

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 27, 2025

Luke 11:1-13

Shaped by Prayer

St. Augustine once wrote, "Pray as if everything depends on God."

The problem for many of us, though, is that we feel as if our prayers are inadequate. We often wonder if we are even doing "it" right.

No wonder Jesus' friends, upon watching him in deep conversation with God — which is the best definition for what prayer is, a conversation from the heart — asked Jesus to teach them to do the same. And so, Jesus teaches them by giving them an outline to follow known as The Lord's Prayer.

It is a beloved prayer connecting Christians throughout the world, no matter what language it is said and whether "debts" or "trespasses" is used. It is the go-to prayer when we don't know what to pray.

But as what always happens when something like The Lord's Prayer becomes so routine, so taken for granted, so oft recited, we forget the power of the words we are speaking.

So, let's have a quick refresher this day on a prayer that has the power to shape us, now and always.

Our Father, who art in heaven. Jesus teaches us that the first thing we do when praying is simply start by addressing God.

Holy (hallowed) is your name. Jesus then reminds us to add words of praise and adoration.

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. After acknowledging God and praising God's greatness, we are to pray for God's kingdom of love and goodness to come down from heaven, remembering always that this kingdom is not what we envision but what God has planned.

Give us this day our daily bread. We then ask for blessed provision, but notice Jesus isn't saying "my daily bread." Rather, we pray for the community, asking for provision for all who are wanting.

Forgive us our sins (or debts or trespasses). Here comes the challenging part — forgiveness. We are told as we seek forgiveness, we must also forgive all those who have wronged us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Finally, Jesus reminds us this world is filled with many temptations waiting to ensnare us in turning away from the goodness of God.

Note here, that the original prayer ended with "deliver us from evil." It is said that the early church added the ending we now have — "for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever" — as to end on a note of praise. Scholars say it first appeared in the "Didache," a document from the late first or early second century.

So, when you feel you do not know how or what to pray turn to the words of Jesus who gave us a framework that shapes our many prayers to come.

Rather than close with a written prayer, I invite you to recite, line by line, The Lord's Prayer, pausing after each sentence and lingering on the words.

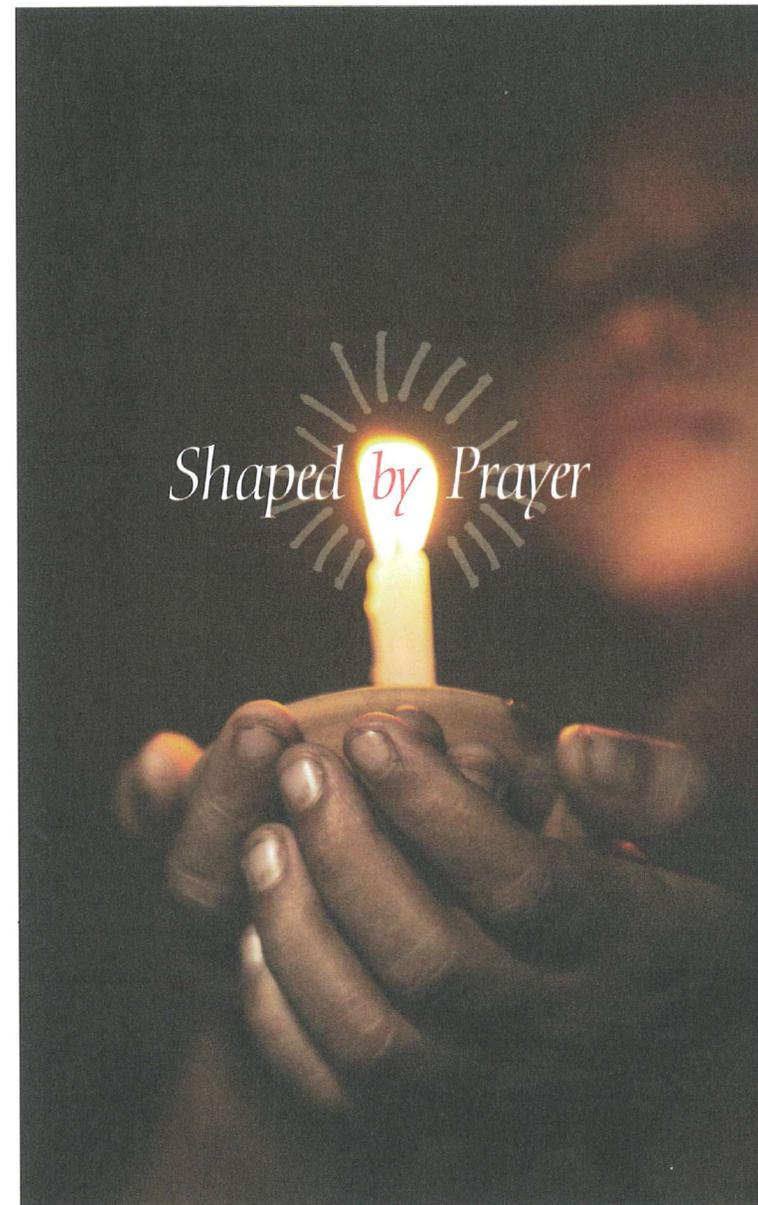
(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's Sunday Bulletin.)



8.5" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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St. John's United Church of Christ
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
 July 27, 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)

All you looking for comfort,

Find here the arms of a loving God.

All you looking for direction,

Find here the hand of God to guide you.

All you hoping to end loneliness,

Find here the embrace of God and new friends.

All you searching for meaning,

Find here the Lord of the Life and the Revealer of Truth.

All you seeking happiness,

Find here the deep joy of the risen Christ and the lasting peace of forgiveness.

* **OPENING HYMN** *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* #585

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

As we enter into conversation with you, loving God, we confess that there are times when we don't choose to receive you. Instead, we turn away, thinking we have control over events and often we mistakenly think we have control over the people in our lives. And we acknowledge that there are times we would like to receive you ... but truthfully, we have too much to do before we can stop, change direction, seek comfort and follow you. Wake us up! Alert us to the preciousness of each day and each moment, for these moments will not come again. Awakened now to your presence, we lift our voices in praise. 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)

Here we have a chance to make a difference with the gifts we give. How grateful we are for the opportunity to change what *is* into what might *be*. Thank you, God, for allowing us the pleasure of giving. Receive them in the spirit in which they are given. Amen.

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 85

New Testament: Luke 11:1-13

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

MESSAGE *The Prayer of Unwanting*

* **CLOSING HYMN** *Seek Ye First* #354

* **BLESSING** (responsively)

You are precious in God's eye. You are God's wonder and delight. Carry God's love gently and firmly to all you meet.

May God walk close beside us so we may scatter seeds of love, sing songs of joy, shape communities of peace and build bridges of hope. Amen.

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

* **POSTLUDE**

This Week in the Life of St. John's

Sunday, July 27th

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

Wednesday, July 30th

Laundry Love 6 - 8 pm

Friday, August 1st

Phoebe's Mission 4:30 - 6 pm

Monday, July 28th

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

Looking Ahead In August

Monday, August 4th

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

Sunday, August 10th

Adult SS Classes 9:15 am
Vacation Bible School 9:15 am

Wednesday, August 13th

Christian Education Mtg 6 pm

Thursday, August 7th

Dinner & Conversation - Luigi's 6 pm

Monday, August 11th

BABE Store 12 - 5:30 pm
Friends 5 - 6:15 pm
Outreach & Benevolence Mtg. 5:30 pm

Thursday, August 14th

Tech Mtg. 10 am
Dinner & Conversation - Coco's



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

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.

There is still time to sign up to share special music during the worship service. Dates are available in 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: Tonight 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.

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.

BENCH WANTED for use during VBS. We are looking to borrow a "garden type" bench to serve as a bus stop during VBS. If you have one, we could borrow, please get in touch with Jill Lopez. Thanks!

Head to Memorial Hall following today's worship service to **CONGRATULATE Ellen and John Riggs** on their 55th wedding anniversary! Celebrate with a cupcake while you enjoy a bit of fellowship too. (The Riggs' actual wedding date was July 26th.)

Prayers and Posts

We ask for continuing prayer requests for: Bruce Deckard, Gary Meyer, Don Osborne, Jr. Pat Hutchinson, Laura Sanders, Carol Graham, Jake Alexander, John Spanger, Mark Schutter, Wayne Baker, Lynne Simmons, Katrina Memering, and Jasime Zeller.

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

Gary Meyer

Mike Lankford

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.