**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

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| January 1, 2023 | 1st Sunday after Christmas Day |
| 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

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven…a time to seek, and a time to lose…”

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*Sing Praise to God* Edward Broughton, Arr.

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER

There is a season for every matter under heaven.

***But in every season,***

***God calls us to be a people of justice and mercy.***

There is a time for each and every thing.

***But at all times, Christ reminds us to be***

***a people of prayer and connection.***

There is a time for remembering the past

and a time for living into the future.

***But today and always,***

***the Spirit lives and moves within us,***

***that we may be a people of new beginnings.***

Come and worship, come and worship,

worship Christ, the newborn King.

Let us pray together:

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***God of new beginnings and faithful endings, walk with us into this new year. Show us the majesty of your presence, that we may walk forth in light and hope. As we listen to your word, help us learn the lesson of contrasts. Help us recognize your presence in every aspect of life—birth and death, tears and laughter, losing and finding, waging war and establishing peace. Eternal God, guide us to walk with you into this new year with hearts full of expectant longing. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***It Came upon the Midnight Clear*** #191

\*RESPONSIVE PSALTER READING Psalm 8

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

***Out of the mouths of babes and infants***

***you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,***

***to silence the enemy and the avenger.***

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,

the moon and the stars that you have established;

what are human beings that you are mindful of them,

mortals that you care for them?

***Yet you have made them a little lower than God,***

***and crowned them with glory and honor.***

You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;

you have put all things under their feet,

all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,

whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

***O Lord, our Sovereign,***

***how majestic is your name in all the earth!***

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 63:7-9 pg. 652

SOLO *“Lo, How a Rose”* Chris McMillan

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 2:13-23 pg. 2

REFLECTION

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

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\*HYMN ***“I Wonder as I Wander”*** #225

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONSE ***“The Lord’s Prayer”*** (One Amen) #740

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION

OFFERTORY *A Joyous Acclamation* Lani Smith

\*SUNG RESPONSE ***“What Child Is This”***  Vs. 3 #184

***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!***

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***God of every season, the hymn “In the Bleak Midwinter” asks and answers our dedication saying: “What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.” Receive our gifts of resources, given from our grateful hearts and hands. Amen.***

INVITATION WITH CONFESSION

It is by our love that we are known to be followers of Christ. It is by trusting him, even in a difficult world, that we become fully human. It is by changing how we live and respond to the world around us, that we repent and return to God’s way. Let us now silently confess our sin…………………………………………………

What we were when we came here, we will not be when we leave, for as God has forgiven us, we have received peace. Now when we partake of this Holy Meal in the presence of God, we do so with rejoicing in our heart and peace in our lives, for Jesus came for you, for me, and for all.

COMMUNION PRAYER

BREAKING, POURING AND PARTAKING

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\*UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

***In this Holy meal we have met you, the Holy One. And now we pray that your light will shine through us as light for the world. Transform us into a people of hope, love, and justice that in this new year we may follow your star light wherever it may take us. Amen.***

\*HYMN & NOISY OFFERING FOR KIELCE POLISH CHURCH ASSISTING THE PEOPLE OF THE UKRAINE

***“Joy to the World”***  #179

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE  *All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name* Joseph Prentiss

Welcome! We begin worship and this new year as we always live: in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The **bulletin** is given in loving memory of the birthday of Herb Bischoff by Herb & Jeanie Bischoff, Jennifer, Britt, Alex, and Nick.

The **altar vases** are given in memory of the January 4th birthday of Anni Schaefer by Leonard Schaefer.

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 **Christie Roth** for serving as liturgist, to **Baylee Fischer** for serving as acolyte, to **Rae-Ellen Vogeler** for greeting, and to **Chris McMillan** for serving as guest organist and providing 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.

Communion & Noisy Offering

Monday: **OFFICE CLOSED**

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

Bible Study, 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday: TOPS, 9:00 a.m.

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Bell Choir, 5:30 p.m.

Chancel Choir, 6:30 p.m.

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

Next Sunday: Celebrating January 6th, Epiphany

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.

**MISSION OF THE MONTH**

Our January Mission of the Month is designated for the TWIGS Building Fund. The TWIGS program is in the process of building a facility to hold their supplies that enable them to make an important impact with children in our community.

**FIRST QUARTER NOISY OFFERING**

Our first quarter Noisy Offering is designated for the Kielce Polish church in Ukraine.

**5TH SUNDAY CASH PLATE**

Our 5th Sunday Cash Plate is designated for Got your Six Support Dogs. Their organization is committed to providing specialized service dogs to veterans and first-responders suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and other traumas. Their mission is to help people regain their lives through the healing power of dogs.

**SPAGHETTI DINNER**

The Spaghetti Dinner is back! After a two year hiatus, the Evening Guild and Brotherhood are excited to put on this event. The dinner will be January 21st from 4:00-6:30 p.m. Tickets will be $10.00 for adults, $6.00 for children ages 5 to 12, and free for children 4 and under.

**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)

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Leonard Schaefer, #475

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

Hilde Few, #208

**At Home**

Karen Anders, 5153 Buena St., G.C., IL 62040

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**

Hecker Friedens UCC, Rev. Ivan (Vivian) Horn. Highland Evangelical UCC, Rev. Bill (Sally) Kapp. Retired Pastor, Rev. Jim and Lelynna Langdoc, Sun City Center, FL. Rev. Shana Johnson, Conference Minister.

**Qr code

Description automatically generatedTry 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!**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Isaiah 63:7-9**

**7**I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord, because of all that the Lord has done for us and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. **8**For he said, “Surely they are my people, children who will not act deceitfully,” and he became their savior **9**in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

**Matthew 2:13-23**

**13**Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” **14**Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt **15**and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.” **16**When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. **17**Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: **18**“A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.” **19**When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, **20**“Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” **21**Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. **22**But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. **23**There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

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**Spaghetti Dinner**

St. John United Church of Christ

Brotherhood & Evening Guild

Saturday, January 21, 2023

4:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Adults - $10

Children 5-12 - $6

Children 4 & under – Free

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| 2901 Nameoki Road | 618-877-6060 |
| Granite City, IL 62040 | Wheelchair Accessible |

***“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”***

***It came upon the midnight clear,***

***That glorious song of old,***

***From angels bending near the earth***

***To touch their harps of gold:***

***“Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,***

***From heaven’s all gracious King”:***

***The world in solemn stillness lay***

***To hear the angels sing.***

***Still through the cloven skies they come,***

***With peaceful wings unfurled,***

***And still their heavenly music floats***

***O’er all the weary world;***

***Above its sad and lowly plains***

***They bend on hovering wing,***

***And ever o’er its Babel sounds***

***The blessed angels sing.***

***For lo, the days are hastening on,***

***By prophets seen of old,***

***When, with the ever-circling years,***

***Shall come the time foretold.***

***When peace shall over all the earth***

***Its ancient splendors fling,***

***And all the world give back the song***

***Which now the angels sing.***

***“I Wonder as I Wander”***

Words: Appalachian carol; coll. John Jacob Niles. Music: Appalachian melody; coll. John Jacob Niles; arr. Donald P. Hustad. Words & Music © 1934, Ren. 1962 G. Shirmer. Reprinted by permission, CCLI License #1334401.

***I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,***

***How Jesus the Savior did come for to die***

***For poor ordinary people like you and like I;***

***I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.***

***When Mary birthed Jesus, ‘twas in a cow’s stall,***

***With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all,***

***But high from God’s heaven a star’s light did fall,***

***The promise of ages it then did recall.***

***If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,***

***A star in the sky or a bird on the wing,***

***Or all of God’s angels in heaven for to sing,***

***He surely could have it, ‘cause he was the King.***

***I wonder as I wander, out under the sky,***

***How Jesus the Savior did come for to die,***

***For poor ordinary people like you and like I;***

***I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.***

***“The 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.***

***“Joy to the World”***

***Joy to the world! the Lord is come;***

***Let earth receive her King;***

***Let every heart prepare him room,***

***And heaven and nature sing,***

***And heaven and nature sing,***

***And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.***

***Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns;***

***Let all their songs employ;***

***While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains***

***Repeat the sounding joy,***

***Repeat the sounding joy,***

***Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.***

***No more let sins and sorrows grow,***

***Nor thorns infest the ground;***

***He comes to make his blessings flow***

***Far as the curse is found,***

***Far as the curse is found,***

***Far as, far as the curse is found.***

***He rules the world with truth and grace,***

***And makes the nations prove***

***The glories of his righteousness,***

***And wonders of his love,***

***And wonders of his love,***

***And wonders, and wonders of his love.***