**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| February 20, 2022 |  7th Sunday after Epiphany (C) |
| 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 Genesis 45:3-11, 15

 And [Joseph] kissed all his brothers and wept upon them;

 and after that his brothers talked with him. Genesis 45:15

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

 *When They Ring Those Golden Bells* Demarbelle

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER1 Adapted from Luke 6:37-38

 Jesus instructs his followers saying—

 Do not judge, and you will not be judged;

 ***Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned.***

Forgive, and you will be forgiven;

***Give, and it will be given to you.***

For God is kind to all and full of mercy.

 ***God gives a full measure of life.***

Filled with the life-giving spirit of our

Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,

 ***We bear the image of the risen one,***

And take delight in the abundance of what we have already received***.*** Let us pray together:

***God of abundant mercy, you alone can turn evil into good, sorrow into rejoicing, and death into everlasting life. Teach us your way of grace—to meet hatred with***

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***kindness, to answer curses with blessing, to love without holding back, to give without thought of return; all in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“You Call Us, Lord”*** #583

\*RESPONSIVE PSALTER READING Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

Do not fret because of the wicked;

do not be envious of wrongdoers,

 ***For they will soon fade like the grass,***

 ***and wither like the green herb.***

Trust in the Lord, and do good;

so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.

 ***Take delight in the Lord,***

 ***and he will give you the desires of your heart.***

Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him, and he will act.

 ***He will make your vindication shine like the light,***

 ***and the justice of your cause like the noonday.***

Be still before the Lord, and wait patiently for him;

 ***Do not fret over those who prosper in their way,***

 ***over those who carry out evil devices.***

Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath.

Do not fret—it leads only to evil.

 ***For the wicked shall be cut off,***

 ***but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.***

 Yet a little while, and the wicked will be no more;

 though you look diligently for their place, they will not be there.

 ***But the meek shall inherit the land,***

 ***and delight themselves in abundant prosperity.***

 The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord;

 he is their refuge in the time of trouble.

 ***The Lord helps them and rescues them;***

***he rescues them from the wicked, and saves them, because they take refuge in him.***

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

SPECIAL MUSIC *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* Mixed Ensemble

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 6:27-38

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REFLECTION

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“I Then Shall Live”*** #372

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, 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

OFFERTORY *In the Stillness of This Moment* Combs

\*\*RESPONSE ***“Spirit of the Living God”*** Vs. 2 #492 ***Spirit of the living God, move among us all;***

***make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love; humble, caring, selfless, sharing.***

***Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love.***

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

 ***Our offerings are expressions of our love for you, O God, and our love for your people. With generous spirits we open our hands and hearts because it is the right thing to do. Bless our giving in all its forms, and make us blessings for others, in Jesus’ name. Amen.***

\*HYMN  ***“All Things Are Yours!”***  #687

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE  *There’s a Great Day Coming* Thompson

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Family of Christ, welcome to worship! In Jesus’ name, please greet the children of God seated near you.

The **bulletin** is given in celebration of the life of Emily Anne Douglas by Mom & Dad.

The **altar flowers** are given in remembrance of our beautiful Emily Anne on her 40th birthday. By Mom, Dad, Josh, Acacia, Milo and Charlie.

If you would like to place **flowers on the altar**, and pick them up Monday, please call **Rosalie Watson** at (618) 741-2979. If you would like to sponsor the **bulletins**, please call the **church office** at 877-6060. The next available date to sponsor bulletins is February 27.

Thank you to **Rev. Ritch Alexander** for serving as liturgist today.

**THIS WEEK**

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

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

 **Herald Deadline**

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

 Bible Study, 12:30 p.m.

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

 Bell Choir, 6:00 p.m.

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

GCC Band Rehearsal, 6:15-9:30 p.m.

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

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

**JUST A REMINDER**

Please be extra thoughtful about caring for others when participating in church activities. Properly worn masks are necessary, as well as social distancing. Staying home when feeling ill protects others from not only Covid, but from all the seasonal illnesses. Let’s get through this riskier time together, and prepare to celebrate both the building upgrades and our church anniversary with joy.

**CEMETERY CLEANUP**

The Cemetery needs volunteers on March 1st at 9:00 for cleanup. We’ll meet at the garage and lunch will be served.

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**ASH WEDNESDAY**

This year Ash Wednesday is on March 2. Our service will be held at 7:00 p.m., in-person in Fellowship Hall and on Zoom. The Imposition of Ashes for those present in-person, and the Sacrament of Holy Communion, will be celebrated. Please plan to participate and begin the Lenten season with spiritual guidance.

**MISSION OF THE MONTH**

Our February Mission of the Month is designated for our next food box giveaway. With the success of our first giveaway on January 22, 2022, we are excited to provide for our community once again. More details for the giveaway will be made available at a later date.

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Nursing & Assisted Living**

Ruth Buer, Hilde Few, Carol Hildebrand, JoAnn King, Mary Lee Krohne, and Karen Luddeke

**Hospital**

Lou Hasse is at Missouri Baptist Hospital.

**At Home**

Ritch Alexander, Isabella Boyer, Bobbie Braden, Marlene Brokaw, Myra Cook, Bonnie Fornaszewski, Mary Franz, Luitgard Fries, Norman Hente, Louise Koester, Gayle Lindsay, Bill McAmish, Sandy Mueller, Cliff Robertson, Marilyn Robertson, Merle Rose, Marge Schmidt, June Stille, Trish Stromlund, Janice Weeks, and Don Young.

**Illinois South Conference**

Fieldon UCC, Rev. Donna Smith-Pupillo, Interim Pastor. Floraville St. Paul UCC, Pastor Matt (Laura) Friz. Retired Pastors, Revs. Earl Menchhofer and Pamela Smith, Conyers, GA.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50**

**35**But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” **36**Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. **37**And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. **38**But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

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**42**So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. **43**It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in

glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. **44**It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. **45**Thus it is written, “The first man, Adam, became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. **46**But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. **47**The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. **48**As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. **49**Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven. **50**What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

**Luke 6:27-38**

**27**“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, **28**bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. **29**If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. **30**Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. **31**Do to others as you would have them do to you. **32**“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. **33**If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. **34**If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. **35**But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. **36**Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. **37**“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; **38**give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

The Evangelism Committee is planning another food give away to take place in September. Our plan is to provide the majority of the food through church member donations. Listed below is a donation calendar with dates when to bring in each food item.

**Food Donation Calendar**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Week of March 6th | Canned Soups |
| Week of March 13th | Canned Chili with/without beans |
| Week of March 20th | Canned Stew |
| Week of March 27th  | Unsweetened Applesauce – **40 oz jar** |
| Week of April 3rd | Canned Vegetables\*\* |
| Week of April 10th | Canned Vegetables\*\* |
| Week of April 17th | Canned Tuna |
| Week of April 24th | Peanut Butter – **40 oz jar** |
| Week of May 1st | Boxed Cereal – 18-20oz Cheerios, Corn Flakes or Rice Krispies |
| Week of May 8th | Either Apple Juice, Cranberry Juice or Grape Juice\*\* |
| Week of May 15th | Either Apple Juice, Cranberry Juice or Grape Juice\*\* |
| Week of May 22nd  | 2 lb. bag of White Rice |
| Week of May 29th | 5 lb. bag of All Purpose Flour |
| Week of June 5th  | Mac-N-Cheese Box Dinners |

\*\* These items are listed twice because of the amount needed

* Designated, labeled tables will be set up for you to place your donations on.
* If donations are brought in during the week, or you would like to purchase and bring in all of the items at once give them to Rusty and he will put them where they belong.
* Ideas where to shop economically: Ruler Foods, Sam’s Club, Costco, Aldi, Schnucks (checking weekly ads for sales), Target and Wal-Mart.
* Any amount you can donate is helpful. The church will purchase additional food items as needed.
* Please purchase and donate food brands that you would feed your family.
* As you are purchasing these items, please be aware of expiration dates, as we will be giving this food away in September.
* Monetary donations for this project are always appreciated and should be specifically marked for the food drive when turned in.

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***“You Call Us, Lord”***

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***You call us, Lord, to be***

***A people set apart,***

***To feel with thoughtful mind***

***And think with tender heart.***

***Thus chosen, now, O Lord, we ask***

***For faith in your unfailing grace***

***To make us equal to the task.***

***You call us, Lord, to care***

***For self and neighbor too,***

***To take the risk, and dare***

***To show what love can do.***

***Thus chosen, now, O Lord, we ask***

***For faith in your unfailing grace***

***To make us equal to the task.***

***You call us, Lord, to be***

***Good stewards of the earth;***

***To tend it as a place***

***Of blessedness and worth.***

***Thus chosen, now, O Lord, we ask***

***For faith in your unfailing grace***

***To make us equal to the task.***

***You call us, Lord, to serve:***

***To die that we may live,***

***To know we best receive***

***When joyfully we give.***

***Thus chosen, now, O Lord, we ask***

***For faith in your unfailing grace***

***To make us equal to the task.***

***“I Then Shall Live”***

Words: Gloria Gaither. Music: Jean Sibelius; arr. *Hymnal 1933*. Words © 1981 Gaither Music Company (Admin. Gaither Copyright Mgmt.) Music Arr. © 1933, Ren. 1961 Presbyterian Board of Education (Admin. Westminster John Knox Press). Reprinted by permission, CCLI License #13334401.

***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.***

***“All Things Are Yours!”***

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***All things are yours! We make that true***

***When we return our gifts to you.***

***And so we give, and so we share,***

***In Christ’s strong name expressing care.***

***“Give out of love,” your Word commands.***

***We are your passion, head, your heart, your hands.***

***Your Word you underscore with deeds***

***By using us to answer needs.***

***O what a joy to give and then,***

***Out of compassion, give again.***

***You have no needs. Though that be true,***

***The gifts we share are given to you.***

***All things are yours! We make that true***

***When we return our gifts to you.***

***And so we give, and so we share,***

***In Christ’s strong name expressing care.***