**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| February 5, 2023 | 5th Sunday after Epiphany |
| 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 Isaiah 58:1-9a

Is not this the fast I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to let the oppressed go free…to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house…(Isaiah 58:6-7)

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*Ave Verum* Mozart

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER1

You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world. Jesus says so. Be salty and let your light shine.

***Happy are those who worship the Lord***

***and delight in God’s precepts.***

They rise before dawn as a light to the upright.

***They are gracious, merciful, and righteous.***

They shine their light before others for all the world to see.

***They will never be moved.***

Be salty and let your light shine.

***Let this be our worship.***

Let us pray together:

***Caretaker of our souls, aid us in our quest. We long to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. We yearn***

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***to live with such passion and purpose that our lives may***

***be like a city on a hill, resplendent in justice and righteousness for all the world to see. Shine through us this day, for we seek to reflect your glory in all that we say and in all that we do. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“Gather Us In”*** #649

\*RESPONSIVE STATEMENT OF FAITH

An affirmation prepared by our Confirmands and Prayer Partners:

Baylee Fischer & Kiki Cochran, Eleanor Reynolds & Donna Brandes, Conyr Fischer & Garret Garner, Allison Reynolds & Mary Jo Seibold

We believe God:

***Created heaven and earth***

***Can do anything***

***Is with us through good and bad times***

***Is always our support***

***Is the creator and protector***

We believe Jesus Christ:

***Is the Son of God***

***Was born to the Virgin Mary***

***Grew up a sin-free man***

***Taught the Word of God***

***Was sent to forgive us of our sins***

***Died on the cross to save us from our sins***

***Died so we might have eternal life***

***Rose from the dead and went to heaven until he comes***

***again***

***Calls us to love one another***

***Cares for the innocent, poor and those who need help***

We believe the Holy Spirit:

***Is the inspiring Spirit of God***

***Gives us courage and strength to face good and bad***

***times***

***Is that little voice that tells us right from wrong***

***Is the guiding force in life***

We believe the Sacrament of Baptism:

***Is a public declaration of faith and dedication***

***Shows we are part of the church body***

***Signifies we are God’s children***

We believe the Sacrament of Holy Communion:

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***Began with Jesus serving his disciples***

***Connects us to Jesus’ suffering and resurrection***

***Is a time to reflect on our weakness, confess our sins, and start fresh***

***Reminds us of our commitment to our faith***

We believe the Universal Christian Church:

***Believes in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit***

***Unites us because we are all God’s children***

***Binds us together as one no matter what our faith***

We believe that as children of God we:

***Share and spread the Word and Love of God***

***Know God as our parent and give him our lives***

***Live our lives as a testament of our personal beliefs and faith***

***Will live in heaven with him forever***

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God

***The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,***

One God, now and forever.

***Amen.***

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON Psalm 112:1-9 pg. 532

ANTHEM Chancel Choir

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 5:13-20 pg. 4

REFLECTION

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“Renew Your Church”*** #462

PASTORAL PRAYER

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

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION

OFFERTORY *The Old Rugged Cross*  arr. Price

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\*SUNG RESPONSE ***“Let Us Break Bread Together”*** #699

***Let us break bread together on our knees;***

***let us break bread together on our knees.***

***When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,***

***O Lord, have mercy on me.***

***Let us drink wine together on our knees;***

***let us drink wine together on our knees.***

***When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,***

***O Lord, have mercy on me.***

***Let us praise God together on our knees;***

***let us praise God together on our knees.***

***When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,***

***O Lord, have mercy on me.***

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION1

***Radiant One, source of every good gift, we thank you for the light you shine in our lives. Receive the gifts we bring before you this day, that they may loose the bonds of injustice, undo the thongs of the yoke, feed the hungry, and let the oppressed go free. Bless this offering and the ministries it supports, that your light may chase away the shadows in places lost to hopelessness and despair. In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen.***

INVITATION WITH SILENT CONFESSION

COMMUNION PRAYER

BREAKING, POURING AND PARTAKING

\*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. May we be like a city on a hill that cannot be hid, as we live our statements of faith forever. Amen.***

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

***“We Are Called to Be God’s People”***  #580

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\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE  *Triumphant Finale* Bliss

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Welcome to worship as Jesus continues to reveal himself during Epiphany. May you sense anew your Savior’s deep love for you and all the world.

The **bulletin** is given in honor Brayden Fischer’s 10th birthday on February 8th by his family.

The **altar centerpiece** is given in honor of the 102nd birthday on February 9th of Mabel Kennerly by her loving family.

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. The 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 **Baylee Fischer** for serving as liturgist andfor serving as acolyte, and to **Chris McMillan** for serving as guest organist 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.

Communion & Noisy Offering

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

Evening Guild, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

Bible Study, 12:30 p.m.

ESOS Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday: **Reservations for Brotherhood Due Today**

TOPS, 9:00 a.m.

Bell Choir, 5:30 p.m.

Chancel Choir, 6:30 p.m.

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Thursday: Council Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

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

Next 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.

Souper Bowl of Caring Collection

**MISSION OF THE MONTH**

Our February Mission of the Month is dedicated to our Food Box Distribution Project. The next Food Box Distribution will be on Saturday, March 4, 2023 and benefits members of our community who are in need.

**FIRST QUARTER NOISY OFFERING**

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

**EVENING GUILD**

Our next meeting is tomorrow, 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.

**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

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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. Sunday School wish list includes gift cards to purchase supplies. Please consider purchasing Michael’s or Walmart (neither Dollar Tree nor Hobby Lobby is a participating vendor). Contact Melissa Lane at 314-575-7627 or Betty Meszaros at 618-451-1968 if any questions.

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**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**

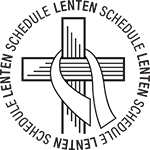
We have a full sign-up sheet for this event, which will feature some great local “celebrity chefs” as well as members from our own church community. They’ll offer their best soup or chili recipes and it’s up to YOU to determine which one is the best! Tickets are available for purchase in the church office. It’s $10.00 for unlimited soup and chili tasting, crackers, and 2 ballots to vote for your favorite entries! Drinks

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and desserts will be available for an additional cost. So mark your calendars forSaturday, February 18th from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. for this

event! We also need yummy desserts to sell at this event, so consider donating a pie, cake, brownies, or cookies! No creamy or dairy types, please.

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.

**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

**EASTER LILIES**

It’s that time of year again to order your Easter lilies. Plants will cost $12.00 each. Please fill out the order sheet included in this bulletin. If you need additional order sheets, there are copies available on the table in the Narthex. Please include payment with your order sheet and either place it in the offering plate or bring it to the church office. Orders are due by **Sunday, March 26th, 2023**.

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Nursing, Assisted, & Independent Living**

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

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**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**

Lenzburg St. Peter’s UCC, Rev. Earl (Johanna) Crecelius. Maeystown St. John UCC, Rev. Patrick (Kathy) Poole. Retired Pastor, Rev. Robert E (Jay) Lee, Swansea, IL. Rev. Shana Johnson, Conference Minister.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Psalm 112:1-9**

**1**Praise the Lord!  
    Happy are those who fear the Lord,  
    who greatly delight in his commandments.  
**2**Their descendants will be mighty in the land;  
    the generation of the upright will be blessed.  
**3**Wealth and riches are in their houses,  
    and their righteousness endures forever.  
**4**They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright;  
    they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.  
**5**It is well with those who deal generously and lend,  
    who conduct their affairs with justice.  
**6**For the righteous will never be moved;  
    they will be remembered forever.  
**7**They are not afraid of evil tidings;  
    their hearts are firm, secure in the Lord.  
**8**Their hearts are steady; they will not be afraid;  
    in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.  
**9**They have distributed freely; they have given to the poor;  
    their righteousness endures forever;  
    their horn is exalted in honor.

**Matthew 5:13-20**

**13**“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot. **14**“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. **15**People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. **16**In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. **17**“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. **18**For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a

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letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. **19**Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the

kingdom of heaven. **20**For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

**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. **Qr code

   Description automatically generatedOpen 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!**

[](http://www.newsletternewsletter.com/searchart/ImageDetail.asp?image_id=95098046)

Please order a lily for me. Plants will cost **$12.00** each. Fill in the lines below exactly as you wish it to appear in the bulletin; (i.e., Mr., or Mrs., or

Miss, etc.) **DEADLINE** to order a lily is March 26, 2023.

(Please attach payments to this form and place either in the offering plate or bring it to the church office.) PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY !!!!

IN LOVING MEMORY OF\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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OR

IN HONOR OF\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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IN GRATITUDE FOR\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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BY

NAME:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NUMBER:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

# OF LILIES ORDERED \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED

(Make checks payable to: St. John United Church of Christ)

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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. |

Ticket prices are as follows – Ages 13+: $10.00, $6 for children 5-12, and children 4 and under are free!

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)

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***“Renew Your Church”***

***Renew your church, our ministries restore:***

***Both to serve and adore.***

***Make us again as salt throughout the land,***

***And as light from a stand.***

***‘Mid somber shadows of the night,***

***Where greed and hatreds spread their blight,***

***O send us forth with power endued, help us, Lord, be renewed.***

***Teach us your Word, reveal its truth divine,***

***On our path let it shine;***

***Tell of your works, your mighty acts of grace,***

***From each page show your face.***

***As you have loved us, sent your Son,***

***And our salvation now is won,***

***O let our hearts with love be stirred,***

***Help us, Lord, know your Word.***

***Teach us to pray, for you are ever near,***

***Your still voice let us hear.***

***Our souls are restless till they rest in you,***

***This is the goal we pursue.***

***Before your presence keep us still***

***That we may find for us your will,***

***And seek your guidance every day,***

***Teach us, Lord, how to pray.***

***Teach us to love, with strength of heart and mind,***

***Each and all, humankind;***

***Break down old walls of prejudice and hate,***

***Leave us not to our fate.***

***As you have loved and given your life***

***To end hostility and strife,***

***O share your grace from heaven above,***

***Teach us, Lord, how to love.***

***“We Are Called to Be God’s People”***

Words: Thomas A. Jackson. Music: Franz Joseph Haydn. Words © 1975 Broadman Press (Admin. Genevox Music Group). Reprinted by permission, CCLI License #1334401.

***We are called to be God’s people,***

***Showing by our lives his grace,***

***One in heart and one in spirit,***

***Sign of hope for all the race.***

***Let us show how he has changed us,***

***And remade us as his own,***

***Let us share our life together***

***As we shall around his throne.***

***We are called to be God’s servants,***

***Working in his world today;***

***Taking his own task upon us,***

***All his sacred words obey.***

***Let us rise, then, to his summons,***

***Dedicate to him our all,***

***That we may be faithful servants,***

***Quick to answer now his call.***

***We are called to be God’s prophets,***

***Speaking for the truth and right,***

***Standing firm for godly justice,***

***Bringing evil things to light.***

***Let us seek the courage needed,***

***Our high calling to fulfill,***

***That the world may know the blessing***

***Of the doing of God’s will.***

***“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.***

“Gather Us In” not printed due to copyright.