**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| November 19, 2023 | 25th 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 ***“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.***

THANKSGIVING MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN

Luke 17:11-19

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten men with a skin disease approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” When he saw them, he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, “Were not ten made clean? So where are the other nine? Did none of them return to give glory to God except this foreigner?” Then he said to him, “Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.”

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PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*Come, Ye Thankful* Glockenspiel

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER1

For food in our homes and roofs over our heads,

and for our ability to help those who don’t,

***We give God our thanks and praise.***

For healing in our bodies and renewal in our souls,

and for the compassion we receive to share with others,

***We give God our thanks and praise.***

For this beautiful earth and its abundant provisions,

and for our willingness to care for it,

***We give God our thanks and praise.***

For friends and family and the kindness of strangers,

and for churches with doors open to all,

***We give God our thanks and praise.***

Let us pray together.

***Generous God of abundance and life, thank you for the many gifts of our lives. Thank you for this time of worship. Thank you for your constant presence. Thank you for your healing love. Thank you, thank you, thank you. In gratitude and joy, we pray. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“Praise and Thanksgiving”***  #722

\*RESPONSIVE READING

Adapted from Deuteronomy 8 and Psalm 65

You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you.

***Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God by failing to keep his commandments…***

When you have eaten your fill and have built fine houses and live in them, and when your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied,

***Then do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery…***

He made water flow for you from flint rock. He fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you and in the end to do you good.

***Do not say to yourself, ‘My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth.’***

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But remember the Lord your God…

***Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion, and to you shall vows be performed, O you who answer prayer! To you all flesh shall come.***

When deeds of iniquity overwhelm us, you forgive our transgressions. We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, your holy temple.

***By awesome deeds you answer us with deliverance, O God of our salvation; you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.***

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

EPISTLE LESSON 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 pg. 173

ANTHEM *Gather Us In*  Chancel Choir

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 25:14-30 pg.26

REFLECTION

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“For the Fruit of All Creation”*** #723

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  *Praise and Thanksgiving Be To God* Yardley

\*SUNG RESPONSE ***“My Country, ‘Tis of Thee”***

Vss. 1 & 4 #731

***My country, ‘tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing:***

***land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrims’ pride,***

***from every mountainside let freedom ring!***

***Our fathers’ God, to thee, Author of liberty, to thee we sing:***

***long may our land be bright with freedom’s holy light;***

***protect us by thy might, great God, our King!***

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\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***We gladly return a portion of your gifts, O Lord, and give thanks for all your blessings. We have invested the freedoms we have to working for your glory. Through our careful stewardship of natural and personal resources, and through compassionate care for others, we honor you. Bless us, and our church life together, as we continue to do the mission you give us, in Jesus’ name. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“Now Thank We All Our God”*** #14

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE  *Give Thanks*  Smith

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

We thank Greg Young for serving as liturgist.

Today’s bulletins are given in memory of Cotton Johannigmeier by Linda & Dennis Sturman.

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.

A picture containing logo

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**THIS WEEK**

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

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

Fellowship Hour sponsored by Youth Fellowship

Annual Meeting

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

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

Girl Scouts, 6:15 p.m.

Personnel and Pastoral Relations Committee, 6:30 p.m.

**Herald Deadline for December/January edition**

Wednesday: TOPS, 9:00 a.m.

Bell Choir, 5:30 p.m. Cancelled

Chancel Choir, 6:30 p.m. Cancelled

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Thursday: Office Closed for Thanksgiving

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

Friday: Office Closed for Thanksgiving

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

Sunday School for Children, 9:30 a.m

Totenfest

Game Night 6-8 p.m.

**NOVEMBER MISSION OF THE MONTH**

The November Mission of the Month is our literacy program working with the downtown Head Start. Volunteers will be needed for future activities as well as funds. In November for Mission of the Month, please clearly mark extra

financial gifts and share time, talent and treasure with this important community organization.

**“CELEBRATE THE CARDINALS”**

Thank you to all who ordered Cardinal calendars. The Cardinals are supposed to ship the first week of December. You will be contacted as soon as the calendars arrive at the cemetery office to coordinate delivery.

Last chance TODAY to purchase tickets for the raffle basket. See Betty Meszaros during fellowship hour. Winner will be drawn before the annual meeting begins.

**ANNUAL MEETING**

Our Annual Meeting will be held after worship and fellowship hour today. Please plan to attend. Annual Reports are available on the entrance table. Please take one per household. We must have a quorum for the meeting to flow smoothly as we celebrate one faithful year, and anticipate another, in the life of St. John UCC and Cemetery.

**BROTHERHOOD SPONSORED CHRISTMAS PARTY**

The annual Brotherhood Christmas dinner/party will be on Monday, December 11 at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to attend. Reservations are due by Tuesday, December 5. Cost is $15 per person payable to St. John UCC Brotherhood.

**TOTENFEST**

Totenfest, when we remember loved ones who died during the past liturgical year, will be held next Sunday, November 26, during our 9:30 a.m. worship service. Letters have been sent to a family member if we have an address inviting them to attend this special service. Please invite those you know and offer a ride to anyone who may need transportation.

**DECEMBER/JANUARY HERALD**

Although the November Herald was distributed later than usual, we are keeping the deadline for the combined December 2023 and January 2024

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Herald on November 21 as usual. Hopefully with the office changes getting more worked out, we will send it by December 1 and share the news from St. John UCC, and share the good news of great joy in Christ our Lord’s birth.

A black and white image of a book and a butterfly

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We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of William “Chuck” King who died on Friday, November 17, 2023. His funeral will be on Wednesday, November 22, with visitation from 11:00-1:00 and service at 1:00 here at St. John UCC. May the peace and comfort that come from God sustain his loved ones during this time of grief.

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Hospital**

Cliff Robertson is at Gateway Regional Hospital.

**Nursing, Assisted, & Independent Living**

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

**At Home**

Chloe Affolter, Melissa Affolter; Isabella Boyer, Bonnie Fornaszewski, Mary Franz, Luitgard Fries, Lou Hasse, Mina McBrian, Cindy Meyer, Sandy Mueller, Delores Roethemeyer (at Nancy Jacobs’ home), June Stille, Janice Weeks, and Nancy Wilson.

**Illinois South Conference**

Marine UCC, Rev. Phil (Sandee) Kershner. Murphysboro St. Peter’s UCC, Rev. Lauren (Greg) Lambert-Goheen. Retired Pastor Rev. Jane Hillman, O’Fallon, IL.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**2 Corinthians 9:6-15**

**6**The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. **7**Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. **8**And God is able to provide you with every blessingin abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. **9**As it is written,

“He scatters abroad; he gives to the poor;  
    his righteousness[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2%20Corinthians%209%3A6-15&version=NRSVUE&interface=print#fen-NRSVUE-28950b)] endures forever.”

**10**He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your

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righteousness. **11**You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us, **12**for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. **13**Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your partnership with them and with all others, **14**while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. **15**Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

**Matthew 25:14-30**

**14**“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; **15**to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once **16**the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. **17**In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. **18**But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. **19**After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. **20**Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me.

five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ **21**His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ **22**And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ **23**His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ **24**Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, **25**so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ **26**But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? **27**Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. **28**So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. **29**For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. **30**As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

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**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.**

**CALL FOR INFORMATION**

Bell Choir – Kathy Morris, 618-210-6095

Cemetery -- Kathy Montgomery, 618-876-5811

Chancel Choir – John Nitchman, President, 618-288-5297

Council – Kiki Cochran, President, 618-797-2511 or Donna Brandes, Vice President, 618-802-1072

Evening Guild – Christie Roth, 618-931-6194

Financial Reports – Mike Seibold, Treasurer, 618-792-4301

or 618-877-6060 church office

Heavenly Stars – Betty Meszaros, 618-451-1968

Karen Gaines - 618-288-0845

Herald – 618-877-6060 church office

Hilltoppers – Dee Roethemeyer, 618-876-6860

Historian – Sandy Dawson, 618-791-8246

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

Dave Douglas, 618-452-3336

Quilters – Sandy Dawson 618-791-8246

Doris Peterson 618-877-1606

Sausage Dinner – Donna Brandes, 618-802-1072

Nancy Jacobs -- 618-931-0673

Scrip Orders – Melissa Lane, 314-575-7627 or Betty Meszaros 618-451-1968

Sunday School – Donna Brandes, 618-802-1072

Youth Fellowship – Sharon O’Toole, 314-420-1548

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**UPCOMING COMMUNITY & CHURCH EVENTS**

Granite City Community Service November 21, 7 p.m., at Calvary Life Church.

St. John Cemetery will be starting to put Christmas decorations out on Monday, November 27 at 9 a.m. Any additional hands would be appreciated.

Master’s Voice Christmas Concert November 30 and December 1, 7:00, at First United Presbyterian Church.

Totenfest, November 26, 9:30 a.m., during Sunday Worship.

Hatfield Gaines Scholarship application deadline December 1.

Parsonage Open House, Sunday, December 3, 2:00-5:00 p.m.

Unbroken Concert, Friday, December 8, 6:00 Concert, Dinner by reservation, $15, 4:30 p.m.

Christmas Ensemble Concert, Sunday, December 10, 1:00 p.m. featuring pianist Sun Hye Chung here at St. John UCC.

Christmas Eve, December 24, 9:30 a.m. worship a combination of 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas closing with traditional Silent Night. 10:30 p.m. music and 11:00 p.m. service closing with traditional Silent Night

A black and white illustration of food

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Thanksgiving humor

Need to lighten the mood at your holiday dinner table? Share some laughter with these Thanksgiving-themed jokes.

Why did the turkey decline dessert?  
Because it was stuffed.

Why did the turkey cross the road twice?  
To prove he wasn’t a chicken.

What smells the best at Thanksgiving dinner?  
Your nose.

Why didn’t the chef season the turkey?  
There wasn’t enough thyme.

Why did the turkey leave the band?  
People were fighting over the drumsticks.

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A black and white illustration of a christmas ornament

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Our Youth Fellowship is sponsoring 2 children from Uni-Pres Kindercottage of East St. Louis.  Here are the names and information of the 2 children.  In the past, some congregation members have wanted to contribute to our mission project, so we are including the following information.

MARIANNA KALIO

Sex – F Sex - M

Age – 8 Age – 9 months

Clothes Size - 10/12 Clothes size – 9-12 months

Shoe Size – 2 Coat size – 12 months

Coat Size -,12/14 Pampers – size 4

If you choose to purchase item(s) for either Marianna or Kalio or for both of them they need to be wrapped with their name on them since we have 2 this year. Everything needs to be dropped off in the church office no later than Sunday, December 17th.

Here are additional ways to help Uni-Pres Kindercottage during Christmas with the following donations:

Cleaning Supplies - Bleach, Disinfectant, Vanish, Comet, Bathroom Tub & Tile Cleaner and Clorox Wipes

Paper Products - Paper Towels, Napkins, Bathroom Tissue and Styrofoam Plates

PPE Supplies - Masks for Adults and Children, Latex Gloves Size L and financial donations are always welcomed.

You may also send a donation to Uni-Pres Kindercottage, 564 Veronica Avenue, East St. Louis, IL 62205 and they will do your shopping for the child(s) sponsored or donation of supplies.  Just make a check payable to Uni-Pres Kindercottage and write in the memo section “Child’s Christmas Gifts or cleaning supplies, etc.” and a set of Santa’s Elves will go out shopping for you.  If you have any further questions, you may contact Sharon O’Toole at 315-420-1548.

We appreciate your help!  Thanks!

Youth Fellowship Group and Uni-Pres Kindercottage