

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 22, 2025

1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a

In God's Presence

I remember one sweltering June day, where the heat was making my Manhattan studio even more stifling, my parents called inviting me to come with them across the river to New Jersey for a hike in the woods. With sweat trickling down my neck, I eagerly accepted.

Their car arrived and I jumped into the backseat enjoying the air conditioning that was blasting. I closed my eyes as tires jostling over potholes gave way to smooth roads and city crescendos turned into country lullabies. We finally arrived at our favorite trail dotted with evergreens and gurgling streams. Into the woods we went, deeper and deeper until we spotted a large rock to rest upon and enjoy a cool drink.

As I sat still, I thought how amazing it was that such a simple gift as a stone seat from God was enough to renew me. I then listened to the silence all around. It was beautiful. There were no irate taxi drivers shouting at jaywalkers. There was no mass of people jostling me about on crowded concrete sidewalks. There were no street vendors filling the air with cries of great deals.

As I listened to the silence of the woods, I noticed, too, that my body was relaxing as well. I had never realized till then what the constant assault on my senses was doing to me not just emotionally and spiritually, but also physically.

It was then I recaptured a childhood lesson received in the woods so many years ago: That the God moments are all around, you just need to still your racing mind and slow your busy steps to notice them.

I wonder if Elijah, a prophet on the run and fearing for his life, felt that stress melting away when he sheltered in a cave. He too allowed the external stresses to cloud the internal truth that God's presence was always with him — but not in the ways Elijah expected.

Hungering for that blessed assurance of God with him, Elijah quickly stood on the mountain as told, hoping to experience God. A great wind blew. But no God. Then an earthquake shook all around. No God. Then flames of a fire licked and whipped before him. Again, no God. Finally, sheer silence enveloped Elijah. And in that silence was God.

I sat on the rock in the silence knowing that my noisy whirlwind of a life was not feeding my soul. I knew I had to let go of not only the busyness but also of my assumptions and expectations as to who God was and where God was to be found.

What is the rock you sit upon this day? How are you being invited to let go of your God assumptions and expectations and trust the silences in your life? For it is there, God is found.

Ever-present God, help us to sit comfortably in the silences of life for it is there we will finally hear your beautiful whispers of life spoken to us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

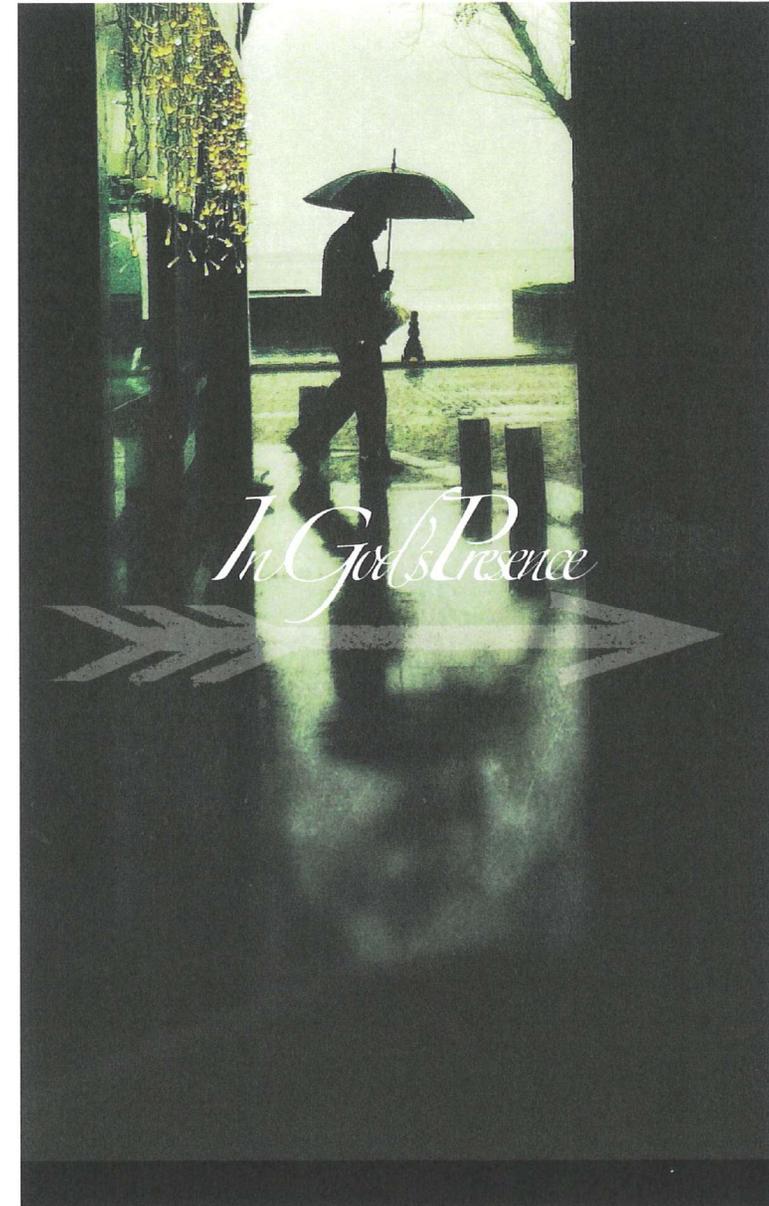
(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's Sunday Bulletin.)



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

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St. John's United Church of Christ

Second Sunday after Pentecost

June 22, 2025



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

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, GREET ONE ANOTHER (be seated)

PRELUDE *Prayer* *Ambrosia*

CHURCH BELL (the bell invites us to worship)

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP (responsively)

O God, be not far from us,

For we are your children.

O God, help us to believe,

For in Christ we would live abundantly.

O God, we search for you and would worship you,

For in you we live and move and have our being.

***OPENING HYMN** *How Like a Gentle Spirit* (vs. 1 & 2) #69

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

O God, whose holiness is not limited to grand cathedrals or saintly persons, spectacular mountains or mountain-moving leaders; O God, whose holiness is often discovered in simple everyday places and simple everyday folks, plant your holiness in this place, in us now. Grow us this hour, that we might flower, right where we are, with the beauty of your holiness. Through Jesus we pray. Amen.

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

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.

***DOXOLOGY** #46

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (unison)

Thank you, O God, for all good gifts, and especially for your inexpressible gift of the Lord Jesus. Help us, O Lord, to see wherein we have been blessed, and to be a blessing to others. Amen.

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 *Gospel Melody*

Men's Group

Ren Simmons, Mark Schutz, Conway Wilson, Brad Summers,
Larry Marchino & Jonathan Clark

SCRIPTURE:

Old Testament: Psalm 42: 1-4

New Testament: Galatians 3:23-29

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

MESSAGE *My Baby, Wrote Me a Letter*

***CLOSING HYMN** *The Church of Christ in Every Age* (vs. 1-3) #475

***BLESSING** (responsively)

We go forth no longer Jew or Greek, no longer slave or free, male or female,

For we are all one in Christ. Amen.

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

***POSTLUDE** *A Celebration of Praise* *Denton*

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 Luigi's. Everyone is welcome. Please sign the reservation sheet in back of church or call the church office by Tuesday noon.

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.

Special thanks to our Men's Group for singing today: Ren Simmons, Larry Marchino, Mark Schutz, Brad Summers, Conway Wilson, and accompanist Jonathan Clark.

Thank you to Arlene Wilson for playing the organ for us today.

ALAN PANCAKE will be in concert during worship on July 13th while Pastor is at General Synod in Kansas City, MO

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.

Directory Update and Reminder. Per Jerri Johanningsmeier

For those of you who were unable to have a picture taken for the new directory:

- 1) Photos can be dropped off to the office, please fill out the picture information to accompany photos. Photo will be returned.
- 2) Email to church email:
- 3) Choose to not have a photo, send us an information update for entry.

We sincerely hope to obtain a picture of our members/families. We are looking at June 30 for a probable deadline. We hope to start assembling in July.

Call the church office if you need more assistance.

Prayers and Posts

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

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.**

This Week in the Life of St. John's

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

Thursday, July 3rd

No Dinner & Conversation tonight

Friday, July 4th

Office Closed for Holiday



Staff and Volunteers

Pastor:	Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins
Liturgist:	Allison Cummings
Head Usher:	Brad Summers
Organist:	DeEtta Welte
Music Director, Pianist:	Becky Brockman
Children & Family Ministry Coordinator:	Will Meyer
Nursery Attendant:	Darcie Bahr
Projection:	Sandra Lange
Sound:	Jonathan Lange
Church Board President:	Ed Cummings

Looking Ahead In July

Sunday, July 6th

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

Thursday, July 10th

Dinner & Conversation Group
At Monical's Pizza 6 pm

Monday, July 7th

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

Friday, July 11th

Phoebe's Mission 4:30 - 6 pm

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.