



St. John's United Church of Christ
October 29, 2023
Twenty-Second Sunday After Pentecost



[* = Those who are able may stand, L = Leader, P = People and A = All]

RINGING OF THE BELL

THE PRELUDE

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND GREETINGS

THE INTROIT "Surely the Presence of the Lord" No. 263

***CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)**

- L. The Holy One has been our hope and our home.
P. God has been with us from generation to generation.
L. We flourish and fade, bloom and renew in God's time.
P. Our lives are temporal and precious and glorious.
L. May the compassion and favor of the Holy One be with us.
P. May we be glad and prosperous in our work for our God! ^{WW}

***THE OPENING HYMN** "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" No. 2

***THE INVOCATION (In Unison)**

Righteous God, your law is love. Your message is love. Your presence is love. May Love fill our atmosphere and our interactions as we gather together in your name. May Love transform us, renew us, and revive us. Amen. ^{WW}

***GLORIA PATRI** No. 35

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world with out end. Amen. Amen.

THE ANTHEM "Speak, O Lord" -Getty/Townend

EPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN

THE SONG "Jesus Loves the Little Children" (words below)

Jesus loves the little children, All the children of the world.
Every child in every land, Jesus holds them by the hand,
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

STEWARDSHIP HIGHLIGHT

THE INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY** No. 46

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below; praise God above ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (In Unison)**

Giving God, we follow your example of the ministry of presence in the sharing of our resources. Prosper the work of our hands and minds and enable us to make a difference and participate in your kingdom through generosity. Amen. ^{WW}

SCRIPTURE 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46

THE HYMN "The Gift of Love" No. 526

SERMON

PASTORAL PRAYER

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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

***THE HYMN** "In Christ There Is No East or West" No. 687

***COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION**

***THE HYMN** "Go in Peace" No. 445

POSTLUDE

Worship Notes

^{WW}Love: Service Prayers for the Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost were written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ.

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Please consider supporting St. John's United Church of Christ so we can continue to do God's work and mission here and throughout the world. Offerings may be placed in the offering plate at the rear of the Sanctuary or delivered to the Church Office in person or by mail.

Worship services will be found on the church website, www.myucc.org, by clicking on the "sermons" tab. And on the church Facebook page, *St. John's United Church of Christ Vincennes*.

Many hearts. Many voices. One church.



ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

- **Continuing Prayer Requests** Bruce Deckard, all church family members who are serving our country, Dan Roark & Family, The families of Hank Lopez, Robin Root, Mark Lange. Don Osborne, Jr. For the silent trials and struggles everyone is carrying let's include all in our prayers.
- Continued prayers of comfort and peace for the family of Oscar Sanders. He was killed in an incident at his Bicknell workplace. His family in our church includes son Chris, Lori, and his grandchildren: Joel, Carson and Avery Sanders.
- Prayers for Kyle' Doggett's dad, Brian Dogget. They don't know exactly what is going on yet. He has a feeding tube and tracheotomy from a past battle with cancer. He has some kind of bacteria that they can't identify and had to go on oxygen. They are trying to figure out how to treat it. He is still at home right now and being treated outpatient.

Addresses for Shut-ins and Others

Norma Meyer, Colonial Assisted Living, - Room 142, 1622 S Hart Street Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

Susie Milligan, Colonial Assisted Living, - 1622 S Hart Street Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

Joy Tooley, Willow Manor, - 3801 Old Bruceville Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

Leona Conway, Willow Manor, -request correspondence be sent to 2009 Forbes Rd. Vincennes IN

Marge Beamon, Remains in rehab. Please send cards and notes to her home address, 1401 Ritterskamp Avenue.

Franklyn Schroeder, Oak Village Health Care Center – 200 4th Street, Oaktown, IN 47561

Dan Roark—Gentle Care 1202 S. 16th St., Vincennes, IN 47591.

Home

Alexander Family

Bruce Deckard

If you have a caregiving need such as a hospital stay, a visit or desire communion, please contact the church office, Janet Goodman (chairman of Caregivers) or any caregiver listed below. We would appreciate your help and want to make sure everyone is blessed by St. John's when you need it! St. John's UCC Caregivers- Ed and Brenda Cummings, Cindy Deckard, Connie and Dan Coulter, Peggy Meyer, Ray Pieper, Terry and Janet Goodman, Lonny Vieck, Larry and Betsy Marchino.



No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!



Mentorship in our Kids Hope USA program in partnership with Riley Elementary School, is all about caring, showing up and listening to a child and supporting their the educational life. Mentors visit their students in a 30 minutes or less minutes lunch period (11-12:00 pm) and connect with them according to their

needs educationally, emotionally, and/or socially, encouraging positive attitudes and confidence. 90% of the time, it just requires visiting and caring about their development. Top activities during mentoring are games, conversation, creative activities and reading.

A few survey statistic results from 2022-2023 are inspiring to the integrity of our 22 years of service with Riley Elementary School. Top 5 States with KIDS HOPE USA Programs

Michigan, Texas, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio

99% of Mentors found their time valuable with their student.

10,690 lives impacted through Kids Hope USA program in 2022-2023 school year nationwide.

87% of mentors said they feel more connected to their church because of mentoring.

90% of mentors were encouraged about their relationship with their students.

Key areas mentors saw as the biggest impact on their students are; Social Emotional Skills, Confidence and Attitude.

Children at Riley recognize our mentors and are familiar with their caring presence. Mentors are provided with training, supplies and a self selected prayer partner from St. John's UCC.

If you find this program to be of interest to you and wish to pursue a position as a mentor, please call the church office to request more information.

ST. JOHN'S UCC STAFF and VOLUNTEERS

Pastors	Rev Dennis Frische-Mouri
	Rev Linda Frische-Mouri
Head Usher	Janet Daniels
Organist	DeEtta Welte
Music Director, Pianist	Becky Brockman
Children /Family Ministry Coordinator	Will Meyer
Nursery Attendant	Darcie Bahr
Projection	Jill Doggett
Sound	Andrew Anson
Church Secretary	Angie Robinson
Church Board President	Jana Vieck
Pastoral Search Chair	Sheri Stodghill



Come Join Us ! Dinner & Conversation WEDNESDAYS AT 5:00 P.M.

If you'd like to join others in eating out and sharing in relaxed conversation, mark your calendars for these Vincennes locations on Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. For the following dates:

More Wednesdays' and Places to be announced!

**Wednesday, November 1—Yamato Steak House, 2423 N 6 th St.
(Next to Planet Fitness)**



The Christian Education committee is getting ready to bring back the Advent celebration. The date is **Sunday, Dec. 3** immediately following worship service. A lunch will be served followed by games, crafts, and other Christmas preparation fun. Plan now to attend. Bring your families, friends, and neighbors. If you would like to help with a craft, game, or offer other ideas, please let Pastor Dennis, Will Meyer, Sarah Lowe, or Jill Lopez know.

Update: Trunk or treat has been cancelled for this year.



THIS WEEK in the Life of St. John's UCC

Virtual Worship Service is still available on the church website, myucc.org Worship Services are also "Live Streamed" on the Church's FACEBOOK page



THIS WEEK in the Life of St. John's

SUNDAY, October 29

Sunday School 9:15 am

Worship 10:30 am

Children's Church

MONDAY, October 30

Babe Store 12-5:30

Friends 5-6:15 pm

Trunk or Treat 6-7:30pm

TUESDAY, October 31

Sandy's Pantry 11-12:30pm

WEDNESDAY, November 1

All Saints Day

Dinner at Yamato Steak House 5pm

Choir 7pm

THURSDAY, November 2

Sandy's Pantry 11-12:30pm

FRIDAY, November 3

Phoebe's Mission 4:30-6pm

LOOKING AHEAD

SUNDAY, November 5

Daylight Savings Time change

Sunday School 9:15 am

Worship 10:30 am

Children's Church

MONDAY, November 6

Babe Store 12-5:30pm

Friends 5-6:15 pm

Evangelism & Membership 7pm

WEDNESDAY, November 8

Christian Education 6pm

Choir 7pm

THURSDAY, November 9

Friends Outing Play Anastasia @ CMS 5:45-7:30pm

Girl Scouts 4:30-6:30



What Jonah Learned about Abundance

by Lee Hull Moses

At first glance, Jonah seems an odd choice for a reflection on stewardship. There is no offering of gifts here, no passing the plate, no mention of money at all. Missing is the imagery of the overflowing baskets of first fruits in Deuteronomy 26, or the quiet generosity of the widow in Luke 21. Jonah, as we'll see, isn't even a particularly generous person; quite the opposite, in fact. And yet, this little story of a reluctant prophet has much to offer as we discover the joy of sharing God's abundant grace.

Jonah learns over the course of his story that God's justice is not a zero-sum game; more for other people doesn't mean less for me. There is plenty of God's grace to go around, enough for all the Ninevites and Jonah too. "Should I not be concerned about Nineveh?" God asks (4:11), as Jonah sulks, but the obvious truth is that God has been concerned about Jonah all along. Even when Jonah is running away from God, God provides what he needs: safety in the storm, a rescue from the depths of

the sea. The abundance of God's grace is that there is enough; no one needs to be left out.

We live today in a culture that is bent on scarcity; we have believed the narrative that there is not enough to go around, and so we should hang on tight to what we have. We're convinced that if you get something good, that means there will be less available for me. Perhaps the greatest gift the church can give the world right now is to bear witness to God's abundance. The story of Jonah – along with the rest of the Biblical witness – convinces us that there is enough – enough of God's care, enough of God's grace, enough of God's love.

Questions to Consider:

1. In what ways does our congregation operate within a mindset of scarcity?
2. In what ways do you practice abundance?
3. What could our congregation do if we really took seriously the abundance of God's grace? How would lives be transformed?
4. What might happen if we oriented our whole lives and our whole ministry toward the abundance of God's grace?

