

Word and Work

There was a faded handstitched sampler hanging in the church kitchen that read, “God bless the Marthas among us.”

It was made by a blue-haired saint of the congregation who organized every Sunday coffee hour as well as all the church potlucks and community dinners. The kitchen was her holy ground, so heaven help the person who stepped upon it unaware of how things were done.

The story behind the sampler was that one day the blue-haired kitchen saint felt underappreciated by a growing movement in the church to cut back on all the feasting to pray and fast more.

Legend has it that she rolled her eyes, threw down her dish towel and huffed out of the kitchen muttering, “Let the Marys make the darn coffee.”

She, of course, was referring to the story of Mary and Martha, sisters who Jesus often visited in their hometown of Bethany. It was one such visit that Mary puts aside all her chores to sit at the feet of Jesus to listen and learn from him, leaving Martha with the sole responsibility of preparing a meal for their guest.

Martha’s anger begins to boil as rapidly as a pot of water over the fire. She demands that Jesus tell Mary to help her. Jesus chides Martha saying that her sister has chosen the better task.

If Martha had some embroidery thread on hand, I bet she would have furiously stitched the same message that hung in the church kitchen.

This story today is often used to call out our own misplaced busyness, calling us back to the importance of being still to listen to Jesus. We often pit the two sisters against one another, elevating Mary’s choice as the better one. But is all busyness misplaced? Is one sister’s choice better than the other’s?

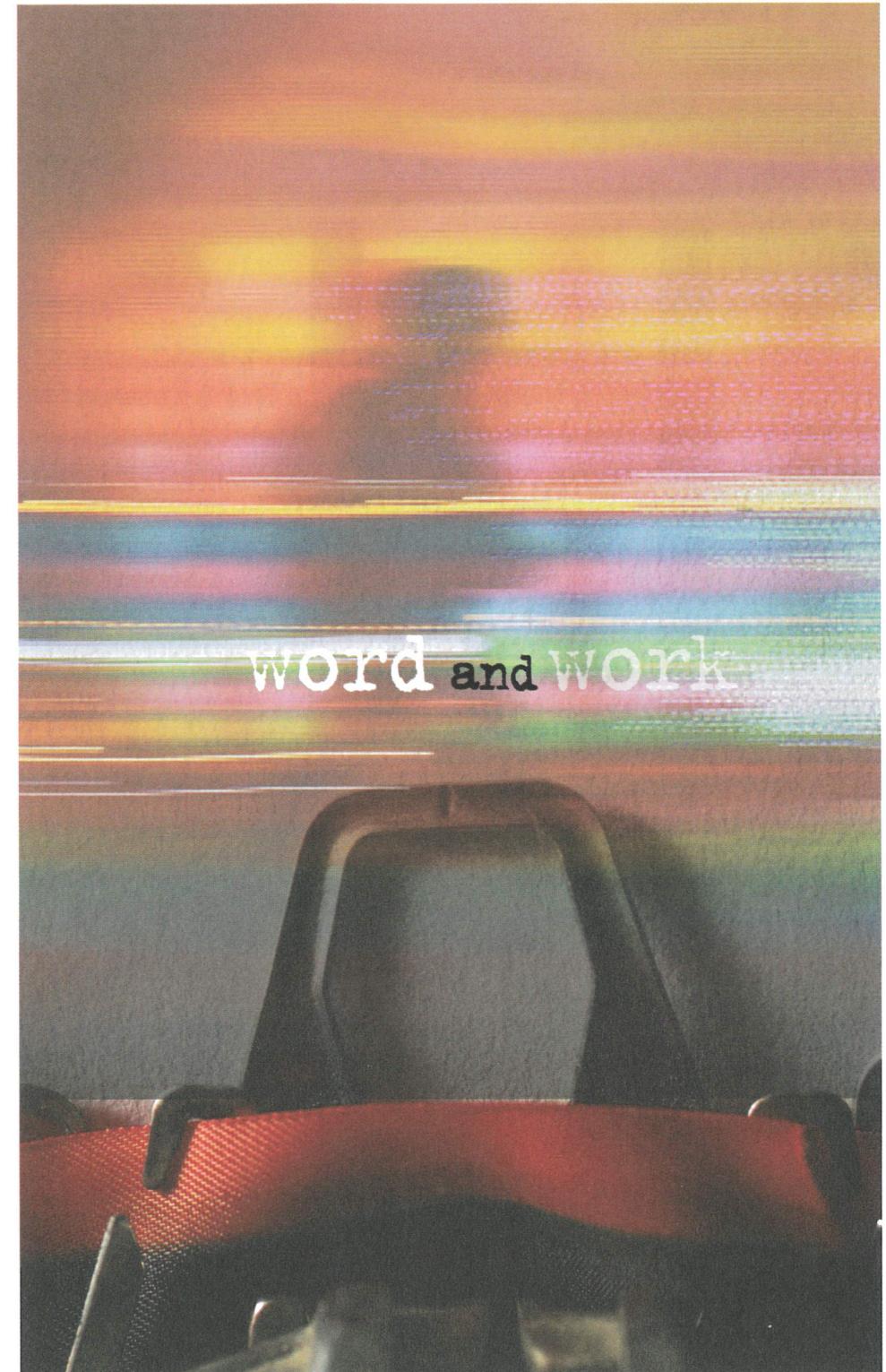
While chances are we do need to embrace the slow living trend more, life is not about dismissing Martha and celebrating Mary. Life is about finding the balance between work and rest.

What we fail to recognize is that followers of Christ are not called to either sit or serve but to both sit and serve, and that takes awareness of how we prioritize our time with God and schedule are activities so that both our bodies and spirits are being fed.

Yes, God bless the Marthas in the world that get things done. But God bless the Marys, too, who know when their spiritual wells need to be filled by retreating into quiet time of prayer and studying God’s word. God bless us all as we seek balance in serving and learning, seeking and sharing. Now that’s a message worthy of stitching.

God of word and work, help us to find balance in our walk with You so that we are not only serving Your children but also listening to Your beautiful words of life. 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.)





St. John's United Church of Christ
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
 July 20, 2025



* 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)

The God of new beginnings has called us to this place.

We come celebrating the new life that is ours as God's faithful people.

Let your joy ring through the universe, and let your vision see to the depths of every soul.

We will be shouters of joy and seekers of God's light wherever we go. Praise God for this day!

* **OPENING HYMN** *This Is the Day* (2x) #286

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

Image of the invisible God, Firstborn of creation, You have been at work in our world since its conception. Your light shines brighter than the sun, And your power outlasts the strongest of nations. In blue skies and green fields; In children's first songs and the wisdom of the aged; In your body, the church; We see you and give thanks. Come and shine within our worship. Bless us with the power that brings us to our knees and then lifts us up to serve you and others. Show us the fullness of God. Amen.

* **RESPONSE** *When in Awe of God's Creation* (v. 1) #688

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

OFFERING INVITATION**

Let us give back to God with gratitude and thanksgiving for all blessings.

* **DOXOLOGY** #46

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (unison)

God of revelation, in Christ your word has been made fully known. As we continue to unwrap the mysterious gift of his presence, use our gifts to proclaim him. Use us for your continued work, as we grow to spiritual maturity. In his name we pray. Amen.

MEMORIAL MOMENT: *Gayle Lynn Huffer*

SPECIAL MUSIC Jonathan Clark

WE GATHER IN PRAYER

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

Congregational Response: *How Great Thou Art* (chorus only) #33

SCRIPTURE:

Old Testament: Psalm 52

New Testament: Colossians 1:15-28

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

MESSAGE *Jesus vs. Galactus*

* **CLOSING HYMN** *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation* #275

* **BLESSING** (responsively)

Go now to make God's word fully known to others, as it has been made known to you, proclaiming Christ in all that you say, in all that you do.

May we be blessed with God's renewing energy, powerfully inspiring us to new words and deeds.

* **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.

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.

Family Move Nights Return: On Sunday, July 27th we will gather in Memorial Hall at 5:00 pm to watch the Disney movie, *Miracle in Lane 2* starring Freddie Muniz, a story of competitive soapbox racing based on a true story. On August 3rd we will present *Angels in the Outfield* starring Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Danny Glover, Tony Danza and Christopher Lloyd. Both are family-friendly and everyone is invited.

Preschool Open House will be held today from 3:00-4:30 for anyone wishing to learn more about our preschool, tour the facilities and meet our new director, Laura Arial.

We are invited to LAM's Open House and Ribbon Cutting on Monday, July 21st from 5 - 7 pm at 707 Busseron Street, Suite D. New Employees, New Office Space and New LAM Houses. Refreshments will be served.

Let's help Ellen and John Riggs celebrate a joy: their 55th wedding anniversary!

Their actual wedding date was July 26th. But please come by Memorial Hall following Worship on Sunday, July 27th, to relay your best wishes and to have a cupcake!

Thanks to Jonathan Clark for our special music this morning.

Prayers and Posts

We ask for continuing prayer requests for: Bruce Deckard, Gary Meyer, Don Osborne, Jr. Pat Hutchinson, Laura Sanders, the Family of Gayle Huffer, Carol Graham, Jake Alexander, John Spanger, Mark Schutter, Wayne Baker, Lynne Simmons, Katrina Memering, Jasime Zeller, the Porter Family and the Utley 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 310, 1900 College Avenue, Vincennes, IN 47591

At Home:

Bruce Deckard

Huffer Family

Gary Meyer

Mike Lankford

SPECIAL NOTICE...

Terry and I will be visiting Matthew and his family from July 10-25th. If you have a prayer request during this time please contact Brenda Roark at 812-890-1221 or bjsr72@hotmail.com.

Please make sure you have been given permission to put on the request and have the correct information. It is much easier to transfer the request to the prayer chain if you email the request.

Thank you. Janet Goodman

**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, July 20th

Adult Sunday School 9:15 am
Worship 10:30 am
Preschool Open House 3- 4:30 pm

Wednesday, July 23rd

August Church Newsletter Articles Due Today

Sunday, July 27th

Adult Sunday School 9:15 pm
Worship 10:30 am
Movie Night 5 pm

Monday, July 21st

BABE Store 12 - 5:30 pm
Friends 5 - 6:15 PM
LAM's Open House 5 - 7 pm
Music & Worship Mtg. 6 pm
Church Board 7 pm

Thursday, July 24th

Dinner & Conversation at Café
Moonlight 6 pm

Monday, July 28th

BABE Store 12 - 5:30 pm
Friends 5 - 6:15 pm

Looking Ahead In July & August

Wednesday, July 30th

Laundry Love 6 - 8 pm

Friday, August 1st

Phoebe's Mission 4:30 - 6 pm

Monday, August 4th

BABE Store 12 - 5:30 pm
Friends 5 - 6:15 pm
Evangelism & Membership Mtg. 6 pm

Thursday, July 31st

Dinner & Conversation - Culver's 6 pm

Sunday, August 3rd

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

Thursday, August 7th

Dinner & Conversation - Luigi's 6 pm



Staff and Volunteers

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| Pastor: | Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins |
| Liturgist: | John Riggs |
| Head Usher: | Ed Cummings |
| 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 |

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.