



**St. John's United Church of Christ**  
**November 5, 2023**  
**Twenty-Third 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. Give thanks to God, for God is good.

P. God's love endures forever!

L. God has come to God's people with blessings and hope.

P. Praise God for the many ways God touches our lives. AMEN.<sup>MM</sup>

**\*THE OPENING HYMN** *"You Servants of God"* No. 110

**\*THE INVOCATION (In Unison)**

God our Teacher, please instruct us in the ways of humility and love. Help us to be in community with one another rather than in competition with each other. Give us your heart for serving our neighbor. May your kingdom come with power and gentleness in your name. Amen.<sup>WW</sup>

**\*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** *"Thy Word"* —Grant

**ESPECIALLY 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)**

Generous God, thank you for the gifts you give and the privilege and honor of bringing our gifts of time, talent, and treasure into your kingdom. Receive our humble offerings and magnify them to meet the needs of the community. Amen.<sup>WW</sup>

**SCRIPTURE** *1 John 3:1-3*

*Matthew 5:1-12*

**SERMON**

**COMMUNION HYMN** *"One Bread, One Body"* No. 393

**THE CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**THE INVITATION**

**THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION [In Unison]** (from our partners in South Africa)

For our failure to feel the sufferings of others, and our tendency to live comfortably with injustice, God forgive us. For the self-righteousness which denies guilt, and the self-interest which strangles compassion, God forgive us. For those who live their lives in careless unconcern, who cry 'Peace, peace' when there is no peace, we ask your mercy. For our failings in community, our lack of understanding, we ask your mercy. For the times when we are too eager to be better than others, when we are too rushed to care, when we are too tired to bother, when we don't really listen, when we are too quick to act from motives other than love, God forgive us. Amen.<sup>1+</sup>

**THE ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS [Responsive]**

L. In Christ's name, and as one with you in the church, I declare to you: Your sins are forgiven.

P. In Christ's name, and as sisters and brothers in the church, we declare to you: Your sins are forgiven. Thanks be to God!<sup>+</sup>

**THE COMMUNION PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**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 SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

**THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**\*THE HYMN** "For All the Saints" No. 637

**\*COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION**

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

**POSTLUDE**

### **Worship Notes**

<sup>MM</sup>Ministry Matters, Nancy C. Townsley

<sup>WW</sup>*Greatness: Service Prayers for the Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost* were written by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl

A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology, United Church of Christ.

<sup>1+</sup>From the *Africana Worship Book, Year B*, (Discipleship Resources, 2007) Used with permission.

St. John's United Church of Christ email: stjohsuccoffice@gmail.com  
606 N. Fifth Street Website: www.myucc.org  
Vincennes, Indiana 47591 Facebook: St. John's United Church  
812-882-2720 of Christ

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](http://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.**

### **United Church of Christ Statement of Faith in the form of a doxology**

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,  
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being,  
create persons in your own image,  
and set before each one the ways of life and death.  
You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.  
You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets  
and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior,  
you have come to us and shared our common lot,  
conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,  
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,  
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church  
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,  
to be your servants in the service of others,  
to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil,  
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,  
to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you  
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,  
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,  
your presence in trial and rejoicing,  
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.



## 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.
- Thank you for your prayers! Donna Gerhardt's daughter, Gabrielle Miller Gott, had a successful surgery last week, is recovering great!
- Please keep the families of Jerri Johanningsmeier and Jill Lopez in your prayers on the loss of their brother John B. Johanningsmeier on October 27, 2023. John was baptized and confirmed as a member of St. John's United Church of Christ
- Please pray for Dale Linneweber. She had both an MRI and a needle biopsy on her breast. The specimen has been sent to the Mayo Clinic for analysis. Prayers are needed for both Dale and Joe during this challenging time.

### 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.



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.



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

## ST. JOHN'S UCC STAFF and VOLUNTEERS

Pastors	Rev Dennis Frische-Mouri
	Rev Linda Frische-Mouri
Head Usher	Hope Clausman/Elaine Workman
Organist	DeEtta Welte
Music Director, Pianist	Becky Brockman
Children /Family Ministry Coordinator	Will Meyer
Nursery Attendant	Darcie Bahr
Projection	
Sound	Saundra Lange
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:

**November 8-** Procopio's Pizza & Pasta

**November 15—**Applebee's



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.

**Just a reminder....**please be diligent about locking the church door that you entered if you come into the building at times other than on Sunday mornings.



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

*Virtual Worship Service is still available on the church website, [myucc.org](http://myucc.org) Worship Services are also "Live Streamed" on the Church's FACEBOOK page*



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

### **SUNDAY, November 5**

Daylight Savings Time change  
Sunday School 9:15 am  
Worship 10:30 am All Saint Celebration  
Children's Church

### **MONDAY, November 6**

Babe Store 12-5:30pm  
Friends 5-6:15 pm Thanksgiving Dinner at St. F. Xavier Parish Center  
Evangelism & Membership 7pm

### **WEDNESDAY, November 8**

Dinner & Conversation 5p, Procopio's Pizza & Pasta  
Christian Education 6pm  
Choir 7pm

### **THURSDAY, November 9**

Girl Scouts 4:30-6:30  
Friends Outing Play Anastasia @ CMS 5:45-7:30pm

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

### **SUNDAY, November 12**

Sunday School 9:15 am  
Worship 10:30 am  
Stewardship Sunday.  
Children's Church

### **MONDAY, November 13**

Babe Store 12-5:30pm  
Friends 5-6:15 pm

### **WEDNESDAY, November 15**

Dinner & Conversation 5 pm, Applebee's  
Choir 7pm

### **Friday, November 17**

Youth Lock-In Starts 7pm

### **Saturday, November 18**

Youth Lock-IN Pick up 8:30am

### **SUNDAY, November 19**

Sunday School 9:15 am  
Fellowship 10 am  
Worship 10:30 am All Saint Celebration  
Children's Church

Adding greenery and decoration church after service





## Stewardship for a Thriving Planet

by **Dr. Carol Frances Johnston**

**A**t each stage of creating in Genesis 1, God “saw that it was good.” When human beings were created last, “God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.” There are two crucial aspects of this to notice here: First, not only that everything created is “good”, but also that it is the whole together that is “very good”. Second, it is crucial to consider the importance of God *seeing* that it is good. One of my students once asked about this, and together our class unpacked it. We soon realized that God “seeing” and so noticing (and knowing) God’s creatures, and how the whole is greater than the sum of the parts (“very good”) is a crucial element of life. Everyone needs to be seen and understood by others and learning that God “sees” and understands them as individuals and how they are connected to everything else can be transformative.

A few years ago, I interviewed about 75 faithful, creative, and generous church and community leaders across the U.S. Gradually I noticed that they shared an experience that comes before gratitude, generosity, and

learning how to practice stewardship, and makes them possible. What I saw in those congregations was attention and care to helping people – often very wounded, anxious, and fearful people – to **receive** God’s love into their lives in a variety of tangible ways through the preaching, worship, teaching, and above all the sharing of that love in the practice of a form of hospitality that included seeing and accepting each person as a beloved child of God and valued member of God’s family. This hospitality, grounded in the experience of God’s love through Christ, was far more than friendliness – it was intentional about affirming each person as one with needed gifts to bring as well as needs to be met, so that the life of the church became one of mutuality that extended far beyond into effective mission. I heard many stories about how the church leaders, especially the pastors, saw potential in each person that they themselves had not realized they had, and invited them to bring it to share with others: the very kind of stewardship we have seen in the Genesis accounts.

This way of inviting people in and grounding them has proven to be transformative and frees up potential that exists in every person and every community in remarkable ways.

### *Questions to Consider:*

1. How does your spiritual practice of generosity connect you to other people?
2. When has someone deeply “seen” you?
3. How does generosity reflect what you “see” in our community and beyond?

