

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 3, 2025

Luke 12:13-21

Soul Investment

There was a field I always enjoyed driving by. In the summer it was filled with wildflowers dancing in the wind. Come autumn the flowers would wither but the tall grass danced on, inviting leaves as its dance partner, both moving with the changing wind.

I drove by the field the other day and discovered it had been trampled by a sea of concrete storage units. My heart broke. How did we come to live in a world where such buildings are needed?

Sadly, more beautiful fields are in danger of extinction as the self-storage market in the United States is projected to reach \$44 billion in 2033. And just last year, storage space consumed an estimated 2,099,000,000 of square feet.

Jesus once told a story about the dangers of accumulating material possessions. He warned how “stuff” can easily become gods, demanding more of our time, energy and money in acquiring and caring for them.

He then spoke about a rich fool in need of more storage for his worldly goods. So, the rich fool tore down his existing barns and built bigger ones, all along feeling a sense of worth and security. What he didn't realize was that security was fleeting as death would come like a thief in the night. What good then would the bigger barns be?

The other day I passed an old farmhouse with a huge dumpster on the front lawn — this has become today's obit in my rural community, alerting neighbors that an elderly resident has died. Relatives would soon be tossing treasures into it like worthless trash.

I often wonder what would happen to my things. News reports have been telling me for years now that the younger generation doesn't want our “antiques.” This has fueled a trend, which emerged from Sweden, known a “death cleaning” — where the living control what goes into the foreboding dumpster.

While it might sound a bit morbid, the act of purging while still alive can be a spiritual act, leading us to decide, while we have time, what we really need to hold on to.

I am by no means rich, but still a bit foolish. But then I see a dumpster in front of a home and reality hits hard: We really can't take our stuff with us.

My prayer is for the day to come when bigger barns are no longer built so that the real treasures in life, the wildflowers in the field, can dance again. Will you join me in this prayer?

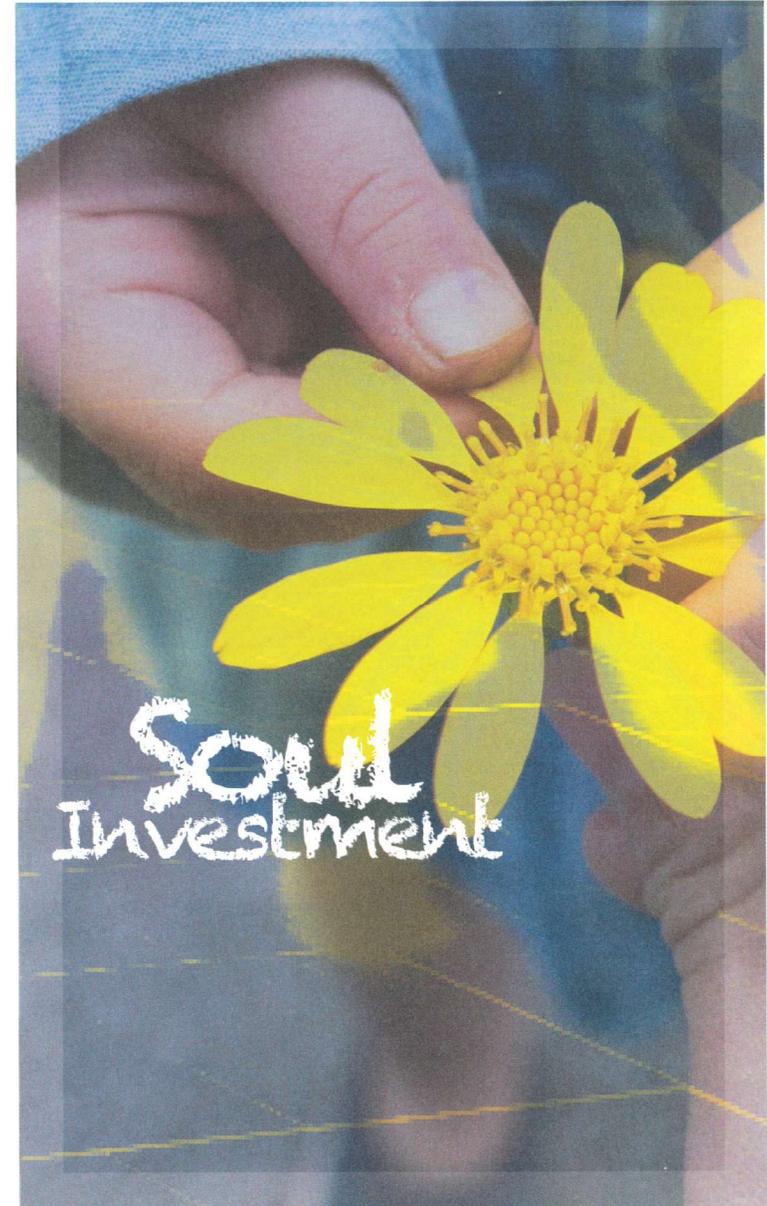
(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's Sunday Bulletin.)



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

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BUL0410





St. John's United Church of Christ
**Eighth Sunday after
 Pentecost**
 August 3, 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)

Our God will supply every need of ours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

To our God be glory forever and ever.

Come, let us bring God our needs this day,

To our God be glory forever and ever.

* **OPENING HYMN** *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending* #606

* **WE CONFESS OUR SIN** (unison)

O God, we desire to make our hearts right before you. We are sinful, and so we confess our sins. We confess our selfishness, our greed, our deceit, our pride. Bring to light anything else that we may be hiding from you. Thank you for the unending promise of your grace and forgiveness. Thank you for taking our sin and washing it clean by your work on the cross. Give us hearts that desire to turn from sin and live like you. We are so grateful for your mercy. 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 abundance, thank you for the privilege we have of giving. Take our gifts of time, talents and money and use them for your purpose. 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 107:1-9, 43

New Testament: Luke 12:13-21

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

MESSAGE

The Greater Fool

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** *Take My Life* (vs. 1 & 5) #609

* **BLESSING** (responsively)

As we go forth to serve, may you be generous and serve God as God deserves;

Let us give and not count the cost; Let us fight and not heed the wounds;

Let us toil and not seek for reward save that of knowing that we do God's will. Amen.

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

* **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.

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 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.

Our **Vacation Bible School offering** this year will go to The Knox County Humane Society, which is literally located on Main Street (just like our VBS)! In the rear of the sanctuary you will find a "parking meter". Please contribute your loose change, (bills are accepted, of course) each week of VBS and let's watch our giving grow to support this worthwhile cause.

Thank you!



Prayers and Posts

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

WE OFFER OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS to the family of CAROL GRAHAM who entered eternal life on July 29th. A service will be held on August 16th with more details to come.

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



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.**

This Week in the Life of St. John's

Sunday, August 3rd

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

Monday, August 4th

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

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

Thursday, August 7th

Dinner & Conversation - Luigi's 6 pm

Looking Ahead In August

Sunday, August 10th

Adult SS Classes 9:15 am
Vacation Bible School 9:15 am
Worship 10:30 am

Wednesday, August 13th

Christian Education Mtg. 6 pm

Sunday, August 17th

Adult SS Classes 9:15 am
Vacation Bible School 9:15 am
Worship 10:30 am

Wednesday, August 20th

September Newsletter Items Due

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 6 pm

Monday, August 18th

BABE Store 12 - 5:30 pm
Friends 5 - 6:15 pm
Music & Worship Mtg. 6 pm
Church Board 7 pm

Thursday, August 21st

Dinner & Conversation - Dragon 2000 6 pm



Staff and Volunteers

Pastor:	Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins
Liturgist:	Conway Wilson
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.