



St. John's United Church of Christ
First Sunday of Lent
 March 9, 2025



WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, GREET ONE ANOTHER (be seated)
CHURCH BELL (the bell invites us to worship) **PRELUDE**

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Jesus began his ministry to the world, led by the Spirit into the wilderness.
As we begin our Lenten journey, let us be led by the Spirit, even into the uncomfortable places.

In those forty days, and in that place, Jesus was faced with hunger, doubt and temptation.

As we seek to follow Jesus, we would be led, even into the uncomfortable choices.

Jesus left the wilderness, faithful and obedient to God, rejoicing in the One in whom he trusted.

As we continue on our path to faithfulness, we will be led by our Christ, rejoicing in the Lord our God.

Come Let Us Worship our God!

***OPENING HYMN** *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* (v.1 & 2) #207

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

Catch us, O God, in our aimless scurrying from you and others, and hold us in this Lenten season. Hold our hearts to the beat of your grace and create in us a resting place, a kneeling place, a tiptoe place where we can listen for your whispered summons and be attentive to your healing love. In the name of the Holy One of Nazareth. Amen.

***GOD FORGIVES US** (responsively)

Know that God always goes with us. Know that God is always there to lead us, guide us, forgive us, comfort us, and encourage us. Know that God is always near to us, now and forever.

Thanks be to God.

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

CHILDREN'S MOMENT *Jesus Loves Me*

Locking up the "A" Word

Anthem

Known Only To Him

McDonald

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)

May these gifts and offerings be used to change both our hearts and the hearts of those in need. May we pledge to stay on the mountain with you, working side by side to show others both your glory and your great mercy. May we continue to be always astounded at the greatness of our God. Amen.

WE GATHER IN PRAYER

Silent Prayers – Pastoral Prayer-The Lord's Prayer (debtors/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: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

New Testament: Luke 4: 1-13

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

MESSAGE: *Temptation Towards Justice* Rev. Georgia Chambers

***CLOSING HYMN** *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days* (vs. 1 & 2) #180

***BLESSING** (unison)

Let us journey together into this desert time. Let us have the courage of the Israelites who remembered God's deliverance. Let us have the wisdom of Paul, in confidence of a knowing heart. Let us carry the son of the psalmist with us and celebrate God's protective grace. And let us be with Jesus in our longing for the wholeness of creation and community alike.

***BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** *Go In Peace*

#445

* **POSTLUDE**

ST. JOHN'S UCC STAFF and VOLUNTEERS

Pastor	Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins
Liturgist	Janet Daniels
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	Kyle & Jill Doggett Family

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 9**

Daylight Savings Time Begins Spring Forward!

Adult Sunday School 9:15 am
Fellowship 10 am
Worship 10:30 am
Children's Church
CFM Family Night 5:- 7:30 pm
MONDAY, March 10
BABE Store 12-5:30 pm
Friends 5-6:15 pm
WEDNESDAY, March 12
Choir 7 pm
Christian Education 6 pm
THURSDAY, March 13
Dinner at COCO's 6 pm
Technology 10 am

LOOKING AHEAD

SUNDAY, March 16
Adult Sunday School 9:15 am
Worship 10:30 am
Children's Church
Lenten Movie and Discussion 5:30 pm
MONDAY, March 17
BABE Store 12-5:30 pm
Friends 5-6:15 pm
Worship 6 pm
Church Board 7 pm
WEDNESDAY, March 19
Choir 7 pm
THURSDAY, March 20
Dinner at American Table 6 pm



ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

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

- Vern Houchins was transferred back to Good Samaritan Rehab.
- Gayle Huffer has cataract surgery next week. Please keep her in your prayers.
- Brian Fillingim is scheduled for another MRI, and we hope for some answers on March 19.
- Grady Cummins, Cheryl Meyer, Brenda Roark, Phil Smith, and Pam Summers are recovering from surgeries or procedures.

Prayers are appreciated for all, including those listed above!

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.

**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.

St. John's United Church of Christ has formed a Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) to maintain a healthy relationship between the congregation and the pastor. Ideas or issues for the PRC may be directed to any of the following members of the committee: Hope Clausman, Brenda Cummings, Eric Meyer, Sheri Stodghill, and Jana Vieck.



WE WELCOME Rev. Georgia Chambers back to our pulpit this morning while Pastor Debbie is visiting with Nick & Addison in Indianapolis.



LENTEN MOVIE & DISCUSSION nights will occur on several Sunday evenings during the Lenten season. The first movie will be Conclave, starring Ralph Fiennes, Stanley Tucci, John Lithgow, and Isabella Rossellini, on March 16th at 5:30 p.m. in Memorial Hall.

VALLEYS OF LENT will be the theme for worship during the Lenten season. We will explore messages from various valleys in the Bible, beginning with The Valley of the Dry Bones on Ash Wednesday.