

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

November 3, 2024

Ruth 1:1-18

Wherever You Go

The Book of Ruth has been heralded as a beautiful romance novella, where the main character — Ruth — displays courage and undying love amid great uncertainty and heartache.

Even before we begin reading, though, we get a sense of how this story unfolds, as Ruth's name in Hebrew means "compassionate friend." And that's exactly what this young widow becomes to her mother-in-law, Naomi.

A great famine in the land of Moab led to deaths of their spouses, so Naomi prepares to return to Bethlehem. She tells Ruth and her other daughter-in-law, Orpah, to stay with their own people. Orpah does. Ruth doesn't. Instead, she clings to Naomi. The word "cling" being the same word used in Deuteronomy that describes God's steadfast embrace of the children of Israel.

Ruth then proclaims her love and devotion, saying, "Where you go, I go; your people shall be my people and your God, my God."

Is it any wonder Ruth's heartfelt words are often recited at weddings? You are not alone anymore. No longer are decisions made solely. We will navigate life's detours together. Your people will be my people. Your God, my God.

Ruth is not only committing to her mother-in-law, but in doing so she is willingly relinquishing the beliefs that have shaped her identity. She is opening herself to all the new God possibilities that are being born out of adversity.

So often we cling to our beliefs and expect others to fall in line with them. Change, even compromise, are not favorite words in our vocabularies anymore. Yet what would happen if in our relationships we held loosely to our wants, needs and beliefs? What if we dared to allow room for God's Spirit to open us to new customs, ideas, traditions — even a new way forward?

Ruth not only models for us the importance of being compassionate friends on the road of life, but she also shows us that nothing ever grows in the soil of comfort.

It is beyond our comfort zones where the blessings lie. Just ask Ruth. The Moabite widow never would have dreamt her faithful steps would lead to being part of God's plan of salvation. And yet they did. Where are your steps leading you?

God, thank you for Your steadfast love and companionship in our lives. May we cling to Your truth that while life brings many changes, Your great care for us changes not. We are never alone in this world. Amen.



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

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BUL0110





St. John's United Church of Christ
 Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
 November 3, 2024
Totenfest/Memorial 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) **PRELUDE**

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP (responsively)

We come as a people of faith, thankful for all who have gone before us.
We stand in awe of so many who have served faithfully and shared and lived the good news.
 May their example and their courage be a guide and model for our living.
Let us remember and join in holy fellowship as we sing our praise.

* **OPENING HYMN** *For All the Saints* (vs. 1-3) #637

* ***WE CONFESS OUR SIN** (unison)

Eternal God, Forgive us for not following the example of so many worthy saints who have gone before us. We tend to put them high on a shelf and forget to follow their lead. Forgive us our complacency, our lack of obedience to your call, and thus assure us of our forgiveness in Christ. Amen.

* **GOD FORGIVES US** (responsively)

The good news is for us all this day. Christ loves us and calls us forth to new life. No matter the past and no matter what we have done or not done, God's love nourishes us with new life and hope.

This is the good news; in Christ, we are forgiven.

* **RESPONSE** *O For a World* (v.1) #683

CONFIRMATION COVENANT

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *Jesus Loves Me*

OFFERING INVITATION**

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

* **RESPONSE** *The Doxology* #46

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (unison)

Generous God, thank you for the gifts you bestow upon us daily. Bless what we bring before you to bless others, we pray. Amen.

ANTHEM *Open My Heart, Lord Jesus* Johnson

IN MEMORIAM

Dannie Ray Roark July 26, 1952 December 11, 2023

Joy D. Tooley December 29, 1948 December 27, 2023

Carole Ann (Hagemeier) Klein December 15, 1940 March 3, 2024

Donald G. Hoffhaus January 18, 1940 March 9, 2024

Rev. Franklin Henry Schroeder December 18, 1935 April 29, 2024

SCRIPTURE: Old Testament: Psalm 107: 1-7, 33-37

New Testament: Hebrews 12:1-12

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

MESSAGE *Hanging with the Cloud*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation & Communion Prayer

God be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Words of Institution; Consecration and Sharing of the Elements

Thanksgiving Prayer (unison)

We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

* **CLOSING HYMN** *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*

* **BLESSING** (responsively)

Let us take heart and labor diligently for the reign of God. May the grace of God complete every good work through the power of faith, that we might praise God with our lips and glorify Christ with our lives.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with the saints and all the departed faithful, lives and reigns now and forevermore. 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	Hope Clausman
Organist	DeEtta Welte
Music Director, Pianist	Becky Brockman
Children /Family Ministry Coordinator	Will Meyer
Nursery Attendant	Darcie Bahr
Projection	Jana Vieck
Sound	Andrew Anson
Church Secretary	Angie Robinson
Church Board President	Jana Vieck
Greeters	Hope & Ish Clausman

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.



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, November 3

Daylight Saving Time Ends

Adult Sunday School 9:15 am

Worship 10:30 am

Memorial Sunday

Confirmation Recognition

Children's Church

MONDAY, November 4

Friends 5-6:15 pm

TUESDAY, November 5

Sandy's Pantry 11- 12:30 pm

Bible Study 10:30 am & 6:30 pm

WEDNESDAY, November 6

Messy Church 5:30-7 pm

Choir 7pm

THURSDAY, November 7

Sandy's Pantry 11'- 12:30 pm

Dinner & Conversation Culvers 6pm

Girl Scouts 4-6 pm



LOOKING AHEAD

SUNDAY, November 10

Adult Sunday School 9:15 am

Worship 10:30 am

Stewardship Sunday

Children's Church

MONDAY, October 11

Veterans Day

Friends 5-6:15 pm Dinner St. Francis Xavier Parish Center

TUESDAY, November 12

Bible Study 10:30 am & 6:30 pm

WEDNESDAY, November 13

Choir 7pm

THURSDAY, November 14

Dinner & Conversation 6 pm CO-CO's

SATURDAY, November 16

Paul & Allison Goodman Baby Shower—Memorial Hall

Imagine
Together



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.
- 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, Aperion 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 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 Hell?"

MESSY CHURCH IS THIS WEDNESDAY, November 6th from 5:30-7:00 pm. Our theme is **Celebrate Harvest!** **Activities** will include a variety of crafts, such as making a bird feeder, 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 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 meet tonight from 5-6 p.m.

COMMUNION AT ST. JOHN'S UCC is open to EVERYONE, no matter their age, church affiliation, or non-affiliation, whether confirmed or not. If you belong to Christ, you are welcome at the table. It is God's table, not ours. No one should be denied God's grace through the sacrament.

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 and get your name on the list. We are also asking for a few platters of sandwiches and desserts as well.