**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| September 25, 2022 | 16th 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 1 Timothy 6:6-19

Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it; (1 Timothy 6:6)

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*Meditation* Morris

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER Adapted from Hymn #503

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O God, your constant care and love

***Are shed upon us from above,***

Throughout our lives in every stage,

***From infancy to later age.***

We thank you, Lord, for dreams of youth,

***For wisdom leading on to truth,***

For memories gathered through the years,

***And faith that grows from joys and tears.***

All time is yours, O Lord, to give.

***May we, in all the years we live,***

Find that each day of life is new,

***A celebration, Lord, with you.***

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Let not the passing of the years

***Rob us of joy or cause us tears,***

And may our faith, O Lord, hold true,

***That we may always rest in you.***

Let us unite in prayer:

***Lord of all life, grant us hope to fill our days, whatever they may hold. As we worship you, remind us again that our top priority is honoring and serving you. Grant us your Spirit to guide our words and actions for faithful discipleship, in Jesus’ name. Amen.***

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

\*RESPONSIVE EPISTLE READING 1 Timothy 6:6-19 (adapted)

But as for you, Timothy, man of God, shun the temptations and traps of desiring earthly riches,

***For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.***

Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith;

***Take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.***

In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you:

***To keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will bring about at the right time…..***

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches,

***But rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.***

They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share,

***Thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.***

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

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HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 pg. 692

SPECIAL MUSIC *Guide Me to Thee* Ritch Alexander

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 16:19-31 pg. 75

REFLECTION

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“As the Deer”*** #471

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 *Prayer* Haberer

\*SUNG RESPONSE ***“Pass It On”*** Vs. 1 #557

***It only takes a spark to get a fire going,***

***and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing;***

***that’s how it is with God’s love, once you’ve experienced it: you spread God’s love to everyone, you want to pass it on.***

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***With hope for all the loving good our gifts may do, we offer them for your blessing, O God. We do so graciously and humbly, knowing that year after year you call us and lead us to take hold of the life that really is life, in Jesus’ name. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“O God, Your Constant Care and Love”***  #503

(Ritch will play just the melody line once, and then we’ll sing it so we can learn this beautiful and meaningful song.)

\*BENEDICTION

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

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***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

The psalmist tells us: “From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised” (Psalm 113:3, NRSV). So we gather to worship him now. Welcome!

The **bulletin** is given in loving memory of George Few’s September 24th birthday by the family.

If you would like to place **flowers on the altar**, and pick them up after church 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 **Kiki Cochran** for serving as liturgist, to **Rae-Ellen Vogeler** for greeting, and to **Ritch Alexander** for offering special music.

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**THIS WEEK**

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

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

Youth Fellowship, 10:30 a.m. (Youth Side)

Confirmation Class, 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

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, 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday: TOPS, 9:00 a.m.

Bell Choir, 5:30 p.m.

Chancel Choir, 6:30 p.m.

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

Community Band, 6:15-9:30 p.m.

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

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

Communion & Noisy Offering

World Communion Sunday

Flour Collection

Animal Dedication

Budget Information Meeting after worship

Begin Neighbors in Need Offering

**MISSION OF THE MONTH**

Our September Mission of the Month is dedicated to committing random acts of kindness.

**YOUTH FELLOWSHIP**

Youth Fellowship will meet today at 10:30 a.m. on the youth side.

**STUFFED ANIMALS**

Church members are welcomed to donate an 18” or larger stuffed animal to join the others located in the church. All stuffed animals are going to a good cause, as will be seen at the October 2nd service. Place your stuffed animal donations on the table in the Narthex.

**SCRIP**

Appreciation to the ESOS Committee for ordering gift cards through the scrip program. Thanks also to those who donated cards for the “surprise squad” and all who continue to support this fundraising project. October order can be given to Betty Meszaros at any time and will be held until the third Sunday of October (date sound familiar?). Order forms and master list of vendors are on table in narthex or contact Betty with any questions.

**CEMETERY CLEAN UP**

If you’re interested in helping with cemetery clean up on October 3, 2022, please call the cemetery office to let them know. Clean up will start at 8:30 a.m. at the Nameoki Cemetery Garage. We’ll start with Nameoki first and then head over to Maryville.

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**CHURCH WOMEN UNITED**

Church Women United will meet on September 29th at 9:30 a.m. Light refreshments will be served. This meeting date was

changed from its regular date of the 22nd due to the St. John Rummage Sale. We would like you to join us if you can. At this meeting there will be a speaker on Bread for the World. Bread for the World emphasizes the power of our voice to speak up for those who are oppressed and vulnerable. Perhaps this meeting we will hear about policies that have proven effective over time. 30,000 more people will suffer from hunger by 2030. What prevents us from sharing is we feel overwhelmed or we think advocacy, writing letters and meeting with Congress doesn’t work.

One of our members, Carol Shanks, recently was invited to Washington D.C. to participate in a conference of Bread for the World. She will be at the next meeting along with the speaker. Through a CWU State grant our Unit recently was able to donate, along with a private donation, enough money to Good Samaritan House for playground equipment. Also from our recent fundraiser, we donated resources for discretionary funds for the 49 mothers and 94 children they have serviced over the years.

**JUSTINE WALKER MEMORIAL NUT & CANDY SALE**

It’s that time again to order your Nut and Candy Goodies, from Terri Lynn Nut and Candy. All funds raised will go to support St. John Cemetery. Look for printed brochures in the Narthex and Tower. Please take a brochure home and choose your products. Once you choose your products be sure to fill in your order form, which will be on the last page. Payment at the time of ordering is required. Cash and checks are acceptable. Please make checks payable to St. John Cemetery. Joan Mueller will be in Fellowship Hall after service today, September 25th, to take orders. If ordering remotely, you can submit orders by:

* Phone to Joan Mueller (618-830-0647)
* Email to [stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com](mailto:stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com)
* You can either drop off your payment at the 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

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received by Sunday, October 2nd. Your order will be delivered to you at church late October/early November. If anyone is interested in taking orders outside of church, please let Joan

Mueller know so you can be given brochures and order forms. We look forward to filling your orders and supporting our cemetery and their vital works. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Joan Mueller (618-830-0647)

Thank you!

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Mark your calendars for APPLESAUCE MAKING DAY on Thursday, Oct. 13th. Let Nancy Jacobs or Donna Brandes know if you plan on coming. If you don’t know until the last minute, just show up about 9:00 a.m. with a paring knife and a bowl!

Advanced sale tickets are available now. Please get a packet from Connie Ahlers or Mike Seibold and try to sell drive-thru dinner tickets prior to Sausage Dinner Day on Oct. 16th. Connie will be in the narthex before worship services and in the Fellowship Hall afterwards.

Don’t forget that we will have the Country Store on the Youth side. Donations of baked goods, candy, relishes, jellies, etc. are needed. Gently used jewelry and craft items and nice attic treasures will also be needed to make this a success.

If you haven’t volunteered to work on the day of the dinner yet, please see Nancy Jacobs or Donna Brandes so they can get their workers assigned to various jobs.

*We would greatly appreciate cash donations to help offset the rising costs of the food and supplies needed for the dinner.*

**SPREADING CHRISTMAS CHEER**

The residents of Granite City Nursing and Rehab need a little Christmas cheer and we are going to help them!!! Thirty-seven residents need a sponsor to buy them a few small Christmas gifts. The Activities Director will send us wish lists with 1 want, 1

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need, and 1 splurge gift (usually around $25 value in all). Please consider filling out a form (available on the table in the narthex), or you can call or text Kiki Cochran at 618-503-3608 and sponsor 1 or more residents. We will receive their wish list after we sign up! Thank you in advance for your generosity!

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Nursing & Assisted Living**

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

**At Home**

Chloe Affolter, Ritch Alexander, Isabella Boyer, Carol Braundmeier, Marlene Brokaw, Christopher Clark, 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**

Brighton St. John’s UCC, Rev. John Pawloski. Retired Pastors, Rev. Jack Spratte and Barbara VanAusdall, Mascoutah, IL, Rev. Paul Thompson, Jr., Red Bud, IL.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15**

**32**The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord in the tenth year of King Zedekiah of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadrezzar. **2**At that time the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was confined in the court of the guard that was in the palace of the king of Judah, **3**where King Zedekiah of Judah had confined him.

**6**Jeremiah said, “The word of the Lord came to me: **7**Hanamel son of your uncle Shallum is going to come to you and say, ‘Buy my field that is at Anathoth, for the right of redemption by purchase is yours.’ ” **8**Then my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guard, in accordance with the word of the Lord, and said to me, “Buy my field that is at Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for the right of possession and redemption is yours; buy it for yourself.” Then I knew that this was the word of the Lord.

**9**And I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel and weighed out the silver to him, seventeen shekels of silver. **10**I

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signed the deed, sealed it, got witnesses, and weighed the silver on scales. **11**Then I took the sealed deed of purchase containing the terms and conditions and the open copy, **12**and I gave the deed of purchase to Baruch son of Neriah son of Mahseiah, in the presence of my cousin Hanamel, in the presence of the witnesses who signed the deed of purchase, and in the presence

of all the Judeans who were sitting in the court of the guard. **13**In their presence I charged Baruch, saying, **14**“Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and this open deed, and put them in an earthenware jar, in order that they may last for a long time. **15**For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land.

**Luke 16:19-31**

**19**“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. **20**And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, **21**who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. **22**The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2016%3A19-31&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-25635a)] The rich man also died and was buried. **23**In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2016%3A19-31&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-25636b)] **24**He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.’ **25**But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. **26**Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ **27**He said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house— **28**for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ **29**Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ **30**He said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’ **31**He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’ ”

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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

***“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.***

***“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.***

***“O God, Your Constant Care and Love”***

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***O God, your constant care and love***

***Are shed upon us from above,***

***Throughout our lives in every stage,***

***From infancy to later age.***

***We thank you, Lord, for dreams of youth,***

***For wisdom leading on to truth,***

***For memories gathered through the years,***

***And faith that grows from joys and tears.***

***All time is yours, O Lord, to give.***

***May we, in all the years we live,***

***Find that each day of life is new,***

***A celebration, Lord, with you.***

***Let not the passing of the years***

***Rob us of joy or cause us fears,***

***And may our faith, O Lord, hold true,***

***That we may always rest in you.***