

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER  
PENTECOST

October 20, 2024

Mark 10:35-45

Great Service

The committee tasked with updating the church's mission statement gathered in the fellowship hall. They had been sitting in rickety wooden chairs much longer than they had wanted, getting nowhere with a statement that would miraculously guide them towards a future full of hope. Back and forth the suggestions went.

*A church for worshipping God and loving others.*

Good, but what about ...

*We seek to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.*

Scratch it. The church down the block says that. How about ...

*Empowered by God to reach others for God.*

Some heads nodded "yay"; others nodded "nay." Silence ensued. Finally, a teen invited to the group to share their youthful viewpoint, spoke softly, suggesting:

*We have come to serve, not to be served.*

Eyes lit up. Smiles smoothed wrinkled frowns. A new mission statement — echoing Jesus' words in Mark that the "Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve" — was adopted.

Sometimes we forget that the church was not established to serve us nor cater to our whims — singing hymns we love or keeping those antique pews rather than replacing them with folding chairs.

Even before the church became an institution, James and John, followers of Jesus, found themselves caught up in the "What's in it for me?" mentality.

The brothers of Zebedee pulled Jesus aside requesting positions of influence in Jesus' new order. One wanted to sit at Jesus' right side, the other on his left.

They didn't understand yet that the kingdom Jesus' was proclaiming was one built on a foundation of selfless love, with bricks and mortar of sacrifice and suffering.

Are you willing to drink the cup I will drink? Or be baptized in the baptism I will be baptized in? Jesus' questions of the brothers were referring to his death on the cross.

Jesus still asks the question today: Are we willing? Can we sacrifice our own gain or comfort for the betterment of others?

There once was a church which replaced the exit sign over the main door with one that read, "Servant's Entry." The congregation was perplexed until the pastor explained that when worship ended, they were all to exit the church building as servants now entering the world as the hands and feet of Christ.

*Loving God, may today we leave Your house of worship remembering that we are called to continue the work of our Suffering Servant — selflessly caring for all we encounter on our paths. Amen.*



8.5" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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Great Service



St. John's United Church of Christ  
**Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost**  
**October 20, 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)

O God, be not far from us,  
**For we are your children.**  
O God, help us to believe,  
**For in Christ we would live abundantly.**  
O God, we search for you and would worship you,  
**For in you we live and move and have our being.**

\* **OPENING HYMN** *We Sing Your Mighty Power, O God* #64

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

**We are welcomed into your presence this day by your gracious hospitality, O God. Grant that we will lay aside our cares and anxieties to concentrate our thoughts on you alone. Open us to the teaching and guidance for living which we receive, that we will be strengthened to walk with you and follow wherever you lead us. Amen.**

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

**CONFIRMATION COVENANT**

**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)

**Help us to give and count not the cost, and love without boundaries and stipulations. As we are transformed by your love, Lord, so may our gifts and our lives transform our world. Amen.**

**ANTHEM**

*Jesus Loves Me*

by Raney

**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 38:1-7

New Testament: Mark 10:35-45

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

**MESSAGE** *The Merry Old Land of Uz Revisited*

\* **CLOSING HYMN** *God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale* (vs. 1-3) #70

\* **BLESSING** (responsively)

God loves you and sends you out into the world to share the Good News of God's love.

**Let us therefore be agents of change, mediators of reconciliation, heralds of good news. 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	John Riggs
Head Usher	Ed Cummings
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	Brenda Fillingim

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.

Prayer requests should be given to Angie in the church office Monday-Friday 8:00-4:00. Evening and weekend prayer requests should be directed to Janet Goodman.

In Janet's absence beginning Oct. 24 - Nov. 3rd please contact Brenda Roark 812-8901221 or [bjr72@hotmail.com](mailto:bjr72@hotmail.com)

As always, please contact the church office if you request a pastor contact by either visit or phone call.



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 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

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

#### **SUNDAY, October 27**

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

#### **MONDAY, October 28**

Friends 5-6:15 pm **WEDNESDAY, October 23**

Choir 7pm

#### **THURSDAY, October 31**

Dinner & Conversation 6pm

### **Heads Up!**

The church parking lot will be blocked off from Wednesday, October 16, to Sunday, October 18th, for repair. We will let you know if it is going to be closed on Sunday, the 20th



## 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 offer prayers of healing for Patrick Goff whose appendix ruptured on October 16th. He is the husband of Gabrielle ("Gabby") Gott and son-in-law of Donna Gerhardt.
- Please keep Brenda Fillingim and her family in your prayers on the passing of her cousin, Joann Lamar, from Poseyville. She passed on October 13.

### Addresses for Shut-ins and Others

**Norma Meyer, Colonial Assisted Living,-** Room 142, 1622 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 Wing Room 3, Vincennes, IN 47591 (Please send all church correspondence to this address going forward).

**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, 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!

FYI: Messy Church is for our own members and families as well so please join us on November 6<sup>th</sup> for our first session!

**CONFIRMATION CLASS** will have their first class tonight at 5:00 pm.

**REFORMATION SUNDAY** is October 27<sup>th</sup> and we will celebrate our faith journey that led us to who we are as Christ followers today. **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>. A special blessing for their safety will take place during the Children's Moment.

**BIBLE STUDY:** Beginning Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, through November 12<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Debbie Jo will be leading a four week Bible Study for adults at 10:30 am and 6:30 pm The topic is *What does the Bible Really Say About. . .?* The first sessions will be a Biblical exploration of *Hell*.

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

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

#### **CHURCH DIRECTORY:**

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

Should 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 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