**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| October 8, 2023 |  19th 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.comWeb-stjohnuccgranitecity.com |  (618) 877-6060Instagram: @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

 Kathy Montgomery, Cemetery Manager

\*GREETING ONE ANOTHER WITH A WAVE

\*SUNG RESPONSE ***“Majesty”*** #43

***Majesty, worship his majesty;***

***unto Jesus be all glory, honor, and praise.***

***Majesty, kingdom authority***

***flow from his throne unto his own, his anthem raise.***

***So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus;***

***magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus, the King.***

***Majesty, worship his majesty;***

***Jesus, who died, now glorified, King of all kings.***

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN Philippians 3:4b-14

Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

 *Ave Verum* W.A. Mozart

CENTERING THOUGHT1

In the scriptures you will find commandments of old and lessons from enigmatic parables. But there is an older scripture—a

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scripture beyond words, a scripture as deep and mysterious as the night sky. For the heavens proclaim God’s glory with every colorful sunrise and budding flower.

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER From Psalm 19

The heavens are telling the glory of God,

 ***And the firmament proclaims his handiwork.***

Day to day pours forth speech,

***And night to night declares knowledge.***

There is no speech, nor are there words;

***Their voice is not heard;***

Yet their voice goes out through all the earth,

 ***And their words to the end of the world.***

Let us pray:

***Holy One, quiet our words so we can hear your Word. Quiet our thoughts so we can hear your Spirit. Quiet our conflicts so we can hear your Son offer peace. Remind us of your commands given for the good of your people and creation. And when we do speak, may the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable to you, O Lord, our rock and redeemer. Amen.***

\*HYMN  ***“God, You Spin the Whirling Planets”***  #24

\*RESPONSIVE READING2  From Hymn #20

Like a mighty river flowing, like a flower in beauty growing, far beyond all human knowing—

***Is the perfect peace of God.***

Like the hills serene and even, like the coursing clouds of heaven, like the heart that’s been forgiven—

***Is the perfect peace of God.***

Like the summer breezes playing, like the tall trees softly swaying, like the lips of silent praying—

 ***Is the perfect peace of God.***

Like the morning sun ascended, like the scents of evening blended, like a friendship never ended—

 ***Is the perfect peace of God.***

Like the azure ocean swelling, like the jewel all excelling, far beyond our human telling—

 ***Is the perfect peace of God.***

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**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

 pg. 63

ANTHEM *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* Glockenspiel

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 21:33-46 pg. 22

REFLECTION

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“The Church’s One Foundation”*** Vss. 1, 2 & 4, #544

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 *O Lord Most Holy* F. Abt

\*SUNG RESPONSE3 ***“Give Thanks”*** #359

***Give thanks with a grateful heart,***

***give thanks to the Holy One,***

***give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ his Son.***

***Give thanks with a grateful heart,***

***give thanks to the Holy One,***

***give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ his Son.***

***And now let the weak say “I am strong,”***

***let the poor say “I am rich,”***

***because of what the Lord has done for us.***

***And now let the weak say “I am strong,”***

***let the poor say “I am rich,”***

***because of what the Lord has done for us, Give thanks!***

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

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 ***We give thanks for your love and for your creation with these offerings, O God. They also represent our respect for your commands as we worship you alone, not the idols of the world. Grant us your blessing and peace as we serve in Jesus’ name. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“Go Now in Peace”*** #717

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE  *Classical Postlude* Franz Joseph Haydn

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Welcome to worship in the name of God, the maker of all; Jesus, the Savior; and the Holy Spirit, divine guide of our lives. Amen.

The **bulletin** is given in loving memory of the birthday on October 13th of Lois Winter by Sandy & Judy Buchheid and Janet Kies.

The **altar centerpiece** is given in celebration of the wonderful life of our Emily Anne by Mom, Dad, Josh, Acacia, Milo, Charlie, and Desmond.

If you would like to place **flowers on the altar**, and pick them up after church or on Monday, please call **Rosalie Watson** (618-741-2979). 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 **Rev. Charles Preston** for serving as liturgist, to **Rae-Ellen Vogeler** for greeting, and to **Chris McMillan** 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.

 Fellowship Hour by Cemetery Committee

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

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 Personnel Committee, 6:00 p.m.

 Brotherhood, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

 Hilltoppers, 12:30 p.m.

 Bible Study, 12:30 p.m.

 ESOS Committee, 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.

 Daisy Troop Girl Scout Meeting on Youth Side,

 6:15-7:30 p.m.

Next Sunday: **Annual Reports Due**

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

 **Sausage Dinner, 11:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.**

**OCTOBER MISSION OF THE MONTH: NEIGHBORS IN NEED**

For October’s Mission of the Month, we are collecting the Neighbors in Need offering. Offering envelopes can be found on the table in the Narthex and were included in the October edition of the Herald.

**SCRIP**

The October scrip orders will be submitted 10/15 with delivery in time for Halloween. Gift cards are available in $10 denominations and great for favorite trick or treaters. It’s not too early to start Christmas shopping. Orders submitted 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 with questions.

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**GRANITE CITY COMMUNITY BAND CONCERTS**

The Granite City Community Band would like to invite everyone to their first concert of the new season on Friday, October 13th beginning at 7 pm at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 6325 W. Main St., Maryville, IL. "Save the Date" for future concerts on November 10th and December 8th, 2023.  In 2024, the concerts will be on February 16th, March 15th and May 3rd. **Locations to be announced**. All of these concerts are **FREE**, making an evening of live music affordable and family-friendly. The band performs a wide-ranging repertoire, including marches, show tunes, popular songs, contemporary compositions and classical band literature. The band performs at various locations throughout the local area.



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

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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

**TRUNK-OR-TREAT**

It is that time of year again when spooky things are all around us. The St. John Youth Group along with the Christian Education Group will be sponsoring the 2nd Annual Trunk-Or-Treat on Sunday, October 29, 2023 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. This event will take place rain or shine in the church parking lot. Listed below are three things we need to make this event a success.

1. **Trunks** - We need volunteers to fill the parking lot with Halloween decorated vehicles. Let’s spruce up our trunks and/or truck beds with crepe paper and pumpkins and fill them with treats for the kids. While you are decorating your vehicle, remember to dress up yourself! Costumes are encouraged for everyone!
2. **Treats** - While those decorating their cars will bring treats for the kids, we will also need candy for game prizes and to shore up any shortages. Don’t want to donate candy? We will take other treats as well, such as spider rings, vampire teeth, spooky stickers, etc. Please bring donations anytime before October 29th and drop off in the church office.
3. **Helpers** - Don’t feel like cleaning out the trunk or bed of your vehicle? That is ok. We can use you at the games. We intend to have various games set up and are looking for volunteers to supervise. Again, this is a great chance to bring out your capes and wigs to participate in the fun by dressing up!

New this year we will have at least 2 food trucks along with some spooky music playing. To volunteer in any capacity, please contact:

 Sharon O’Toole - 314-420-1548/sharon.otoole66@gmail.com

 Donna Brandes - 618-802-1072/donnabrandes@yahoo.com

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**JUSTINE WALKER MEMORIAL NUT & CANDY SALE 2023**

It’s that time again to order your goodies from Terri Lynn Nut and Candy! All funds raised will go to support St. John Cemetery. Look for printed brochures in the Narthex and tower, as an attachment in the online bulletin and on the website. Payment at the time of ordering is required. Cash and checks are acceptable. Please make checks payable to St. John Cemetery.

If ordering remotely, you can submit your orders by:

* Phone to Joan Mueller 618-830-0647
* Email to stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com
* You can either drop off your payment at church or mail to Joan Mueller - 4480 New Poag Road, Edwardsville, IL 62025

**PLEASE DO NOT USE THE DONATE BUTTON ON THE WEB PAGE AS IT IS NOT SET UP FOR FUND RAISERS.**

All orders and payments must be received by **TODAY,** **Sunday, October 8th**. Your order will be delivered to you at church in late October/early November. If anyone is interested in taking orders outside of church, please contact Joan Mueller so she can provide brochures and order forms. We look forward to filling your orders and supporting our cemetery and their vital works. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Joan Mueller (618-830-0647). Thank you!

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Hospital**

**Nursing, Assisted, & Independent Living**

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

**At Home**

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

**Illinois South Conference**

Highland Evangelical UCC, Rev. Bill (Sally) Kapp. Hecker Friedens UCC, Rev. Ivan (Vivian) Horn. Retired Pastor, Rev. James Langdoc, Clermont, FL.

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**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20**

Then God spoke all these words: **2**I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; **3**you shall have no other gods before me. **4**You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

**7**You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

**8**Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. **9**For six days you shall labour and do all your work.

**12**Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

**13**You shall not murder.

**14**You shall not commit adultery.

**15**You shall not steal.

**16**You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

**17**You shall not covet your neighbour’s house; you shall not covet your neighbour’s wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

**18**When all the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, they were afraid and trembled and stood at a distance, **19**and said to Moses, ‘You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, or we will die.’ **20**Moses said to the people, ‘Do not be afraid; for God has come only to test you and to put the fear of him upon you so that you do not sin.’

**Matthew 21:33-46**

**33**‘Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. **34**When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. **35**But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. **36**Again

he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. **37**Finally he sent his son to them, saying, “They will respect my son.” **38**But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, “This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.” **39**So they seized him, threw him out of the

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vineyard, and killed him. **40**Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?’ **41**They said to him, ‘He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.’

**42**Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the scriptures:

“The stone that the builders rejected
    has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
    and it is amazing in our eyes”?

**43**Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. **44**The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.’

**45**When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. **46**They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

**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!**

***“God, You Spin the Whirling Planets”***

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***God, you spin the whirling planets,***

***Fill the seas and spread the plain,***

***Mold the mountains, fashion blossoms,***

***Call forth sunshine, wind, and rain.***

***We, created in your image,***

***Would a true reflection be***

***Of your justice, grace, and mercy,***

***And the truth that makes us free.***

***You have called us to be faithful***

***In our life and ministry.***

***We respond in grateful worship,***

***Joined in one community.***

***When we blur your gracious image,***

***Focus us and make us whole,***

***Healed and strengthened as your people,***

***We move onward toward your goal.***

***God, your will is still creating,***

***Calling us to life made new,***

***Now reveal to us fresh vistas***

***Where there’s work to dare and do.***

***Keep us clear of all distortion,***

***Fashion us with loving care,***

***Thus, new creatures in your image,***

***We’ll proclaim Christ everywhere.***

***“The Church’s One Foundation”***

***The Church’s one foundation***

***Is Jesus Christ her Lord;***

***She is his new creation,***

***By water and the word:***

***From heaven he came and sought her***

***To be his holy bride;***

***With his own blood he bought her,***

***And for her life he died.***

***Elect from every nation,***

***Yet one o’er all the earth,***

***Her charter of salvation:***

***One Lord, one faith, one birth;***

***One holy name she blesses,***

***Partakes one holy food,***

***And to one hope she presses***

***With every grace endued.***

***‘Mid toil and tribulation,***

***And tumult of her war,***

***She waits the consummation***

***Of peace forevermore,***

***Till with the vision glorious***

***Her longing eyes are blest,***

***And the great Church victorious***

***Shall be the Church at rest.***