**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| March 26, 2023  |  Fifth Sunday in Lent (A) |
| Rev. Karla Frost, Pastor |  Dr. Almeda Lahr-Well, 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

Follow us on Facebook: Search St. John UCC Granite City

Follow us on Instagram: @stjohnucc2901gc

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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

 *Come, Now is the Time to Worship* Doerksen

BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN John 11:1-45

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,…” Vs. 25

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

 *Morning Prelude*  Drew

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER1

In this sacred moment, we look for God and find the promise of hope, steadfast love, and new beginnings.

Come, all who are weary.

 ***Here, we wait for the Lord.***

Come, all who are nervous.

 ***Here, we find welcome and encouragement.***

Come, all who look for hope.

***Here, we embrace God’s steadfast love.***

Come, and fill your hearts with praise and thanksgiving.

 ***Let us praise God!***

Let us pray together:

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***Holy One, may we hear your word today. May we feel your breath of life in our bones. And may we open ourselves to the new life that only you can bring. Jesus, our friend and Savior, we give thanks that you call us to new life and to new possibilities. May the presentations we hear today empower us to rise and follow you always, in the Spirit of life. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!”*** #106

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

PROPHETIC LESSON Ezekiel 37:1-14 pg. 759

ANTHEM *Promised Land* Chancel Choir

**CONFIRMANDS’ PRESENTATIONS**

**MUSIC STYLES IN CHRISTIAN MUSIC**

Conyr Fischer and Jazz Music

*When the Saints Go Marching In* Performed by Louis Armstrong

Eleanor Reynolds and Classical Instrumental & Vocal Music

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* Performedby Kaleb Brasee

Baylee Fischer and Gospel Music

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand* Performed by Luther Barnes

Allison Reynolds and Traditional Hymns & Liturgical Music

*How Great Thou Art* Performed by Carrie Underwood

Pastor Karla Frost

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“Hymn of Promise”*** #515

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.***

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INVITATION TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERTORY  *Prayer* Lorenz

\*RESPONSE ***“Hosanna, Loud Hosanna”*** Vs. 3 #267

***“Hosanna in the highest!” That ancient song we sing,***

***for Christ is our Redeemer, the Lord of heaven our King.***

***O may we ever praise him with heart and life and voice,***

***and in his blissful presence eternally rejoice!***

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION1

 ***Abundant God, thank you for the gifts we bring to you. May these gifts bring new life to those who are in need in our community and in the world. In your beloved name, we pray. Amen.***

\*HYMN  ***“Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”***  #326

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE *Religious Procession* Lorenz

1Adapted from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2023. Copyright © 2022 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

“Hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love” (Psalm 130:7, ESV). Welcome to worship, one and all.

The **bulletin** is given in celebration of the March 25th birthday of David Oliver Jr. by Gran Oliver.

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. The next available dates to sponsor the bulletin are April 16th, 30th, and May 7th.

Thank you to **Karen Gaines** for serving as liturgist, to **Eleanor Reynolds** for serving as acolyte, to **Rae-Ellen Vogeler** for greeting, and to **Dr. Almeda Lahr-Well** for serving as guest organist.

**THIS WEEK**

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

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

 Confirmands’ Presentation Sunday

 **Lily Order Deadline**

 Game Night, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

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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.

 Lenten Service at Unity Baptist Church, 12:00 p.m.

 Bell Choir, 5:30 p.m.

 Chancel Choir, 6:30 p.m.

Friday: **Brotherhood Meat Sale Pickup, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

Saturday: **Brotherhood Meat Sale Pickup, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

Confirmation Practice & Pictures, 10:00 a.m.

 Altar Guild Palm Preparation

Next Sunday:  **Palm/Passion Sunday**

 **Confirmation**

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

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

 Communion & Noisy Offering

 Fellowship Hour by Confirmands’ Prayer Partners

**MISSION OF THE MONTH**

Our March Mission of the Month is dedicated to the APA Shelter. We are asking members to bring unwanted blankets, pillows, and pet beds to donate to the shelter.

**EVENING GUILD**

Our next meeting is April 3rd at 6:30 p.m. We will be hosting a guest speaker from Good Samaritan House.

**BROTHERHOOD SPRING MEAT SALE**

Pickup for meat orders will be from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. on Friday March 31st & Saturday, April 1st.

**LENTEN SCHEDULE**

Mark your March/April calendars for these services and activities.

**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

**LENTEN, MAUNDY THURSDAY, AND EASTER**

 **SPECIAL OFFERINGS**

This year the Council has designated our Lenten special envelope, coin folder, and Maundy Thursday offerings to Kindercottage to help with necessary playground and groundskeeping updates. Kindercottage has

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a wonderful ministry with families of young children to help them be safe, healthy, and successful as they grow and to know they are beloved children of God. If you have computer access, check out their website at https://www.unipreskindercottage.org/.

**CONFIRMATION**

On Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023, the Rite of Confirmation will be administered to four amazing young people who have completed their confirming preparation and made their decision to affirm their faith before God and their families, baptismal sponsors, prayer partners, and church. Therefore, St. John UCC soon welcomes our newest church members and rejoices in their commitment to faith and membership.

Baylee Fischer

Conyr Fischer

Allison Reynolds

Eleanor Reynolds

Already they have been active in Sunday School, VBS,Youth Fellowship, and church activities, and have plans to continue serving in worship and additional projects. Soon they will re-work the previous Associate Pastor’s Office to be their Sunday School classroom, just down the hall from the younger students. But they also plan to help the younger ones too, so teachers and students will move back and forth. How wonderful it is to grow together in discipleship!

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Nursing, Assisted, & Independent Living**

Earl Buenger, Marcia Buenger, Ruth Buer, Hilde Few, JoAnn King, Karen Luddeke, Leonard Schaefer, Marjorie Schmidt, and Jerry Shonk.

**At Home**

Chloe Affolter, Isabella Boyer, Carol Braundmeier, Christopher Clark, Myra Cook, Bonnie Fornaszewski, Mary Franz, Luitgard Fries, Melba Grady, Lou Hasse, Norman Hente, Chuck King, Mina McBrian, Cindy Meyer, Sandy Mueller, Cliff Robertson, Merle Rose, June Stille, and Nancy Wilson.

**Illinois South Conference**

O’Fallon UCC, Rev. Dr. Martha Theirheimer. O’Fallon UCC Rev. Dr. Steve (Debbi) Nance. Retired Pastor, Rev. Linda and Bob Coulson, Palm Coast, FL.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Ezekiel 37:1-14**

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. **2**He led me all around them; there were very many lying in

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the valley, and they were very dry. **3**He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” **4**Then he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. **5**Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. **6**I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord.” **7**So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. **8**I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. **9**Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” **10**I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

**11**Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ **12**Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. **13**And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. **14**I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.”

**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!**



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

TOTAL ENCLOSED

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



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

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

TOTAL ENCLOSED

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

***“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!”***

***All hail the power of Jesus’ name!***

***Let angels prostrate fall;***

***Bring forth the royal diadem,***

***And crown him Lord of all;***

***Bring forth the royal diadem,***

***And crown him Lord of all!***

***Ye chosen seed of Israel’s race,***

***Ye ransomed from the fall,***

***Hail him who saves you by his grace,***

***And crown him Lord of all;***

***Hail him who saves you by his grace,***

***And crown him Lord of all!***

***Let every kindred, every tribe***

***On this terrestrial ball,***

***To him all majesty ascribe,***

***And crown him Lord of all;***

***To him all majesty ascribe,***

***And crown him Lord of all!***

***O that with yonder sacred throng***

***We at his feet may fall!***

***We’ll join the everlasting song,***

***And crown him Lord of all;***

***We’ll join the everlasting song,***

***And crown him Lord of all!***

***“Hymn of Promise”***

Words & Music: Natalie Sleeth © 1986 Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted by permission, CCLI License #1334401.

***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.***

***“Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”***

Words & Music: James K. Manley © 1978 James K. Manley. Reprinted by permission, CCLI License #1334401.

***Spirit, spirit of gentleness,***

***Blow through the wilderness***

***Calling and free;***

***Spirit, spirit of restlessness,***

***Stir me from placidness,***

***Wind, wind on the sea.***

***You moved on the waters,***

***You called to the deep,***

***Then you coaxed up the mountains***

***From the valleys of sleep;***

***And over the eons***

***You called to each thing:***

***“Awake from your slumbers***

***And rise on your wings.”***

***Spirit, spirit of gentleness,***

***Blow through the wilderness***

***Calling and free;***

***Spirit, spirit of restlessness,***

***Stir me from placidness,***

***Wind, wind on the sea.***

***You swept through the desert,***

***You stung with the sand***

***And you goaded your people***

***With a law and a land;***

***And when they were blinded***

***With idols and lies,***

***Then you spoke through your prophets***

***To open their eyes.***

***Spirit, spirit of gentleness,***

***Blow through the wilderness***

***Calling and free;***

***Spirit, spirit of restlessness,***

***Stir me from placidness,***

***Wind, wind on the sea.***

***You sang in a stable,***

***You cried from a hill,***

***Then you whispered in silence***

***When the whole world was still;***

***And down in the city***

***You called once again,***

***When you blew through your people***

***On the rush of the wind.***

***Spirit, spirit of gentleness,***

***Blow through the wilderness***

***Calling and free;***

***Spirit, spirit of restlessness,***

***Stir me from placidness,***

***Wind, wind on the sea.***

***You call from tomorrow,***

***You break ancient schemes.***

***From the bondage of sorrow***

***All the captives dream dreams;***

***Our women see visions,***

***Our men clear their eyes.***

***With bold new decisions***

***Your people arise.***