



St. John's United Church of Christ
Third Sunday of Lent
Amistad Sunday
 March 23, 2025



WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, GREET ONE ANOTHER (be seated)

CHURCH BELL (the bell invites us to worship)

PRELUDE

***GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP** (responsively)

God of rainbow and promise,

God of the swirling waters of baptism,

God of the dark night of doubt,

God of comfort and call,

Dwell with us this holy season of Lent

And lead us from temptation to trust, from fear to love, from despair to hope, from sadness to joy.

OPENING HYMN *There is a Green Hill Far Away* (vs.1 & 2)

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

As we progress through Lent, Gracious God, enable us to deepen our spiritual lives. Teach us to pray rightly that we may know the blessing of being rooted and grounded in your Spirit. Focus our minds upon Christ, through whom we see the pattern we are to follow. Come, be with us in worship. Amen.

***RESPONSE** *How Great Thou Art* (chorus only) #33

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

OFFERING INVITATION

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

***RESPONSE** *Lord, Jesus, Who through Forty Days* (v. 3) #180

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (unison)

P: **If fear of the unknown is getting in the way of our giving to you, enlighten us. Let us know what we need to know. And let new knowledge result in new gifts. Amen.**

ANTHEM

Soon and Very Soon

Crouch

WE GATHER IN PRAYER

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

Congregational Response tune: *Go to Dark Gethsemane*

#196

In the steps our Savior trod / Let us follow faithfully,

Where the sinless Son of God / Went to set us sinners free.

Mark each footstep in the strife / Of the Way, the Truth, the Life

SCRIPTURE:

Psalm 95: A Reimagining by Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson (insert)

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

The Amistad Event

***CLOSING HYMN** *If You Will Trust in God to Guide You*

#565

***BLESSING** (responsively)

L: Our Lenten journey marches still onward and we travel with Jesus. There are no faithful detours, nor can we rush to the end of the story. But in the meantime of Lent, we can live, and move, and have our being, in a God who assures us of eternal life.

P: **Let us depart in hope and confidence that, although the wilderness of Lent stretches still before us, God's promises go with us, today and always.**

* **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** *It is Well with My Soul* (chorus) #561

* **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

Never put a period where God has put a comma, God is still speaking!

ST. JOHN'S UCC STAFF and VOLUNTEERS

Pastor	Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins
Liturgist	Eric Meyer
Head Usher	Jill Doggett
Organist	DeEtta Welte
Music Director, Pianist	Becky Brockman
Children /Family Ministry Coordinator	Will Meyer
Nursery Attendant	Darcie Bahr
Projection	Saundra Lange
Sound	Lonny Vieck
Church Secretary	Angie Robinson
Church Board President	Ed Cummings

SAVE THE DATE. APRIL 6, 2025. 4:00-6:00 P.M.

ROCK THE BLOCK NEIGHBORHOOD EVENT

The Spring "Rock The Block" event will be held on Sunday, April 6, from 4-6 pm in our church parking lot. As in the past, food and activities will be enjoyed with our neighborhood attendees and church family. At this time, traditional hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, drinks, and ice cream will be served. Activities have not been planned in totality, but bounce house, volleyball, photo booth, games, and theme basket raffle are on the list to enjoy.

Donations of theme baskets would be appreciated. Suggestions include a car wash, movie night, art supplies, summer games, pizza things, salad toppings, gift-wrapping items, snacks, soup and crackers, paper items, and many more. In addition, volunteers are needed for the event: there are plenty of jobs for all. More details will be available in the days to come. Watch for them in the church service bulletin or April newsletter, or call the church office.

Evangelism and Membership Committee Members: Janet Daniels, Ray Pieper, Mark Schutz, Pastor Debbie Jo and Jerri Johanningsmeier, Church Board Representative Jill Doggett.



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, March 23

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

MONDAY, March 24

Preschool Resumes
BABE Store 12-5:30 pm
Friends 5-6:15 pm

WEDNESDAY, March 26

Choir 7 pm
Laundry Love 6-8 pm

THURSDAY, March 27

Girl Scouts 4:30 pm
Dinner at Hibachi Grill 6 pm

FRIDAY, March 28

Preschool Grandparents Day 11 am

LOOKING AHEAD

SUNDAY, March 30

Adult Sunday School 9:15 am
Worship 10:30 am
One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
Children's Church

MONDAY, March 31

BABE Store 12-5:30 pm
Friends 5-6:15 pm VU Bowling Cntr

TUESDAY, April 1

Sandy's Pantry 11-12:30 pm
WEDNESDAY, April 2

Choir 7 pm
Messy Church 5:30 -7 pm

THURSDAY, April 3

Girl Scouts 4:30 pm
Dinner at TBD 6 pm
Sandy's Pantry 11-12:30 pm

FRIDAY, April 4

Phoebe's Mission 4:30- 6 pm



ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

Continuing Prayer Requests: Bruce Deckard, Gary Meyer, Don Osborne, Jr., Norma Meyer, Pat Hutchinson and Family, Gayle Huffer.

- **Vern Houchins** Continued prayers for recovery.
- **Brian Fillingim** Received a diagnosis of Osteopenia. He will see specialist as soon as they can get him in. He is doing much better.
- **Carole Graham** remains hospitalized, awaiting solutions to her recent health challenges.

Addresses for Shut-ins and Others

Norma Meyer, Gentle Care, - Room 8, 1202 S 16th, Vincennes, IN 47591

Susie Milligan, Colonial Assisted Living, - Room 118, 1622 S Hart Street Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

Leona Conway, Aperion Care, - C Wing Room 3, 3801 Old Bruceville Rd , Vincennes, IN 47591

Marge Beamon, The Villages at Oak Ridge, - Room 303, 1694 Troy Rd. Washington, IN 47501

Michael Lankford- Bridgepoint Health Center, 1900 College Ave., Vincennes, IN 47591

Home

Bruce Deckard

Gary Meyer

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.

AMISTAD SUNDAY explores the 1839 incident in which the ship La Amistad (Friendship) was taken over by slaves in an unprecedented uprising. Forbearers of our United Church of Christ were strong advocates for the prisoners, providing food and clothing while they were incarcerated and legal representation for the court battle. The story became a film directed by Steven Spielberg and starring Morgan Freeman, Anthony Hopkins, and Matthew McConaughey. The Amistad incident was a defining moment for the movement to abolish slavery. The Amistad incident helped create momentum for the formation of the American Missionary Association in 1846. Join us tonight at 5:30 p.m. as we view and discuss the film.

If you would like to **donate an Easter flower** in honor of or in memory of a loved one, please place it in Memorial Hall by 12:00 noon on Friday, April 18. An info sheet will be provided soon, please complete, following the instructions carefully. A list of donors will be included in the May newsletter.

Preschool Teacher Needed St. John's United Church of Christ's Preschool has been going strong for 25 years. Our preschool has had effective, caring teachers providing children with a strong foundation for kindergarten and beyond. We are looking for a qualified director/lead teacher to take over the management and teaching responsibilities for the Preschool for the 2025-26 academic year. The position could begin as early as June 1, 2025, but the exact starting date is negotiable. Send resume and 3 letters of reference to St. John's UCC, 606 N. Fifth St., Vincennes, IN. Resumes will be accepted until the position is filled.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be next Sunday, March 30. One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a vital special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. It connects you to disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development efforts around the globe. When disasters strike, or when individuals are displaced due to violence or poverty, OGHS ensures immediate response and ongoing recovery.



A Cry for Freedom on Amistad Sunday
Psalm 95 reimagined by Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson

Creator God, our voices cry to you across the waters,
singing songs of freedom and courage,
shouting to be in line with the earth
and all you have created,
crying aloud to you, the rock of our salvation!

**We cry for the souls lost through the Middle Passage,
remembering those who were taken against their will,
broken and bruised on ships named Amistad
trafficked as chattel and sold as slaves,
rendered as inhuman, and worked as animals in the fields**

God of our ancestors, you were with them when they were taken;
gods of many names stayed with your people.
You stayed present with them through the Middle Passage.
Your hand guided them into an unknown land.
You reminded them of their worth and their place in you.

**We sing songs of thanksgiving
for the waters that held them and did not overwhelm them,
for the stars that guided their way to freedom,
for their courage to overcome pain, adversity, and dehumanization,
for their faithfulness to the gods they knew, and for the rituals they carried.**

Creator God, our voices cry out to you across the waters
for millions being forced from their homes today.
Refugees, asylum seekers, and migrant workers are at risk
of being trafficked and sold because their homes are no longer safe.
We cry out for children lost along the way.

**God of our Ancestors, we come in need of freedom,
the freedom of minds, unchained from melancholy and distress,
the freedom of bodies, unchained from manacles and disease
we come in need of the freedom
to sing and give thanks for the freedom we know is yet to come.**

O Come! Let us sing of praise and lament to God our Mother.
Let us make a joyful noise for her love, support, and care.
Let us cry in lament as we wait for justice.
She can do today what she did for our ancestors of yesterday.