**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

February 16, 2025 6th Sunday after the Epiphany (C)

Rev. Karla Frost, Pastor David R. Ekstrand, Dir. of Music

9:30 Zoom & In-Person Worship 9:30 Sunday School for Children

2901 Nameoki Road Granite City, IL 62040

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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 AND BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*GREETING ONE ANOTHER WITH A SMILE AND WAVE

\*SUNG RESPONSE1 ***“His Name Is Wonderful”*** #102

***His name is Wonderful, his name is Wonderful,***

***his name is Wonderful, Jesus, my Lord;***

***he is the mighty King, Master of everything,***

***his name is Wonderful, Jesus, my Lord.***

***He’s the great Shepherd, the Rock of all ages,***

***Almighty God is he;***

***bow down before him, love and adore him,***

***his name is Wonderful, Jesus my Lord.***

MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN Psalm 1

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked or take the path that sinners tread…

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*Hallelujah*

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER2  Based on Psalm 1

Happy are those who delight in God’s ways,

***Who set their hearts and minds on the laws of God’s love.***

In the presence of the Holy,

they are like trees planted by the waters of life.

***They are fed by enduring streams,***

***with roots that reach into the depths of the soul.***

-2-

They are nourished in times of drought

and bring forth fruit in seasons of famine.

***Life shall spring forth***

***as they walk each day in the Way of peace.***

And so, we pray together:

***Holy One, when the road is dusty under our feet and we find ourselves engulfed, you share with us the water of life. You plant our spirits by the streams of your Being. You nourish our bodies and replenish our souls. You challenge our minds and guide our hearts. Lead us, again, O God, into your presence with our prayers. Be with us, as your renewing love overflows from our lives and our souls into the world. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“Search Me, O God*** #385

\*RESPONSIVE PRAYER READING3 From Hymns #493 & #503

O God, your constant care and love

are shed upon us from above,

***Throughout our lives in every stage,***

***from infancy to later age.***

We thank you Lord, for dreams of youth,

for wisdom leading on to truth,

***For memories gathered through the years,***

***and faith that grows from joys and tears.***

I cast all my cares upon you,

I lay all of my burdens down at your feet.

***And anytime that I don’t know what to do,***

***I will cast all my cares upon you.***

All time is yours, O Lord, to give.

May we, in all the years we live,

***Find that each day of life is new,***

***a celebration, Lord, with you.***

Let not the passing of the years

rob us of joy or cause us fears,

***And may our faith, O Lord, hold true,***

***that we may always rest in you.***

I cast all my cares upon you,

I lay all of my burdens down at your feet.

***And anytime that I don’t know what to do,***

***I will cast all my cares upon you. Amen.***

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

-3-

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON Jeremiah 17:5-11 pg. 676

ANTHEM *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* Chancel Choir

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 6:17-26 pg. 60

REFLECTION

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“When Peace Like a River”*** #428

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 *Here I Am to Worship*

\*RESPONSE3  ***“All Things Are Yours!”*** Vss. 1 & 2 #687

***All things are yours! We make that true***

***when we return our gifts to you.***

***And so we give, and so we share,***

***in Christ’s strong name expressing care.***

***“Give out of love,” your Word commands.***

***We are your head, your heart, your hands.***

***Your Word you underscore with deeds***

***by using us to answer needs.***

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION2

***Merciful God, you bless us beyond measure or belief. May the gifts you have poured into our lives overflow, spilling over into the world. May these gifts nourish all who have need. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“Trust and Obey”*** #443

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE *All Hail the Power of Jesus Name*

-4-

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We thank Connie Ahlers for serving as liturgist, and Justin Gibson for serving as greeter.

If you would like to place **flowers on the altar**, and pick them up after church or on Monday, please call **Justin Gibson at (618) 975-0735** or email at **jgibson34@gmail.com.** Flower Emporium offers $25 (small), $30 (medium), or $35 (large) arrangements. If you would like to **sponsor a bulletin**, please call the **Church Office at (618) 877-6060**. The following dates are currently available; February 23, 2025, May 4 & 11, 2025, July 6, & 13, 2025, August 31, 2025, October 19, 2025, & November 30, 2025.

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

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

Fellowship Hour by Glockenspiel

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

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

Bible Study, 12:30 p.m.

Girl Scouts, 6:15 p.m.

Wednesday: TOPS, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

HeadStart in Nursery, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Bell Choir, 5:30 p.m.

Chancel Choir, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday: GCC Band, 6:15 p.m.

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

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

Game Night, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**FEBRUARY MISSION OF THE MONTH**

The February mission of the month is financial donations to the Illinois South Conference DuBois Center. Please be sure to designate envelopes or checks so that the counters know where to direct the offerings correctly. Thank you.

-5-

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Cemetery Clean-Up – Tuesday, March 4th, 9:00 a.m., Nameoki Site

Ash Wednesday - Wednesday, March 5th, 7:00 p.m.

Food Box Distribution – Saturday, March 8th

Brotherhood St. Patrick’s Day Party – Monday, March 10th

Day of Discipleship – Saturday, March 15th

Ham and Beans Dinner – Saturday, March 22nd

Spring Vendor/Craft Fair – Saturday, March 29th

Spring Spruce-Up – Saturday, April 12th

Maundy Thursday Service – Thursday, April 17th

Easter Sunday – Sunday, April 20th

Spring BBQ – Saturday, May 3rd

**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING UPDATE**

The Youth Group would like to thank everyone very very much who graciously contributed towards the Souper Bowl of Caring collection on Sunday, February 9th after church service!!!

We collected $240.90!! The money collected went to support the Granite City Saturday Breakfast Ministries.

Thanks so much!!

* Youth Group and Advisors

**EVENING GUILD**

Television’s “Antiques Roadshow” is coming to St. Louis in April. Evening Guild’s “Antiques Roadshow and Tell” is coming to their March 3rd meeting in fellowship hall. Members and guests are invited to bring an item or two – could be a family heirloom or something acquired at a yard sale. Owners will tell the history of their items. Meeting begins at 6:00 p.m. No reservations required. Contact President Christie Roth with any questions.



We extend our Christian Sympathy to the family of **Gary Gaines** who passed from this life on Sunday, February 9, 2025. A memorial visitation and funeral service were held here at St. John UCC on Friday, February 14. Celebration of life to be held at a later date. May the peace and comfort that come from God sustain his loved ones during this time of grief.

-6-

A yellow rose with green leaves

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**Nursing, Assisted, & Independent Living**

Bob Braundmeier, Marcia Buenger, Ruth Buer, Cletus Knobeloch, Karen Luddeke, and Lucille Mangoff.

**At Home**

Chloe Affolter, Dave Douglas, Luitgard Fries, Lou Hasse, Mina McBrian, Cindy Meyer, Rev. Allen Reiter, Dee Roethemeyer, June Stille, Trish Stromlund, & Nancy Wilson.

**Hospital**

Cheryl Lewis

**Illinois South Conference**

Farina Friedens UCC; Fieldon UCC; Sympathies to the family of Rev. Russell Miller.

**STEWARDSHIP**

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.

**A qr code with a few black squares

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**{1 Corinthians 16:14}**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Jeremiah 17:5-11

**5**Thus says the Lord:  
 Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals

and make mere flesh their strength,

whose hearts turn away from the Lord.  
 **6**They shall be like a shrub in the desert  
    and shall not see when relief comes.  
 They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,  
    in an uninhabited salt land.

**7**Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,   whose trust is the Lord.  
 **8**They shall be like a tree planted by water,  
    sending out its roots by the stream.  
 It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green;  
 in the year of drought it is not anxious,

and it does not cease to bear fruit.

**9**The heart is devious above all else;

it is perverse —   who can understand it?  
 **10**I the Lord test the mind and search the heart,  
 to give to all according to their ways,

according to the fruit of their doings.

**11**Like the partridge hatching what it did not lay,  
    so are all who amass wealth unjustly; in midlife it will leave them,  
     and at their end they will prove to be fools.

Luke 6:17-26

17 He came down with them and stood on a level place with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon.

18 They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured.

19 And everyone in the crowd was trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

20 Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.  
21 “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.  
“Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

22 “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man.

23 Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

24 “But woe to you who are rich,  
    for you have received your consolation.  
25 “Woe to you who are full now,  
    for you will be hungry.  
“Woe to you who are laughing now,  
    for you will mourn and weep.

26 “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

**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 – Donna Brandes, President, 618-802-1072 or

Joan Mueller, Vice President, 618-830-0647

Evening Guild – Christie Roth, 618-931-6194

Financial Reports – Connie Ahlers, Treasurer, 618-910-8962,

or Diane Gerdt, 618-877-6060 church office

Heavenly Stars – Betty Meszaros, 618-451-1968, or

Karen Gaines – 618-288-0845

Herald – Katie Jones, 618-877-6060 (church office)

Hilltoppers – Dee Roethemeyer, 618-931-0673

Historian – Sandy Dawson, 618-791-8246

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

Dave Douglas, 618-452-3336

Quilters – Sandy Dawson 618-791-8246, or Doris Petersen, 618-791-0892

Chicken & Dumplings Dinner – Donna Brandes, 618-802-1072, or

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

HYMNS

“***Search Me, O God***” #385

V1 Search me, O God, and know my heart today;  
try me, O Savior, know my thoughts, I pray.  
See if there be some wicked way in me;  
cleanse me from every sin and set me free.

V2 I praise thee, Lord, for cleansing me from sin;  
fulfill thy Word and make me pure within.  
Fill me with fire where once I burned with shame;  
grant my desire to magnify thy name.

V3 Lord, take my life and make it wholly thine;  
fill my poor heart with thy great love divine.  
Take all my will, my passion, self, and pride;  
I now surrender, Lord - in me abide.

***“When Peace Like a River”*** #428

V1 When peace like a river attendeth my way,  
when sorrows like sea billows roll,  
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

Refrain: It is well with my soul;  
it is well, it is well with my soul.

V2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
let this blest assurance control:  
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,  
and has shed his own blood for my soul. [Refrain]

V3 My sin O, the bliss of this glorious thought,  
my sin, not in part, but the whole,  
is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more:  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! [Refrain]

V4 And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,  
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend:  
“Even so”, it is well with my soul. [Refrain]

“***Trust and Obey***” #443

V1 When we walk with the Lord   
in the light of his Word,   
what a glory he sheds on our way!   
While we do his good will,   
he abides with us still,   
and with all who will trust and obey.

Refrain:  
Trust and obey, for there's no other way   
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

V2 Not a burden we bear,   
not a sorrow we share,   
but our toil he will richly repay;   
not a grief nor a loss,   
not a frown nor a cross,   
but is blest if we trust and obey. [Refrain]

V3 But we never can prove   
the delights of his love   
until all on the altar we lay;   
for the favor he shows   
and the joy he bestows   
are for them who will trust and obey. [Refrain]

V4 Then in fellowship sweet   
we will sit at his feet,   
or we'll walk by his side in the way;   
what he says we will do,   
where he sends we will go;   
never fear, only trust and obey. [Refrain]

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