

# St. John's United Church of Christ

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

10 A.M. Worship      June 11, 2023

*Second Sunday Pentecost*

WE GET READY FOR THE WORD

## Prayer in Preparation

God of all nations, by whose word the heavens were made and in whose dominion the universe continues to expand, stretch our thinking in this time of reflection. Refresh us as your rain waters the earth and restore our strength that we might live faithfully according to your promises. Give us courage to trust even when the odds seem to be against us and to live truthfully even when challenged and attacked, that our witness might be helpful to others on life's journey. Amen.

## Welcome and Announcements

*(Please note the \* indicates when you should stand.)*

### \* Passing of the Peace

"Peace be with you!"

### Prelude

*"Breathe on Me Breath of God"*

Hatch/Jackson

### \*Call to Worship

One: God's call is like the clear sounding of a bell that raises us to our feet.

**All: God's call is like the eyes of a child that reach to our souls,**

One: God's call is like the frayed edges of a dream that won't go away,

**All: God's call is like the invisible touch of Jesus that heals our hurt.**

One: God's call is still ringing in this world.

**All: God's love is surrounding us now and prompting us to sing.**

### \*Hymn

*"All People That on Earth Do Dwell"*

#18 verses 1, 2, 4

All people that on earth do dwell,  
sing out your faith with cheerful voice;  
delight in God whose praise you tell,  
whose presence calls you to rejoice.

Know that there is one God, indeed,  
who fashions us without our aid,  
who claims us, gives us all we need,  
whose tender care will never fade.

Proclaim again that God is good,  
whose mercy is for ever sure;  
whose truth at all times firmly stood,  
and shall from age to age endure.

### \*Opening Prayer (In Unison)

God Most High, it is hard to hear you calling us, for there are many competing voices vying for our attention. It is difficult to believe your promises because we have been misled by so many empty commitments. We are hesitant to hope for healing and fulfillment amid the anxiety so many experience in our times. Yet, as we gather here to touch the Unseen Presence, we are moved to rejoice. We stand in awe before you, eager to live by faith, anticipating your mercy, giving thanks for your word. Amen.

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

The words of the hymn we are about to sing were written by UCC minister Tom Hunter who described himself as a minstrel for schools and churches across the United States. This hymn was written, he said, "to celebrate and thank teachers in both Sunday and weekday schools because their work shapes the future for us all." I think it will help shape this portion of our service this morning, as we honor our children, those who teach them, and those celebrating milestones in their education.

**Hymn** *"O God, Who Teaches Us to Live"* **tune St. Anne, #67**

**O God, who teaches us to live and guides us on our way,  
For all the teachers in our midst, we give you thanks and praise.**

**For love that welcomes children in and holds them when they stray,  
For knowledge hearts and souls receive, we give you thanks and praise.**

**For wisdom, skills, and confidence where wonder leads to faith,  
For those who ask and those who hear, we give you thanks and praise.**

**For words and numbers, hopes and dreams that grow from day to day,  
For inspiration's messengers, we give you thanks and praise.**

**For all who follow teaching's call with courage and with grace  
To build a future for us all, we give you thanks and praise.**

**Time for the Child in us All**

**Pastor Lisa**

### **Recognition of Teachers and Helpers with the Children**

**Sunday School:** Kathy Sellenreik, Jackie Ruff, Kathy Rizzo, Laura Ayers and Stacia Bals.

**Chime Choir:** Scott Nichols

**Children's Time:** Ruth Notch, Danny Mueller, Rich Brandon, Jane Lindberg, Helen Stortz,  
Laura Ayers.

### **Recognition of Graduates**

**Sara Pisoni** Proud parents are **Jim and Susie Pisoni.**

**Gabrielle Wheeler** Proud grandparents are **Mike and Nancy Kelly.**

**Alex Michael Bly** Proud grandmother **Leitha Macalady**

**Mackenzie's Rose Dierberg** Proud beaming grandmother **Judy Dierberg**

**Special Music**

*"I Worship, You Almighty God"*

**arr. Fetke**

**Scripture: Genesis 12:1-9**

**One:** Here ends the reading. May God add blessings to the reading and hearing of the scriptures.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### **Message**

| <b>*Hymn</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <i>"If You Will Trust in God to Guide You"</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>#565 verses 1 and 3.</b> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>If you will trust in God to guide you<br/>and hope in God through all your ways,<br/>God will give strength, whate'er betide you,<br/>and bear you through the evil days.<br/>Who trusts in God's unchanging love<br/>builds on the rock that will not move.</b> | <b>Sing, pray, and keep God's ways unswerving;<br/>so do your own part faithfully,<br/>and trust God's word; though undeserving,<br/>you'll find God's promise true to be.<br/>God never will forsake in need<br/>the soul that trusts in God indeed.</b> |                             |

**Pastoral Prayer**

## Singing of The Lord's Prayer (*In Unison*)

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.  
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

## Invitation to Give Generously

(Thank you for being so generous in your care of St. John's UCC and its mission, through your participation and giving. Your stewardship makes a difference. You may make your offering several ways including in church, online, by text at 833-502-0657, or mail. We are grateful for your support.)

## \*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly hosts:  
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## \* Prayer of Dedication (*In Unison*)

Thank you, God, for hearing our prayers and restoring our strength. Thank you for drawing us apart from our selfish ways and self-serving pursuits. Let our gifts fulfil your purposes, not ours. Let our gifts summon others to follow Christ. May all know the joy of following you and trusting in your guidance. Amen.

## WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

| * Hymn                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | #560 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| What a fellowship, what a joy divine,<br>leaning on the everlasting arms;<br>what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,<br>leaning on the everlasting arms.<br><br>[Refrain:]<br>Leaning, leaning,<br>safe and secure from all alarms;<br>leaning, leaning,<br>leaning on the everlasting arms. | O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,<br>leaning on the everlasting arms;<br>O how bright the path grows from day to day,<br>leaning on the everlasting arms.<br>[Refrain]<br><br>What have I to dread, what have I to fear,<br>leaning on the everlasting arms?<br>I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,<br>leaning on the everlasting arms.<br>[Refrain] |      |

## Commission and Blessing

One: Happy are the people whom God has chosen. We are inheritors of God's grace and mercy.

**All: God's counsel is available to us every day. By faith we receive God's gracious promises.**

One: God sends us to places unknown and full of risk. The Spirit provides the resources we need.

**All: We live by hope, even when the way is unclear. We seek to be faithful to God's intention for us.**

One: Jesus says to us, "Follow me," and we respond. Christ answers our needs with a healing touch.

**All: We are inheritors of God's grace. Rejoice with us in the blessings God provides. Amen.**

Preaching: **Pastor Lisa Hart**  
Director of Music Ministry: **Ruth Notch**  
Liturgist: **Mike Kelly**  
Song Leaders: **Mike & Kathy Scherr**  
Usher Team: **Ken Ruff**  
Technology Team: **Steve Hawkinson**  
Fellowship & Lockup: **Karen Rocchio**  
Organist, Lord's Prayer & Postlude: **Evelyn Weber**  
Chancel Choir: **Mary Bowers, Ellen Brandon, Rich Brandon, Jeanne Buchner, Don Duperrett, Mary Jane Duperrett, Carolyn Golfin, Susie Pisoni, Evelyn Weber**

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Thank you to everyone who helped make my Retirement Party so memorable. The Church service was beautiful and I so appreciated the plaque & upcoming tree planting. The gym setup, decorations, flowers, memory note box, the delicious buffet, desserts - Everything was outstanding! I especially thank everyone for their kindness and fellowship and for the appreciation I felt. Throughout my 28 years at the Early Childhood Center I have been blessed to work with and get to know so many dedicated Church members.

With appreciation, Karen & Dan

## *Congratulations Graduates*

### **Sara Pisoni**

We are proud to announce Sara Pisoni will be graduating this May from the University of Kentucky. She will receive her bachelor's degree from the College of Health Sciences where she was on the Dean's list every semester! She begins her post graduate work in June at Mizzou to achieve her Doctorate in Physical Therapy.

Proud parents are **Jim and Susie Pisoni**.





### **Gabrielle Wheeler**

Gabrielle will graduate AP Capstone from Westfield High School in Westfield, Indiana. During her short three years there she has participated in choir and theatre productions as well as served as the President of Academic Super Bowl and Girls in Stem. Her proudest moment is founding her school's chapter of Mu Alpha Theta, a math Honor Society. Her future plans include attending Indiana University in the Hutton Honors Program where she plans to double major in Chemistry and Biology on the Pre-Med track. Go Hoosiers! She was also chosen to participate in a research program called ASURE where she will research Genome Engineering.

Proud grandparents are **Mike and Nancy Kelly**.

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### **Alex Michael Bly**

Alex graduates from Ladue Horton Watkins High School May 21<sup>st</sup>. He was a good all around student and his grandpa Francis would be so proud – he excelled in wood working. He will attend the University of Missouri in Columbia this fall.

Proud parents Eric and Susan (Macalady) Bly  
Proud grandmother **Leitha Macalady**



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### **Mackenzie's Rose Dierberg**

Mackenzie graduates May 20, 2023 from Shenandoah University, Eleanor Wade Custer School Of Nursing, with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Mackenzie says she is so grateful for the four years she had at Shenandoah as it taught her not only how to be the best nurse, but also how to be a good friend, mentor, leader and person. She will cherish the memories she made forever!

Dean's List, Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Association Member, Student Nursing Association (SNA) member, Head Thrive Guide Mentor, Nursing Mentor, First Year Student Seminar (FYS) mentor, Student Representative for Nursing Curriculum Committee, The Hidden Opponent Club Member, Presidents List

Mackenzie is moving to Fort Myers, Florida at the end of May with hopes to work at Golisano Children's Hospital after taking her boards.

Proud parents Matthew and Jennie Dierberg of Manassas, Virginia,  
Proud beaming grandmother **Judy Dierberg**

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## *Announcements*

Global Ministries requests that we pray with the **Republic of Congo** this week

We pray for **Ava Bauman, Shirley Carmack, June Evers, Betty Gschwind, Bill Lubbin, Ellen Meier, Marilyn Norton, Jeannie Rucker, A.J. Switzer, Barbara Tretter, and Paul Van Driest.** Please let us know your prayer concerns

**06/18/23 Service**  
 Liturgist: **David Leech**  
 Usher Team: **Jim Pisoni**  
 Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**  
 Fellowship & Lockup: **Karen Rocchio**

**06/25/23 Service**  
 Liturgist: **Laura Dierberg Ayers**  
 Usher Team: **Larry Sontag**  
 Technology: **Steve Hawkinson**  
 Fellowship & Lockup: **Karen Rocchio**

### ‘Adopt a Highway’

Can you help pick up litter along Olive St. and around the church grounds this month?  
 Suggesting 9:30 AM on either June 21 st or June 22nd.  
 Please call the church to leave word of your preference.  
 Thanks,  
 Jeanne Clauson

#### A Look Ahead

|         |         |                                  |
|---------|---------|----------------------------------|
| 6/11    | 10 AM   | Graduate Celebration in Service  |
| 6/11    | 10 AM   | Summer Sunday Funday Begins      |
| 6/11    | 11 AM   | Cemetery Board Meeting           |
| 6/11    | 11 AM   | Mission Hygiene Pack Assembling  |
| 6/12    | 1:30 PM | Christian Education Committee    |
| 6/18    |         | Happy Father's Day               |
| 6/19    | All day | Juneteenth (office closed)       |
| 6/19    | 6:30 PM | Council Meeting                  |
| 6/25    | 9:15 AM | Loaves & Fishes                  |
| 6/26    | 6 PM    | Visioning Committee              |
| 6/27    | 6:30 PM | Bunko Women's Fellowship         |
| 7/2     |         | Communion Sunday                 |
| 7/4     | All day | Independence Day (office closed) |
| 7/8     | 9:00 AM | VBS main decorating party        |
| 7/10    | 1:30 PM | Personnel Committee Meeting zoom |
| 7/10    | 4:30 PM | Christian Education Committee    |
| 7/10-14 | 9 AM    | VBS week                         |

Please check your News Notes/Website for specific information around upcoming activities

*Join us on Sundays*

**9:00 a.m. - Fellowship in Fellowship Hall**  
**10:00 a.m. – Sunday School**  
**10:00 a.m. – Worship**  
**In-Person, Facebook Live, or Virtual**

*St. John's United Church of Christ*

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