

P E N T E C O S T

June 8, 2025

Acts 2:1-21

Gathered and Scattered

The first church I served was a struggling rural congregation that embraced the celebration of Pentecost, decorating the sanctuary with red balloons and paper streamers that fluttered about thanks to the fans positioned throughout the room. Paper doves hanging from strings took flight as well, as did the pages of my sermon that I placed on the lectern.

Never had I seen a congregation try so hard to capture that moment in Acts when the promised gift of the Holy Spirit was given in the way of a mighty wind. This wind empowered God's children to pour out into the streets of Jerusalem to tell the love Jesus in a multitude of languages, helping the visitors who packed the city for the celebration of the Jewish festival known as Pentecost — held 50 days after the Sabbath following Passover — understand. It is interesting to note that Pentecost is not a Christian Holy Spirit celebration, but a Jewish harvest celebration. Very poetic on God's part that the harvest celebrated that day was indeed a rich harvest of new believers in Christ.

That day recorded in Acts was a pivotal moment, leading to the birth of the Church and empowering Christ's body to love beyond boundaries.

The balloons, streamers and doves were a unique delight to me. But beyond the delight I could sense the aching yearning of a congregation who wanted the rush of mighty wind to revive them, even if that wind came courtesy of Dollar Store fans.

What though was really at the heart of this yearning? Was it to witness to the love of Christ or was it to keep a church legacy surviving for another 200 years?

I asked that question the following year when Pentecost rolled around, challenging them to think what it would be like if God's Spirit did blow through their ancient pews?

Truthfully, I think we would be terrified if we got what we yearned for because once invited into our lives, the Holy Spirit will uproot us, challenge everything we think we know and lead us into uncharted territories.

What if this Pentecost we don't hang the streamers and turned off the fans and sit quietly together in prayer, asking with excited anticipation for the new thing God has for us — and for courage to accept the required change that comes with new things.

That is what Jesus' friends did after he ascended into heaven. They returned to Jerusalem and waited together for the Spirit, which came to them on Pentecost.

My friends, the time is now for God's Holy Spirit to not only gather us, but to scatter us — bringing us out from our places of comfort and into world that needs good news.

Are we willing to unleash that power in our lives?

God of new days and new ways, grant us the courage to embrace the Holy Spirit in our lives, never fearing where the holy winds of change will lead. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

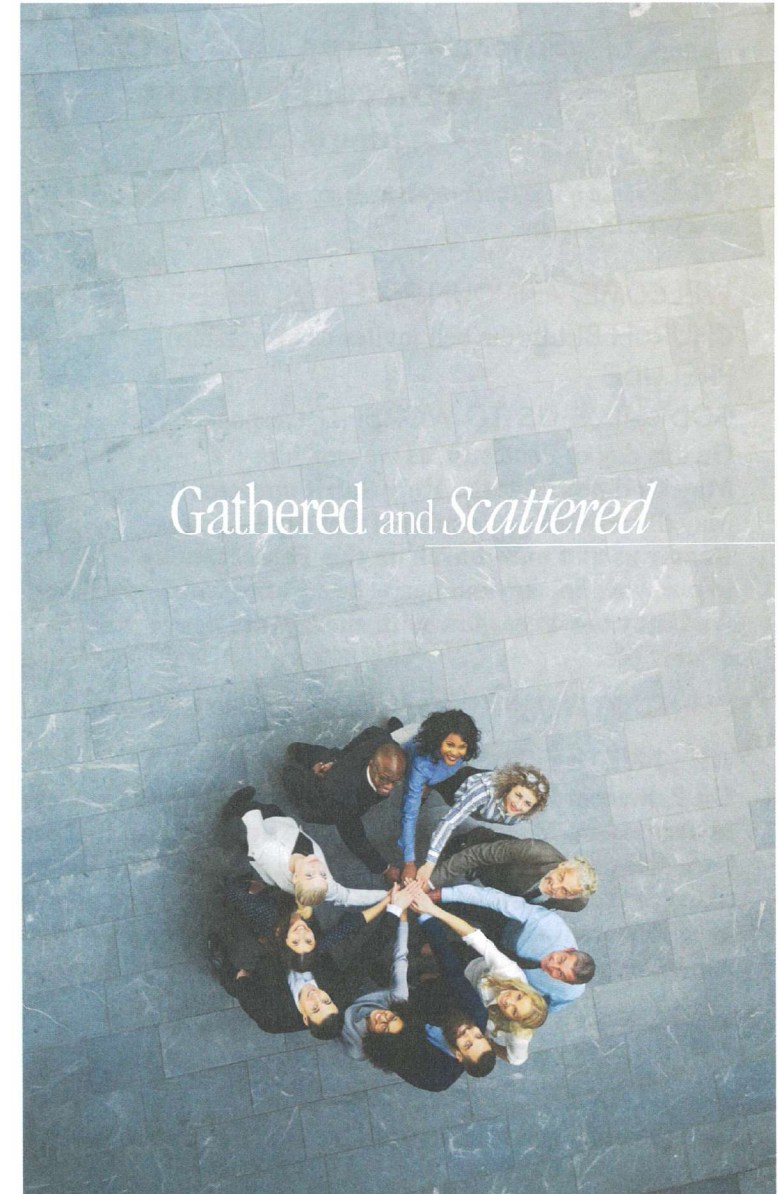
(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's Sunday Bulletin.)



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

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BUL0402





St. John's United Church of Christ

Pentecost Sunday

June 8, 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)

On this day of Pentecost, as we worship,

May God pour out the Holy Spirit upon us.

May the power and promise of that day long ago,

Renew us and our church on this Pentecost day.

In our worship, may our hearts be set afire with enthusiasm,

And may our lives glow with energy and courage as we live the good news of new life.

* **OPENING HYMN** *On Pentecost They Gathered*

#237

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

On Pentecost Day long ago, your great Spirit, O God, came upon the saints in Jerusalem. May your Spirit come upon us and this community of faith here this day. We welcome the flame and light of your Spirit here in this place today. Renew us with an energized faith and affirm us as your people here to worship and celebrate with strength, courage and hope in Christ. Amen.

* **RESPONSE** *Spirit of the Living God*

#259

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (children come forward during *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)

Gracious God, Jesus promised the disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit, a gift that remains as powerful and transformative today as it was on the first Pentecost. With generous and thankful hearts, we offer our gifts to you — our time, treasure and talent, but most of all, our hearts. Use us and these offerings for your purposes and glory. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Jonathan Clark

WE GATHER IN PRAYER

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

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

SCRIPTURE:

Old Testament: Psalm 104: 24-34

New Testament: Acts 2:1-8, 14-34

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

MESSAGE

Blowin' in the Wind

* **CLOSING HYMN** *Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song*

#245

* **BLESSING** (responsively)

May the winds of the Spirit set your feet to dancing. May the fire of Pentecost fill you with holy energy.

May the mighty surge of God's power turn our world upside down.
Amen.

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

#445

* **POSTLUDE**

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 Procopio's. 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.

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

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).

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 - Aperion 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 8th

Adult Sunday School 9:15 am
Worship 10:30 am
Pentecost - Wear **RED**
Strengthen The Church Offering

Wednesday, June 11th

Christian Ed Mtg. 6 pm

Monday, June 9th

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

Thursday, June 12th

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

Looking Ahead In June

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



Staff and Volunteers

Pastor:	Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins
Liturgist:	Ren Simmons
Head Usher:	Michelle Grube
Organist:	DeEtta Welte
Music Director, Pianist:	Becky Brockman
Children & Family Ministry Coordinator:	Will Meyer
Nursery Attendant:	Darcie Bahr
Projection:	Sandra Lange
Sound:	Lonny Vieke
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.