

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

September 21, 2025

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Prayerful Living

I recently discovered there's a monastery just over the mountain from my home in Vermont. Founded in 1960 by a Carthusian monk, the monastery prides itself on being very private. Throughout the years, only once was a newspaper reporter invited inside its holy of holies.

Perhaps this guarded solitude is what helps the monks true to their motto, "the cross is steady while the world keeps turning."

While closed to the public, the monastery does have a website. You can imagine my husband's reaction when he found me reading the "how to join us" page. Lucky for him, I did not have any of the qualifications. That hasn't stopped me, though, from desiring a cloistered life.

The world just seems so volatile these days. It doesn't take much for my faith to waver, and many times I feel my cross is unsteady in this turning and churning world. I need more quiet moments amid the chaos. I need a stronger prayer life.

What I need the most, however, is to find a way to live a monastic life while still being plugged into the world. Is that even possible?

According to author, Kathleen Norris, it is.

Norris wrote at length about the power of capturing "monk moments" as you go about your day. She explains that it isn't necessary to turn your back on the world to have deep communion with God. Monk moments are those moments of grace, epiphanies, and peace that are happening all the time. We just need to be open to them.

In fact, I am having a monk moment right now as I write this reflection in a crowded airport en route to preach for a friend in Miami.

At first glance, this setting is anything but conducive to writing. The air is thick with the stress of many flight delays. The chatter is loud as people call loved ones with new estimated arrival times and gate changes blare over airport speakers.

And yet, this is my holy ground. There is nothing that is stopping me from talking to God. I can pray. Right here, right now. I can pray for the family that just walked right by me. I can pray for the woman sitting across from me worrying about her flight connection. I can pray for the loved ones I hold in my heart as well as the strangers filling the seats here at the airline gate.

After all, being a praying people is what God desires from us. And as the Apostle Paul reminds his young disciple, Timothy, our thanksgivings to God should be made for all people in all places. I don't need to run away to a monastery to pray. I can — and am — having a monk moment right now. What about you?

All-knowing and ever-listening God, fill our days with beautiful monk moments — moments where amid the noise and chaos of the world, we find peace and solace in your presence. 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

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

BUL0103





St. John's United Church of Christ
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
 September 21, 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)

Like empty jars, we have come to be filled.

Like ornamental candles, we have come to be set ablaze.

Like aged wine in a cask, we have come to be poured out.

Like weary travelers, we have come to find rest.

Like lovers drifted apart, we have come to be reconciled.

Like little children, we have come to be surprised.

Hear the Word of God and make your reply: "My heart has heard you say,
 Come and talk with me, O my people!"

And my heart responds, "God, I am coming."

***OPENING HYMN** *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* (vs. 1-2) #66

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

O God, we acknowledge your presence among us. We know that you understand the language of our hearts and the accents of our souls. Hear our cry, attend to our needs and accept our worship of you who alone is worthy of praise. Amen.

***RESPONSE** *Seek Ye First* (v. 1) #354

ANTHEM *The Prayer* Sagur/Foster

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.

***RESPONSE** *Accept. O God, the Gifts We Bring* #379

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (unison)

Source of life, may the works of our hands bring you honor. May the life we live reflect the risen Word of life. May the service we offer be inspired by the Breath of life. Amen.

WE GATHER IN PRAYER

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

Congregational Response: *Seek Ye First* (v. 2) #354

SCRIPTURE:

Old Testament: Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

New Testament: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

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

MESSAGE *To Heal the Sin-Sick Soul*

***CLOSING HYMN** *There is a Balm in Gilead* #501

***BLESSING** (responsively)

My friends, you have been given new life by the healing love of God. **Therefore, we go forth from this place to offer the calming presence of the love of Christ to each person we meet in the week ahead. Amen.**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* (v. 1) #433

***POSTLUDE**

**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.

Announcements

Messy Church on October 1st from 5:30-7:00 pm features the theme of *Prayer*. Our Scripture will be Romans 12:12 and we will have lots of prayer related games, crafts and activities. Dinner will be sloppy Joes, chips & raw veggies. Plan now to participate and join us for a great evening of Food, Fun and Fellowship. Invite your friends!

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.

Church Picnic will take place on September 28th under the pavilion at Gregg Park at 10:30 am. The Church Board will be providing pulled pork (by Brayton Cummins) and everyone is asked to bring a side dish to serve 10-12 people.

Family Movie Night: On September 21st at 5:00 pm we will gather to watch *Leap of Faith* (rated PG-13) starring Steve Martin, Liam Neeson, Debra Winger, Phillip Seymour Hoffman and Meat-loaf. Synopsis: *Fake faith healer Jonas Nightingale is stranded in a small town where he finds he can't fool all of the people all of the time.* Everyone is invited.

Conference Youth Retreat for Grades 6-12 will take place on on November 14-16, beginning at 7 pm Friday and ending at 11 am Sunday morning at Camp Cedar Ridge in Louisville, KY. The church will pay the \$125 fee for any young person from our church family who wishes to attend. You may register online at by going to the IKC website weekly newsletter, *Roots and Shoots* at ikc@ikcucc.org. The church will send one check to cover everyone attending. Contact Will or Pastor Debbie for more details.

World Communion will be celebrated on October 5th during worship. We will also collect our *Neighbors in Need* Offering.

Prayers and Posts

We ask for continuing prayer requests for: Bruce Deckard, Gary Meyer, Don Osborne, Jr., The Family of Laura Sanders, Mark Schutter, Kelvin Strange, Lynne Simmons, Katrina Memering, Jasmine Zeller, The Family of Sam (Dick) Goodman, Ted Lowe, Cindy Utley, Jessica Conner, and Vern Houchins.



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

Vern Houchins



**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, September 21st

Movie Night 5 pm
Adult FF Class 9:30 am
Worship 10:30 am
Faith Ventures (K - grade 6) During Worship

Tuesday, September 23rd

Vision Session with Supper 5:30 - 7 pm

Thursday, September 25th

Dinner & Conversation - Coco's @ 6 pm

Monday, September 22nd

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

Wednesday, September 24th

Choir Practice 7 pm
Laundry Love 6-8 pm

Looking Ahead In September/October

Sunday, September 28th

Church Picnic @ Gregg Park
Worship 10:30 am

Tuesday, September 30th

Vision Session with Supper 5:30 - 7 pm

Thursday, October 2nd

Dinner & Conversation - Kelso's @ 6 pm

Monday, September 229th

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

Wednesday, October 1st

Choir Practice 7 pm
Messy Church 5:30 - 7 pm

Friday, October 3rd

Phoebe's Mission 4:30 - 6 pm



Staff and Volunteers

Pastor:	Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins
Liturgist:	Elaine Workman
Head Usher:	Krisi Mattingly
Organist:	DeEtta Welte
Music Director, Pianist:	Becky Brockman
Children & Family Ministry Coordinator:	Will Meyer
Nursery Attendant:	Darcie Bahr
Projection:	Sandra Lange
Sound:	Jonathon 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.