**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| August 28, 2022 |  12th Sunday after Pentecost (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 RECOMMENDED.**

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

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

 *Rondo Giocoso* Wagner

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN Jeremiah 2:4-13

Be appalled, O heavens, at this, be shocked, be utterly desolate, says the Lord, for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living water, and dug out cisterns for themselves, cracked cisterns that can hold no water.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SONG

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER Adapted from Psalm 118

This is the day that the Lord has made,

***Let us rejoice and be glad in it.***

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

***His steadfast love endures forever.***

The Lord is my strength and my might;

***He has become my salvation.***

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

 ***We bless you from the house of the Lord.***

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;

 ***You are my God, I will extol you.***

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,

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 ***For his steadfast love endures forever.***

Let us rejoice and be glad as we unite in prayer:

***Come, Holy Spirit, inspire our worship in Word and Sacrament. Help us praise God and give thanks for the promise of salvation in Jesus our Lord. Open our hearts and hands for doing good and humbly caring for all God’s children throughout life. Holy One, receive our worship and bless us for serving, in Jesus’ name. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”*** #113

\*A PROLOGUE TO BAPTISM1

We are a people of the water!

***We worship a God whose love flows through water.***

Love, like a rain shower,

awakens the sleeping seed within the soul

and lures it to blossom.

***We worship a God whose love flows through water.***

Love, like a wading pool, inspires the delight of children,

jumping, splashing, spraying each other, shivering with wet joy.

 ***We worship a God whose love flows through water.***

Love, like a hot shower after a long day’s work,

cleanses us, reawakens us.

***We worship a God whose love flows through water.***

Love, like little drops, drips from fingertips to forehead.

Through baptism, the family of faith makes room for one more.

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM (Inserts)**

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

EPISTLE LESSON Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 pg. 213

SPECIAL MUSIC *Portrait of Peace* Ritch Alexander

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 14:1, 7-14 pg. 72

REFLECTION

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“The Lord My Shepherd Guards Me Well”*** #73

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PASTORAL PRAYER & 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 *Arioso* Ellis

\*SUNG RESPONSE ***“For the Life That You Have Given”*** #684

***For the life that you have given,***

***for the love in Christ made known,***

***with these fruits of time and labor,***

***with these gifts that are your own:***

***here we offer, Lord, our praises;***

***heart and mind and strength we bring;***

***give us grace to love and serve you,***

***living what we pray and sing.***

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

 ***As we offer gifts of money, O Lord, we offer much more—***

***we offer ourselves for humble service. May the marginalized and your angels on earth unite in mutual love at your altar. Believing that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever”, may we live as his faithful disciples in all our days. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“Borning Cry”***  #680

\*BENEDICTION

\*SUNG RESPONSE Traditional ***“Praise God”*** #34

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;***

***Praise him, all creatures here below;***

***Praise him above, ye heavenly host:***

***Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

\*POSTLUDE  *Postlude* Holstein

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“Sing aloud to God our strength; shout for joy to the God of Jacob!” (Psalm 81:1, ESV). Welcome to this opportunity to praise God.

The **bulletin** is given in celebration of the 31st birthday on August 29th of Sarah Totten by Mom, Dad, Lydia, Geoffrey and Dhani.

The **bulletin** is also given in loving memory of my husband, Gary A. Vogeler, by Rae Ellen Vogeler.

The **flowers in front of the pulpit** are given in celebration of the baptism of Drew Wright from Mommy, Daddy, Genny, and Nana.

The **altar centerpiece** is given in honor of the baptism of Desmond Joshua Douglas by Nana and Papa Douglas.

If you would like to place **flowers on the altar**, and pick them up after worship or on Monday, please call **Beth Ravanelli** at (618) 530-7789. If you would like to sponsor the **bulletins**, please call the **church office** at (618) 877-6060. The next available dates to sponsor the bulletin are October 2 & 30.

Thank you to **George Cochran** for serving as liturgist.

Thank you to **Karen Gaines** for greeting.

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



**THIS WEEK**

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

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

 Baptisms, 9:30 a.m.

 **Catch-Up Sunday**

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

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

 Cemetery Scatter Garden Meeting, 5:00 p.m.

 Budget Committee, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

Bible Study, 12:30 p.m.

 ESOS Committee, 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday: TOPS, 9:00 a.m.

Thursday: Cemetery Meeting, 5:00 p.m.

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

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

 Communion & Noisy Offering



A rose has been placed on the altar in honor of the birth of **Jude Anthony Hartline** who was born on August 17th, 2022. He is the son of Ashley & Tony Hartline and the grandson of Donna & Tim Streid. He is the baby brother of Emerson Hartline.



We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of **Bruce Overton Wright Sr.**, who passed from this life on August 22, 2022. May the peace and comfort that come from God sustain his loved ones during this time of grief.

**MISSION OF THE MONTH**

Our August Mission of the Month is designated for the General Fund to assist with costs for Rally Day on August 21st.

**EVENING GUILD & BROTHERHOOD**

All are invited to attend the Monday, September 12th joint meeting of the Evening Guild and Brotherhood. The event begins at 6:30 p.m. with a potluck dinner. The Evening Guild will provide the meat and drinks so please bring a side dish or dessert to share. The guest speaker will be Mayor Mike Parkinson who will present

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information on exciting happenings in Granite City. Have you heard about “The District”? Curious to know what is going on at

the old Shop ‘N’ Save and K-Mart? This meeting will be an opportunity to learn the facts and be of interest even to non-residents. Reservations are recommended. Contact Evening Guild President Christie Roth (618-931-6194) or Brotherhood representatives Chuck Hasse (618-876-0936) or Dave Douglas (618-452-3336) to make a reservation or if you have any questions.



**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

We need help assembling food boxes on Wednesday, September 7th at 10:00 a.m. on the youth side in the basement. We will also need volunteers to assist in distributing the boxes on Saturday, September 17th at 10:00 a.m. We need a few people to come in earlier on the 17th to help move the boxes form the basement out to the parking lot at 8:30 a.m.



**RUMMAGE SALE**

If sorting & cleaning is in your plans, this will be the perfect time to hold aside items to donate to the all-church rummage sale. The event will be held September 22nd & 23rd this year and items can be brought to the stage in Fellowship Hall between September 6th and September 21st. No large electronics or heavy items please. General rule of thumb: If you would have to pay for it to be recycled, item cannot be accepted. This sale is sponsored by the Evening Guild with assistance appreciated from family and friends. All proceeds are given to church projects or local

charitable organizations. Please mark the following important dates on your calendar:

 Tuesday, September 20th – 9:00 a.m. Set up

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 Wednesday, September 21st – 9:00 a.m. Pricing

**Thursday, September 22nd – 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Open for Shoppers**

**Friday, September 23rd – 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Open for Shoppers**



**FOOD BOX DONATIONS**

Thanks to everyone who has contributed food items to the September Food Box project. We have received enough to fulfill the required amount for many items. We are still in need of the following:

1. Flour (5 lb bag)
2. Rice (2 lb bag)
3. Peanut Butter (small jar)

Thank you again for all your contributions so far. Your efforts make it possible to better assist our community.

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Nursing & Assisted Living**

Ruth Buer, Hilde Few, JoAnn King, Mary Lee Krohne, Karen Luddeke, Leonard Schaefer, and Don Young.

**At Home**

Ritch Alexander, Isabella Boyer, Marlene Brokaw, Myra Cook, Bonnie Fornaszewski, Mary Franz, Luitgard Fries, Melba Grady, Lou Hasse, Norman Hente, Chuck King, Sandy Mueller, Cliff Robertson, Merle Rose, Marge Schmidt, and June Stille.

**Illinois South Conference**

Addieville Zion UCC, Rev. Bill Groennert. Alhambra Salem UCC, Rev. Jeremy Wood, Pastor John (Marilee) Mindrup.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16**

Let mutual affection continue. **2**Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. **3**Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being

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tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. **4**Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers.

**5**Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, “I will never leave you or forsake you.” **6**So we can say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?” **7**Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. **8**Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. **15**Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. **16**Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

**Luke 14:1, 7-14**

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

**7**When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. **8**“When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, **9**and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. **10**But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. **11**For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” **12**He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would

be repaid. **13**But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. **14**And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

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**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 Caslyn Brandes, President, 618-802-1152

Kiki Cochran, Vice President, 618-797-2511

Evening Guild – Talk to Christie Roth, 618-931-6194

Financial Reports – Talk to Mike Seibold, Treasurer, 618-792-4301

Angela Potter, 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

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**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM**

INVITATION TO THE SACRAMENT

 Child: Desmond Joshua Douglas

 Date of Birth: June 29, 2022

 Parents: Joshua David Douglas &

 Acacia Nicole (Moll) Douglas

 Sponsors: Haley Baker, Christopher Rydgig

PROMISES OF THE FAMILIES AND CONGREGATION

Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you who witness and celebrate this sacrament promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized and to all God’s family as they live and grow in Christ?

 ***We promise our love, support, and care.***

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

 (From the U.C.C. Doxology of Faith)

Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.

***We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:***

***You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death. You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin…***

***You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races…***

***You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ’s baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory…***

***Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.***

PRAYER AND BAPTISM

PRESENTATION

HYMN ***“For the Beauty of the Earth”*** Vss. 1, 3 & 4 #40

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM**

INVITATION TO THE SACRAMENT

 Child: Drew Martin Wright

 Date of Birth: April 9, 2020

 Parents: Aaron Oliver Ferdinand Wright &

 Christine Nicole (Stenson) Wright

 Sponsors: Dane Hanson, Nicole Thirlwall

PROMISES OF THE FAMILIES AND CONGREGATION

Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you who witness and celebrate this sacrament promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized and to all God’s family as they live and grow in Christ?

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***You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races…***

***You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ’s baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory…***

***Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.***

PRAYER AND BAPTISM

PRESENTATION

HYMN ***“For the Beauty of the Earth”*** Vss. 1, 3 & 4 #40

***“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”***

***Rejoice, ye pure in heart,***

***Rejoice, give thanks and sing;***

***Your festal banner wave on high,***

***The cross of Christ your King.***

***Rejoice, (rejoice), rejoice, (rejoice),***

***Rejoice, give thanks and sing.***

***Bright youth and snow-crowned age,***

***Strong souls and spirits meek,***

***Raise high your free, exulting song,***

***God’s wondrous praises speak.***

***Rejoice, (rejoice), rejoice, (rejoice),***

***Rejoice, give thanks and sing.***

***With voice as full and strong***

***As ocean’s surging praise,***

***Send forth the hymns the saints have loved,***

***The psalms of ancient days.***

***Rejoice, (rejoice), rejoice, (rejoice),***

***Rejoice, give thanks and sing.***

***Yes, on through life’s long path,***

***Still chanting as you go,***

***From youth to age, by night and day,***

***In gladness and in woe.***

***Rejoice, (rejoice), rejoice, (rejoice),***

***Rejoice, give thanks and sing.***

***“The Lord My Shepherd Guards Me Well”***

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr.; para. Psalm 23. Music: James L. Bain; arr. Gordon Jacob. Words © 1990 Hope Publishing Company. Music Arr. © 1932 Oxford University Press. Reprinted by permission, CCLI License #1334401.

***The Lord my Shepherd guards me well,***

***And all my wants are fed:***

***Amid green pastures made to lie,***

***Beside still waters led.***

***My care-worn soul grows strong and whole***

***When God’s true path I tread.***

***Though I should walk in darkest ways***

***Through valleys like the grave,***

***No evil shall I ever fear;***

***Your presence makes me brave.***

***On my behalf your rod and staff***

***Assure me you will save.***

***For me a table has been spread***

***Where all my foes can see;***

***You bathe my head with fragrant oil***

***To soothe and honor me.***

***My heart and cup are both filled up***

***With joyful ecstasy.***

***Your steadfast love will follow me***

***To shield me all my days***

***And bring me to your holy house,***

***Redeemed from error’s ways,***

***My whole life long to join the song***

***Of those who sing God’s praise.***

*“Borning Cry”* not printed due to copyright.

***“For the Beauty of the Earth”***

***For the beauty of the earth,***

***For the glory of the skies,***

***For the love which from our birth***

***Over and around us lies,***

***Lord of all, to thee we raise***

***This our hymn of grateful praise.***

***For the joy of human love,***

***Brother, sister, parent, child,***

***Friends on earth and friends above;***

***For all gentle thoughts and mild,***

***Lord of all, to thee we raise***

***This our hymn of grateful praise.***

***For the church that evermore***

***Lifteth holy hands above,***

***Offering up on every shore***

***Her pure sacrifice of love,***

***Lord of all, to thee we raise***

***This our hymn of grateful praise.***