

11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 24, 2025

Luke 13:10-17

Healing Reign

The healing of the woman who had been bent over for 18 years is unique, appearing only in the Gospel of Luke. What isn't unique is once again Jesus is breaking the guarded Sabbath rule of not healing on the day of rest and, by doing so, ruffles the feathers of the religious elite.

He doesn't care, though. What matters is someone has been suffering for far too long, and that someone was a woman painstakingly shuffling into the synagogue, wishing only to worship without anyone staring at her.

Luckily, those around her were more than happy to look the other way. Our reactions to the disabilities of others are strange, aren't they? We either gawk at them not realizing how uncomfortable our unintentional rudeness is making them, or we try our best to pretend they are not there.

This day, though, the woman's hopes of blending into the crowd are dashed. Jesus saw her. As did everyone else. But the Greek word used for "saw" goes beyond superficial seeing. The Greek word used means that Jesus saw the extent of her suffering that reached deep into her soul. He saw the years of whispers of those wondering what she did to deserve her infliction. He saw the years of social isolation. He saw the loneliness, the hurt and feeling of rejection, of being "different."

Jesus saw her and with the words, "Woman, you are set free," she stood tall once again.

Many times we are like that woman, shuffling through life, bent by the weight of our worries and burdens. Many times we pray just to get through the day without anyone noticing the spiritual, emotional or physical pain we are in.

But Jesus sees us. He really sees us. He knows all that we are dealing with, and he will dare to break rules and boundaries to reach us with his healing grace. He will stand up for us, just like he did for that woman when he turned to the synagogue leader, chastising him for allowing a religious rule to keep a child of God from receiving true Sabbath rest — rest from the pain she was experiencing.

So, for all who are bent by the worries and burdens, by emotional or physical afflictions, Jesus sees you. Go to him and listen as he speaks your name. Yes, in Christ, we are set free. In Christ, we can all once again stand tall.

God, thank you for the reminder today that Jesus sees us and knows all that is weighing us down in this world. May this day we experience freedom from our ailments and worries. 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.)



8.5" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

Bulletin artwork and backpage stories copyright © 2025 United Church of Christ

BUL0413





St. John's United Church of Christ
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
 August 24, 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 who are weary, come to the Healer.

Jesus shares my burden and eases my load.

All who mourn, come to the Healer.

Jesus sees my tears and comforts me.

All who despair, come to the Healer.

Jesus is my hope, my helper in the midst of trouble.

All who are sick, come to the Healer.

Jesus makes whole what is broken and heals my infirmities.

Jesus is the Great Physician, my Friend in time of need.

Come, let us worship Jesus our Healer and Sibling!

* **OPENING HYMN** *Come, Christians, Join to Sing* (vs. 1 & 2) #90

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

Change our hearts, O God. Let us live lives that emulate our Savior so the world may see you and come to know you. May we live only to make your name great. Be with us in our worship and it be pleasing to you. Amen.

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

VBS PRESENTATION *Jesus Makes a Difference*
Jesus Teaches Me

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (children please come forward)

Jesus Loves Me

MEMORIAL MOMENT Carol Graham

OFFERING INVITATION**

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

* **DOXOLOGY** #46

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (unison)

Generous God, you have withheld no good gift from us, graciously pouring out your love, mercy, faithfulness, joy and peace. Thank you for giving us all that truly matters. In humble gratitude we offer back the fruits of our labor, but more importantly, we offer you our hearts. For the sake of Christ we pray. 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 71:1-6

New Testament: Luke 13:10-17

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

MESSAGE *Boom! Mic Drop!*

* **CLOSING HYMN** *Creating God, Creating Still* #62

* **BLESSING** (responsively)

This is our calling, our vocation as Christ's disciples. But we do not do it alone. God is our strength. Christ is our life. The Spirit is our power.

We go onward to live and love in the name of the Triune God. Amen.

* **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** *God Be With You* (v.1-no chorus) #434

* **POSTLUDE**

Announcements

Introducing Faith Ventures! This fall begins some new changes in our Sunday morning Children's Ministry. Following the Children's Moment, those in **Kindergarten through 6th Grade only** are invited to participate in Faith Ventures, our reimagined Sunday School. Preschoolers are welcome in the church nursery or to quietly play in the pray ground in the back of the sanctuary. **Middle and High Schoolers** will receive their faith lessons with Will during Youth Fellowship on Sunday evenings.

Fall Kickoff Breakfast will be held on Sunday, September 7th at 9:30 a.m. as the fall Children and Youth Ministries begin their program year. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

Messy Church Returns on September 3rd from 5:30-7:00 pm featuring the theme of *Bee-Attitudes*. Our Scripture will be the *Beatitudes* from Matthew 5:1-12 and we will have lots of "Bee" related games, crafts and activities. Dinner will be mini corn dogs, mac & cheese and veggies. Plan now to participate and join us for a great evening of Food, Fun and Fellowship. Invite your friends!

VBS "Inside Out & Upside Down on Main Street" celebrates its final day today. Many thanks to all of our children and youth for their participation.

We are also **immensely grateful** to the following people:

Our youth - who assisted with the children, participated in service projects and acted out the parables.

Betsy Marchino - assisted with elementary crafts.

Brenda Cummings - provided meaningful snacks every Sunday and loaned her garden bench for our decorations.

Jerri Johanningsmeier - created the decorations and set them up in the sanctuary.

Pastor Debbie - assisted by reading the Parables during worship service.

Will Meyer - provided the games and fun interaction for all ages.

Sarah Lowe - assisted with the elementary children throughout each Sunday.

Jill Lopez - coordinated the event.

And all who contributed to our VBS mission, The Knox County Humane Society!



Friends on Stage Live Performance, Monday, September 15th, doors open at 5:50 for a performance at 6:00 PM. Rock and Roll Forever, Lincoln High School Ader Auditorium. Free will donations will be appreciated.

Prayers and Posts

We ask for continuing prayer requests for: Bruce Deckard, Gary Meyer, Don Osborne, Jr., The Family of Laura Sanders, The Family of Carol Graham, Mark Schutter, Kelvin Strange, Wayne Baker, Lynne Simmons, Katrina Memering, Jasmine Zeller, The Family of Sam (Dick) Goodman, and Ted Lowe.

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 Bearmon - The Villages at Oak Ridge, Room 303, 1694 Troy Road, Washington, IN 47501

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.**

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.

The Blessings Box needs donations. Suggestions are: cereal, peanut butter, jelly, Velveeta mac & cheese (doesn't require milk or butter), canned pastas, soups, crackers. Cans with pop top lids are best.

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.

This Week in the Life of St. John's

Sunday, August 24th

Adult SS Classes 9:15 am
Vacation Bible School 9:15 am
Worship 10:30 am
VBS Presentation During Worship
Fellowship

Wednesday, August 27th

Laundry Love 6-8 pm
Choir Practice 7 pm

Monday, August 25th

BABE Store 12 - 5:30 pm
Friends 5 - 6:30pm @ Ader Auditorium

Thursday, August 28th

Dinner & Conversation - Kelso's 6 pm

Looking Ahead In August/September

Sunday, August 31st

Adult SS Classes 9:15 am
Youth Camp Presentation During Worship
Worship 10:30 am
Pastor Debbie Gone

Wednesday, September 3rd

Choir Practice 7 pm

Friday, September 5th

Phoebe's Mission 4:30 - 6 pm

Sunday, September 7th

Adult FF Class 9:30 am
Worship 10:30 am
Bible Ventures (K - grade 6) During Worship
Communion



Monday, September 1st

Labor Day Holiday Church Office Is Closed
BABE Store Closed Due To Holiday

Thursday, September 4th

Dinner & Conversation - American Table 6pm

Monday, September 8th

BABE Store 12 - 5:30 pm
Friends 5-6:30 pm @Ader Auditorium



Staff and Volunteers

Pastor:	Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins
Liturgist:	John Riggs
Head Usher:	Mark Schutz
Organist:	DeEtta Welte
Music Director, Pianist:	Becky Brockman
Children & Family Ministry Coordinator:	Will Meyer
Nursery Attendant:	Darcie Bahr
Projection:	Jill Doggett
Sound:	Brian Fillingim
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.

