

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 15, 2025

Proverbs 8: 1-4, 22-31

Wisdom Calls

I had a seminary professor who would start each class reading from his dogeared copy of *Aesop's Fables*, regaling us with lessons from Greek antiquity such as slow and steady always wins the race. (Thank you wise tortoise for showing us how to outsmart the hare.)

After closing the book he would sit for a moment, seemingly lost in thought, before letting out deep sigh and remarking, "Wisdom is a precious gift many seek yet so few find."

The quest for wisdom has been around since the dawn of time, even before the classic, ageless tales Aesop told. For Christians, we have wisdom come to us in the person of Jesus Christ, who models for us through word and deed the smart choices we all need to make in life if love is to prevail and justice is to reign.

Before God sent Jesus into the world, though, wisdom was often personified in literature as a woman crying out to be heard as we have here in today's reading from Proverbs.

It is here that personified wisdom is found standing beside the gates at the entrance of a town, calling out to those who would dare to stop and listen. This location of the town's gate wasn't random. In ancient society it was that spot where the town's elders would conduct business and settle legal matters.

Now many of us don't live in a gated community, which leads me to wonder where then can we find wisdom and hear her call in our lives, especially amid the noise of too many people via too many venues chattering incessantly? What is it going to take for wisdom's life-changing and life-saving lessons to reach our ears?

Perhaps for wisdom to be heard we need to first hold our tongues from so quickly spewing out the answers we think we have. Maybe that is what Socrates was getting at when he said that "wisdom is in the knowing that we don't know anything."

Admitting we don't know something is often seen as being uneducated and that is often viewed as being inferior or powerless. But in a world where a slow tortoise can win a race against a speedy hare, perhaps it is time for us to start listening more to the cries of wisdom who stands by our proverbial gates in lives, urging us to drop the pretenses of knowing everything and to finally listen to the One who does indeed have the answers: God.

All-knowing God, we admit we don't have the answers that are needed in this world today. We turn to you now for wisdom from above, which will guide us in the right direction always. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's Sunday Bulletin.)



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

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St. John's United Church of Christ
Trinity Sunday
 June 15, 2025
Father's Day



* Please stand if it is comfortable to do so. **Bold print** is everyone in unison

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, GREET ONE ANOTHER (be seated)

PRELUDE

CHURCH BELL (the bell invites us to worship)

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

God, Creator, for your glory shining forth in sky and sea, in the changing light on the hills, in the flight of birds, in the plants of the field, for the gift of life in all its fullness, we thank you.

Jesus, Redeemer, for blessing children, healing the sick, raising up the lowly, suffering the brokenness of the world in your own body, that we might have fullness of life, we thank you.

Holy Spirit, Comforter, for breathing new hope and strength into our lives, breaking down barriers, drawing human beings together in love, resisting all that diminishes fullness of life, we thank you.

Holy Trinity, in all that we do and say and are, may we always choose life, for ourselves and for our neighbors. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** *Holy, Holy, Holy (vs. 1 & 2)* #4

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

God, we truly want to hear from you. We believe that you do speak to us and we are ready to listen. Give us ears that will hear the truth you want to communicate to us today. Stretch our hearts as you challenge us through your Holy Word. Help us to understand clearly the message that you have for us and to respond in obedience and worship. Thank you that your voice was not just for the prophets of long ago, but that you also speak to us today. Help us not to miss it. In your holy name, Amen.

***RESPONSE** *Spirit of the Living God* #259

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (children please come forward)

Jesus Loves Me

RECOGNITION OF FATHERS

OFFERING INVITATION**

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

***DOXOLOGY** #46

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (unison)

Gracious God, the generosity of your Spirit is evident all around us in the diversity and pageantry of your creation. May our giving to your mission and ministry be cheerful, open-handed and gracious, as we give thanks for our blessings and recognize the needs of our neighbors, both near and around the world.

WE GATHER IN PRAYER

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

Congregational Response: *Spirit of God, Unseen as the Wind*

SPECIAL MUSIC *A Brand New Me* Larry Marchino

SCRIPTURE:

Old Testament: Psalm 8

New Testament: John 16:12-15

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

MESSAGE *It's a Mystery*

***CLOSING HYMN** *God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian* #450

***BLESSING** (responsively)

L: May the one true God guide you and keep you. May the God of second chances grant you grace for the coming days.

P: May the Blessed Three-in-One enfold us in their joy. Amen.

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

***POSTLUDE**

This Week in the Life of St. John's

Sunday, June 15th

Adult Sunday School 9:15 am
Worship 10:30 am
Trinity Sunday
Father's Day
Fellowship Time

Wednesday, June 18th

July Newsletter Items Due

Monday, June 16th

Babe Store Open 12 - 5:30 pm
Friends 5 - 6:15 pm
Music & Worship 6 pm
Church Board 7 pm

Thursday, June 19th

Juneteenth Holiday
Office Closed
Dinner & Conversation Group
At Kelso's 6 pm

Looking Ahead In June

Sunday, June 22nd

Adult Sunday School 9:15 am
Worship 10:30 am

Wednesday, June 25th

Laundry Love 6 pm

Sunday, Jun 29th

Adult Sunday School 9:15 am
Worship 10:30 am

Monday, June 23rd

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

Thursday, June 26th

Dinner & Conversation Group
At Luigi's 6 pm



Staff and Volunteers

Pastor:	Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins
Liturgist:	Vera Mattingly
Head Usher:	Brad Summers
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.

Announcements

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.

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

The **rosebud** on the alter is in honor of Shepherd Lee Daniel's birth.

No Summer Sunday School for children/youth during the summer months of June and July.

There is still time to sign up to share special music during the worship service. Dates are available in July and August. The sign up sheet is located on the hallway bulletin board outside the nursery.

While we don't have a permanent church secretary, volunteers will be manning the office Monday through Friday from 9 am to 12:30 pm.

Prayers and Posts

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

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
Carol Graham - BridgePoint Health Campus, Room 510, 1900 College Avenue, Vincennes, IN 47591

Carol Graham has been moved to Good Samaritan Rehabilitation at this time.

At Home:

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.