**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| December 11, 2022 | Third Sunday of Advent (A) |
| Rev. Karla Frost, Pastor | Chris McMillan, Guest 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

  *Lo, How a Rose*  Russell

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY**



ADVENT LITURGY AND SCRIPTURE

SUNDAY SCHOOL LIGHTING OF THE PINK CANDLE

UNISON PRAYER

 ***O Holy One, as Christmas draws near, there is a sense of excitement in the air. We can feel a joy in our lives and see it in those around us. Still, for some of us this is a sad time because of unhappy things that have happened in our lives. Help us to have the joy that does not depend on earthly***

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***happiness but on you. Help us to be filled with your joy so that we may share it with a joyless world. Amen.***

HYMN ***Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*** Verse 1 #153

CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER Adapted from Isaiah 35:1-6,10

The prophet declared: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

***Like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.***

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon,

***They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.***

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

***Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear!***

Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.”

***Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;***

Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

Let us pray together.

***Lord God, just as the prophet declared there would be joy again for the people returning from exile long ago, we declare your joy to all the world. We offer the musical sounds of your everlasting joy and gladness to set aside distress and uplift the light of hope, peace and joy forever. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“While by the Sheep”*** #200

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD IN MUSIC AND SCRIPTURE**



GOSPEL READING Luke 1:26-56 Connie Ahlers

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CHANCEL CHOIR ANTHEM

 *Were You There on That Christmas Night*

STORY OF AWAY IN A MANGER Rev. Karla Frost

CHANCEL CHOIR ANTHEM

 *Away in a Manger*

GOSPEL READING Luke 2:1-7 Rev. Charles Preston

GLOCKENSPIEL ANTHEM

 *Prince of Peace*

GOSPEL READING Luke 2:8-20 Rev. Charles Preston

GLOCKENSPIEL ANTHEM

 *Away in a Manger*

RECORDING OF AWAY IN A MANGER

 *Away in a Manger (Our Humble King)* Caleb + Kelsey

CONTEMPLATION Rev. Karla Frost

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“What Child Is This ”*** #184

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.***

ANTHEM *We Three Kings of Orient Are*  Men of the Choir

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION

OFFERTORY *O Little Town of Bethlehem* Varner

\*RESPONSE ***“The First Noel”*** Vs. 5 #229

***Then entered in those wise men three,***

***full reverently upon their knee,***

***and offered there in his presence***

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***their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.***

***Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.***

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

 ***We have heard the prophets’ promises of hope, peace, and joy given by God. Long ago Mary responded saying: “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.” May our gifts tell the world of God’s promises, as like Mary, our spirits rejoice in God our Savior. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“Mary, Did You Know?”*** #192

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE *Classical Postlude*  Haydn

The third Sunday of Advent focuses on joy. “Rejoice in the Lord always,” says the apostle Paul (Philippians 4:4). With gladness, we welcome you to worship.

The **bulletin** is given in loving memory of the December 11th birthday of Leon Stromlund by Trish Stromlund.

The **altar centerpiece** is given in memory of my loving husband, Daryl, and sons Lamar and George by Hilde Few.

The **centerpiece in front of the pulpit** is given in memory of the 83rd birthday of Leon Stromlund on December 11th, love, Trish.

If you would like to place **flowers on the altar**, and pick them up after church or on Monday, please call **Karen Orr** at (618) 558-4192. If you would like to sponsor the **bulletins**, please call the **church office** at (618) 877-6060.

Thank you to **Rev. Charles Preston** and **Connie Ahlers** for serving as liturgists, to **Allison Reynolds** for serving as acolyte, to **Rae-Ellen Vogeler** for greeting, and to **Chris McMillan** for serving as guest organist today.

**THIS WEEK**

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

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

 Confirmation, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

 Music Sunday

 Scrip Order Deadline

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

 Staff Christmas Party, 12:00-2:00 p.m.

 Brotherhood Christmas Dinner & Bunko, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

Bible Study, 12:30 p.m.

 Hilltoppers, 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday: TOPS, 9:00 a.m.

 Bell Choir, 5:30 p.m.

 Chancel Choir, 6:30 p.m.

 Fellowship Hall Reserved, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Thursday: Rehearsal for Poms in Fellowship, 9:00 a.m.

Saturday: Fellowship Hall Reserved, 1:00-9:00 p.m.

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

 Brief Special Congregational Meeting, 9:30 a.m.

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

 Fellowship Hour by Evening Guild

 Confirmation – **canceled**

 Shop With A Cop Dinner, 12:00 p.m.



We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of **Marlene Brokaw**, who died on Thursday, December 9, 2022. Visitation will be held at Irwin Chapel in Glen Carbon (591 Glen Crossing Rd., Glen Carbon, IL 62034) on Thursday, December 15, 2022 from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. with services beginning at 12:00 p.m. May the peace and comfort that come from God sustain her loved ones during this time of grief.

**MISSION OF THE MONTH**

Our December Mission of the Month includes the Veterans of the Cross offerings, Kindercottage, and the Layette program. Our Christmas Eve offerings are designated to the General Fund.

**BROTHERHOOD**

The Brotherhood Christmas Dinner & Bunko night is **tomorrow, December 12th**, at 6:30 p.m. for those who made reservations.

**SCRIP**

TODAY is the last day to order gift cards this year. Shipment will hopefully arrive for distribution next Sunday in time for Christmas gift-

giving. Betty Meszaros will be in Fellowship Hall after worship service today to accept your order or to answer any questions. Cost is face

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value of card with no tax or service fee. Payment by check to St. John UCC or cash. No orders will be submitted in January so please order TODAY to stock up. Appreciation to all who have supported this fundraising project.

**YOUTH FELLOWSHIP**

**Today, December 11th** is the deadline to turn in any items you’ve purchased for this year’s Kindercottage child sponsored by our Youth Fellowship.



**SHOP WITH A COP**

Next Sunday, **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.



**CHRISTMAS EVE & CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES**

Once again, we will keep tradition with our Christmas Eve, December 24, 10:30 p.m. music/11:00 p.m. worship service. And then, on Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25, our 9:30 a.m. worship service will repeat several traditions. Of course, both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship will close with candlelight “Silent Night” in German and English. What a beautiful opportunity this is to invite and bring friends and family to celebrate the birth of our Savior together and share spiritual gifts of joy!

**OFFICE HOURS**

The church and cemetery staff Christmas dinner is planned for Monday, December 12, beginning at noon, so the offices will be closed for at least a couple of hours. Also, the office will close at noon on December

23 and 30 and be closed December 26 and January 2. And, our secretary, Angela Potter, will take vacation days December 27, 28, 29, & 30 so please call to check if someone is in the office before coming in on those days.

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**OUR PRAYERS**

**Nursing, Assisted, & Independent Living**

**Cedarhurst of Granite City, Memory Care**, 3432 Village Lane, Granite City, IL 62040

 JoAnn King, #113,

**Eden Village**, 200 S. Station Rd., Glen Carbon, IL 62034

 Earl & Marcia Buenger, Apt 9219

**The Fountains of West County**, 15826 Clayton Rd, Ellisville, MO 63011

Ruth Buer, #215

**Granite Nursing & Rehab**, 3500 Century Dr, Granite City, IL 62040

 Karen Luddeke

**Meridian Village**, 27 Auerbach Pl., Glen Carbon, IL 62034

Mary Lee Krohne, #611 (Call Linda Nitchman for updates)

Leonard Schaefer, #475

**Villas of Holly Brook**, 121 S. Bluff Rd, Collinsville, IL 62234

 Hilde Few, #208

**At Home**

Chloe Affolter, 577 Newhart Dr., G.C., IL 62040

Isabella Boyer, 4722 S. Hazel, Edwardsville, IL 62025

Carol Braundmeier, 2228 Nevada, G.C., IL 62040

Christopher Clark, 2223 Lincoln Ave., G.C., IL 62040

Myra Cook, 4034 Stearns Ave., G.C., IL 62040

Bonnie Fornaszewski, 200 Carlson Ave., Apt. 17D, Washington, IL 61571

Mary Franz, 3117 Willow Ave., G.C., IL 62040

Luitgard Fries, 4117 Old Alton Rd., G.C., IL 62040

Lou Hasse, 2689 Westmoreland Dr. Unit 2, G.C., IL 62040

Norman Hente, 3708 Joyce St., G.C., IL 62040

Chuck King, 3258 Kilarney Dr., G.C., IL 62040

Cindy Meyer, 2206 Lynch Ave., G.C. IL 62040

Sandy Mueller, 308 Warson Ln., G.C., IL 62040

Cliff Robertson, 2336 O’Hare Ave., G.C., IL 62040

Merle Rose, 2447 Waterman Ave., G.C., IL 62040

Marge Schmidt, 4857 Danielle Court, G.C., IL 62040

June Stille, 49 Riviera, G.C., IL 62040

Nancy Wilson, 4062 Sarah St. Apt 81, G.C., IL 62040

**Illinois South Conference**

Freeburg St. Paul’s UCC, Rev. Andrew (Brenda) Lovins. Godfrey Congregational Church. Retired Pastor, Rev. Nancy Spier-Lee and Kevin Lee, Dupo, IL.

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**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Luke 1:26-56**

**26**In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, **27**to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. **28**And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” **29**But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. **30**The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. **31**And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. **32**He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. **33**He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” **34**Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” **35**The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be bornwill be holy; he will be called Son of God. **36**And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. **37**For nothing will be impossible with God.” **38**Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her. **39**In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, **40**where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. **41**When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit **42**and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. **43**And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? **44**For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. **45**And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.” **46**And Marysaid, “My soul magnifies the Lord, **47**and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, **48**for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,**49**for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; **50**indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. **51**He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.**52**He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; **53**he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. **54**He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, **55**according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.” **56**And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

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**Luke 2:1-7**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2**This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3**All went to their own towns to be registered. **4**Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. **5**He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. **6**While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. **7**And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

**Luke 2:8-20**

**8**Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9**Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10**But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of

great joy for all the people: **11**to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. **12**This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” **13**And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

**14**“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” **15**When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” **16**So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. **17**When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, **18**and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, **19**and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. **20**The shepherds

returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

Special Thanks to our newly elected 2023 Council Officers:

President – Kiki Cochran

Vice President – Donna Brandes

Treasurer – Mike Seibold

Secretary – Amy Alsop

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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 John Nitchman, President, 618-288-5297

Council – Talk to Kiki Cochran, President, 618-797-2511 or Donna Brandes, Vice President, 618-802-1072

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

**Try our QR code! This little square will take you directly to our secure MyVanco website where you can contribute to any of our various funds. Just follow three simple steps:**

1. **Open your smart phone’s camera app**
2. **Aim the camera at the black and white square below and a link will appear on your screen.**
3. **Click the link and you’ll be directed to our donations website. From there, you can select a fund to which you’d like to make a contribution. Thank you!**

***“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”***

***Born thy people to deliver,***

***Born a child and yet a king,***

***Born to reign in us forever,***

***Now thy gracious kingdom bring.***

***By thine own eternal Spirit***

***Rule in all our hearts alone;***

***By thine all sufficient merit***

***Raise us to thy glorious throne.***

***“While by the Sheep”***

***While by the sheep we watched at night,***

***Glad tidings brought an angel bright.***

***How great our joy! Great our joy!***

***Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!***

***Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!***

***Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!***

***There shall be born, so he did say***

***In Bethlehem a Child today.***

***How great our joy! Great our joy!***

***Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!***

***Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!***

***Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!***

***There shall the Child lie in a stall,***

***This Child who shall redeem us all.***

***How great our joy! Great our joy!***

***Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!***

***Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!***

***Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!***

***This gift of God we’ll cherish well,***

***That ever joy our hearts shall fill.***

***How great our joy! Great our joy!***

***Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!***

***Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!***

***Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!***

***“What Child Is This”***

***What child is this, who, laid to rest,***

***On Mary’s lap is sleeping?***

***Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,***

***While shepherds watch are keeping?***

***This, this is Christ the King,***

***Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;***

***Haste, haste to bring him laud,***

***The babe, the son of Mary!***

***Why lies he in such mean estate***

***Where ox and ass are feeding?***

***Good Christian, fear: for sinners here***

***The silent Word is pleading.***

***Nails, spear shall pierce him through,***

***The cross be borne for me, for you;***

***Hail, hail the Word made flesh,***

***The babe, the son of Mary!***

***So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,***

***Come peasant, king, to own him;***

***The King of kings salvation brings,***

***Let loving hearts enthrone him.***

***Raise, raise the song on high,***

***The Virgin sings her lullaby;***

***Joy, joy for Christ is born,***

***The babe, the son of Mary!***

***“Mary, Did You Know?”***

***Mary, did you know that your baby boy***

***Would someday walk on water?***

***Mary, did you know that your baby boy***

***Would save our sons and daughters?***

***Did you know that your baby boy***

***Has come to make you new?***

***This child that you delivered,***

***Will soon deliver you.***

***Mary, did you know that your baby boy***

***Would give sight to a blind man?***

***Mary, did you know that your baby boy***

***Will calm a storm with his hand?***

***Did you know that your baby boy***

***Has walked where angels trod?***

***When you kissed your little baby,***

***Then you kissed the face of God.***

***The blind will see, the deaf will hear,***

***The dead will live again;***

***The lame will leap, the dumb will speak***

***The praises of the Lamb.***

***Mary, did you know that your baby boy***

***Is Lord of all creation?***

***Mary, did you know that your baby boy***

***Will one day rule the nations?***

***Did you know that your baby boy***

***Was heaven’s perfect Lamb?***

***This sleeping child you’re holding***

***Is the great “I AM!”***