



St. John's United Church of Christ  
**Fifth Sunday of Lent**  
 April 6, 2025



\* Please stand if it is comfortable to do so. **Bold Print is for all People**

**WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, GREET ONE ANOTHER** (be seated)

**CHURCH BELL** (the bell invites us to worship)

**PRELUDE**

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

Lift up your voice and call out to God.

**We cry out, believing that God hears us.**

Come together and wait for God.

**We come together, trusting that God is still speaking.**

Surely God's presence is here with us now.

**We wait in hope, for God's steadfast love lifts our hearts.**

Come, worship the Lord.

**We celebrate the power of God that restores us.**

\***OPENING HYMN** *What Wondrous Love is This?* (vs. 1 & 4) #200

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

**All: Holy God, Creator of Life, you call us out of our dark places, offering us the grace of new life. When we see nothing but hopelessness, you surprise us with the breath of your spirit. Call us out of our complacency and routines, set us free from our self-imposed bonds, and fill us with your spirit of life, compassion and peace. In the name of Jesus, your Anointed One, we pray. Amen.**

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

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

**OFFERING INVITATION**

God is so good and we are richly blessed. Let us give back to God with gratitude and thanksgiving.

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

\*\***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (unison)

**All: We come to this familiar place and give in gratitude for all which we have received. We give not because we pledged to, and not because we**

**have to. We give because we can. We give in response to the life of Christ, given for us. We give in joy because of love, overflowing and unconditional. O God, let it be so. Amen**

**ANTHEM:** *Worthy is the Lamb* by Larsen

**WE GATHER IN PRAYER**

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

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

**SCRIPTURE:** Joshua 24:13-15

L: This is the Word of God **P: Thanks be to God**

**SERMON** *The Valley of Decision*

**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** *Be Thou My Vision* (vs. 1 & 2) #595

\***BLESSING** (responsively)

May the power and blessing of Almighty God go with each of you as you go now to minister to a weary world; remembering to make good and holy choices to channel love, compassion, and the presence of God to those around us.

**And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us and those we love. Amen.**

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

\* **POSTLUDE**

## ST. JOHN'S UCC STAFF and VOLUNTEERS

<b>Pastor</b>	<b>Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins</b>
<b>Liturgist</b>	<b>Vera Mattingly</b>
<b>Head Usher</b>	<b>Jake Alexander</b>
<b>Organist</b>	<b>DeEtta Welte</b>
<b>Music Director, Pianist</b>	<b>Becky Brockman</b>
<b>Children /Family Ministry Coordinator</b>	<b>Will Meyer</b>
<b>Nursery Attendant</b>	<b>Darcie Bahr</b>
<b>Projection</b>	<b>Jill Doggett</b>
<b>Sound</b>	<b>Jonathan Lange</b>
<b>Church Secretary</b>	<b>Angie Robinson</b>
<b>Church Board President</b>	<b>Ed Cummings</b>
<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Terry and Janet Goodman</b>



## EASTER FELLOWSHIP TIME

Aware that out-of-town family members and friends may worship with us on Easter Sunday, Fellowship Time will start at 9:45 AM. This will be an opportune time to visit and greet each other, while enjoying goodies prepared by our volunteers!

Steve Cooper shared that son Mitchell, his wife Dasny, and daughter Clarissa will be here on their two-week leave from their duties with the United States Navy. They reside in San Diego when not at sea. And Steve's granddaughter Jillian Cummins, whose parents are Brayton and Allison, will be baptized!

Please encourage your family members to come before 10:30 worship to visit with the Cooper families, and others!



Virtual Worship Service is still available on the church website, [myucc.org](http://myucc.org).  
Worship Services are also "Live Streamed" on the Church's FACEBOOK page



## **THIS WEEK in the Life of St. John's**

### **SUNDAY, April 6**

Confirmation Class 9 am  
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

### **WEDNESDAY, April 9**

Christian Ed 6 pm  
Choir 7 pm

### **THURSDAY, April 10**

Technology 10 am  
Dinner at Procopio's 6 pm

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

### **SUNDAY, April 13**

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

Donuts and Diapers Shower for Nick and Addison Atkinson 3 pm

### **MONDAY, April 14**

BABE Store 12-5:30 pm  
Friends 5-6:15 pm  
Outreach & Missions 6:30 pm

### **WEDNESDAY, April 16**

Choir 7 pm

### **THURSDAY, April 17**

Maundy Thursday Service @ Noon in Chapel

### **FRIDAY, APRIL 18**

Good Friday  
Tenebrae Service of Darkness and Shadows 7 pm  
No Preschool

### **Saturday, April 19**

Easter Egg Hunt 4-5:30 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.

### **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!**

**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.

### Plans for Graduate Recognition Sunday (date pending)

If you or anyone in your family will be graduating from high school, college, or completing any other notable educational achievement, please contact the church office with the following information as soon as possible:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree or special honors: \_\_\_\_\_

Future plans: \_\_\_\_\_

Other info: (i.e. parents' names, connection to our congregation, etc.)

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