

July 6, 2025

2 Kings 5:1-14

Surprising Prophets

Do you know someone who is an overthinker, complicating life with their if's, and's or but's? Perhaps you know someone who can take the easiest tasks and turn them into trying ordeals. Do I even dare ask if you could be that person?

If so, you are not alone. Many people overthink, which ultimately leads to unnecessary worry. I'll admit that I'm one of those people who does both — overthinks and overcomplicates. I'm not sure why I do that? Maybe because it's hard to let ourselves truly believe that faith in God can move the mountains that we create out of life's mole hills. And maybe, just maybe, we can't allow ourselves to believe in a mountain-moving God because that belief requires us to give up the façade that we're in control.

Let me introduce you to Naaman, an overthinker standing in the need of more faith — and healing. The celebrated army commander of the King of Syria, whose name in Hebrew translates into “pleasant and beautiful,” is anything but. He is suffering from a skin affliction, most likely leprosy, which carries with it the societal stigma of being unclean.

But when Naaman hears that Elisha, the prophet of Israel, can heal him, he seeks him out. The visit doesn't go well. Naaman becomes furious with the seemingly dismissive way the prophet speaks to him. How dare this lowly servant of God tell a prominent army commander to simply jump into the Jordan River and bathe. Not only does Naaman have more impressive rivers back home, but healing leprosy cannot be as easy as washing.

Naaman turns to leave in a huff, but his servants convince him to listen to the prophet's surprising remedy. One even makes the very convincing point that if the instructions were complicated, would Naaman be quick to follow through? Perhaps it's time for Naaman to check his ego and stop overthinking the mysterious ways that God works.

He gives in, washes himself as instructed by Elisha, and voila — his skin is healed.

More times than not, we are like Naaman, seeking healing and answers to life's questions but then not trusting the surprising ways God leads us to healing.

What if we decided to finally trust God this day? What if we stopped making things harder for ourselves by overthinking and overcomplicating life? Could wholeness and restoration be as simple as crying out to God, “I believe, now help my unbelief.” We won't know until we try.

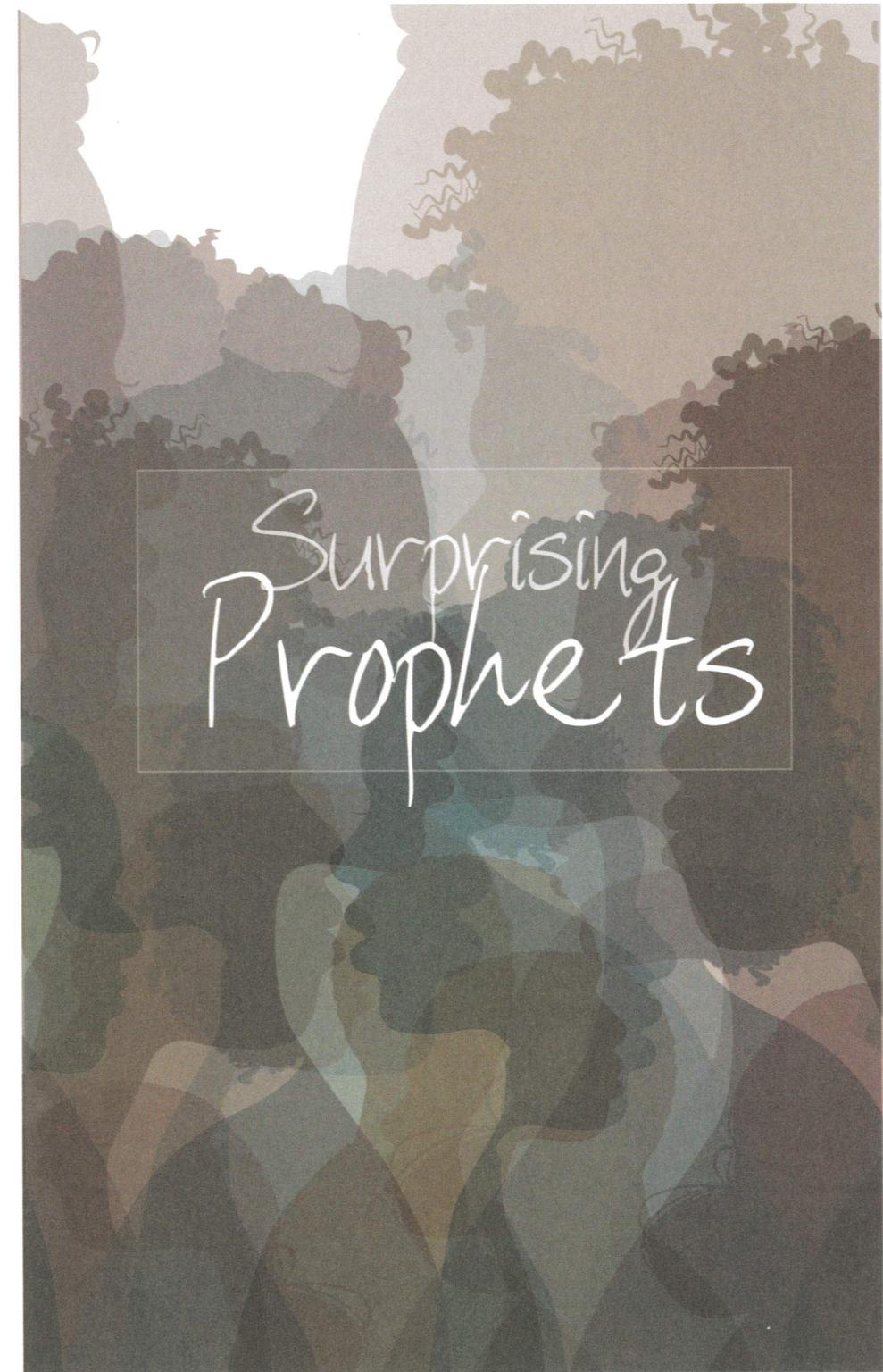
Healing God, we stand before You today in need of Your gentle touch. Restore us to wholeness. Increase our faith and help us to stop overthinking and overcomplicating the life You have blessed us with. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

(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
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost



July 6, 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)

Come gather together in the presence of Christ, our friend and healer.

We enter here, to worship together, yearning for hope and comfort.

Let us reach to the heart of Jesus, who is our life.

We encounter our Lord, who makes us whole.

Here we are welcomed and loved and cherished.

Here we are the people of God. Let us rejoice and give God praise.

***OPENING HYMN** *O For a World* (vs. 1-3) #683

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

Holy God, may your Word, read and proclaimed, be for us this day living water and the bread of life. We yield ourselves to the Word you will speak to each of us, seeking only to hear your voice, see your face and respond to your will for our lives. Amen.

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

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)

In giving our time, talent and treasures to you, O God, we show that we are not just believers in Jesus but followers of Christ. Accept these gifts and use them to minister to people we would not otherwise meet, and to bring love, joy and peace to places we would not otherwise go. In the name of our Lord, we pray. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC *Hold On*

Vera Mattingly

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 30

New Testament: Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

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

MESSAGE *Superman, Fred Rogers and Dolly Parton*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Communion Prayer

God be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Words of Institution; Consecration and Sharing of the Elements

Thanksgiving Prayer (unison)

We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** *Help Us Accept Each Other* #487

***BLESSING** (responsively)

The seeds of gospel truth have been planted in you. Go now to share your faith in Jesus and your love for each other, so that the gospel might grow in you and bear fruit throughout the world.

May we be filled with the wisdom of God, the power of Christ and the patience of the Spirit, now and forever. Alleluia. 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.

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.

Alan Pancake will be in concert during worship on July 13th.

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.

General Synod: *Into the Deep* takes place July 11-15, 2025, in Kansas City, Missouri, and offers the opportunity for thousands of folks within the United Church of Christ to gather for worship, fellowship, attending to business, offering public witness, and setting the denomination's priorities for ministry. The theme is based on Luke 5:4: *When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.* Pastor Debbie Jo will be attending and the plenary sessions/worship will be livestreamed.

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.

The **Church Picnic** will take place on September 28th at Gregg Park. More details later.

Preschool Open House will be held on Sunday, July 20th from 3:00-4:30 for anyone wishing to learn more about our preschool, tour the facilities and meet our new director, Laura Arial.

Free Books are available on several tables in the Sunshine Room. These have been culled from our former church library and you may take as many as you like.

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, Lynne 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 310, 1900 College Avenue, Vincennes, IN 47591

At Home:

Bruce Deckard

Gayle Huffer

Gary Meyer

Mike Lankford

Caden Utley

SPECIAL NOTICE...

Terry and I will be visiting Matthew and his family from July 10-23rd. 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 6th

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

Wednesday, July 9th

Christian Education Mtg. 6 pm

Friday, July 11th

Phoebe's Mission 4:30 - 6 pm
Pastor Debbie at UCC General Synod

Monday, July 7th

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

Thursday, July 10th

Tech Mtg. 10 am
Dinner & Conversation at Monical's
Pizza, 6 pm

Sunday, July 13th

Adult SS Classes 9:15 am
Worship 10:30 am with Alan Pancake
Pastor Debbie at UCC General Synod



Staff and Volunteers

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

Looking Ahead In July

Monday, July 14th

BABE Store 12 - 5:30 pm
Friends 5-6:16 pm
Outreach & Benevolence Mtg. 6:30 pm
Pastor Debbie at UCC General Synod

Saturday, July 19th

Youth Lemonade Stand 10 am—2 pm
Private Party 1 - 5 pm

Wednesday, July 16th

Pastor Debbie returns home

Thursday, July 17th

Dinner & Conversation at Senor
Tequila's 6 pm

Sunday, July 20th

Adult Sunday School 9:15 1m
Worship 10:30 am
Preschool Open House 3 - 4:30 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.