

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

June 28, 2026

5th Sunday after Pentecost (A)

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

E-stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com

(618) 877-6060

Web-stjohnuccgranitecity.com

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 SMILE AND WAVE

*RESPONSE¹ ***“Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”*** #88

Lord, I lift your name on high, Lord, I love to sing your praises.
I'm so glad you're in my life, I'm so glad you came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth to show the way,
from the earth to the cross, my debt to pay,
from the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;
Lord, I lift your name on high.

MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Psalm 13

“I trusted in your steadfast love;”

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you. ***And also with you.***

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

Becky Kriegel, Roger Kriegel, Diane Peach, and Greg Young

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Based on Psalm 111

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord!

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,

In the company of the upright, in the congregation.

Great are the works of the Lord,

studied by all who delight in them.

Full of honor and majesty is his work,

And his righteousness endures forever.

The Lord has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;

The Lord is gracious and merciful.

The works of his hands are faithful and just;

They are established forever and ever.

Let us pray together:

Merciful God, holy and awesome are you. Your faithfulness inspires us to be faithful. Help us to understand your call and to be wise in honoring your covenant of love in every generation. We pray that your Spirit fill our hearts with joy as we praise and worship you, in Jesus' name. Amen.

*HYMN ***"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"*** #93

*RESPONSIVE CELEBRATION OF OUR 164TH ANNIVERSARY

Adapted from the 150th Anniversary of St. John UCC Booklet

The heritage of St. John began with our founders on June 28, 1862,

Filled with determination and courage.

Their wise leadership instigated our journey down a path,

That we continue to walk yet today with the help of God.

But "God is still speaking"

And so our journey does not end.

As our mission statement declares:

"Empowered by the Holy Spirit,

Living our faith in Jesus Christ,

And celebrating the promises of God,

We welcome all

To unite in loving and serving God."

Let this be our legacy for future generations,

To continue in our mission

And celebrate many more anniversaries in the future.

It is our fervent prayer

That the members of St. John United Church of Christ,

Will guide their lives for generations to come

By the words of our motto,

"In Christ we live, celebrate and serve."

RESPONSE² ***"They Did Not Build in Vain"*** Vss. 1 & 5 #542

***They did not build in vain who founded here a church
as witness to God's love amid a world of pain,
for still, to those who wish to see,
this place proclaims God's mystery.***

***Here is our meeting place, where doubt finds grounds of faith,
where hurt finds healing love, our penitence your grace;
where bridging time to eternity
is God the Holy Trinity.***

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

HEBREW SCRIPTURE LESSON	Joshua 24:14-17a	pg. 206
SPECIAL MUSIC	<i>I Saw the Light</i>	AMENZ
EPISTLE LESSON	Matthew 10:40-11:1	pg. 10
REFLECTION		

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN	<i>"We Are Called to Be God's People"</i>	#580
-------	--	------

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	<i>Herrlicher Glockenchor</i> by Bach
-----------	---------------------------------------

*RESPONSE ³	<i>"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"</i>	Vs. 1 #72
<i>Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father, there is no shadow of turning with thee; thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not; as thou has been thou forever will be. Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided— great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!</i>		

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

With these offerings, O Lord, we commit to continuing our mission of welcoming and serving your people. As a household of faith, we are grateful for your blessings and for your promise

to be with us as we move forward. We dedicate these gifts and ourselves to your good purposes, now and forever. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF FAREWELL
FROM THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST BOOK OF WORSHIP

GREETING

Donna Brandes, Council President

Our church family is constantly changing.

People come and go.

Babies are born.

Children grow up.

People commit themselves to one another.

Loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their lives.

Individuals move into our community and church life.

Others leave us, moving away to new places,

new experiences and new opportunities.

It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage,
of endings and beginnings.

Today, we acknowledge an ending.

Today is Rev. Karla's last Sunday with us

before she retires from full-time pastoral ministry.

We recognize this as a time of passage

as we end our mutual ministry as pastor and congregation.

RECOGNITION OF THE END

Virginia Ilch,

Representative of the Committee on Ministry

On May 1, 2006, Rev. Karla Frost became the settled pastor

of St. John United Church of Christ in Granite City, Illinois.

As she enters retirement and leaves this position,

she will no longer serve as pastor and teacher of this church.

As I leave, I thank the members and friends

Rev. Karla Frost

of this church who have shown me love, kindness, and support

over the last 20 years we have been in ministry together.

I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made.

I am grateful for the ways my leadership was accepted

and the things we were able to do in Jesus' name together.

As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

We receive your thankfulness

PEOPLE

and offer our forgiveness for the mistakes we made.

We are grateful for your time among us

and the things we were able to do in Jesus' name together.

***Your influence on our faith and faithfulness
will not leave us at your departure.***

WORDS OF RELEASE Rev. Shana Johnson, Conference Minister

St. John UCC, when Pastor Karla was installed as your pastor,
you made promises affirming your commitment to God,
to the church of Jesus Christ,
and to a covenantal partnership and mutual ministry with her.

As you end your call with Rev. Karla Frost
as your pastor and teacher,
you will no longer be in ministry with her.
And so, I ask you now,
Do you, the members and friends
of St. John United Church of Christ,
release Rev. Karla Frost from the duties of this ministry
and promise to no longer turn to her as your pastor and teacher?

We do, with the help of God.

PEOPLE

Will you offer love and kindness to Pastor Karla
as she moves into retirement
and discerns where God is calling her next?
And will you keep her in your prayers?

We will, with the help of God.

PEOPLE

Rev. Frost, on the day of your installation, **Virginia Ilch**
you made promises affirming your commitment to God,
to the church of Jesus Christ, and to a covenantal partnership
and mutual ministry with St. John UCC.
Today, as you move into retirement,
you are officially ending your call here
and will no longer serve as pastor and teacher of this congregation.
And so, I ask you now,
Do you, Rev. Frost, release this local church
from turning to you and depending on you?

I do, with the help of God.

Rev. Karla Frost

Will you offer love and kindness to this congregation **Virginia Ilch**
as they discern where God is calling them next?
And will you offer prayers for the continued ministry here
and the relationships of others who will come to serve?

I will, with the help of God.

Rev. Karla Frost

On behalf of the Illinois South Conference **Rev. Shana Johnson**
and the United Church of Christ, we witness the words spoken:
words of thankfulness, forgiveness, and release.
The member churches of our Conference hold each of you in prayer.
We pledge our support in the transitions signified in this service.

UNISON PRAYER

God, whose everlasting love for all is trustworthy, ALL
help each of us to trust the future
which rests in your care.
The time we were together in your name saw
our laughter and tears,
our hopes and disappointments.
Guide us as we hold these memories
but move in new directions,
until that time to come when
we are completely one with you
and with each other,
in the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

*HYMN ***“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”*** #113
A hymn sung at Pastor Karla’s Ordination May 14, 1989

***BENEDICTION AND BLESSING**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the
communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.
And also with you.

POSTLUDE *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

¹“Lord, I Lift Your Name on High” Words and Music: Rick Founds (1954-) Used with permission CCLI License #133401.

²“They Did Not Build in Vain” Words and Music: Ken Medema (1943-) Used with permission CCLI License #133401

³“Great Is Thy Faithfulness” Words: Thomas O. Chisholm (1866-1960) Music: William C. Runyon (1870-1957) Used with permission CCLI License #133401.

We thank Connie Ahlers for serving as liturgist, and Beverly Myer for serving as greeter.