

St. John United Church of Christ
“In Christ We Live, Celebrate, & Serve”

March 2, 2025

Rev. Karla Frost, Pastor

9:30 Zoom & In-Person Worship

2901 Nameoki Road

E-stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com

Web-stjohnuccgranitecity.com

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.

Transfiguration Sunday (C)

David R. Ekstrand, Dir. of Music

9:30 Sunday School for Children

Granite City, IL 62040

(618) 877-6060

Instagram: @stjohnucc2901gc

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

“Spirit of the Living God”

#492

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, move among us all;

make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love:

humble, caring, selfless, sharing.

Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love.

MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Therefore, since it is by God’s mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart.

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

God, We Praise You, arrangement by Lani Smith

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER²

Christ has called us here,

Inviting us to offer praise and prayer.

May Christ’s presence be revealed in this time,

Showing us the way to go.

May Christ's glory shine into our worship,

That Christ's glory may shine in our lives.

Let us pray together:

God of glory and power, pour out your Holy Spirit on us today. Reveal to us your wisdom and guidance. Manifest through us your Spirit of glorious grace and love. And make your loving presence known to all, through the ministries of your church. Amen.

*HYMN & NOISY OFFERING

#245

"We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding"

*LITANY OF CONFESSION

Adapted from Worship Ways

Peter, James, and John went up on the side of a mountain with Jesus and experienced glory. But then Peter wanted to stay. "It's good for us to be here. Let's get comfortable." We are also often tempted to keep the experience of the Divine to ourselves, to enjoy the company of the saints instead of going back down the mountain to continue the work of the Kingdom of God. God knows this temptation of our hearts, so let us confess and pray for forgiveness.

God of glory and light, forgive us when we are complacent and comfortable with keeping the riches of your love to ourselves. Keep calling us down from our mountains of privilege. Keep expecting more of us as your disciples. Keep reminding us to listen to your Son, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Whether we hear a voice from the heavens or a still small voice in our hearts, listen carefully for the love of God. Believe and accept God's love and live in God's freedom.

We believe! Thanks be to God!

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON

Exodus 34:29-35

pg. 78

SPECIAL MUSIC

The Old Rugged Cross, arr. by Benton Price

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 9:28-43a

pg. 65

MEDITATION

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

#123

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONSE ***“The Lord’s Prayer”*** (One Amen) #740

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION

OFFERTORY *Ave Verum*, by W.A. Mozart

*RESPONSE ***“We Give Thee but Thine Own”*** Vss. 1 & 5 #688

***We give thee but thine own, whate’er the gift may be:
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.***

***And we believe thy word, though dim our faith may be:
whate’er for thine we do, O Lord, we do it unto thee.***

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION²

***Glorious God, shine through this offering we now return to
you. May our gifts and our lives bless your world and reveal
your love. In gratitude, we pray. Amen.***

INVITATION

The presence of the Spirit fills our hearts with anticipation.

***The presence of the Spirit fills this bread and fruit of the vine
with life.***

Come to this sacrament to experience the presence of God’s glory.

***Together we come to be touched by the presence of God’s
Beloved Son.***

COMMUNION PRAYER²

PREPARING AND SHARING THE ELEMENTS

All are invited to the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The inner circle of cups contains white grape juice. The outer circles contain wine. Please hold each element when served in the pews so all may partake together, remembering that in the upper room last supper Jesus said, “take this and divide it among yourselves.” (Luke 22:17b)

*UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING²

***We give thanks, O God, because in your gift of love you have
reached out to us. You have refreshed us at your table, touched
our deepest needs, and called us to a life shared in memory and
hope. Send us out with courage and joy in the name of Jesus
Christ, that we, too, may become bread and peace for the world.
Amen.***

*HYMN

“All the Way My Savior Leads Me”

#505

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven*, arr. by Lani Smith

¹Words and music vs. 1, Daniel Iverson. Words vs. 2, Michael Baughen. Words and Music © 1935, Ren, 1963 Birdwing Music (Admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing) Words vs. 2 © 1982 Jubilate Hymns (Admin. Hope Publishing Company). Used by permission CCLI License #1334401.

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We thank **Chris McMillan** for serving as guest organist today.

We thank **Eleanor Reynolds** for serving as liturgist, and **Janice Weeks** 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 **Becky Kriegel at (618) 772-8149**. 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; May 4 & 11, 2025, July 6, & 13, 2025, August 31, 2025, October 19, 2025, & November 30, 2025.

MARCH MISSION OF THE MONTH

The March mission of the month is Lenten financial donations to Kindercottage. Please be sure to designate envelopes or checks so that the counters know where to direct the offerings correctly. Thank you.

THANK YOU

The Gaines families would like to thank our St John family and friends for their kindness following the death of Gary. Your cards, casseroles, and condolences were especially comforting and much appreciated. Special thanks to Karla for the meaningful memorial service that honored Gary's service to humanity.

- Mike, Rick, Diane, Karen, and Bob

WEEKLY
Sneak Peek

- Today: In-person and Zoom Worship, 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School for Children, 9:30 a.m.
Communion & Noisy Offering
- Monday: Al-Anon, 9:30 a.m.
Evening Guild, 6:00 p.m.
- Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.
Cemetery Clean Up, Nameoki Site, 9:00 a.m.
Bible Study, 12:30 p.m.
Girl Scouts, 6:15 p.m.
- Wednesday: TOPS, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Food Box Packing, 9:00 a.m.
Noon Lenten Service & Lunch, Nameoki U. Methodist
Ash Wednesday Service, 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday: Cemetery, 6:00 p.m.
GCC Band, 6:15 p.m.
- Saturday: Food Box Distribution, 9:30 a.m.
- Next Sunday: In-person and Zoom Worship, 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School for Children, 9:30 a.m.
Girl Scout Sunday

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Brotherhood St. Patrick's Day Party – Monday, March 10th
Day of Discipleship – Saturday, March 15th
Ham and Beans Dinner – Saturday, March 22nd, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Noon Lenten Service & Lunch – Wednesday, March 26th
Spring Vendor/Craft Fair – Saturday, March 29th
Brotherhood Meat Sale Pick Up – April 11th & 12th
Spring Spruce-Up – Saturday, April 12th
Maundy Thursday Service – Thursday, April 17th
Easter Sunday – Sunday, April 20th
Spring BBQ – Saturday, May 3rd

COMMUNITY NOON LENTEN SERVICES AND LUNCHES

- March 5—Nameoki United Methodist Church
March 12—Unity Baptist Church
March 19—First United Presbyterian Church
March 26—St. John United Church of Christ
April 2—Rooted Community Church
April 7—Mt. Zion Baptist Church

EVENING GUILD

Television's "Antiques Roadshow" is coming to St. Louis in April. Evening Guild's "Antiques Roadshow and Tell" is coming **TOMORROW** 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.

BROTHERHOOD

Our annual St. Patrick's Day Party will be March 10th and is open to all! The price is \$15 and it will begin at 6:30 p.m. To make your reservation call Dave Douglas at 618-452-3336. We hope to see you there!

Brotherhood spring meat sale ordering begins now thru April 1. Pickup will be April 11 and 12 between the hours of 9 am and noon. We will be selling bacon and link sausage at the Fruhling Market at church on March 29. We are also having a raffle for a half of ham beginning now until after April 13, Palm Sunday Service. Ticket prices are 1 ticket for \$1 dollar, 6 tickets for \$5 dollars, 12 tickets for \$10 dollars, and 25 tickets for \$20 dollars. Drawing will be held after Palm Sunday service on the 13th. Ham will be available anytime after the drawing. Winner does not have to be at the drawing to win the ham.

- St. John Brotherhood

SCRIP PROGRAM (GIFT CARDS)

We're back! Ordering gift cards through the scrip program will resume in March. Plans are to submit orders the third Sunday of each month with delivery the following Sunday. Purchasing gift cards through the program is so easy. Complete an order form and give it to Betty Meszaros along with your check payable to St. John UCC. Your cost is the face amount of the card with no tax or service fee. A small percentage is automatically rebated to the church's general fund. Forms of St. John "favorites" along with a complete vendor list are located in the blue folder on the table in the narthex. No order form? No problem, just give Betty a note with your payment. Have cards on hand for your personal use or to give as gifts. March 16th orders will make great additions to your Easter baskets. Contact Betty text/cell 618-670-5267 or landline 618-451-1968 for more information.

HANGING BASKETS

No need to be 'impatiens' it is time to order your hanging baskets! 10" premium hanging baskets will be available in 6 different flower options. There are 3-5 different colors available per variety. However, colors cannot be guaranteed and will be picked based on what is available at the time. Cost is \$17.50 each and proceeds will go toward the food box distribution in September. Order forms are due by April 6th and pick up will be May 8th – 10th. Be sure to get those order forms in because time will 'begonia' before you know it!



Nursing, Assisted, & Independent Living

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

At Home

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

Illinois South Conference

Pension Board Staff, Rev. Krista Betz; Godfrey Evangelical UCC, Rev. Tim (Rev. Janet Darmour-Paul) Darmour-Paul; Retired Pastor, Rev. Nancy (Kevin) Spier-Lee.

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.



CALL FOR INFORMATION

- Bell Choir – Kathy Morris, 618-210-6095
Cemetery – Kathy Montgomery, 618-876-5811
Chancel Choir – John Nitchman, President, 618-288-5297
Chicken & Dumplings Dinner – Donna Brandes, 618-802-1072, or
Nancy Jacobs, 618-931-0673
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
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

ADDRESSES FOR PRAYER LIST

- Eden Village**, 200 S. Station Rd., Hall 5, Rm. 504A, Glen Carbon, IL
62034 Marcia Buenger
The Fountains of West County, 15822 Clayton Rd, Ellisville, MO
63011 Ruth Buer
Granite Nursing & Rehab, 3500 Century Dr, Granite City, IL 62040
Karen Luddeke
Meridian Village, 27 Auerbach Place, Glen Carbon, IL 62034
Bob Braundmeier, #458
Brightly Senior Living, 200 Brightly Way, Glen Carbon, IL 62034
Lucille Mangoff, Apt.112
Evergreen Retirement Supportive Living,
100 Glen Haven Dr., Alton, IL 62002
Cletus Knobloch

At Home Prayer List

Chloe Affolter, 577 Newhart Dr., G.C., IL 62040

Mary Franz, 3117 Willow Ave., G.C., IL 62040

Luitgard Fries, 4117 Old Alton Rd., G.C., IL 62040

Lou Hasse, 2689 Westmoreland Dr. Unit 2, G.C., IL 62040

Barbara Hente, 3708 Joyce St., G.C., IL 62040

Cheryl Lewis, 2316 Hodges Ave., G.C., IL 62040

Jackie Logan, 3400 Lydia Lane, G.C., IL 62040

Mina McBrian, 43 Eduardo, G.C., IL 62040

Cindy Meyer, 2206 Lynch Ave., G.C. IL 62040

Rev. Allen Reiter, P.O. Box 278, Hamel, IL62046

Dee Roethemeyer, 3416 Ozzie Dr., G.C., IL 62040

Karen Smart, 2861 Ralph St, G.C., IL 62040

June Stille, 49 Riviera, G.C., IL 62040

Trish Stromlund, 1359 Kyle Dr., Apt. B, St. Charles, MO 63304

Nancy Wilson, 4062 Sara St., Apt. 81, Granite City, IL 62040

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Exodus 34:29-35

²⁹ Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. ³⁰ When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. ³¹ But Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them.

³² Afterward all of the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai.

³³ When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face, ³⁴ but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off until he came out, and when he came out and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, ³⁵ the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining, and Moses would put the veil on his face again until he went in to speak with him.

Luke 9:28-43a

²⁸ Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray.

²⁹ And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. ³⁰ Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹ They appeared in glory and were speaking about his exodus, which he was about to fulfill in Jerusalem. ³² Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep, but as they awoke they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. ³³ Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah," not realizing what he was saying. ³⁴ While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" ³⁶ When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

³⁷ On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. ³⁸ Just then a man from the crowd shouted, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. ³⁹ Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. ⁴⁰ I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." ⁴¹ Jesus answered, "You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and put up with you? Bring your son here." ⁴² While he was being brought forward, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. ⁴³ And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

