

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

September 22, 2024

Mark 9:30-37

First in Caring

It's so easy for us to pick on the disciples for bickering about who is the greatest, especially after Jesus told them for a second time that the Son of God will be handed over, tried and put to death.

Yes, but ... which one of us is the greatest?

We can pick on them or we can take a step back and see how many times in our desire for greatness — measured by the riches, power and prestige the world offers — we miss the life Jesus is calling us to.

When Jesus discovers that this is what his followers were arguing about behind his back, he calls a time out. He then picks up a child for a quick sermon illustration. See this little one? Greatness doesn't come from what you can achieve or gain. Greatness comes from what you do to help the helpless and the vulnerable. Jesus then adds, "Anyone who wants to be first, must be last."

Our Savior's words go against everything we are taught in life, where first place is coveted and grabbing the prize is the goal.

In 1983, Harvard Divinity School appointed Henri J.M. Nouwen, a Dutch priest, theologian and author, to the position of Professor of Divinity. After only one academic year, Nouwen surprised his Ivy League colleagues by resigning from the prestigious position so that he could serve as chaplain for the L'Arche Daybreak community in Toronto — a place where disabled adults and their caregivers lived together.

But it was at L'Arche that Nouwen met a young man, Adam, who could neither speak nor move without assistance. Nouwen would later reflect that it was his time at L'Arche, and especially with Adam, that gave his life purpose.

"The people I live with sometimes have a very hard time believing they are chosen," wrote Nouwen. "They suffer not so much from their mental or physical handicap, but from the feeling of being not wanted, not desired."

Nouwen stepped away from the world's greatness and by doing so illustrated the power of divine greatness.

"Who among us is the greatest?" It is the one who creates a more loving and welcoming place for the Adams of the world.

Loving God, may today we discover that in serving others last place is a glorious position to be in, for it is there your kin-dom work is done. Amen.



8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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BUL0104





St. John's United Church of Christ
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
 September 22, 2024



* Please stand if it is comfortable to do so. **Bold print** is everyone in unison

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, GREET ONE ANOTHER (be seated)

CHURCH BELL (the bell invites us to worship)

PRELUDE

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
Or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;
 But their delight is in the law of the Lord,
And on his law they meditate day and night.
 They are like trees planted by streams of water,
Which yield their fruit in its season,
 And their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.

***OPENING HYMN** *like a child* #133

***WE INVITE GOD TO WORSHIP** (unison)

You have brought us, O God, to another Lord's Day, when we are privileged to worship you with our siblings in Christ. May we have unity of mind and heart as we open ourselves to the movement of your Holy Spirit. As your love grows within us, may we have rich fellowship with you and with one another. In Christ's name. Amen.

***RESPONSE** *Seek Ye First* (v.1) #354

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (children please come forward) *Jesus Loves Me*

MISSION MOMENT Kids Hope Kids Hope Team

ANTHEM *Walk by Faith* Williams/Raney

OFFERING INVITATION**

Let us give back to God with gratitude for all blessings received.

***RESPONSE** *Now Thank We All Our God* (v.1) #715

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (unison)

Eternal and loving God, joyfully we bring our gifts to you. We bring our lives, love, loyalty and our talents to you also. Together may our gifts and our lives serve you faithfully through the church. Amen.

WE GATHER IN PRAYER

Silent Prayers – Pastoral Prayer-The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

Congregational Response *Seek Ye First* (v.2) #354

SCRIPTURE: Old Testament: Psalm 1

New Testament: Mark 9:30-37

L: The Word of God for the People of God **P: Thanks be to God**

MESSAGE *One With the Son*

***CLOSING HYMN** *When God is a Child* #132

***BLESSING** (responsively)

Go forth now — always and everywhere be loving to each other — to be loving to friend, neighbor, stranger, the needy, our family and even those whom we do not like.

May we be helpful and compassionate to all everywhere, and thankful now and always for the promise of eternal life. Go in peace. Amen.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** *Go In Peace* #445

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

* **POSTLUDE**

**You may place your offering in the plate at the back of the sanctuary or online at myucc.org and clicking on the *contribute* button. Please prayerfully consider setting up regular online donations to continue our outreach into the community.



ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

- **Continuing Prayer Requests: Bruce Deckard, Gary Meyer, Don Osborne, Jr., Family of Carole Klein, Family of Franklyn Schroeder, Luis Prada (pastor Debbie's brother in law) . For the silent trials and struggles everyone is carrying, let's include all in our prayers.**

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- Room 118, 1622 S Hart Street Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

Leona Conway, Aperion Care, - (Willow Manor under new ownership) C&D Hall Room 35, request correspondence be sent to 2009 Forbes Rd. Vincennes, IN

Marge Beamon, The Villages at Oak Ridge, -1694 Troy Rd. Washington, IN 47501

Home

Bruce Deckard

Gary Meyer

Michael Lankford

Gayle Huffer

Ellen Riggs



Clarissa Cooper was born September 19th, at 3:09 a.m., Weighing 7 lbs. and 4 oz. and 19 inches long. She is the daughter of Mitchell and Dasny Cooper. Steve Cooper is the proud grandparent. In his words, "She looks perfect to me!" A neat fact to go along with this blessing is that Clarissa was born on the anniversary date of grandparents Steve and (the late) Jill Cooper. She is also welcomed by great grandparents Jim and Elaine Workman. Congratulations to all!

If you have a caregiving need such as a hospital stay, a visit or desire communion, please contact the church office, Janet Goodman (co-chair 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 (co-chair), Connie and Dan Coulter, Peggy Meyer, Ray Pieper, Terry and Janet Goodman, Lonny Vieck, Larry and Betsy Marchino.

2024 READER'S CHOICE VOTING: Did you know that you can vote for our church (Best Place to Worship), Pastor Debbie (Clergy), our Pre-School (Child Care), the Babe Store (Non-Profit), and much more from now through September 25? Go to <https://suncommercial.secondstreetapp.com/2024-KNOX-COUNTY-READERS-CHOICE/> and vote! Let's let the community know more about our amazing church!

MESSY CHURCH is on track to launch on November 6th from 5:30-7:00 pm. Our theme is **Celebrate Harvest!** **Activities** will include a variety of crafts, such as making a birdfeeder, a gratitude game, making gingerbread, and more! **Dinner** will be mini corn dogs, mac & cheese, and raw veggies. **Worship** will be interactive and include a recap of everything we learned. Our Core Team is doing an **AWESOME** job preparing for this event, and we will soon have flyers for you to share with others. We will continue on the first Wednesday of each month.

How can you help with Messy Church? Volunteer to lead an activity (you don't have to do it every month, just when you are available); help in the kitchen; assist with set-up or clean-up; there are so many ways to get involved as much or as little as you can. We appreciate everyone's help. We will also post lists of items we need to prepare for future crafts. Currently, we are looking for:

Cardboard tubes from paper towels or toilet tissue rolls (may be dropped off at the church office.

A "Paint Spinner" toy Someone with a *Cricut* to cut out needed shapes or iron-on transfers (on occasion)-Please let Pastor know.

Prayers for our new venture to share God's love with others.

We are so excited to start this new ministry and look forward to everyone's involvement.

WABASH VALLEY ASSOCIATION will meet at 3:00 p.m. on September 29th at Saron UCC in Linton.

HARVEST HOME celebration will take place during worship on October 6th. Please bring in canned goods (preferably with pop-top lids) or other non-perishable items for our Blessings Box. Be sure and check those expiration dates.

ST. JOHN'S UCC STAFF and VOLUNTEERS

Pastor	Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins
Liturgist	John Riggs
Head Usher	Krisi Mattingly
Organist	DeEtta Welte
Music Director, Pianist	Becky Brockman
Children /Family Ministry Coordinator	Will Meyer
Nursery Attendant	Darcie Bahr
Projection	Sandra Lange
Sound	Jonathan Lange
Church Secretary	Angie Robinson
Church Board President	Jana Vieck
Greeters	Tony & Ann Riley



**WALKING TOGETHER IN ONE-ON-ONE
MENTORING RELATIONSHIPS...**

It's Back To School for KIDS HOPE USA at Riley Elementary

We need mentors for our Kids Hope USA program. Becoming a mentor involves a 30-45-minute visitation with an assigned student at Riley School once a week. Training is available. No expense is incurred. Just be there and share your care with a Riley student K-5th grade and reap the rewards for you, your child, parents, teachers, school, church, and community. Return the KHUSA bookmark insert to the offering plate, or contact the church office, Jerri Johanningsmeier, Eric Meyer, Larry Marchino, or Brett Summers. Jill Lopez, Linda Gilbert, or Cheryl Meyer.

If you are interested in helping you will find a book mark size insert in this bulletin, please fill out and put in the offering basket.



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, September 22

Adult Sunday School 9:15 am

Worship 10:30 am

Children's Church

Congregational Meeting after service

MONDAY, September 23

Babe Store 12-5:30 pm

Friends 5-6:15 pm

WEDNESDAY, September 25

Laundry Love 6-8 pm

Choir 7pm

THURSDAY, September 26

Girl Scouts 4-6 pm

Dinner & Conversation El Corral 6pm

LOOKING AHEAD

SUNDAY, September 29

Adult Sunday School 9:15 am

Worship 10:30 am

Neighbors IN Need Offering

Children's Church

MONDAY, September 30

Babe Store 12-5:30 pm

Friends 5-6:15 pm

WEDNESDAY, October 2

Choir 7pm

THURSDAY, October 3

Dinner & Conversation Fazoli's 6pm

FRIDAY, October 4

Phoebe' Mission 4:30-6 pm