**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

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| September 10, 2023 | 15th 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 WITH A WAVE

\*SUNG RESPONSE ***“Let There Be Peace on Earth”*** #614

***Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;***

***let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.***

***With God our creator, children all are we.***

***Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.***

***Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.***

***With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:***

***to take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.***

***Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.***

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN Psalm 20:6-9

Some take pride in chariots, and some in horses, but our pride is in the name of the Lord our God. They will collapse and fall, but we shall rise and stand upright. (Vss. 7-8)

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*Grace Greater Than Our Sin* Johnson

CENTERING THOUGHT1

*Place your hope and trust in the Lord, whose faithful love watches over your homes in times of greatest need.*

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CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER Adapted from Psalm 149,

Exodus 12, Romans 13, and Matthew 18

Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song,

his praise in the assembly of the faithful.

***Let Israel be glad in its Maker;***

***let the children of Zion rejoice in their King.***

Let them praise his name with dancing,

making melody to him with tambourine and lyre.

***Let the faithful exult in glory;***

***let them sing for joy!***

Let us praise the Lord as we pray together.1

***Ancient of days, we enter your presence to remember and rejoice. We come looking for your steadfast faithfulness and your loving care. May we be a people who seek reconciliation and genuine forgiveness with one another. In remembrance and gratitude for your mercy and your grace, we pray. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“Sing Praise to the Father”*** Vss. 1 & 4 #142

\*RESPONSIVE EPISTLE READING Romans 13:8-11

Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

***The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandments,***

Are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

***Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.***

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep.

***For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers.***

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON Exodus 12:1-14 pg. 56

SPECIAL MUSIC *I Trust in the Lord* Chancel Choir

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 18:15-20 pg. 19

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REFLECTION

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”***  #581

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 *Lord, I Want To Be A Christian* Spiritual

\*SUNG RESPONSE2 ***“I Then Shall Live”*** Vs. 3 #372

***Your kingdom come around and through and in me,***

***your power and glory, let them shine through me;***

***your hallowed name, oh, may I bear with honor,***

***and may your living kingdom come in me.***

***The Bread of Life, oh, may I share with honor,***

***and may you feed a hungry world through me.***

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***With these gifts, O Lord, we offer love for you and for our neighbors. Gathered as your people, we seek to bind together your kingdom on earth with mercy and compassion. Bless our offerings that they may reach beyond our limits into your limitless love for all, through Jesus, the Savior of the world. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”*** #393

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE  *I Know Whom I Have Believed* Whittle

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Welcome to worship, Christian education and fellowship — a chance to be fed and nourished by God’s Word before being sent again to serve the world in the week ahead.

The **bulletin** is given inloving memory of the September 17th birthday of Martha Bischoff by Herb and Jeanie Bischoff.

The **altar vases** are given in memory of the birthday of Lois Hollenbeck on September 5th and in celebration of the birthdays of Lauren and Lakin Luebbers on September 8th, and Maren on September 11th by Bob, Anna, and Alicia Hollenbeck.

If you would like to place **flowers on the altar**, and pick them up after church or on Monday, please call **Christie Roth** (618-931-6194). 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 date to sponsor the bulletin is October 29th.

Thank you to **Melissa Lane** for serving as liturgist and to **Dorothy Kinney** for greeting.

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**THIS WEEK**

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

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

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

Evening Guild/Brotherhood Potluck, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

Hilltoppers, 12:00 p.m. (bring sandwiches)

Bible Study, 12:30 p.m.

W/F/CE Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday: TOPS, 9:00 a.m.

Bell Choir, 5:30 p.m.

Chancel Choir, 6:30 p.m.

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

GCC Band Rehearsal, 6:15-9:45 p.m.

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

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

3rd Grade Bible Presentations, 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship Hour by Altar Guild & Ushering

**EVENING GUILD & BROTHERHOOD POTLUCK**

The annual Evening Guild and Brotherhood joint potluck will be held on Monday, September 11th at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is asked to bring a side dish to share. There will be a presentation by the Honor Flights program.

**MISSION OF THE MONTH**

The September MOM is collecting children’s socks, undergarments, leggings, etc. to donate to the local school district’s social workers to distribute to district children in need. A list of items needed will be available soon.

**SCRIP**

School has started but not too late to express good wishes for a great year to your favorite student with a gift card. Time for a treat or extra school supplies may also be needed. Scrip orders will be submitted the third Sunday of September and third Sunday of October (sausage dinner day) then the schedule changes to the second Sunday in November and December due to holiday business closures. December 10th will be the deadline to order in time for Christmas delivery. Master list of vendors and St. John “favorites” order forms are on the table in the blue folder in the Narthex. Give order form and check payable to St. John UCC to Betty Meszaros at any time. Cash is also accepted but only if giving order to Betty in person. 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 with no tax or service fee. Rebate is automatically sent to the church. Contact Melissa Lane 314 575-7627 or Betty Meszaros 618 451-1968 questions.

**ANNUAL FALL MUM SALE**

The drop off date is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, September 13th. We will be selling mums on Friday, the 15th and Saturday the 16th. If you pre-ordered your mums, you will be

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contacted when they are available for pickup. If you have questions, please call the office (618-877-6060).

**FOOD BOX DISTRIBUTION**

Thanks to everyone who helped pack up and distribute the food boxes. Your time and effort is greatly appreciated and ensures we are able to help our community.

**3RD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATIONS**

Any of our children in 3rd grade 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 their name if you haven’t already notified us.

**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.

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If sorting & cleaning are in your plans, this will be the perfect time to hold aside items to donate to the all-church rummage sale. The event will be held **September 28th & 29th** this year and items can be brought to the stage in Fellowship Hall between September 5th and September 27th. No large electronics or heavy items please. General rule of thumb: If you would have to pay for it to be recycled, item cannot be accepted. This sale is sponsored by the Evening Guild with assistance appreciated from family and friends. All proceeds are given to church projects or local charitable organizations. Please mark the following important dates on your calendar. **Volunteers are especially needed during Set Up and Pricing**:

Tuesday, September 26th – 9:00 a.m. Set up

Wednesday, September 27th – 9:00 a.m. Pricing

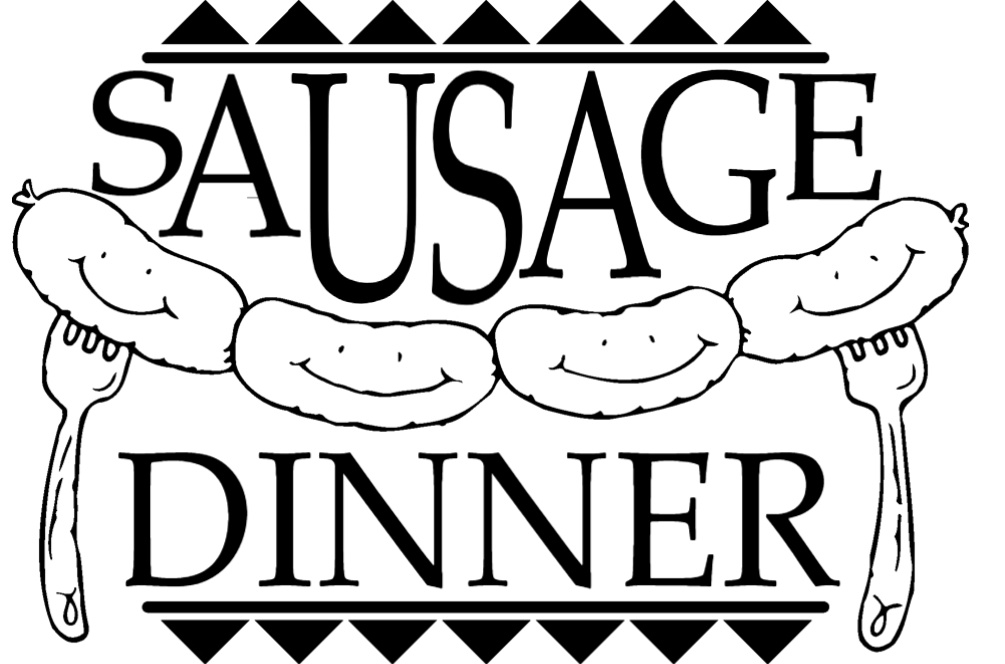
**Thursday, September 28th – 8:30 a.m. to**

**3:00 p.m. Open for Shoppers**

**Friday, September 29th – 8:30 a.m. to 12:00**

**p.m. Open for Shoppers**

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The Annual Sausage Dinner is right around the corner! It will be held on Sunday, October 15th from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and will be available for both dine in and carry out. Pricing is as follows:

**Dine In:** (all you can eat)

Adults - $15.00

Children 6-12 - $10.00

Children under 6 - Free

**Carry Out:**

All ages - $15.00

All dinners will include sausage, sauerkraut, applesauce, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, and dessert.

For those who can volunteer to help, there will be a sign up board in the back of the church for you to register.

**ATTENTION EVERYONE!!!!**

Yes, believe it or not, that time is rapidly drawing nearer! The Sausage Dinner and Country Store is just over a month away! It isn’t too early to start making the items you would love to make for the “Big Day” October 15th. Featured in the Country Store every year have been Christmas Items, quilts, afghans, craft items, candy, jams, jellies, home canned goods, and other baked goods. Put your best foot forward and roll up your sleeves so you can make this year’s Sausage Dinner and Country Store a Huge Success! Thank you!

Donna Brandes, Chairperson 618-802-1072

Nancy Jacobs, Co-Chairperson 314-712-6388

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Hospital**

Chuck Hasse is at Missouri Baptist. Carol Braundmeier is at Anderson.

**Nursing, Assisted, & Independent Living**

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

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**At Home**

Chloe Affolter, Isabella Boyer, Christopher Clark, Bonnie Fornaszewski, Mary Franz, Luitgard Fries, Melba Grady, Lou Hasse, Ruth Hubbard, Chuck King, Mina McBrian, Cindy Meyer, Sandy Mueller, Cliff Robertson, June Stille, Janice Weeks, and Nancy Wilson.

**Illinois South Conference**

Fieldon UCC. Floraville St. Paul UCC, Pastor Matt (Laura) Friz. Retired Pastor, Revs. Earl Menchhofer and Pamela Smith, Conyers, GA.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Exodus 12:1-14**

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, **2**“This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. **3**Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. **4**If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. **5**Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. **6**You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. **7**They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. **8**They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. **9**Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. **10**You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn with fire. **11**This is how you shall eat it: your loins

girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand, and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the Passover of the Lord. **12**I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, from human to animal, and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. **13**The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

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**14**“This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

**Matthew 18:15-20**

**15**“If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. **16**But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. **17**If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. **18**Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. **19**Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. **20**For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

**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!**

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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, 618-791-8246

Men’s Brotherhood – Talk to Chuck Hasse, 618-876-0936,

Dave Douglas, 618-452-3336

Quilters – Talk to Sandy Dawson 618-791-8246

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, 314-420-1548

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***“Called as Partners in Christ’s Service”***

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***Called as partners in Christ’s service,***

***Called to ministries of grace,***

***We respond with deep commitment***

***Fresh new lines of faith to trace.***

***May we learn the art of sharing,***

***Side by side and friend with friend,***

***Equal partners in our caring***

***To fulfill God’s chosen end.***

***Christ’s example, Christ’s inspiring,***

***Christ’s clear call to work and worth,***

***Let us follow, never faltering,***

***Reconciling folk on earth.***

***Men and women, richer, poorer,***

***All God’s people, young and old,***

***Blending human skills together***

***Gracious gifts from God unfold.***

***Thus new patterns for Christ’s mission,***

***In a small or global sense,***

***Help us bear each other’s burdens,***

***Breaking down each wall or fence***

***Words of comfort, words of vision,***

***Words of challenge, said with care,***

***Bring new power and strength for action,***

***Make us colleagues, free and fair.***

***So God grant us for tomorrow***

***Ways to order human life***

***That surround each person’s sorrow***

***With a calm that conquers strife.***

***Make us partners in our living,***

***Our compassion to increase,***

***Messengers of faith, thus giving***

***Hope and confidence and peace.***

***“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”***

***Blest be the tie that binds***

***Our hearts in Christian love;***

***The fellowship of kindred minds***

***Is like to that above.***

***Before our Father’s throne***

***We pour our ardent prayers;***

***Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,***

***Our comforts and our cares.***

***We share our mutual woes,***

***Each other’s burdens bear;***

***And often for each other flows***

***The sympathizing tear.***

***From sorrow, toil, and pain,***

***And sin we shall be free;***

***And perfect love and friendship reign***

***Through all eternity.***