

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

May 25, 2025

Acts 16:9-15

Disciples Together

We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing... such is the opening line to the treasured Dutch hymn that was translated into English in the late 1890s.

Since then, U.S. congregations have traditionally sung these words during the season of Thanksgiving, as it captures so beautifully the image of scattered and busy families gathering around a warm and welcoming table to break bread together.

There's perhaps no better way to strengthen the bonds of humanity with this fractured world than by slowing down and sitting down to a table to share a meal with another.

Yet studies show that those meaningful meals have fallen by the wayside. Gone are the Sunday roasts that filled grandma's kitchen with heavenly smells. Gone are the suppers where families sat down and talked to one another rather than texting others. Gone are many of the beloved church dinners as the saints who cooked and cleaned are now serving at the heavenly banquet with cheerful and glad hearts.

One of the key components of following Jesus is that we are not meant to go through this life alone. We were meant to be disciples together. Jesus illustrated this for us when early in the training of his disciples he sent them out in pairs to heal in his name. And he showed us the power there was in the sharing of the common cup. Something that Paul continued to do as he traveled sharing the news of Jesus.

It was outside of a city gate, we are told, that Paul went to the river to pray. He attracted the attention of a group of women who, after conversations with the apostle, were then baptized in the river. One of the women, Lydia, a dealer of purple cloth which was an expensive and a much-coveted item, invited Paul to stay at her home to share a meal and talk some more.

When was the last time we were intentional about inviting someone to join us for a time of fellowship — the new widow, the divorced parent or the single person who often feels forgotten amid all the couples?

In Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book, "Life Together," the German theologian noted that there is an amazing blessing of "being able to gather with other believers." As many, he observed, walk a lonely road "in the isolation of infirmity and age." Bonhoeffer then added, "it is grace, nothing but grace, that we are allowed to live in community."

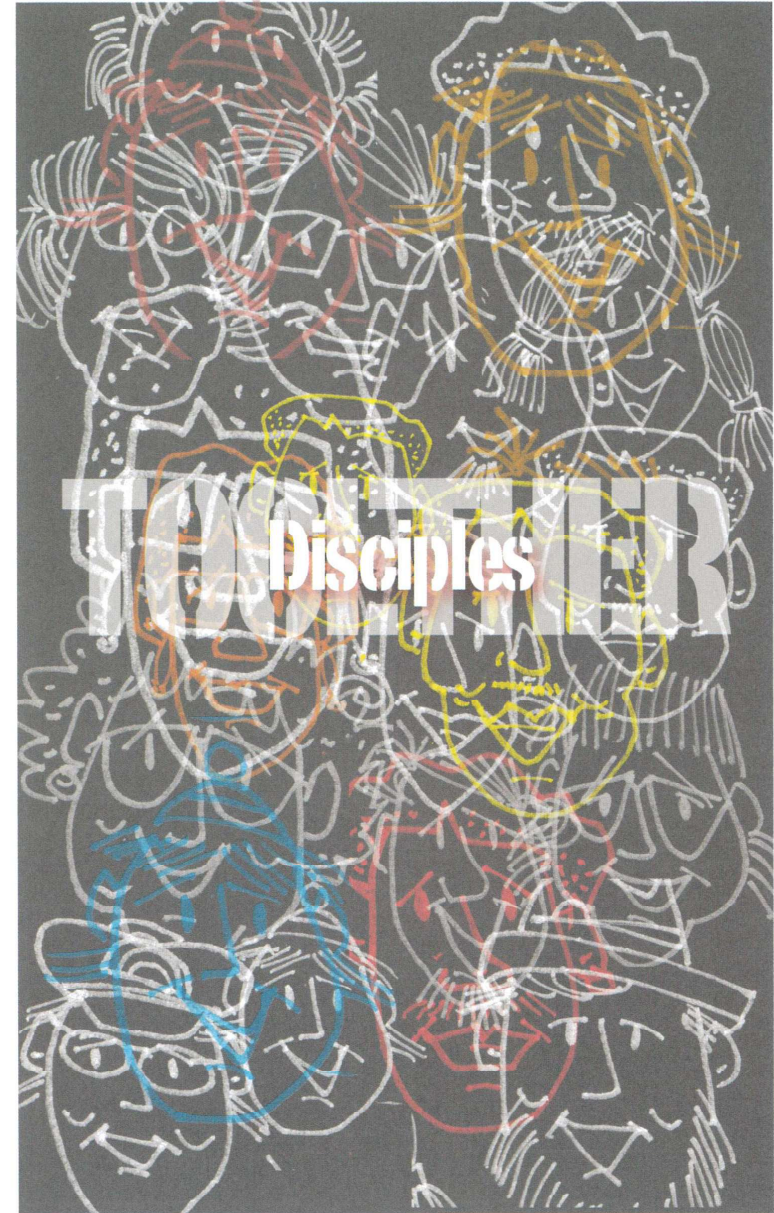
My friends, we are called to be disciples together always remembering that it is nothing but grace that allows the blessed community that we all need to be formed.

Life-giving God, may we become disciples of love, reaching out to the lost and the lonely. May we slow down and set our tables once again, inviting all to share more than a meal, but to share in the sustaining beauty of community. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE
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BUL0313





St. John's United Church of Christ

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 25, 2025



* 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)

Hear what the Lord requires of members in the family of God:

To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God.

Hear what Jesus taught about participation in the kingdom of God:

**Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind
and all your strength; and love your neighbor as yourself.**

Let us be true to our calling to follow Christ.

And follow willingly, wholeheartedly, and lovingly.

OPENING HYMN *God of Grace and God of Glory* (vs. 1-3) #464

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

**Give us eyes to see, O God: to see as you see, and to see those people you see.
Remind us that you have called us to be a sent-out people, not a stay-put people. Help us
to move beyond the stained glass, into the world you love and for which Christ died.
Amen.**

***RESPONSE** *Christ Arose* (chorus) #224

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (children please 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** *In the Garden* (v.1) #227

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (unison)

**God of extravagant love, fill our spirits with your love and place upon our hearts
your call to serve all in the name of Christ. We ask that you dedicate our gifts and our
lives to faithful service and ministry. Amen.**

WE GATHER IN PRAYER

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

Congregational Response: *He Lives* (chorus) #226

SPECIAL MUSIC Jonathan Clark

SCRIPTURE:

Old Testament: Psalm 67

New Testament: Acts 16:9-15

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

MESSAGE *Inside or Outside the Stained Glass*

***CLOSING HYMN** *God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian* (vs. 1 & 4) #450

***BLESSING** (responsively)

Let us go out to be Christ's witnesses to the ends of the earth. We accept our mis-
sion to be God's people in the world. The blessing of God, the One who through Christ
would bless all nations on earth, goes with you.

Praise and thanks be to God! Amen.

*** CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** *Go In Peace* #445

*** 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 reg-
ular online donations to continue our outreach into the community.**

Announcements

PENTECOST is June 8th. Everyone is encouraged to wear red to worship as we welcome the coming of the Holy Spirit.

DINNER & CONVERSATION will take place on Thursday at 6 pm at Mi Pueblo in Washington. Everyone is welcome. Please sign the reservation sheet in back of church or call the church office by Tuesday noon.

FATHERS' DAY IS JUNE 15th. We will recognize fathers and those who are like a father to us with Fellowship before worship that morning.

THE STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. **By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ.** As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. This offering will be gathered during worship on Pentecost (June 8th).

Please join us for an Open House **Graduation Party for Delaynee Coomes** on Sunday, May 25 from 1-3 pm in Memorial Hall. We will have light refreshments.

Our Wednesday **Messy Church Events** will be on hiatus until September.

Preschool Director Needed - If you know someone who would be a good fit for St. John's, or you would like more information, please contact one of the Preschool Committee members: Pastor Debbie Jo, Steve Cooper, Jill Lopez, Carolynn Stevenson, or Allison Cummins.

Joys and Concerns

We ask for continuing prayer requests for: Bruce Deckard, Gary Meyer, Don Osborne, Jr. Pat Hutchinson and Family, Gayle Huffer, Shirley Black, Brian Fillingim, Carol Graham, Jake Alexander, the family of Norma Meyer, Ray Pieper, Caden Utley, Paul Goodman, and Katrina Memering.

Brian Fillingim fell at home and cracked a rib so please keep him in your prayers. he needs to take it easy for the next 6 weeks.

Shut-in Addresses:

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

Leona Conway - Aperia Care, C Wing Room C-35, 3801 Old Bruceville Road, Vincennes, IN 47591

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

At Home:

Shirley Black

Bruce Deckard

Gayle Huffer

Gary Meyer

Mike Lankford

Caden Utley

**Until further notice, all prayer requests or updates should be relayed to Janet Goodman instead of the church office. Email: terrybaseball@gmail.com
Text or phone call: 812-887-2797.**

This Week in the Life of St. John's

Sunday, May 25th

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

Monday, May 26th

BABE Store Closed For Holiday
Memorial Day, Office Closed

Wednesday, May 28th

Laundry Love 6-8 pm

Thursday, May 29th

Mi Pueblo's in Washington,
@ 6:00 pm

Looking Ahead In June

Sunday, June 1st

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

Thursday, June 5th

Dinner & Conversation Group
At Procopio's, 6 pm

Sunday, June 8th

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

Wednesday, June 11th

Christian Ed Mtg. 6 pm

Monday, June 2nd

Babe Store Open 12 - 5:30 pm
Evangelism & Membership 6:50 pm
Friends 5 - 6:15 pm

Friday, June 6th

Phoebe's Mission 4:30 - 6 pm

Monday, June 9th

Babe Store Open 12 - 5:30 pm
Friends 5 - 6:15 pm

Thursday, June 12th

Technology Mtg. 10 am
Dinner & Conversation Group
At Coco's, 6 pm



Staff and Volunteers

Pastor:	Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins
Liturgist:	Saundra Lange
Head Usher:	Michelle Grube
Organist:	DeEtta Welte
Music Director, Pianist:	Becky Brockman
Children & Family Ministry Coordinator:	Will Meyer
Nursery Attendant:	Darcie Bahr
Projection:	Jill Doggett
Sound:	Brian Fillingim
Church Board President:	Ed Cummings

Did You Know?

St. John's Sunday Morning Worship Services are streamed **LIVE** on our church's Facebook page, "**St. John's United Church of Christ Vincennes.**"

Or, you can watch the Worship Service at your convenience by going on the church website, "**myucc.org**" and clicking on "Worship Service" for a particular date.

You can also download a copy of each monthly **church newsletter** from our church website to keep up with all the activities.