**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

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| --- | --- |
| July 31, 2022 |  8th 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

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN Hosea 11:1-11

[God said] My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender. I will not execute my fierce anger;…

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

 *Amazing Grace* Hustad, Arr.

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYERAdapted from Psalm 107:1-9, 43

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

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

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so.

***Let those he redeemed from trouble***

***and gathered in from the lands say so.***

Some wandered in desert wastes,

finding no way to an inhabited town;

***Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.***

Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,

and he delivered them from their distress;

***He led them by a straight way,***

***until they reached an inhabited town.***

Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love,

***For his wonderful works to humankind.***

For he satisfies the thirsty,

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***And the hungry he fills with good things.***

Let those who are wise give heed to these things,

 ***And consider the steadfast love of the Lord.***

Let us unite in prayer:

 ***Creator God, giver of generous gifts, and of mercy beyond merit, we come to worship you. We know that your steadfast love strengthens us and helps us focus on obeying your will every day. And so, as we worship, we thank you for inspiring us to pay attention as to how we live our lives for you and your kingdom. Unite and bless us, we pray, as Jesus’ faithful disciples in these days. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“As the Deer”*** #471

\*RESPONSIVE COMMITMENT TO DISCIPLESHIP1

We live in a world that often judges us, not by the spirit within, but by the ability to earn, own, and consume. Sometimes the size of one’s heart seems not as important as the size of one’s bank account. We live in a world wounded by confused priorities and blind greed.

***God of mercy and love, we come before you, asking you to take all our desires and aspirations for things that do not matter and transform them into a zealous desire for the gifts of your Spirit.***

God of all people, let your word in all its richness sink to the very center of our souls. May it transform our lives so that we will only seek after that which endures forever.

And Jesus said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” (Luke 12:15)

***Loving God, remind us that we are rich, not because we have money, but because we have your life within us.***

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal.” (Matthew 6:19)

***Loving God, guide us away from greed and help us to concentrate on you and your graciousness.***

“Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have; for he has said, ‘I will never leave you or forsake

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you.’ So we can say with confidence, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?” (Hebrews 13:5-6)

***Loving God, only in you will we know true peace. There are no earthly riches that will satisfy us as will the peace that only you can give.***

Loving God, we are grateful for the many blessings you bestow on us. Help us focus on you and the blessing of life itself. Keep us from excess. Keep us centered in your love. Amen.

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

EPISTLE LESSON Colossians 3:1-11 pg. 190

SPECIAL MUSIC *Oh! Susanna* Mayleigh Alsop

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 12:13-21 pg. 70

REFLECTION

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“Take My Life and Let It Be”*** #466

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 *Come, All Christians, Be Committed* White

\*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.***

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\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

 ***With these gifts we offer our lives and hearts for compassionate discipleship, O God. All that we offer represents our willingness to sacrifice, and to be rich in spiritual ways. Bless us and fill us with joy as we serve, in Jesus’ name. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“Trust and Obey”***  #443

\*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  *Postludium* Armstrong

1Taken from *Together We Pray*, © 2005 by Ave Maria Press. All rights reserved.

Welcome to St. John United Church of Christ as we gather to worship God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

If you would like to place **flowers on the altar**, and pick them up Monday, please call **Veronica Douglas** at (618) 806-4899. 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 & 16.

Thank you to **Jessie Curran** for serving as liturgist, to **Betty Meszaros** for greeting, and to **Mayleigh Alsop** for providing special music.

**THIS WEEK**

Today:  **Mum Orders Due**

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

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

 5th Sunday Cash Plate for General Fund

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

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

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

Bible Study - **Canceled**

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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

 Distribute Catch-Up Letters & Envelopes

**MISSION OF THE MONTH**

Our July Mission of the Month is collecting school supplies for the Granite City School District. The greatest need now for schools is Walmart gift cards to buy emergency supplies for children, so clearly marked money gifts for Walmart gift cards or cards from scrip are suggested.



**SECOND ANNUAL FALL MUM SALE**

Mum orders are due **TODAY, Sunday, July 31st**! Order forms are available on the table in the Narthex and should be given to Mike Seibold once completed. Payment is due at the time your order is placed. The mums are perennials, thus will grow the following year. Of course, how they are planted or left in the original container can determine if they come back the following year. Weather conditions are also a factor in growth. Mums will be delivered in mid-September; a specific date will be given at a later time. Profits from this sale will be used for evangelism projects, remodeling the Sunday School classrooms, and general fund expenses. We sold 475 mums last year, so let’s see if we can meet or beat that number this year.

**SCRIP**

Appreciation to all who placed July orders. Many ordered Walmart gift cards which were on the Mission of the Month school supply wish list. A small rebate will be made to the church’s general fund plus those purchasing saved shopping time and gas. The scrip program is a win-win situation! Next order is August 21st. Contact Melissa Lane or Betty Meszaros for more information.

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**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

 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 certain items, specifically cereal, mac & cheese dinners, soup, and canned vegetables. We are still in need of the following items:

1. Applesauce (40 oz or near that size) – Ruler Foods has a price under $2.00
2. Canned Chili
3. Canned Stew

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1. Juice (Apple, Cranapple, Cranberry, Grape – 64 oz or similar) Walmart has juice for $2.00 or a little less
2. Canned Chicken
3. Rice (2 lb bag)

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



**CHURCH BARBECUE**

We are hosting another barbecue on Saturday, August 13, 2022. It will take place in the church parking lot from 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. or until we sell out. Our dinner options will be the same as our last barbecue:

 Pork steak dinner w/ 2 sides - $12

 Brat dinner w/ 2 sides - $12

 Hot dog dinner w/ 1 side - $5

The side choices will include Relleke Corn on the Cob, baked beans, and potato salad. Desserts will also be available. We need volunteers! Volunteer sign up will be posted in the Narthex on next Sunday, July 31st. Tickets are available for purchase in the church office or can be purchased from Mike Seibold. We’ll have ticket packets available so you can sell tickets to friends and family!

**BBQ DESSERTS**

We are in search of eight bakers to make cakes, cobblers or brownies to be sold at the August 13th barbecue. Please contact Betty Meszaros (618-451-1968) with questions or to sign up.

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**TRIVIA AUCTION RAFFLE BASKETS**

As previously announced out of concern for the safety of our guests due to uncertain Covid situations, the trivia night has been canceled again for this year. The auction tradition will continue with a different format to allow everyone to participate instead of just those attending the event. Chances can be purchased ($1 each, six for $5, or twenty-five for $20) with entries for whichever and however many raffle baskets as desired. “Baskets will be displayed August 7th, 14th, and 21st in Fellowship Hall with winning entries drawn at the August 21st Rally Day. Winner need not be present. A complete description of basket items will be published next week. Guidelines are being finalized to give

those unable to attend in person the opportunity to easily purchase chances. Details will be in next week’s bulletin. Contact Betty Meszaros (618-451-1968) for more information. A portion of the proceeds will be contributed to the DuBois Center Capital Improvement Fund.

**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, Lou Hasse, Norman Hente, Chuck King, Bill McAmish, Sandy Mueller, Cliff Robertson, Merle Rose, Marge Schmidt, and June Stille.

**Illinois South Conference**

Summerfield St. John UCC, Rev. Philip (Kate) Barbier. Tower Hill St. Paul UCC, Rev. Dr. Steve (Debbi) Nance. Retired Pastors, Revs. Pamela Smith and Earl Menchhofer, Conyers, GA.

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**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Colossians 3:1-11**

**3**So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2**Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, **3**for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. **4**When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. **5**Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). **6**On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. **7**These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. **8**But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. **9**Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices **10**and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. **11**In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

**Luke 12:13-21**

**13**Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” **14**But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” **15**And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” **16**Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. **17**And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ **18**Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. **19**And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ **20**But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ **21**So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

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***“As the Deer”***

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***As the deer pants for the water,***

***So my soul longs after you;***

***You alone are my heart’s desire***

***And I long to worship you.***

***You alone are my strength and shield;***

***To you alone may my spirit yield.***

***You alone are my heart’s desire,***

***And I long to worship you.***

***I want you more than gold or silver,***

***Only you can satisfy;***

***You alone are the real joy-giver***

***And the apple of my eye.***

***You alone are my strength and shield;***

***To you alone may my spirit yield.***

***You alone are my heart’s desire,***

***And I long to worship you.***

***You’re my friend and you are my brother,***

***Even though you are a king;***

***I love you more than any other,***

***So much more than anything!***

***You alone are my strength and shield;***

***To you alone may my spirit yield.***

***You alone are my heart’s desire,***

***And I long to worship you.***

***“Take My Life and Let It Be”***

***Take my life and let it be***

***Consecrated, Lord, to thee;***

***Take my hands and let them move***

***At the impulse of thy love,***

***At the impulse of thy love.***

***Take my feet and let them be***

***Swift and beautiful for thee;***

***Take my voice and let me sing***

***Always, only, for my King,***

***Always, only, for my King.***

***Take my lips and let them be***

***Filled with messages for thee;***

***Take my silver and my gold,***

***Not a mite would I withhold,***

***Not a mite would I withhold.***

***Take my love, my God, I pour***

***At thy feet its treasure store;***

***Take myself and I will be***

***Ever, only, all for thee,***

***Ever, only, all for thee.***

***“Trust and Obey”***

***When we walk with the Lord***

***In the light of his Word,***

***What a glory he sheds on our way!***

***While we do his good will,***

***He abides with us still,***

***And with all who will trust and obey.***

***Trust and obey,***

***For there’s no other way***

***To be happy in Jesus,***

***But to trust and obey.***

***Not a burden we bear,***

***Not a sorrow we share,***

***But our toil he will richly repay;***

***Not a grief nor a loss,***

***Not a frown nor a cross,***

***But is blest if we trust and obey.***

***Trust and obey,***

***For there’s no other way***

***To be happy in Jesus,***

***But to trust and obey.***

***But we never can prove***

***The delights of his love***

***Until all on the altar we lay;***

***For the favor he shows***

***And the joy he bestows***

***Are for them who will trust and obey.***

***Trust and obey,***

***For there’s no other way***

***To be happy in Jesus,***

***But to trust and obey.***

***Then in fellowship sweet***

***We will sit at his feet,***

***Or we’ll walk by his side in the way;***

***What he says we will do,***

***Where he sends we will go –***

***Never fear, only trust and obey.***

***Trust and obey,***

***For there’s no other way***

***To be happy in Jesus,***

***But to trust and obey.***