**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

May 25, 2025 Sixth Sunday of Easter (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

\*RESPONSE1 ***“Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing”*** Vs. 5 #312

***Christ is alive and comes to bring***

***good news to this and every age;***

***till earth and sky and ocean ring***

***with joy, with justice, love, and praise.***

MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN Revelation 22:1-6

On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month, and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. (Rev. 22:2b)

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

 *Procession of the Patriots*

Stand when your branch hymn is played and sing-along with choir.

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER 2

Let the peoples praise you, O God.

 ***Let all the peoples praise you.***

Let all nations be glad and sing for joy.

***For you judge the peoples with justice and truth.***

Let the ends of the earth revere you, Holy One.

***For you bless your people with peace and hope.***

Let us continue in prayer:

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***Guiding Spirit, you come to us in visions and dreams, showing us possibilities beyond our waking reality. Open our hearts this day, that we might understand Christ’s teaching and share his presence with others. Guide our footsteps on our journeys, that we might go where you send us and share your message of love and peace with the world. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“My Country, Tis of Thee”*** #731

\*PRAYER LITANY OF YEARNING2 John 14, Revelation 21

God of love, help us keep your word

and love others as we ought.

 ***For we long to let go of our suffering***

 ***and to offer forgiveness.***

Send your Advocate to us once more,

that we may feel Christ’s promised peace.

 ***Wipe away every tear and make all things new,***

 ***That we may walk in the light of peace.***

Take away our fears and lead us into truth,

that we may pass the peace of Christ to others.

 ***For we hear the good news***

 ***of the One who conquered death.***
We live the good news

of the One who brings us life.
  ***And we share the good news***

 ***of the One who leads us home.***

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Acts 16:9-15 pg. 127

ANTHEM  *America* Glockenspiel

GOSPEL LESSON John 14:23-29 & Acts 1:6-11 pgs. 103 & 110

REFLECTION

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“Shine, Jesus, Shine”*** #319

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***

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***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 *God Bless America*

\*RESPONSE3 ***“Alleluia No. 1”***  #291

***Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord,***

***Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name!***

***Jesus is Lord of all the earth.***

***He is the King of creation.***

***Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord,***

***Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name!***

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

 ***We know the truth you proclaim, O Lord, that those who love you will keep your word and your command to love others. With our offerings today we share the love and peace you give to all. Use our gifts to further your compassion and mercy, and to promote freedom for your children everywhere. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory”*** #730

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE *America the Beautiful (Reprise)*

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3“Alleluia No. 1” Hymn #291, Words and Music by Donald Fishel (1950- ) © 1973 The Word of God Music (Admin. The Copyright Company). Used by permission CCLI License #1334401

We thank Linda Mizell for serving as liturgist and our volunteer for serving as greeter.

The **bulletins** are **given in honor of Corey Fischer’s 38th birthday on May 20th and in memory of Valara Schorfheide’s birthday on May 24th** by the Fischer family.

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The **bulletins** are also given **in loving memory of the birthday of John Bischoff on May 29th** by Herb & Jeanie Bischoff, Jennifer, Britt, Alex, and Nick Robertson.

If you would like to place **flowers on the altar**, and pick them up after church or on Monday, please call **Rae Ellen Voegler at 618-373-8804.** 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; July 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.

 Game Night, 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Monday: Happy Memorial Day

 OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

 Bible Study, 12:30 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: Evening Guild Painting, 12:00 p.m. (Noon)

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

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

 Communion & Noisy Offering

**CARDINAL CALENDARS**

The Cemetery Committee received premiums from the St. Louis Cardinals for calendars purchased. There are vouchers for 2025 season games on Monday – Thursdays (some blackout dates and restrictions apply). Vouchers must be redeemed by August 31. The Committee wants to share these vouchers. Anyone interested can enter a FREE drawing whether or not a calendar was ordered. Give your name to Betty Meszaros or call/text her at  618 670–5267 by May 28th. Go Cards!

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**EVENING GUILD**

Apron making was a ‘hue’-mongous success and as promised, we are opening the invitation to everyone! The second date will be this Thursday, May 29th at Noon and cost is $25. One of our regular vendors from the Fruhling Market is leading the activity and will bring all necessary supplies. Please contact President Christie Roth at 618-931-6194 to let her know you will be attending or for additional information. LOOKING AHEAD:  June 2nd meeting will be ladies night out with dinner at Uncle Linny’s Food and Brews. No meeting in July or August. September will be second Monday joint gathering with Brotherhood for potluck dinner.

**CHURCH WORLD SERVICE**

**ANNUAL BLANKETS AND TOOLS OFFERING**

Once again, as our Mission of the Month, we will support the ministry of Church World Service through financial gifts to the Blankets and Tools Offering gathered from Mother’s Day through Father’s Day. Please clearly mark any donations so our counters can properly designate them for Church World Service. Our gifts do make a difference throughout the world.

\*$ provides lightweight blankets for families left homeless by

 Tornadoes and warm blankets for a small women’s shelter.

\*$ provides blankets for a homeless street ministry.

\*$ provides blankets for an organization doing neighborhood

 outreach.

\*$ provides blankets for beds in a temporary shelter following a

 hurricane.

\*$ provides tools to create a garden to feed a family or community

\*$ provides equipment and maintenance for a simple well

\*$ provides a solar powered generator

\*$ provides sewing machines for refugees

\*$ provides safe sanitation disposal

**BROTHERHOOD GRILL MASTER MEAT RAFFLE**

Calling all meat lovers! We have begun a raffle sale for a “Grill Master Meat Bundle” comprised of some of the favorites from Brotherhood’s meat sale products. These favorites include pork steaks, pork chops, bacon, link sausage, and back bones valued at over $100! Tickets will be $1/ticket or 6 for $5 and will be available for purchase until the drawing on Sunday June 29th. The drawing will be held after service and the winner does not need to be present. For more information call the office or contact Dave Douglas at 618-452-3336.

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**Nursing, Assisted, & Independent Living**

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

**At Home**

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

**Illinois South Conference**

 New Baden Zion UCC, Rev. Steven (Molly) Stark; New Hanover Zoar UCC, Rev. R. J. Morgan; Retired Pastor, Rev. Dr. Richard (Johann) Ellerbrake



**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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**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

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Acts 16:9-15**

**9**During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” **10**When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. **11**We therefore set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, **12**and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. **13**On the Sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. **14**A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. **15**When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.” And she prevailed upon us.

**John 14:23-29 & Acts 1:6-11**

(**John 14:23-29**)

**23**Jesus answered him, “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. **24**Whoever does not love me does not keep my words, and the word that you hear is not mine but is from the Father who sent me. **25**“I have said these things to you while I am still with you. **26**But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. **27**Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. **28**You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. **29**And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur you may believe.

(**Acts 1: 6-11**)

**6**So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” **7**He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. **8**But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” **9**When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. **10**While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. **11**They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

