



St. John's United Church of Christ
Fourth Sunday of Lent
 March 30, 2025



WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, GREET ONE ANOTHER (be seated)

CHURCH BELL (the bell invites us to worship)

PRELUDE

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

Beloved in Christ, why have you come to worship this morning?
We come to celebrate the love of God in the form of Jesus Christ.
 This love reaches through the shadows of our lives to embrace us. Our challenge is to trust the light of God's love in the midst of our struggles.
We come to celebrate the light of God in Jesus who offers love and acceptance, not judgment and rejection.
 If only we will trust, Jesus leads us in the way of light and love.
We come to celebrate our God who loved and loves us so much!

***OPENING HYMN** *Spirit of the Living God* (with movement x3) #259

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

Holy and redeeming God, as Moses lifted high the serpent in the wilderness, so Jesus was also lifted up for the salvation of the world. We thank you for this season of Lent during which we remember anew your loving and redeeming acts toward us. We thank you for your ongoing creative energy in the world; for bestowing upon us gifts through which we may participate in your life and work; for enabling us through the power of the Holy Spirit to carry on the message and ministry of your Son, Jesus Christ. We ask that in these moments of worship, you will speak to us and impart again the word which we most need to hear, so that we may respond to you with love and faithfulness. 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)

Wonder-working God, use all of who we are, and all of what we have, to uproot what is unjust, and plant what is loving. Through our gifts, speak your gospel to people we may never meet. May all come to hear your call to prophetic living. Amen.

ANTHEM

At the Cross

Smith

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:

Old Testament: Isaiah 40:1-15

New Testament: John 10:7-18

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

SERMON

Every Valley Shall Be Lifted Up

***CLOSING HYMN**

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded (vs. 2 & 3)

#202

***BLESSING** (responsively)

Created in the image of God, redeemed by the cross of Christ, empowered by God's Spirit, we are sent:

Sent to live as faithful, loving stewards of God's gracious gifts of life, hope, and joy. Amen.

*** 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 click 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 placed a comma, God is still speaking!

ST. JOHN'S UCC STAFF and VOLUNTEERS

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Pastor | Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins |
| Liturgist | Kelly Alexander |
| Head Usher | Jill Doggett |
| Organist | DeEtta Welte |
| Music Director, Pianist | Becky Brockman |
| Children /Family Ministry Coordinator | Will Meyer |
| Nursery Attendant | Darcie Bahr |
| Projection | Jana Vieck |
| Sound | Brian Fillingim |
| Church Secretary | Angie Robinson |
| Church Board President | Ed Cummings |
| Greeters | Nancy Stultz |



A Community Lenten Service featuring the cantata *The Seven Last Words of Christ*, by Theodore Dubois, will be at 6 PM on Sunday, April 6, 2025, at the First United Methodist Church, 411 N. 4th St. here in Vincennes. The Vincennes University will perform this sacred cantata. Concert Choir, The Voices of Old Vincennes Community Chorus, and the Chancel Orchestra. Please join us for this community Lenten service!



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 30
Adult Sunday School 9:15 am
Worship 10:30 am
One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
Children's Church
Movie & Discussion 5:30 pm "Chocolate"
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 Kelso's 6 pm
Sandy's Pantry 11-12:30 pm
FRIDAY, April 4
Phoebe's Mission 4:30–6 pm

LOOKING AHEAD

SUNDAY, April 6
Adult Sunday School 9:15 am
Worship w/ Communion 10:30 am
Children's Church
Rock the Block Party 4-6 pm
MONDAY, April 7
BABE Store 12-5:30 pm
Friends 5-6:15 pm
Outreach & Missions 6:30 pm
TUESDAY, April 8
Sandy's Pantry 11-12:30 pm
Technology 10 pm
WEDNESDAY, April 9
Christian Ed 6 pm
Choir 7 pm
THURSDAY, April 10
Dinner at Procopio's 6 pm
Girl Scouts 4:30 pm



ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

Continuing Prayer Requests: Bruce Deckard, Gary Meyer, Don Osborne, Jr., Norma Meyer, Pat Hutchinson and Family, Gayle Huffer, Brian Fillingim, Carol Graham, Vern Houchins

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.

Donate an Easter flower in honor of or in memory of a loved one to be displayed on Easter Sunday in the Sanctuary. Please bring it to Memorial Hall by noon on Friday, April 18. An info sheet will be provided soon. Please complete it, 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.

MOVIE & DISCUSSION tonight at 5:30. Our feature is *Chocolate*, starring Juliette Binoche, Johnny Depp, and Judi Dench. A light supper will be provided, and everyone is invited to bring something chocolate to share. This is the last of our Lenten movie series, but more will be released after Easter.

NEXT SUNDAY we will celebrate the baptism of Crew Alan Goodman in worship!

MESSY CHURCH on April 2nd is themed *Holy Week to Easter: From Palm Branches to an Empty Tomb*. Dinner will be ham, mashed potatoes, and green beans. Activities will include baking Resurrection rolls, a jelly bean game and prayer, a crinkle paper cross, a pop-up Jesus craft, and much more. We will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion during our closing. EVERYONE IS INVITED, so join us and bring your children and grandchildren. Invite your friends and neighbors to come along!

CONFIRMATION CLASS will meet twice in April. On **April 6th** we will meet at **9:00 a.m.** (due to the Block Party that afternoon). All classwork needs to be turned in at that time. We will begin outlining personal faith statements to be shared with the congregation during the Rite of Confirmation. Confirmands are required to be in worship on Palm Sunday and Good Friday (7:00 pm). The class will participate in the service. On **April 27th**, we will meet at 5 pm to finalize our faith statements and make our stoles. Please bring an adult who can help with the stole (no sewing required) and a steam iron. On Saturday, May 3rd we will rehearse at 10:00 a.m. Confirmation will take place on May 4th during worship. Group photos will take place at 9:45 that morning.

CONFIRMATION WORK HOURS OPPORTUNITIES:

Block party on April 6th from 4-6 p.m. Set-up and Clean-up can add additional hours.

April 18th at 7:00 p.m. Help with Good Friday service

April 19th Help decorate the sanctuary for Easter (morning) and with the Easter Egg Hunt from 4-5:30 pm.

Citywide Clean-Up on May 3rd at 9:00 a.m.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE:

Palm Sunday (4/13): Children's Palm Processional 10:30 am.

Maundy Thursday (4/17): Service of Holy Communion in Chapel at Noon.

Good Friday (4/18): Tenebrae Service of Darkness & Shadows at 7 pm.

Holy Saturday (4/19): Easter Egg Hunt 4-5:30 pm.

Easter (4/20): Butterfly Processional, Unlocking the "A" word **Celebrate!**