

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

October 27, 2024

Mark 10:46-52

Take Heart

Poor Bartimaeus. Blind and begging on the side of road just waiting for a kind soul to drop a coin or piece of bread into his wanting hands — perhaps even acknowledge his plight with an empathetic, “Take heart.”

But no one does.

Bartimaeus sits on what is most likely the infamous Jericho road, as Mark shares that Jesus was on the road leaving Jericho when he encounters the blind beggar.

It’s not a safe place to be. It is an 18-mile stretch of dirt, stone and danger. It was this thoroughway connecting Jerusalem and Jericho where a Good Samaritan tended to a traveler beaten and left for dead. Perhaps it is fitting for Bartimaeus to be there, as he himself has been left for dead as one of society’s forgotten ones.

Today, though, the Divine “take heart” speaks to Bartimaeus in the way of a grow-ing commotion on the road. The shouts of the name “Jesus” reaches his ears. He knows the story of this man Jesus. He is the who makes the deaf hear and the crip-pled walk.

Could today be Bartimaeus’ turn to be made whole?

Jostled about, Bartimaeus adds to the ruckus, waving his arms and shouting, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Others sneer at the beggar, commanding him to be quiet. Their seeing eyes are blind to the fact that even Bartimaeus is worthy of Jesus’ healing mercies.

Bartimaeus shouts more loudly. Amid the many voices, Jesus hears that of the blind beggar, as his words are laced with faith. Bartimaeus is called out of the crowd and healed by Jesus.

The day will come, if it hasn’t already, where we will find ourselves like Bartimaeus, sitting alone on a road no one wants to be on. We will find ourselves sinking into a pit of despair over some crisis or challenge that we just can’t see a way out of.

But Bartimaeus whispers to us, “Take heart!” Never lose courage — even in the darkest night of the soul. Reach for Jesus. Cry out his holy name.

Don’t let a cynical world silence your cries. Don’t let your own doubts in the Faithful One mock that tiny mustard seed of faith you are desperately holding onto.

Be persistent. Be loud. Be like Bartimaeus. Shout with all your might, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” And wait for your miracle to begin.

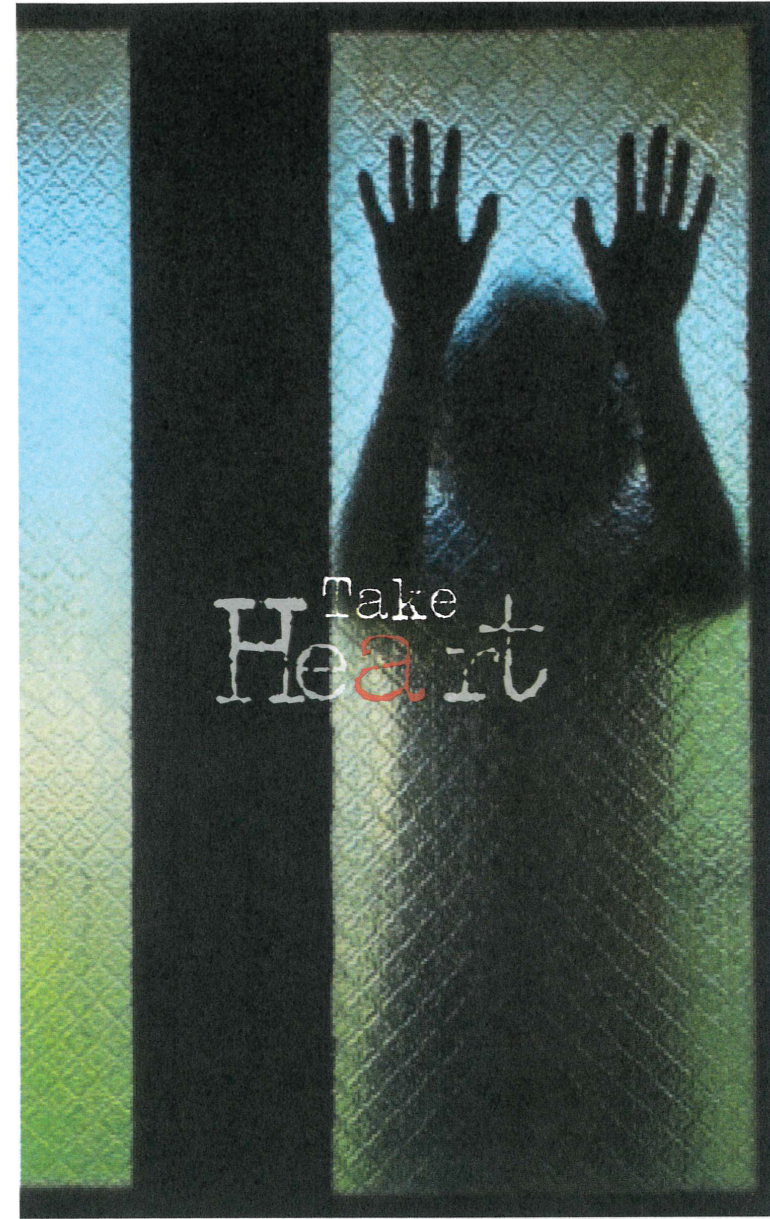
Gracious and Loving God, thank you for always being by our sides in our times of need. Continue to strengthen our voices so that our cries of help are loud and filled with faith. Help us to trust in Your mercies and remember that You are always making a way forward for us. Amen.



8.5" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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BUL0109





St. John's United Church of Christ
 Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
 October 27, 2024
Reformation Sunday



* 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)

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled.

My Lord, fill it.

I am weak in the faith; strengthen me.

I am cold in love; warm me and make me fervent, that my love may go out to my neighbor.

I do not have a strong and firm faith; at times I doubt and am unable to trust you altogether.

O Lord, help me. Strengthen my faith and trust in you.

In you I have sealed the treasure of all I have.

I am poor; you are rich and came to be merciful to the poor.

I am a sinner; you are upright.

With me, there is an abundance of sin; in you is the fullness of righteousness.

***OPENING HYMN** *A Mighty Fortress is Our God* (vs. 1 & 2) #65

***WE INVITE GOD TO WORSHIP** (unison) adapted from prayers of Martin Luther

Waken our hearts, O Lord, our God; make them ever watchful to serve you and your purposes. Trouble us with the smallness of our vision and work. Rekindle in us a renewed desire for the coming of your glorious kingdom when all wrongs will be made right, when everything that is broken will be made whole, and when we will trade a cross for a crown. In Jesus, name we pray, Amen.

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE & COSTUME BLESSING *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)

Generous God, accept our gifts and transform them to do your will.

May we continue to be your hands and feet as we minister to those around us. Amen.

ANTHEM *Renew Your Church* (*All God's Children*) #463

WE GATHER IN PRAYER

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

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

SCRIPTURE: Old Testament: Psalm 34:1-8

New Testament: Mark 10:46-52

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

MESSAGE *Let's Go on a Diet*

***CLOSING HYMN** *A Mighty Fortress is Our God* (vs. 3 & 4) #65

***BLESSING** (responsively)

My friends, go forth from this place nourished by the gifts of God's love through Christ our Lord.

So loved and so nourished, may we love and nurture others so that the kingdom of God may come. Amen.

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

* **POSTLUDE**

ST. JOHN'S UCC STAFF and VOLUNTEERS

Pastor	Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins
Liturgist	Elaine Workman
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	Andrew Anson
Church Secretary	Angie Robinson
Church Board President	Jana Vieck
Greeters	Allison Cummins & Grady

CHILI-COOKOFF: Our Stewardship Campaign will take place during worship on November 10th & 17th as we Imagine Together our church's future. Following worship on the 17th, we will gather for a chili-cook-off meal in Memorial Hall as we make our 2025 commitments. The winner will receive a trophy and bragging rights. The challenge has been thrown down so make up a crockpot of your favorite chili recipe and join us for food and fellowship. A sign-up sheet will be in the back of the sanctuary, so be sure to get your name on the list. We are also asking for a few plates of sandwiches and desserts as well.

A BABY SHOWER

You are invited to attend a baby shower on Saturday, November 16 at 11:30 am in honor of Allison and Paul Goodman in Memorial Hall. A sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway by the nursery if you are planning to attend. You can see their wish list on my.babylist.com/goodman2025. (It's a boy!)

Advent Festival!!!!

Mark your calendar for **Sunday, Dec. 1** immediately following worship service for our annual Advent Festival. A lunch will be served; followed by crafts, games and other Christmas preparation fun. Plan now to attend. This is an event for all church, friends, neighbors, and families. If you would like to help with food, a craft, a game, or offer other ideas, please contact Jill Lopez.

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. 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. Worship Services are also "Live Streamed" on the Church's FACEBOOK page



THIS WEEK in the Life of St. John's

SUNDAY, October 27

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

MONDAY, October 28

Friends 5-6:15 pm Costume Party VU

TUESDAY, October 29

Bible Study 10:30 am & 6 pm

WEDNESDAY, October 30

Choir 7pm

FRIDAY, November 1

All Saints Day
Phoebe's Mission 4:30-6 pm

LOOKING AHEAD

SUNDAY, November 3

Daylight Saving Time Ends

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

MONDAY, October 4

Friends 5-6:15 pm

TUESDAY, November 5

Sandy's Pantry 11- 12:30 pm
Bible Study 10:30 am & 6 pm

WEDNESDAY, November 6

Messy Church 5:30-7 pm
Choir 7pm

THURSDAY, November 7

Sandy's Pantry 11'- 12:30 pm
Dinner & Conversation 6pm Culvers
Girl Scouts \$ pm



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 Gott, 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.
- From Brenda Roark: Dannie's brother, Ronnie Roark of Kendallville, IN, passed away this morning after an illness of several years. His family, Lori Sanders and family, and I appreciate your prayers.

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.

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

BIBLE STUDY: Beginning Tuesday, October 22nd, through November 12th, 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 Hell?*

NEXT SUNDAY is Totenfest/Memorial Sunday. We will remember those of our church who have entered into eternal life during the past year. A candle will be lit, the bell rung, and yellow roses will be in honor of each person recognized. We will also dedicate our two new keyboards.

MESSY CHURCH will launch on November 6th from 5:30-7:00 pm. Our theme is **Celebrate Harvest!** **Activities** will include a variety of crafts, making a bird feeder, a gratitude game, making gingerbread cookies 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 appreciate your sharing flyers with others. **EVERYONE** is welcome at Messy Church, including our own church families. **Messy Church** will continue on the first Wednesday of each month.

CONFIRMATION CLASS will begin on November 3rd with a condensed schedule and more independent assignments. All young people in Grades 7-12 are invited to participate and should contact Pastor Debbie Jo immediately. The class will enter into a covenant with the congregation during worship on November 3rd.

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