON Mark 10:46-52 pg. 44

ANTHEM *Come, Christians, Join to Sing*  Glockenspiel

SECOND GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 11:2-6, 12-19 pg. 10

SERMON From “The Sin of Hostility” by James W. Moore in

Yes, Lord, I Have Sinned

but I Have Several Excellent Excuses

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”***  #587

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.***

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STEWARDSHIP INVITATION

OFFERTORY *A Festive Trumpet Tune* Wagner

\*RESPONSE ***“Give Thanks”*** #359

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***Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ his Son.***

***Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ his Son.***

***And now let the weak say “I am strong,”***

***let the poor say “I am rich,”***

***because of what the Lord has done for us.***

***And now let the weak say “I am strong,”***

***let the poor say “I am rich,”***

***because of what the Lord has done for us, Give thanks!***

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***With these gifts we give thanks to you, O Lord. As you had compassion on the hurting, and mercy for the fallen, so we follow in your ways and offer hope in your name. Bless our life and peace building efforts, we pray. Amen.***

\*HYMN   ***“I Then Shall Live”***  #372

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE  *Postlude* Holstein

“O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together” (Psalm 34:3 NRSV). Welcome to worship at St. John Church!

The **bulletin** is given in remembrance of the October birthdays of Gene & Mary Rita Ahlers, parents of Jim Ahlers, by Connie & Jim Ahlers.

If you would like to place **flowers on the altar**, and pick them up Monday, please call **Patty Bade** at 618-610-0350. If you would like to sponsor the **bulletins**, please call the **church office** at 877-6060. The next available dates are October 31, November 7 & 21.

**Thank you** to Veronica Douglas for serving as liturgist today.

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**THIS WEEK**

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

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

Halloween Costume Party, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

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

Monday: Brotherhood Meat Sale Pre-Orders Due

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

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

Bible Study, 12:30 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

5th Sunday Cash Plate for Neighbors in Need

**SCRIP (GIFT CARDS)**

Purchasing gift cards through the scrip program is so easy. (1) Give your order form or a note to Betty Meszaros or send it to the church office. Please include your check payable to St. John UCC. (2) Pick up your gift cards after worship or arrange a delivery with Betty. Plans are to submit orders the first and third Sundays. Last day to order for pre-Thanksgiving delivery is November 7th. December orders will be submitted the first and second Sundays with last Christmas ordering date December 12th. Ordering earlier will ensure delivery before Christmas. Taking a break in January so consider stocking up. Revised “favorites” order forms are on the table in the narthex. There is also an updated list of ALL vendors for your review. Some restaurants such as Texas Roadhouse, Cracker Barrel and Olive Garden rebate 8%. Retail vendors vary (Old Navy 14%, Macy’s 10%, Kohl’s 4%, Walmart 2.5%). Not sure what the person you are gifting would like? Consider Amazon (2%), Discover (1.25%) or Visa (1.25%). Profit low to church but all adds up PLUS you do not have to pay an activation fee. Not attending worship in person? No problem as you can still order cards. Just send a note with your payment to the church office. Cost is face amount of gift card. No tax and rebate is automatically sent to the church. Please contact Melissa Lane 314-575-7627 or Betty Meszaros 618-451-1968 with questions. Betty’s cell is 618-670-5267 and email blmesz@yahoo.com.

**MISSION OF THE MONTH**

Salvation Army has been chosen for our Mission of the Month for October. With the upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, the support for this organization is greatly needed. They continue to provide

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food baskets for the needy at Thanksgiving and Christmas and toys for the children at Christmas. This is just another outreach program that we can support in our community as members of our congregation.

**BROTHERHOOD SEMI-ANNUAL MEAT SALE**

The Brotherhood Semi-Annual Meat Sale will be accepting preorders until this Monday, October 25, 2021. Pickup will be November 5/6 from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Due to Illinois state regulations, no meat can be returned to the Meat Market, thus **pre-orders are now** **mandatory.** Order forms are available on the table in the Narthex.Please have all preorders back to Brotherhood by October 25th and make checks payable to St. John United Church of Christ Brotherhood. Note that some items cannot be prepaid. The Brotherhood would like to thank you for your continued support. A portion of the proceeds from the meat sale will go to several local charities. Any questions, please contact David Douglas at 618-806-4795.

A black and white drawing of a plant

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

**POINSETTIA ORDERS**

It’s time to start placing orders for poinsettias. Plants will cost $12.00 and are available in **red only**. Fill out the included order form exactly as you wish it to appear in the bulletin; (i.e., Mr., or Mrs., or Miss, etc.) The deadline to order poinsettias is **Monday, November 29, 2021**. When filling out order forms, please print clearly.

**CEMETERY HELP WANTED!**

If you or someone you know is looking to fill some free time and earn some extra money, then we might have the perfect solution! St. John Cemetery is looking to fill a 15 hour a week Groundskeeper position. Hours will be flexible. Job requires that you be able to lift 50 lbs. If interested, please contact the cemetery office at 618-876-5811. Submit resumes to stjohnucccemetery@gmail.

**EVENING GUILD**

Want to join the TOW Club? Not another roadside assistance plan but Together on Wheels for members or guests wanting to attend an Evening Guild meeting the first Monday of a month at 6:30 p.m. If you are no longer comfortable driving at night or if you would be willing to give someone else a ride, please contact Evening Guild member Betty Meszaros at 618-670-5267. Matchups will be arranged if possible.

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The November 1st meeting is the traditional “white elephant auction”. Members and guests may bring one or more unwrapped items to be auctioned to the highest bidder. Antiques, previously loved, new merchandise or re-gifted items will be accepted. Family and friends

invited to attend to enjoy refreshments and the bidding contest. Great way to start Christmas shopping! ALL welcome at the fun evening!

A picture containing gear, metalware, wheel

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**HALLOWEEN PARTY**

Calling all ghouls and boys! We’ll be hosting a Halloween costume party tonight, October 24, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. It will be a night of crafts, games, snacks, and lots of fun! Children are encouraged to invite family and friends. Please note, this year will not be open to the general public due to Covid19 concerns.

**GAME NIGHT**

Game night has been moved to tonight, October 24, 2021 on the youth side.

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Nursing & Assisted Living**

Ruth Buer, Loretta Cook, Hilde Few, Carol Hildebrand, JoAnn King,

Mary Lee Krohne, and Karen Luddeke.

**At Home**

Ritch Alexander, Rose Marie Bauer, Isabella Boyer, Marlene Brokaw, Myra Cook, Randy Fischer, Bonnie Fornaszewski, Mary Franz, Luitgard Fries, Norman Hente, Mike Jeffreys, Gayle Lindsay, Bill McAmish, Sandy Mueller, David Oliver Jr., Karen Orr, Cliff Robertson, Merle Rose, Marge Schmidt, June Stille, Trish Stromlund, Janice Weeks, and Don Young.

**Illinois South Conference**

Summerfield St. John UCC, Rev. Philip (Kate) Barbier. Tower Hill St. Paul UCC, Rev. Dr. Steve (Debbi) Nance. Retired Pastor, Rev. P. Jerry Bennett, Highland, IL.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Mark 10:46-52**

**46**They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. **47**When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” **48**Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” **49**Jesus stood still and said, “Call him here.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart; get up, he is calling you.” **50**So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. **51**Then Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man said to him, “My teacher, let me see again.” **52**Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

**Matthew 11:2-6, 12-19**

**2**When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples **3**and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” **4**Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: **5**the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepersare cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. **6**And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

**12**From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. **13**For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John came; **14**and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. **15**Let anyone with ears listen! **16**“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, **17**‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’ **18**For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; **19**the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

A black and white drawing of a plant

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POINSETTIA

### ORDER FORM

Plants will cost **$12.00** each and are **available in RED ONLY.**  Fill in the lines below exactly as you wish it to appear in the bulletin; (i.e., Mr., or Mrs., or Miss, etc.) DEADLINE to order poinsettias is **November 29, 2021** (Please attach payments to this form and either place in the offering plate or bring/mail to the church office.) PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!!!!

IN LOVING MEMORY OF\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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OR

IN HONOR OF\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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OR

IN GRATITUDE FOR\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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BY

NAME:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# OF POINSETTIAS ORDERED

TOTAL ENCLOSED

(Make checks payable to: St. John United Church of Christ)

***“We All Are One in Mission”***

Words: Rusty Edwards. Music: Samuel S. Wesley. Words © 1986 Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted by permission, CCLI License # 1334401.

***We all are one in mission,***

***We all are one in call,***

***Our varied gifts united***

***By Christ, the Lord of all.***

***A single, great commission***

***Compels us from above***

***To plan and work together***

***That all may know Christ’s love.***

***We all are called for service***

***To witness in God’s name.***

***Our ministries are different,***

***Our purpose is the same:***

***To touch the lives of others***

***By God’s surprising grace,***

***So ev’ry folk and nation***

***May feel God’s warm embrace.***

***We all behold one vision,***

***A stark reality:***

***The author of salvation***

***Was nailed upon a tree.***

***Yet resurrected Justice***

***Gives rise that we may share***

***Free reconciliation***

***And hope amid despair.***

***Now let us be united***

***And let our song be heard.***

***Now let us be a vessel***

***For God’s redeeming Word.***

***We all are one in mission,***

***We all are one in call,***

***Our varied gifts united***

***By Christ, the Lord of all.***

Responsive Reading

***“Help Us Accept Each Other”***

Words: Fred Kaan © 1975 Hope Publishing Company Music: John Ness Beck © 1977 Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted by permission, CCLI License # 1334401.

***Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us; teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.***

***Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe we are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and live.***

***Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith. Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some, to love them as we find them, or as they may become.***

***Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved in living situations to do the truth in love; to practice your acceptance until we know by heart the table of forgiveness, and laughter’s healing art.***

***Lord, for today’s encounters with all who are in need, who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread, we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on: renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!***

***“I Then Shall Live”***

Words: Gloria Gaither © 1981 Gaither Music Company (Admin. Gaither Copyright Mgmt.) 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.

***I then shall live as one who’s been forgiven;***

***I’ll walk with joy to know my debts are paid.***

***I know my name is clear before my Father;***

***I am his child, and I am not afraid.***

***So greatly pardoned, I’ll forgive another;***

***The law of love I gladly will obey.***

***I then shall live as one who’s learned compassion;***

***I’ve been so loved that I’ll risk loving, too.***

***I know how fear builds walls instead of bridges;***

***I dare to see another’s point of view.***

***And when relationships demand commitment,***

***Then I’ll be there to care and follow through.***

***Your kingdom come around and through and in me,***

***Your power and glory, let them shine through me;***

***Your hallowed name, oh, may I bear with honor,***

***And may your living kingdom come in me.***

***The Bread of Life, oh, may I share with honor,***

***And may you feed a hungry world through me.***

“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace” Not included due to Copyright