**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

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| January 29, 2023 | 4th Sunday after Epiphany (A) |
| Rev. Karla Frost, Pastor |  |
| 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 Corinthians 1:18-31

“For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*Micah 6:8* Maranatha Music

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER1

What blessings do we need this day? Where in life are we struggling? God will be there and give us what we need.

***Come, let us walk in God’s ways.***

Let us listen for God’s word.

***What does God require of us?***

God wants justice.

***God wants faithful love.***

God wants us to walk humbly with God.

Let us pray together:

***God of compassion, we are overwhelmed by the struggles of life. We hunger and thirst for righteousness but find ourselves feeling empty. We grieve in seasons of loss, feeling hopeless and lost. We want to show mercy, but we hold on to old resentments. We want to make peace, but***

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***we don’t even know where to begin. Come with your wisdom and guide us in your ways. Renew us***

***and inspire us to live faithfully, as you walk beside us. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”*** #113

\*RESPONSIVE PRAYER2 *Reshaping a Misshapen World*

God of peace, your call is clear.

***We are to reshape a misshapen world.***

Bless us with your peace so that through our actions

we may change the course of human history.

***Give us the grace to never dishonor ourselves***

***with prejudice, apathy, or hatred.***

Let us stand firm against anything that is dehumanizing.

***Guard us against indifference and complacency.***

Ignite our hearts with your love and your justice,

so that our commitment of conscience will stand out

like the brightest light in the darkest night.

***Loving God, we are your imperfect people,***

***yet we trust in your love for us.***

Turn our complacency into commitment to ease the pain of those who suffer.

***Turn our bitterness into renewed purpose to stop injustice.***

Turn our apathy into resolve to put an end to oppression.

***Turn our indifference into new energy to serve those in need.***

Turn our stubbornness into determination to bring peace to all humanity.

***Empowering God, give power to the powerless***

***and strength to the weak.***

Give joy to those who despair and freedom to those who have been robbed of it.

***Give satisfaction to those who hunger for bread***

***and for justice.***

God of all, let new life rise out of the ashes of human suffering.

***May generations to come be architects of peace***

***and justice.***

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May they be full of strength and courage and passionate about bringing your love to all humanity.

***Amen.***

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON Micah 6:1-8 pg. 816

ANTHEM *Here I Am, Lord*  Glockenspiel

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 5:1-12 pg. 4

SERMON

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“He Leadeth Me”*** #499

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  *Blessed* Vertical Worship

\*RESPONSE ***“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”***

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;*** #34

***praise him, all creatures here below;***

***praise him above, ye heavenly host:***

***praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***We are drawn together as your people, O God, and ask you to bless our offerings for the community far and near. May all that we offer and do represent our commitment to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly in your ways, now and forever. Amen.***

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\*HYMN  ***“Hymn of Promise”***  #515

\*BENEDICTION

\*RECORDED POSTLUDE

*The Heart of Worship* Matt Redman & Albert Gyorfi

1From The Abingdon Worship Annual 2023. Copyright © 2022 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.”

2Taken from *Together We Pray*, © Copyright 2005 by Ave Maria Press. All rights reserved.

We gather in Jesus’ name to answer God’s call: “to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with [our] God” (Micah 6:8). Welcome.

If you would like to place **flowers on the altar**, and pick them up after church or on 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. There next available date to sponsor the bulletin is February 26th. There are also three available dates in May to sponsor bulletins: May 1st, May 15th, and May 22nd.

Thank you to **Rev. Charles Preston** for serving as liturgist, to **Allison Reynolds** for serving as acolyte, to **Rae-Ellen Vogeler** for greeting and to **Dan Comer** for serving as music technician today.

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**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.

5th Sunday Cash Plate for Got Your Six Support

Dogs

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.

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Chancel Choir, 6:30 p.m.

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

Granite City Community Band Rehearsal, 6:15-9:45

p.m.

Sunday: 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.

Communion & Noisy Offering

**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.

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We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of **Nadine J. Harrison**, who died on Sunday, January 22, 2023. A funeral service was held on Friday, January 27, 2023 at Irwin Chapel. May the peace and comfort that come from God sustain her loved ones during this time of grief.

**EVENING GUILD**

Our next meeting is February 6th. The program will be a presentation by Carolyn Graham from Savers, a thrift store where we take leftover items from our Rummage Sale. She will speak about the various items they accept at Savers, as well as the organizations they work with to do good in our community.

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**BROTHERHOOD**

The men’s Brotherhood has two events coming up, the first being a Valentine’s Dinner on Monday, February 13, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. Reservations are required, so please reserve your spots no later than Wednesday, February 8, 2023. The following month will be a St. Patrick’s Day Dinner on March 13, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. Guest speaker, Barb Kay, will be giving a presentation on The Unsinkable Molly Brown. Reservations are also required for this event and should be made no later than Wednesday, March 8, 2023. You can call the church office

(618-877-6060) or send an email to stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com to make your reservations.

**SCRIP**

The Scrip program is being resumed in February with plans to submit orders on February 19th with delivery the following Sunday. Master list of vendors and St. John “favorites” order forms will be on the table in the narthex. Give order form and check payable to St John UCC to Betty Meszaros at any time. Orders will be held until the third Sunday of each month and submitted then. Exception if total order does not cover shipping cost which is currently $10.50 per order. You can still participate in the program if not attending in-person worship. Just drop off or mail your check to the church with a note of cards you are ordering. Cost is face value of the card. Rebate is automatically sent to church. Cards are great as gifts but also easy to use personally. Contact Melissa Lane at 314-575-7627 or Betty Meszaros at 618-451-1968 if any questions.

**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING**

On Sunday, February 12, we will once again participate in the national Souper Bowl of Caring collection, referencing the football Super Bowl extravaganza as a theme.  This is a non-denominational inter-faith project that 100% benefits local soup kitchens and hunger programs everywhere.  All our donations will be given directly to the Good Samaritan House, since Community Care is no longer offering prepared meals to the community.  The amount of money collected is reported to the national Souper Bowl of Caring office so that a grand total for the day may be announced and celebrated. Youth with soup kettles will be at the doors on that Sunday. Please be sure to carefully mark your donations for this collection so the offering counters know where to place them if giving by check. **OR**, another great option is to use the Donate button and Souper Bowl of Caring tab on our church website to make a secure electronic donation. Simply go to stjohnuccgranitecity.com for this option.

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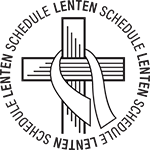
**BOWLS OF GOODNESS**

Do you have a great soup or chili recipe that you love? Well you have an opportunity to let your culinary masterpiece shine in our First Annual Bowls of Goodness Soup & Chili Cookoff! Your recipe will join the ranks alongside local “Celebrity Chefs” from Ravenelli’s, Garden Gate, Original Bindy’s, and Jerry’s, as well as some of our own soup and chili cooks. Attendees will be able to sample everyone’s entries and vote for their favorites! To sign up, you’ll need to do the following:

1. Sign up with our church office to participate (618-877-6060)
2. Submit your recipe to the church office by February 1, 2023 (recipes will be printed in a soup cookbook that will be sold at this event).
3. Bring a roaster full of your soup or chili entry to the church by 2:00 p.m. on February 18th.

Don’t make soup or chili? We need yummy desserts to sell at this event. Donate a pie, cake, brownies, or cookies!

If you have any questions, please call the event chairperson, Kiki Cochran, at 618-503-3608 or the church office at 618-877-6060.



**ASH WEDNESDAY – EASTER SUNDAY**

This year Ash Wednesday is on February 22, and we will host a combined service with First United Presbyterian Church at 7:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary, and also on Zoom. The Imposition of Ashes for those present in-person, and the Sacrament of Holy Communion, will be celebrated. Please plan to attend and begin the Lenten season with spiritual guidance.

And please mark your March/April calendars for these services and activities.

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**March 12**, Daylight Savings Time, Girl Scout Sunday

**March 19**, One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

**March 26**, Confirmands’ Presentation Sunday

**April 2**, Palm/Passion Sunday, Communion, Rite of Confirmation, Fellowship Hour

**April 6**, Maundy Thursday, Confirmands’ & Family, Baptism Sponsors, Prayer Partners commune at the Table

**April 9**, Easter Sunday, Communion, Fellowship Hour

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Nursing, Assisted, & Independent Living**

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

**At Home**

Karen Anders, Chloe Affolter, Isabella Boyer, Carol Braundmeier, Christopher Clark, Myra Cook, Bonnie Fornaszewski, Mary Franz, Luitgard Fries, Melba Grady, Lou Hasse, Norman Hente, Chuck King, Cindy Meyer, Sandy Mueller, Tom Orf, Cliff Robertson, Merle Rose, Marge Schmidt, June Stille, Nancy Wilson, and Debbie Winkle.

**Illinois South Conference**

Johannisburg St. John’s UCC, Rev. William Groennert. Lebanon St. Paul UCC, Rev. Todd (Rev. Shana Johnson) Bean. Retired Pastor, Rev. Ken & Jean Knobloch, Maeystown, IL.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Micah 6:1-8**

Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. **2**Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth,  
for the Lord has a case against his people, and he will contend with Israel. **3**“O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! **4**For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. **5**O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.” **6**“With what shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? **7**Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” **8**He has told

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you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

**Matthew 5:1-12**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. **2**And he began to speak and taught them, saying: **3**“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **4**“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. **5**“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. **6**“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. **7**“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. **8**“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. **9**“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. **10**“Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **11**“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. **12**Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**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. **Qr code

   Description automatically generatedAim 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!**

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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

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| **WHERE**  St. John UCC  2901 Nameoki Rd.  Granite City, IL 62040 | **WHEN**  Saturday,  February 18th, 2023  4:00-7:00 p.m. |

Tickets are $10 and that buys you UNLIMITED soup and chili tasting, crackers, and 2 ballots to vote for your favorite entries!

Drinks and desserts will be available for an additional cost.

Local chefs and some of our own church chefs will be providing their specialty soups and chili!

Plan to make this an evening of fun! A 50/50 drawing and soup recipes will make this a great time for all!

Questions? Give us a call at 618-877-6060 or email us at [stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com](mailto:stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com)

Scan this QR code to check out our full submission list!

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***“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”***

***Rejoice, ye pure in heart,***

***Rejoice, give thanks and sing;***

***Your festal banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.***

***Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, rejoice,***

***Rejoice, give thanks and sing.***

***Bright youth and snow-crowned age,***

***Strong souls and spirits meek,***

***Raise high your free, exulting song,***

***God’s wondrous praises speak.***

***Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, rejoice,***

***Rejoice, give thanks and sing.***

***With voice as full and strong***

***As ocean’s surging praise,***

***Send forth the hymns the saints have loved,***

***The psalms of ancient days.***

***Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, rejoice,***

***Rejoice, give thanks and sing.***

***Yes, on through life’s long path,***

***Still chanting as you go,***

***From youth to age, by night and day,***

***In gladness and in woe.***

***Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, rejoice,***

***Rejoice, give thanks and sing.***

***“He Leadeth Me”***

***He leadeth me, O blessed thought!***

***O words with heavenly comfort fraught!***

***Whate’er I do, where-e’er I be,***

***Still ‘tis God’s hand that leadeth me.***

***He leadeth me, he leadeth me,***

***By his own hand he leadeth me;***

***His faithful follower I would be,***

***For by his hand he leadeth me.***

***Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine,***

***Nor ever murmur nor repine;***

***Content, whate’er my lot may be,***

***Since ‘tis my God who leadeth me.***

***He leadeth me, he leadeth me,***

***By his own hand he leadeth me;***

***His faithful follower I would be,***

***For by his hand he leadeth me.***

***And when my task on earth is done,***

***When by thy grace the victory’s won,***

***E’en death’s cold wave I will not flee,***

***Since God through Jordan leadeth me.***

***He leadeth me, he leadeth me,***

***By his own hand he leadeth me;***

***His faithful follower I would be,***

***For by his hand he leadeth me.***

***“Hymn of Promise”***

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***In the bulb there is a flower;***

***In the seed, an apple tree;***

***In cocoons, a hidden promise:***

***Butterflies will soon be free!***

***In the cold and snow of winter***

***There’s a spring that waits to be,***

***Unrevealed until its season,***

***Something God alone can see.***

***There’s a song in every silence,***

***Seeking word and melody;***

***There’s a dawn in every darkness***

***Bringing hope to you and me.***

***From the past will come the future;***

***What it holds, a mystery,***

***Unrevealed until its season,***

***Something God alone can see.***

***In our end is our beginning;***

***In our time, infinity;***

***In our doubt there is believing;***

***In our life, eternity;***

***In our death, a resurrection;***

***At the last, a victory,***

***Unrevealed until its season,***

***Something God alone can see.***