

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

September 29, 2024

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

Courage for Community

An ad sponsored by the Foundation to Combat Antisemitism, which ran during last winter's Super Bowl, reminded viewers that silence isn't golden when others are being persecuted.

It featured Clarence B. Jones, a civil rights activist and draft speechwriter for Martin Luther King Jr., who, as images of hate flashed on the screen, spoke these words, "All hate thrives on one thing: silence."

A Jewish woman named Esther, who would become Queen of Persia, knew all about speaking up for the good of a community. Her story, recorded in the Book of Esther, tells of the Jewish people living in exile in Persia after the destruction of the First Temple. Under the reign of King Achashverosh, a royal advisor named Haman concocted a plot to wipe out the Persian Jewish community. Esther, along with her guardian, Mordechai, were able to foil Haman's plot and save the Jewish people.

At the climax of this story, Mordechai calls on Esther to speak up. Esther hesitates at first for she fears her own safety, being a Jew herself in the inner court. Mordechai reminds her that her voice needs to be heard.

In the end, Esther finds her courage — and voice. To this day, Esther is remembered and celebrated as a hero and an advocate on the Jewish celebration known as Purim.

The need to speak is great, yet still so very scary for many of us as we fear our own safety and security. Throughout history, though, God calls for voices like Esther's, like Clarence B. Jones' — like yours — to speak for those whose voices are not being heard.

Ask God for the courage to do so and trust the words to come.

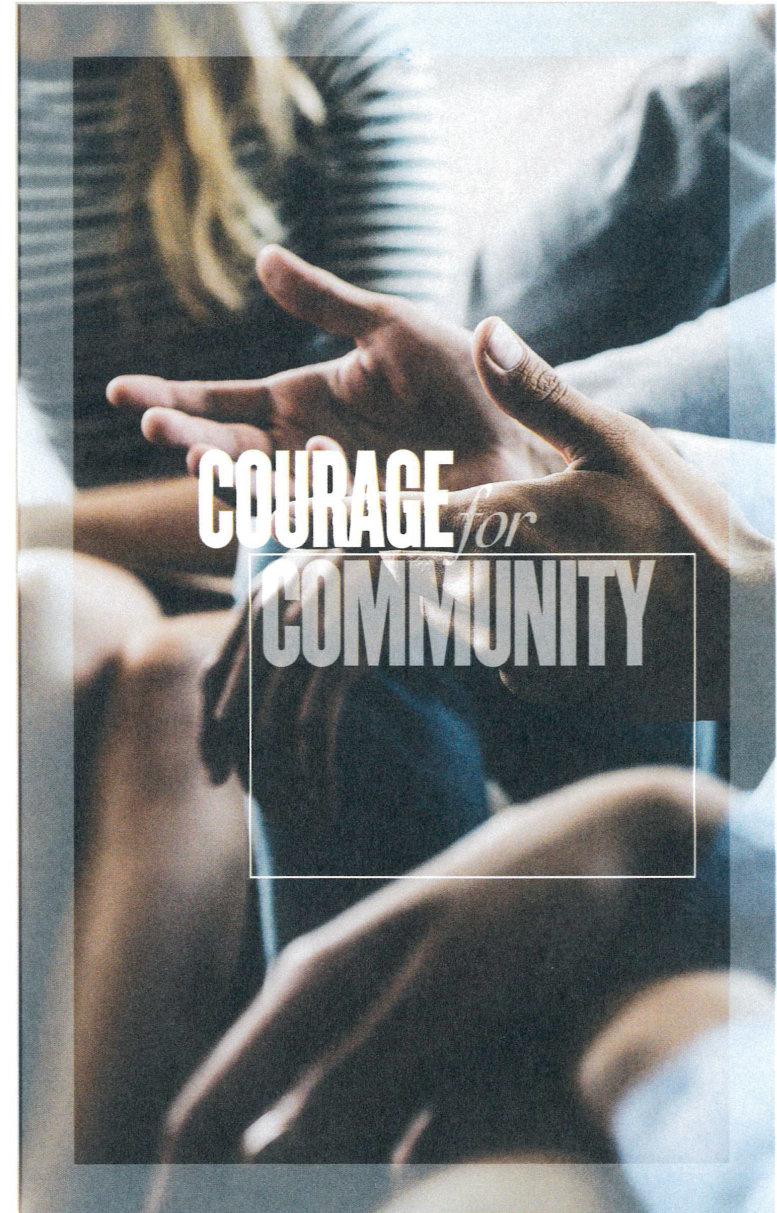
Loving God, give us the courage of Esther to speak up when we see communities hurting. May our words not be confrontational or hateful. Rather, may they be filled with a love that points to Your glory. Amen.



8.5" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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BUL0105





St. John's United Church of Christ
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
 September 29, 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)

In the midst of our joy

God is.

In the midst of our sorrow

God is.

In the midst of our mediocrity

God is. Let us lift up our voices in praise as we come to worship the God in our midst.

***OPENING HYMN** *For the Healing of the Nations* (vs. 1 & 2) #668

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

Holy God, we welcome and invite you into this sacred space with us. We gather as a community to be with you, to listen for your voice, and watch for your presence, to experience you in our midst and respond to you in faith and obedience. We desire to be refreshed with the waters of your Spirit. Restore our joy, recall to us your faithfulness and pour out your grace upon us. We are your people. We pray that you would meet us here. Amen.

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

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

ANTHEM *His Eye Is On the Sparrow* Gabriel

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)

Lord, we give thanks for your many gifts to us. Help us to see your liberating hand in all our blessings. Teach us your generosity, that we may share the freedom we know in you with others. In Jesus' name we pray. 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: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

New Testament: James 5:13-20

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

MESSAGE *The Original Wonder Woman*

***CLOSING HYMN** *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* #622

***BLESSING** (responsively)

May the Lord our God always journey with us. May God's wondrous Spirit always lift our burdens and comfort us in our troubles.

May our Savior Jesus Christ always go before us, showing us the way to eternal life. Amen.

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

* **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.**
- Norman Gilmore, brother to Clayton, died September 18, 2024. Please keep Clayton, Cindi, and their families in your 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, Aperia 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



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.

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, 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 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 be posting 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

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

We are so excited to be starting this new ministry and look forward to everyone becoming involved as they are able.

WABASH VALLEY ASSOCIATION will meet at 3:00 p.m. today at Saron UCC in Linton.

NEXT SUNDAY IS: WORLD COMMUNION

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.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING: One of the four denominational offerings we gather each year.

ALAN PANCAKE will be in concert during worship on October 13th while Pastor has a week of vacation.

FEEDBACK NEEDED: As we begin planning our Advent and Christmas services, we would like to hear from **YOU** regarding the time of the Christmas Eve service. Years ago, it was at 11:00 p.m., but more recently, it was at 7:00 p.m. We've heard some folks say it's right in the middle of celebrating with their families or their dinnertime. Would you prefer having the service at 3:00 (still light out for those who don't drive after dark) or 5:00 so the evening is clear for family celebrations? Please let the office, Pastor Debbie Jo or Becky know your preference.

ANIMAL BLESSING: The Vincennes Ministerial Association is hosting a Pet Blessing on Sunday, October 6th at 2:00 p.m. at the Pet Port at 1128 River Road. Please keep your pets on a leash or contained and be prepared to clean up after them.

ST. JOHN'S UCC STAFF and VOLUNTEERS

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



Laundry Love Tales takes place at the Vincennes Laundromat (1815 N 6th St.) on the last Wednesday of each month from 6 to 8 p.m. Volunteers from St. John's UCC pay for up to 5 family loads of laundry per family and 3 loads for an individual.

How Can I Help?

Laundry Love relies on the support of individuals from St. John's UCC.

- An Extra Donation In Your Pledge Envelope Marked "Laundry Love"
- Cash Donation Placed In The Laundry Love Containers Located In The Back Of The Church
- Volunteer At The Laundromat



HOURS OF OPERATION

Last Wednesday Of Each Month

**Contact
Jana Vieck
812-882-2720**



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 29

Adult Sunday School 9:15 am

Worship 10:30 am

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

LOOKING AHEAD

SUNDAY, October 6

Adult Sunday School 9:15 am

Fellowship 10 am

World Communion Worship 10:30 am

Neighbors In Need Offering

Children's Church

Pet Blessing Vincennes Pet Port 2pm

MONDAY, October 7

Babe Store 12-5:30 pm

Friends 5-6:15 pm

Evangelism & Membership 6:30 pm

TUESDAY, October 8

Sandy's Pantry 11-12:30 pm

WEDNESDAY, October 9

Choir 7pm

THURSDAY, October 10

Technology 10 am

Sandy's Pantry 11-12:30 pm

Girl Scouts 4-6 pm

Dinner & Conversation Kelso's 6pm