**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

February 9, 2025 5th 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

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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 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

The Apostle Paul said: “But by the grace of God I am what I am.”

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

 *Blessed Assurance*

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER2

The voice of God is calling: “Whom shall I send?”

 ***We are here to answer God’s call.***

The voice of Christ is calling: “Who will be my faithful disciples?”

***We are here to answer Christ’s call.***

The voice of Spirit is calling: “Who will be a light to the nations?”

***We are here. Send us, we pray!***

And so, we pray together:

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 ***Almighty God, we are a people of unclean lips and live among a people of unclean lips. We are more accustomed to spreading division than we are to singing, “Holy, holy, holy.” Yet, we long to be made new and whole this day. Breathe your Holy Spirit upon us and call us to follow you once more. As the disciples left their fishing boats, may we leave the comfort of familiar shores. Work through us in the power of your Son, that all people might be brought to your glory. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“Holy God, We Praise Your Name”*** #138

\*RESPONSIVE PSALTER READING Psalm 138:1-8

I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;

 ***Before the gods I sing your praise;***

I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness,

***For you have exalted your name and your word above everything.***

On the day I called, you answered me;

***You increased my strength of soul.***

All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord,

***For they have heard the words of your mouth.***

They shall sing of the ways of the Lord,

 ***For great is the glory of the Lord.***

For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly,

 ***But the haughty he perceives from far away.***

Though I walk in the midst of trouble,

 ***You preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;***

You stretch out your hand,

 ***And your right hand delivers me.***

The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me;

 ***Your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.***

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 6:1-13 pg. 597

SPECIAL MUSIC *It Is No Secret* Amenz

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 5:1-11 pg. 8

REFLECTION

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

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\*HYMN ***“Dear Lord and Father of Mankind”*** #470

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 *Be Still My Soul*

\*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

 ***With hearts full of love, may our spirits sing your praise, O God. As we bring our offering before you this day, bless us and our gifts, that we may bring your holy presence where it is needed most in your world. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“Here I Am, Lord”*** #559

\*BENEDICTION

 Souper Bowl of Caring collection in the Narthex to benefit the

 Granite City area Saturday Breakfast Ministry

\*POSTLUDE *Sunday Reflection, Theme and Variation*

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We thank **Karen Gaines** for serving as liturgist, and **Ann Landys and Kim Kennerly** for serving as greeters.

The **altar vases** are given **in honor of Mayleigh’s 10th birthday** by her family.

The **altar centerpiece** is given **in loving memory of Mabel Kennerly’s birthday** by her family.

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, March 16, 2025, May 4 & 11, 2025, July 6, & 13, 2025, August 31, 2025, October 19, 2025, & November 30, 2025.



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

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

 Youth Collecting for Souper Bowl of Caring

 Brief Special Council Meeting after Worship

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

 Brotherhood Valentine’s Party, Open to All 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

 Bible Study, 12:30 p.m.

 Hilltoppers, **NOON**

 Restructure Committee, 6:00 p.m.

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

 Bell Choir, 5:30 p.m.

 Chancel Choir, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday: Council, 6:00 p.m.

GCC Band, 6:15 p.m.

Brownies, 6:15 p.m.

Saturday: Chili & Soup Cookoff, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

 Herald Deadline

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

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

 Fellowship Hour by Glockenspiel

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**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.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

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**

TODAY we will once again participate in the national Souper Bowl of Caring collection, referencing the football Super Bowl extravaganza as a theme.  This is a non-denominational inter-faith project that 100% benefits local soup kitchens and hunger programs everywhere.  All our donations will be given directly to the Saturday Breakfast Ministry here in Granite City. The amount of money collected is reported to the national Souper Bowl of Caring office so that a grand total for the day may be announced and celebrated. Soup kettles will be available in the Narthex to collect cash. If you prefer to give a check, please be sure to carefully mark your donations for this collection so the offering counters know where to place them.

**BROTHERHOOD VALENTINE’S PARTY**

The annual Brotherhood Valentine’s Party will be held tomorrow, Monday, February 10, and is open to all. The cost is $15 and that includes a buffet, drinks, dessert, and entertainment. Call Dave Douglas or Chuck Hasse for reservations.

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**BOWLS OF GOODNESS**

Our annual Bowls of Goodness Chili & Soup Cookoff is Saturday, February 15, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Cost of the event is as follows and includes unlimited soup & chili tasting, drinks, (water, tea, coffee, or lemonade) and dessert: Adults - $12, Kids (6-12) - $6, and Kids 5 & under eat free! Hot dogs and additional beverages will be available for purchase separately.



We extend our Christian Sympathy to the family of **Hilde Few** who passed from this life on Sunday, February 2, 2025. A celebration of life was held at Irwin Chapel and visitation and funeral service were held here at St. John UCC on Friday, February 7. May the peace and comfort that come from God sustain her loved ones during this time of grief.



**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**

Evansville St. John UCC, Pastor, Kevin Hirsch; Fairview Heights St. John UCC, Rev. Rosemary Captain; Retired Pastor, Rev. Charles (Rev. Karla Frost) Preston.

**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.

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**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Isaiah 6:1-13

**6**In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty, and the hem of his robe filled the temple. **2**Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. **3**And one called to another and said,

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.”

**4**The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. **5**And I said, “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”

**6**Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. **7**The seraph touched my mouth with it and said, “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” **8**Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!” **9**And he said, “Go and say to this people:

‘Keep listening, but do not comprehend;

 keep looking, but do not understand.’
**10**Make the mind of this people dull, and stop their ears, and shut their eyes, so that they may not look with their eyes and listen with their ears and comprehend with their minds and turn and be healed.”
**11**Then I said, “How long, O Lord?” And he said,
“Until cities lie waste without inhabitant,
and houses without people, and the land is utterly desolate;
**12**until the Lord sends everyone far away,
    and vast is the emptiness in the midst of the land.
**13**Even if a tenth part remain in it, it will be burned again, like a terebinth or an oak whose stump remains standing when it is felled.”
(The holy seed is its stump.)

Luke 5:1-11

**5**Once while Jesus was standing beside the Lake of Gennesaret and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, **2**he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. **3**He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. **4**When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.” **5**Simon answered, “Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.” **6**When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to burst. **7**So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. **8**But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’s knees, saying, “Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!” **9**For he and all who were with him were astounded at the catch of fish that they had taken, **10**and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.” **11**When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

**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



Lyrics Only Hymns

\*HYMN ***“Holy God, We Praise Your Name*** #138

**V1** Holy God, we praise Your name, Lord of all, we bow before you;
all on earth Your scepter claim, all in heaven above adore you.
infinite your vast domain, everlasting is your reign.

**V2** Hark! the loud celestial hymn angel choirs above are raising;
Cherubim and seraphim in unceasing chorus praising,
fill the heavens with sweet accord: holy, holy, holy Lord.

**V3** All apostles join the strain as your sacred Name they hallow;
prophets swell the glad refrain, and the white-robed martyrs follow;
and from morn to set of sun, through the church the song goes on.

**V4** Holy Father, Holy Son, Holy Spirit, Three we name you;
while in essence only one, undivided God we claim you,
then, adoring, bend the knee, while we own the mystery.

\*HYMN ***“Dear Lord and Father of Mankind”*** #470

**V1** Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways!
Reclothe us in our rightful mind; in purer lives thy service find,
In deeper reverence, praise.

**V2** In simple trust like theirs who heard, beside the Syrian sea
the gracious calling of the Lord, Let us, like them, without a word,

Rise up and follow Thee.

**V3** O sabbath rest by Galilee! O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee the silence of eternity,
interpreted by love!

**V4** Drop thy still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,

and let our ordered lives confess the beauty of thy peace.

**V5** Breathe through the heats of our desire thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire; speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire, O still, small Voice of calm.

\*HYMN ***“Here I Am, Lord”*** #559

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