**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| October 9, 2022 | 18th 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 2 Timothy 2:8-15

Remind them of this, and warn them before God that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. (2 Timothy 2:14)

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*Amazing Grace* Lani Smith, Arr.

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER Psalm 66:1-3a, 5, 8

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;

***sing the glory of his name;***

give to God glorious praise.

***Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds!***

Come and see what God has done:

***God is awesome in his deeds among mortals.***

Bless our God, O peoples,

***let the sound of his praise be heard.***

Let us unite in prayer:

***We worship and praise you, O God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We come before you as unique individuals, yet united in your family. Whatever our gifts and abilities, experiences and dreams, you love and care for us. And you call us to love and care for your family, to seek the***

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***welfare of all in every circumstance. Bless us with your Spirit so that our ears and hearts are open to your call, and we choose to be productive disciples, growing in faith and service, in Jesus’ name. Amen.***

\*HYMN  ***“Community of Christ”***  #615

\*A LITANY PRAYER FOR THE CITY

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God of peace, in Jesus you wept for the city,

***You loved the city, place of human greed, violence, wealth, and poverty,***

But also place of hope and human gathering.

***We pray for the city of Granite City, for Pontoon Beach, Mitchell, Madison, Venice, and all our neighbors.***

That the needs of all for food, and shelter, and work,

for justice and dignity, might be met.

***We pray that the diverse people living here may join their efforts to seek the good of all.***

Minister to this city through the hands of your people, as they feed the hungry, heal the sick, and comfort the sorrowing.

***We pray for people living in cities around the world,***

***who have come seeking to work and to survive.***

We pray for refugees and for those who have been driven off the land.

***May they too find what they need to live.***

Keep alive in us that hope of the new Jerusalem, of the city that finds its light from your presence, and its joy in doing your will,

where tears are dried, and violence is destroyed.

***Through Jesus Christ, let it be! Amen.***

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7 pg. 687

SPECIAL MUSIC *It Is No Secret* Ginny Sallee

GOSPEL LESSON Mark 4:1-20 pg. 35

SERMON Seed Surprise

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

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\*HYMN ***“Now It Is Evening”*** #627

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 *Thy Word* Ginny Sallee

\*SUNG RESPONSE ***“We Praise You, O God”*** Vs.1 #726

***We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;***

***in grateful devotion our tribute we bring;***

***we lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;***

***we bless your holy name: glad praises we sing.***

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***We ask your blessing on these gifts, O Lord, that they may be seed sown in good soil to feed your people hungry in mind, body, and spirit. Inspire us to be wise stewards of every gift we receive and share from you, in Jesus’ name. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“For the Fruit of All Creation”***  #723

\*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  *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart* Franklin Ritter

Welcome! May you be refreshed and empowered through our time together in worship, to bless the world as God has blessed you.

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The **bulletin** is given in loving memory of the birthday on October 13th of Lois Winter by Sandy & Judy Buccheid and Janet Kies.

If you would like to place **flowers on the altar**, and pick them up after church or on Monday, please call **Donna Brandes** at (618) 802-1072. If you would like to sponsor the **bulletins**, please call the **church office** at (618) 877-6060. The next available date to sponsor the bulletin is October 30.

Thank you to **Kiki Cochran** for serving as liturgist, to **Ginny Sallee** for providing special music, to **Chris McMillan** for serving as guest organist, and to **Conyr Fischer** for serving as acolyte.

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**THIS WEEK**

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

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

Rev. Lisa Guilliams Preaching for TWIGS

Fellowship Hour by Cemetery

Personnel Committee, 10:35 a.m.

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

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

Brotherhood, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday: Bible Study, 12:30 p.m.

Hilltoppers, 12:30 p.m.

Cemetery, 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday: TOPS, 9:00 a.m.

Bell Choir, 5:30 p.m.

Chancel Choir, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday: **Applesauce Making, 9:00 a.m.**

Saturday: Illinois South Conference Annual Meeting

**St. John UCC Annual Reports Due in Office**

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

**Sausage Dinner, 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.**

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**MISSION OF THE MONTH**

Our October Mission of the Month is dedicated to the Neighbors in Need offering that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.

**SCRIP**

The next scrip order will be submitted October 16th. Order forms of “favorites” and the master list of vendors are located on the table in the narthex. Give your order form along with your check payable to St. John UCC to Betty Meszaros or mail it to the church office. If you do not have an order form, just include a note of what you want to purchase. You can also give Betty a call and she will email the vendor list to you. You can give your order to Betty at any time and it will be held until the third Sunday of October which is the day of our annual sausage dinner. Cards should arrive before Halloween should you want to give to your favorite trick or treater. Many fast food restaurants participate in the program offering a $10 denomination card. Not too early to start thinking about Christmas gift giving. Lowe’s or Home Depot make great gifts to new homeowners. Gordon Food Service or Sam’s are great places to stock up on party supplies. Please note changes in November and December due to holiday schedules. Orders will be submitted the SECOND Sunday of those two months which are 11/13 and 12/11. Contact Melissa Lane 314-575-7627 or Betty Meszaros 618-451-1968 for additional information.

A close-up of a red fruit

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**APPLESAUCE MAKING DAY IS THURSDAY, OCT. 13TH**

Peelers will start about 8:30 and everyone else can come about 8:45. Don’t forget your pairing knife and bowl. If you can’t come at that time just show up whenever you can. Pizza will be provided for lunch. This is a “sit-down job” that comes with lots of friendly

conversation so come find out what it’s all about. Family and friends are invited too!

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Diagram

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**ADVANCED TICKETS FOR SAUSAGE DINNER**

There are still plenty of pre-sale tickets available for the Sausage Dinner. Pick up a packet of 10 tickets form Connie Ahlers, Mike Seibold, or the Church Office and try to sell them before the big event. Turn in your money for the tickets as soon as you can after they are sold. If you can’t sell all 10, then just return the tickets. Let’s make this our most profitable Sausage Dinner ever!

**COUNTRY STORE & BAZAAR**

Donations of craft items, pre-loved attic treasures and gently used jewelry are still being accepted. These items can be left in or by the church office if locked. Your donations of goodies for the Country Store can be dropped off on the Youth Side of the basement on Friday, Oct 14th before 4:00. Donations will still be accepted before noon on Saturday, Oct. 15th or before church on the 16th. Come down the outside ramp to donate your baked goods, candy, relishes, jellies, etc.

**HELP OUT WITH A CASH DONATION**

We would greatly appreciate cash donations to help offset the rising costs of the food and supplies for the Sausage Dinner.

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**VOLUNTEER WORKERS**

Volunteer workers for the Sausage Dinner should have received a phone call confirming their work time. If you are willing to help and haven’t been contacted – WE STILL NEED YOU! Either talk to Nancy Jacobs or show up sometime between 10:30-6:30.

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A picture containing toy

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**TRUNK OR TREAT**

There’s a chill in the air ... must mean spooky things are ahead. This year the St. John Youth Group is changing things up and holding the first annual Trunk or Treat on Sunday, October 23 from 2-4 pm. This event will take place rain or shine! This will be a large undertaking and they can’t do it alone. Let’s all join the fun and see if we can help them out. The youth group is asking for three things.

**Trunks!** Most of the youth can’t drive yet, so they need your help. We need volunteers to fill the parking lot with Halloween-decorated vehicles. Let’s spruce up our trunks and/or truck beds with crepe paper and pumpkins and fill them with treats for the kids. And while you are decorating your vehicle, remember to dress up yourself! Costumes are encouraged for everyone!

**Treats!** We are going to need lots of them. While those decorating their cars will bring treats for the kids, we will also need candy for game prizes and to shore up any shortages. Don’t want to donate candy? We’ll take other treats such as spider rings, vampire teeth, spooky stickers, etc. Please bring donations to the church office anytime before October 23.

**Helpers!** Don’t feel like cleaning out the trunk of your car? That’s ok! We can use you at the games! We intend to have various games set up and are looking for volunteers to supervise. Again, this is a great chance to bring out your capes and wigs and participate in the fun by dressing up!

As you may know, trunk or treating is a big deal in these parts, so let’s do our church and youth group proud by helping to make the first annual Trunk or Treat a great success!

The event will take place rain or shine. To volunteer in any capacity, please contact:

Sharon O’Toole (314-420-1548 or [Sharon.otoole66@gmail.com](mailto:Sharon.otoole66@gmail.com))

Shara Young (618-304-5797 or [shara-young@sbcglobal.net](mailto:shara-young@sbcglobal.net))

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**BROTHERHOOD MEAT SALE**

Orders are being accepted for the Fall Meat Sale. The last day to submit a pre-order is **Monday, October 24th**. Order forms are available in this bulletin and on the table in the Narthex. Pickup will be from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. on **November 4th and 5th**.

**CARDINAL CALENDARS**

The St. Louis Cardinals are in the playoffs! Here is an opportunity for you to order 2023 Cardinal calendars. They will include pictures of the historic 2022 season. Cost is $17 each and each calendar ordered entitles the purchaser to one entry in a drawing for two tickets to a 2023 Cardinal home game. Orders can be placed at the October 16th Sausage Dinner or by mailing a check payable to St. John Cemetery to the cemetery office at 2550 Maryville Rd. (Please note checks to the cemetery versus the church as separate accounting.) Betty Meszaros will also accept orders with payment of cash or check in Fellowship Hall after Sunday morning worship until **November 13th**. Shipment anticipated beginning of December in time for Christmas giftgiving. Call the cemetery office at 618-876-5811 or contact Betty at 618-451-1968 with questions. Go Cards!!!!

**SHOP WITH A COP**

On December 18th we will be hosting a luncheon in Township Hall which will service over 100 people who participate in the shop with a cop program. We will need volunteers to serve the food! Please contact Mike Seibold (618-792-4301) or the church office to sign up.

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Nursing & Assisted Living**

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

**At Home**

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

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**Illinois South Conference**

Carlyle Immanuel UCC, Pastor Ken (Barbara) Schafer. Central City Zion UCC, Rev. Nancy Peebles. Retired Pastor, Rev. Robert Schmidt, Sherman, IL.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7**

These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

**4**Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: **5**Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. **6**Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. **7**But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

**Mark 4:1-20**

Again he began to teach beside the sea. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the sea and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. **2**He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: **3**“Listen! A sower went out to sow. **4**And as he sowed, some seed fell on a path, and the birds came and ate it up. **5**Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. **6**And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root it withered away. **7**Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. **8**Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.” **9**And he said, “If you have ears to hear, then hear!” **10**When he was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables. **11**And he said to them, “To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything comes in parables, **12**in order that ‘they may indeed look but not

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perceive, and may indeed hear but not understand;  
so that they may not turn again and be forgiven.’”

**13**And he said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? Then how will you understand all the parables? **14**The sower sows the word. **15**These are the ones on the path where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. **16**And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: when they hear the word, they immediately receive it with joy. **17**But they have no root and endure only for a while; then, when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+4%3A1-20+++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-24338b)] **18**And others are those sown among the thorns: these are the ones who hear the word, **19**but the cares of the age and the lure of wealth and the desire for other things come in and choke the word, and it yields nothing. **20**And these are the ones sown on the good soil: they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.”

***“Community of Christ”***

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***Community of Christ,***

***Who make the cross your own,***

***Live out your creed***

***And risk your life for God alone:***

***The God who wears your face,***

***To whom all worlds belong,***

***Whose children are of every race and every song.***

***Community of Christ,***

***Look past the church’s door***

***And see the refugee,***

***The hungry, and the poor.***

***Take hands with the oppressed,***

***The jobless in your street,***

***Take towel and water, that you wash your neighbor’s feet.***

***Community of Christ,***

***Through whom the word must sound -***

***Cry out for justice***

***And for peace the whole world round:***

***Disarm the powers that war***

***And all that can destroy,***

***Turn bombs to bread, and tears of anguish into joy.***

***When menace melts away,***

***So shall God’s will be done,***

***The climate of the world***

***Be peace and Christ its sun;***

***Our currency be love***

***And kindliness our law,***

***Our food and faith be shared as one forever more.***

***“Now It Is Evening”***

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***Now it is evening: lights of the city***

***Bid us remember Christ is our light.***

***Many are lonely, who will be neighbor?***

***Where there is caring, Christ is our light.***

***Now it is evening: little ones sleeping***

***Bid us remember Christ is our peace.***

***Some are neglected, who will be neighbor?***

***Where there is caring, Christ is our peace.***

***Now it is evening: food on the table***

***Bids us remember Christ is our life.***

***Many are hungry, who will be neighbor?***

***Where there is sharing, Christ is our life.***

***Now it is evening: here in our meeting***

***May we remember Christ is our friend.***

***Some may be strangers, who will be neighbor?***

***Where there’s a welcome, Christ is our friend.***

***“For the Fruit of All Creation”***

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***For the fruit of all creation,***

***Thanks be to God.***

***For his gifts to every nation,***

***Thanks be to God.***

***For the plowing, sowing, reaping,***

***Silent growth while we are sleeping,***

***Future needs in earth’s safe keeping,***

***Thanks be to God.***

***In the just reward of labor,***

***God’s will is done.***

***In the help we give our neighbor,***

***God’s will is done.***

***In our world-wide task of caring***

***For the hungry and despairing,***

***In the harvests we are sharing,***

***God’s will is done.***

***For the harvests of the Spirit,***

***Thanks be to God.***

***For the good we all inherit,***

***Thanks be to God.***

***For the wonders that astound us,***

***For the truths that still confound us,***

***Most of all, that love has found us,***

***Thanks be to God.***