**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| June 18, 2023 | 3rd Sunday after Pentecost (A) |
| Rev. Karla Frost, Pastor | Dave Ekstrand, Dir. Of Music |
| 9:30 Zoom & In-Person Worship | 9:30 Sunday School for Children |
| 2901 Nameoki Road | Granite City, IL 62040 |
| [E-stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com](mailto:E-stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com)  Web-stjohnuccgranitecity.com | (618) 877-6060  Instagram: @stjohnucc2901gc |

YouTube: gcstjohnucc Facebook: Search St. John UCC Granite City

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 AND BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*GREETING ONE ANOTHER “Peace be with you!”

\*SUNG PRAISE RESPONSE ***“Glory Be to the Father”*** #734

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,***

***and to the Holy Ghost;***

***as it was*** ***in the beginning,***

***is now, and ever shall be,***

***world without end. Amen, Amen.***

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN Psalm 116:1-2

I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications. Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*I Will Follow Him* Roma

CENTERING THOUGHT1

*Is anything too wonderful for God? What shall we return to God for all of God’s bounty?*

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER Verses from Psalm 116

What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me?

-2-

***I will lift up the cup of salvation***

***and call on the name of the Lord.***

I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

***I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice,***

In the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem.

***Praise the Lord!***

Let us worship and pray.

***Amen.***

\*HYMNS ***“We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise”*** #651

***“This Is the Day”*** #652

\*RESPONSIVE EPISTLE READING Romans 5:1-8

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

***Through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.***

And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us,

***Because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.***

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die.

***But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.***

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7 pg. 13

ANTHEM *Gonna Sing to the Lord* Sopranos & Altos

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 9:35-10:4 pg. 9

SERMON

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

-3-

\*HYMN ***“God of the Ages, History’s Maker”*** #78

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, CWS BLANKETS & TOOLS

OFFERTORY *Here I Am, Lord* Schutte

\*SUNG RESPONSE ***“Be Thou My Vision”*** Vss. 1 & 2 #502

***Be thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;***

***naught be all else to me, save that thou art—***

***thou my best thought, by day or by night,***

***waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.***

***Be thou my Wisdom, and thou my true Word,***

***I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;***

***thou and thou only, first in my heart,***

***high King of heaven, my Treasure thou art.***

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***Eternal Lord of all, we give these gifts in response to your call to go and do whatever proclaims the good news of your compassion. We do so with joy, and with laughter shared, because you give us visions of abundant hope. Bless us and keep us strong and faithful, generation to generation. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“Faith of Our Fathers”*** #530

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE  *Go Forth in His Name* Kendrick

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

A blessed third Sunday after Pentecost to all, and Happy Father’s Day to dads and father-figures. Welcome to worship.

-4-

The **bulletin** is given in loving memory of their father, Alvin Henry Willaredt by Stephen Willaredt & family.

The **altar vases** are given in memory of Marty Wright by Kara, Aaron, Christine, Genevieve, and Drew Wright.

If you would like to place **flowers on the altar**, and pick them up after church or on Monday, please call **Pam Sullivan** (618-540-0098). Flower Emporium offers $25 (small), $30 (medium), or $35 (large) arrangements. 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 July 16th & 30th.

Thank you to **Diane Peach** for serving as liturgist and to **Dorothy Kinney** for greeting.

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**THIS WEEK**

Today: **Father’s Day**

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

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

Dedicate Blankets & Tools Offering

Fellowship Hour by Sopranos & Altos

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

Building & Grounds Committee, 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

Policy & Procedures Committee, 9:45 a.m.

Bible Study, 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday:  **Herald Deadline**

TOPS, 9:00 a.m.

Thursday: Church Women United, 9:30 a.m.

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

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

Church Community Alliance in Fellowship Hall,

3:00 p.m.

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

Vacation Bible School, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

-5-

**MISSION OF THE MONTH**

Our May & June Mission of the Month is dedicated to the Church World Service Blankets and Tools offering. Envelopes were included in the May edition of the Herald. Additional envelopes can be found on the table in the Narthex.

**SCRIP**

Orders submitted TODAY for the month of June with distribution next week. Although too late to present a gift card today for Father’s Day gift-giving, order today and tell that special man what to expect next week!  Master list of vendors and St. John “favorites” order forms are on the table in the narthex. Give order form and check payable to St. John UCC to Betty Meszaros who will be in Fellowship Hall after worship TODAY. You can also participate if worshipping on zoom—just mail check and note of cards you want to purchase to church. Cash is also happily accepted but only if giving order to Betty in person. Cost is face value of the card with no tax or service fee. Rebate is automatically sent to church. Contact Melissa Lane at 314-575-7627 or Betty Meszaros at 618-451-1968 if any questions.

**CREMAINS GARDEN GROUNDBREAKING**

Everyone is invited to attend the groundbreaking ceremony of the St. John Cremains Garden on June 28, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. The ceremony will be at the Maryville site, 2550 Maryville Rd, Granite City, IL. Please call 618-876-5811 by June 23, 2023 to RSVP. There will be refreshments served in the Chapel immediately following the ceremony. A flyer for this event is included in this bulletin and additional flyers are available on the table in the Narthex.

**CHAIRS FOR THE CEMETERY**

You may have seen the wish list in the Herald of chairs for the cemetery. You may also have wondered why patrons of the cemetery would need chairs! The chapel/office at the Maryville Road site was dedicated in 1995 and has been undergoing a refresh. The chairs, similar to those in fellowship hall, are actually for use in the chapel. The chapel can be utilized for memorial services and chairs would allow additional seating to replace some of the pews which are broken and becoming unsafe. Cost is $57 each. Thank you to the Brotherhood which just donated

-6-

ten chairs. Donations appreciated of any amounts – – portions or a chair or ten (like the Brotherhood) or balance of the 30 needed. Please contact the cemetery office at 618-876-5811 if questions.



Remember that the 4th of July fireworks are fairly visible from our church parking lot, so come and join us if you don’t want to be in the midst of the bigger crowds. Donations of non-chocolate individually wrapped candy are needed. These treats will be available after 8:30 p.m., to offer our hospitality to visitors. We need more volunteers to help distribute them this year, so please volunteer to Karen Gaines or Pastor Karla.



**3RD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATIONS**

Any of our children entering 3rd grade next August may receive a special Bible on Sunday, September 17, during 9:30 a.m. worship. Please call the church office at 618-877-6060 to give name and address for letters to be sent inviting them to participate.

**PLASTIC BOTTLE CAP COLLECTION**

We are collecting plastic bottle caps to assist Eleanor Reynolds in her Girl Scout bench project. Bottle caps should be put in the tub in the Narthex.



Vacation Bible School will take place Sunday, June 25th to Thursday, June 29th, and will be held each day from 6:00-8:00

-7-

p.m. Additional information and applications are included in the insert of this bulletin and on the table in the Narthex.



**GRADUATES**

If you or someone you know has recently graduated from high school or college, we’d like to celebrate their accomplishment in the upcoming July Herald. Please send the name of the graduate, their school, degrees (if applicable), any special honors, and their plans for the future.

**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**, 15822 Clayton Rd, Ellisville, MO 63011

Ruth Buer

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

Karen Luddeke

Jerry Shonk

**Stillwater Senior Living**, 1111 University Dr., Edwardsville, IL 62025

Marjorie Schmidt, #101

**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

-8-

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

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

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

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

**Illinois South Conference**

Belleville St. Paul UCC, Rev. Michelle (Aaron Brent Coleman) Torigian. Belleville Trinity, Pastor Tim (Shea) Powers-Reed. Retired Pastor, Rev. Donald & Anne Sabbert, Crestwood, MO.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7**

**18**The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. **2**He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. **3**He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. **4**Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. **5**Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” **6**And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” **7**Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. **8**Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

**9**They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” **10**Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. **11**Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with

-9-

Sarah after the manner of women. **12**So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I be fruitful?” **13**The Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ **14**Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.” **15**But Sarah denied, saying, “I did not laugh,” for she was afraid. He said, “Yes, you did laugh.”

The Lord dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as he had promised. **2**Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. **3**Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. **4**And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. **5**Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. **6**Now Sarah said, “God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me.” **7**And she said, “Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”

**Matthew 9:35-10:4**

**35**Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness. **36**When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. **37**Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; **38**therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. **2**These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee and his brother John; **3**Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus and Thaddaeus; **4**Simon the Cananaean and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

-10-

**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!**



**FOOD BOX PROJECT**

On Saturday, September 9th, we will continue our church’s Food Box Give-Away Program to help fight hunger in the community. Food prices are high, as we all know, which means it will cost more to fill the boxes. To offset the costs, we are once again asking for donations of food from the congregation. Also, if anyone has any contacts for food donations, such as grocery stores, produce markets, food manufacturers, dairies, etc., please let us know. During the March distribution, we gave away 180 boxes. We are hoping to distribute at least 150 - 175 boxes.

For those who would like to donate food for this project, the following is a suggested list to follow. Dates of collection for specific items have been included. If anyone has items to donate that do not appear on the list or would like to donate them on a different Sunday than what is listed, feel free to do so. Please make sure items being donated are not expired. Both Name Brand items and store brands are acceptable items to donate. Watch for sales at Schnucks, Ruler (they send out coupons), Aldi, Walmart, Sam’s, etc. The congregation’s generosity and participation has been tremendous for this project as well as all the others that have been implemented.

Suggested donations and dates:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Sun, 6-11-23** | Canned soup (chicken noodle, vegetable, tomato, etc.) or vegetable canned goods\* |
| **Sun, 6-18-23** | Canned chili & stew\* |
| **Sun, 6-25-23** | Boxed cereal (Cheerios, Rice Krispies, Corn Flakes, avoid sugary cereals such as Froot Loops) |
| **Sun, 7-2-23** | Peanut butter 16 oz jar (Ruler has the lowest price to date) |
| **Sun, 7-9-23** | Jars of applesauce (The Kroger brand is inexpensive) |
| **Sun, 7-16-23** | Canned Spaghetti Os (Campbells) or Spaghetti & Meat Balls or Lasagna (Chef Boyardee). It can be similar products under other manufacturers as well. |
| **Sun, 7-23-23** | Canned tuna or 2lb bag of rice |
| **Sun, 7-30-23** | 64 oz bottles of juice - apple cranberry, grape - (Dollar Tree has inexpensive options) |
| **Sun, 8-6-23** | Mac & cheese dinners |
| **Sun, 8-13-23** | Vegetable canned goods\* |
| **Sun, 8-20-23** | 5 lb bag of flour |
| **Sun, 8-27-23** | Canned chili & stew\* |

\*These items are listed twice due to the high volume needed

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***“We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise”***

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***We bring the sacrifice of praise***

***Into the house of the Lord;***

***We bring the sacrifice of praise***

***Into the house of the Lord.***

***And we offer up to you***

***The sacrifices of thanksgiving;***

***And we offer up to you***

***The sacrifices of joy.***

***“This Is the Day”***

Words & Music: Les Garrett; para. Psalm 118.24 © 1967 Scripture In Song (a div. of Integrity Music) Reprinted by permission, CCLI License #1334401

***This is the day, this is the day***

***That the Lord has made, that the Lord has made;***

***We will rejoice, we will rejoice***

***And be glad in it, and be glad in it.***

***This is the day that the Lord has made;***

***We will rejoice and be glad in it.***

***This is the day, this is the day***

***That the Lord has made.***

***“God of the Ages, History’s Maker”***

Words: Margaret Clarkson © 1982 Hope Publishing Company. Reprinted by permission, CCLI License #1334401.

***God of the ages, history’s Maker,***

***Planning our pathway, holding us fast,***

***Shaping in mercy all that concerns us:***

***Father, we praise you, Lord of the past.***

***God of this morning, gladly your children***

***Worship before you, trustingly bow:***

***Teach us to know you always among us,***

***Quietly sovereign -- Lord of our now.***

***God of tomorrow, strong overcomer,***

***Princes of darkness own your command:***

***What then can harm us? We are your people,***

***Now and forever kept by your hand.***

***Lord of past ages, Lord of this morning,***

***Lord of the future, help us, we pray:***

***Teach us to trust you, love and obey you,***

***Crown you each moment, Lord of today.***

***“Faith of Our Fathers”***

***Faith of our fathers, living still***

***In spite of dungeon fire, and sword.***

***O how our hearts beat high with joy***

***Whene’er we hear that glorious Word!***

***Faith of our fathers, holy faith,***

***We will be true to you till death.***

***Faith of our mothers, we will love***

***Both friend and foe in all our strife,***

***And preach it, too, as love knows how,***

***By kindly words and virtuous life!***

***Faith of our mothers, holy faith,***

***We will be true to you till death.***

***Faith of the martyrs who, though bound,***

***Were still in heart and conscience true.***

***How blest would be their children’s fate,***

***If they, like them, should live for you!***

***Faith of the martyrs, holy faith,***

***We will be true to you till death.***