

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER  
PENTECOST

October 13, 2024

Mark 10:17-31

What Must I Do?

There's a contemporary hymn — a fun one to sing with children — that goes, *"I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back, no turning back."*

Sadly, the young man in today's lesson from the Gospel of Mark was never taught the song, as he turns back after hearing what it takes to follow Jesus.

So eager at first, he proudly tells Jesus how he has followed the commandments since he was a boy. That's great, Jesus affirms, before saying the one word we dread to hear — but.

You can follow me, but you must sell all you have. We are told that the young man owned many possessions, too many to part with. He walks away from Jesus greatly grieved.

Jesus then turns to his disciples who have witnessed this encounter, saying to them, "It is easier for a camel to go through an eye of a needle than for someone rich to enter the Kingdom."

"Who then can be saved?" they ask.

Excellent question, for we all come to Jesus with possessions we dearly hold onto. They don't necessarily have to be riches in the way of a robust real estate portfolio or soaring stocks and bonds. "Costly" possessions can be anything that cost us from going deeper in our walk with Christ.

As early as the 9th century there was an interpretation of Jesus' "eye of a needle" illustration that went beyond an actual sewing needle. It was said that the "Eye of the Needle" was a small gate in Jerusalem in which merchants traveling at night would enter through, as the main gate would have been closed.

If the merchant's camel was carrying a heavy load, though, the animal would not have been able to get through the gate. To squeeze through the "Eye of the Needle," the merchant would have to remove all the treasures that were piled high onto the beast of burden's back.

Such a gate has never been verified by scholars, but the image of an actual camel carrying a heavy load, and a narrow gate helps us to better understand what Jesus was saying about what it takes to follow him.

We all go through life with baggage — things that we insist on holding on to that weigh us down and prevent us from the life Jesus has for us.

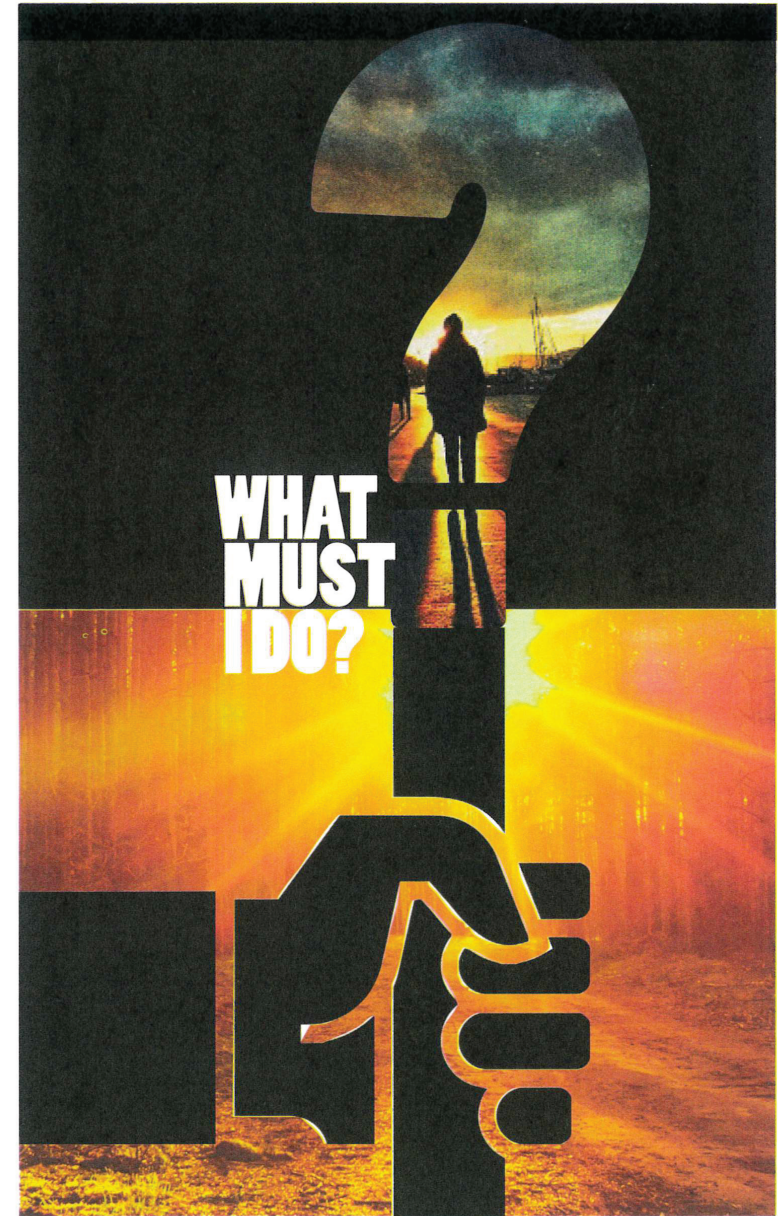
What is Jesus asking us to let go of so that we can follow him unencumbered and with great joy? Will we find ourselves singing this day, *"I have decided to follow Jesus. No turning back! No turning back!"*

*God, whose riches are not of this world, help us take inventory of the very things that are keeping us from truly following Your Son, Jesus. Give us the strength to let go and trust the path Jesus invites us on. Amen.*



8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE  
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BUL0107





St. John's United Church of Christ  
 Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost  
 October 13, 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)

Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;

**Break forth, O mountains, into singing!**

: For the Lord has comforted God's people and will have compassion on God's suffering ones.

**Sing praises to the LORD, for God has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Let us sing to God!**

\* **OPENING HYMN** *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* (vs. 1-2) #66

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

**O God, we thank you for your Word and for the eternal truths that guide us day by day. We thank you most of all for the living Word, Jesus Christ, and the sureness of his presence. Teach us how to turn unto you so that your thoughts may be our thoughts, and your ways our ways. Come, be with us in worship. Amen.**

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

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

**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)

**Let us give out of gratitude and not self-satisfaction. Let us give out of love, and rejoice that quietly and faithfully we are able to help another. Make it so, loving God. 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: Job 23:1-9; 16-17

New Testament: Hebrews 4:12-16

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

**MESSAGE** The Musical Ministry of Alan Pancake

\* **CLOSING HYMN** *O Word of God Incarnate* #322

\* **BLESSING** (responsively)

As we depart the house of the Lord, may we walk with a new vision, a new insight and renewed faith that enables us to see more clearly God's presence and direction for our lives.

**Through Christ our Lord. 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.



## ST. JOHN'S UCC STAFF and VOLUNTEERS

Pastor	Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins
Liturgist	Brenda Fillingim
Head Usher	Ed Cummings
Organist	DeEtta Welte
Music Director, Pianist	Becky Brockman
Children /Family Ministry Coordinator	Will Meyer
Nursery Attendant	Darcie Bahr
Projection	Sandra Lange
Sound	Brian Fillingim
Church Secretary	Angie Robinson
Church Board President	Jana Vieck
Greeters	Jeremy & Natasha Coomes Family



The impact of Hurricane Helene is widespread and devastating, as more than 100 people have been confirmed dead, over 2 million people are without power, and damages are estimated to be over \$140 billion. We know of two UCC congregations on Florida's Gulf Coast whose church buildings suffered significant

flood damage and another building that experienced structural damage from high winds. As we continue to pray for and respond to those who have experienced unimaginable loss this past week, please consider a gift to the Hurricane Helene Recovery Appeal. Your gifts matter. This is something you can do to help alleviate suffering, rebuild homes, and restore communities.

If you would like to make a donation, please use the green envelopes in the pews and mark them Hurricane Relief.



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, October 13**

Pastor out of office  
 Sunday School 9:15 am  
 Worship 10:30 am  
 Guest Singer Alan Pancake  
 Children's Church

#### **MONDAY, October 14**

Office Closed Indigenous Peoples' Day  
 Pastor out of office  
 Outreach & Missions 6:30 pm  
 Friends 5-6:15 pm

#### **WEDNESDAY, October 16**

Pastor out of office  
 Choir 7pm

#### **THURSDAY, October 17**

Pastor out of office  
 Technology 10 am  
 Dinner & Conversation Applebee's 6pm

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

#### **SUNDAY, October 20**

Sunday School 9:15 am  
 Worship 10:30 am  
 Confirmation Recognition  
 Children's Church

#### **MONDAY, October 21**

Worship Comm. 6 pm  
 Church Board 7 pm  
 Friends 5-6:15 pm VU Bowling Cntr

#### **WEDNESDAY, October 23**

Choir 7pm

#### **THURSDAY, October 24**

Dinner & Conversation Harry Lee's (Red Hill) 6pm



## 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.**
- Please keep Marge Beamon in your prayers, she has not felt good lately.

### 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

Enclosed in your bulletin is a flyer for Messy Church to share with a family with children with whom you are acquainted. Pick up more copies and share them at places you visit: doctor's office, nail salon, grocery store bulletin board, auto shop, etc. Help us get the word out about Messy Church!

**CONFIRMATION CLASS** is forming so please contact Pastor Debbie Jo if you haven't received a letter. The class will receive their books and personalized Bibles and enter into covenant with the congregation during worship on October 20<sup>th</sup>. The first class session will be that day from 5-6 pm.

**REFORMATION SUNDAY** is October 27<sup>th</sup>, and we will celebrate our faith journey, which led us to who we are today as Christ followers. **WEAR RED!**

**COSTUME BLESSING:** Children (and those young at heart) are invited to wear their Halloween costumes to worship on October 27<sup>th</sup>. During the Children's Moment, a special blessing for their safety will take place.

**BIBLE STUDY:** Beginning Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, through November 12<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Debbie Jo will lead a four-week Bible Study for adults at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. The topic is "What does the Bible Really Say About?" The first sessions will explore the biblical concept of *Hell*.

**PASTOR DEBBIE JO** is taking a much-needed week of vacation to visit with her family in Illinois and Indianapolis. She will return to the pulpit next week.

**CHURCH OFFICE** will be closed tomorrow for Columbus/Indigenous Peoples' Day.

### **FEEDBACK NEEDED!!!!**

Please fill out the slip below and place it in the basket at the back of the church as you leave today.

### **CHURCH DIRECTORY:**

Do you believe we need a new pictorial church directory?  Yes  No

Should the directory be a printed version or online?  Print  Online  Both

### **CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP TIME:**

Christmas Eve worship should be held at  3:00  5:00  7:00  Doesn't matter  I won't be attending the Christmas Eve service.

**BIBLE STUDY:** I prefer Bible Study opportunities at  10:30 am  6:30 pm  . I am not interested in Adult Bible Study.