

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

October 19, 2025

Luke 18:1-8

Ask Boldly; Live Justly

Robert Frost once said that the “best way out is always through.” Vermont’s poet laureate was, of course, talking about tackling a problem head on with great persistence.

Persistence can be a good thing for the one who persists. It can also be annoying to the person on the receiving end of the incessant pleas. Just ask any parent with a yet-to-be housebroken puppy on their hands all because it was easier to give in to their child’s requests for the bundle of fur.

In the case of puppies, persistence can be seen as a negative trait. But in the case of God, persistence is a beautiful virtue. One that we all need to embrace, especially in our prayer lives.

That is exactly what Jesus tells his friends here in Luke’s Gospel. Jesus wants them to understand the amazing power there is in bringing all their cares and worries to God in prayer. “Don’t lose heart. Keep on praying,” he says.

Jesus then gives them an example of what persistence in God’s kingdom looks like. There was a widow, he tells them, who was seeking justice. The judge, though, wouldn’t give it to her. She didn’t give up. Rather, she went to the judge daily with her request for justice. It finally got to the point where the judge would cringe when he heard who was at his door wanting to see him — yet again! Not wanting the widow to wear him out, the judge finally grants her the justice she sought.

Persistence paid off for the widow, and it can pay off for us in our prayer lives as well. But know this: Unlike the judge who finally gives in to the widow, God “gives in” to us not because we wore God out. God “gives in” out of great love for us. God only wants the best for us and will answer our prayer according to God’s will.

When I was young, I fell in love with a Barbi wedding dress that I saw on the shelf in the toy store. My mom said it was too expensive. I kept asking for it though. My persistence didn’t pay off. Rather than getting the flimsy, mass manufactured Barbi dress, my mother gave me a piece of cream satin fabric, scissors, sewing needles and thread. She told me to create my own Barbi wedding dress. I did. And not only was it prettier than I could ever had imagined it to be, but my mom, in her wisdom, ignited my passion for fashion design.

Jesus was right. We must never lose hope. We must always be persistent, for we just don’t know where our God answered prayers will lead.

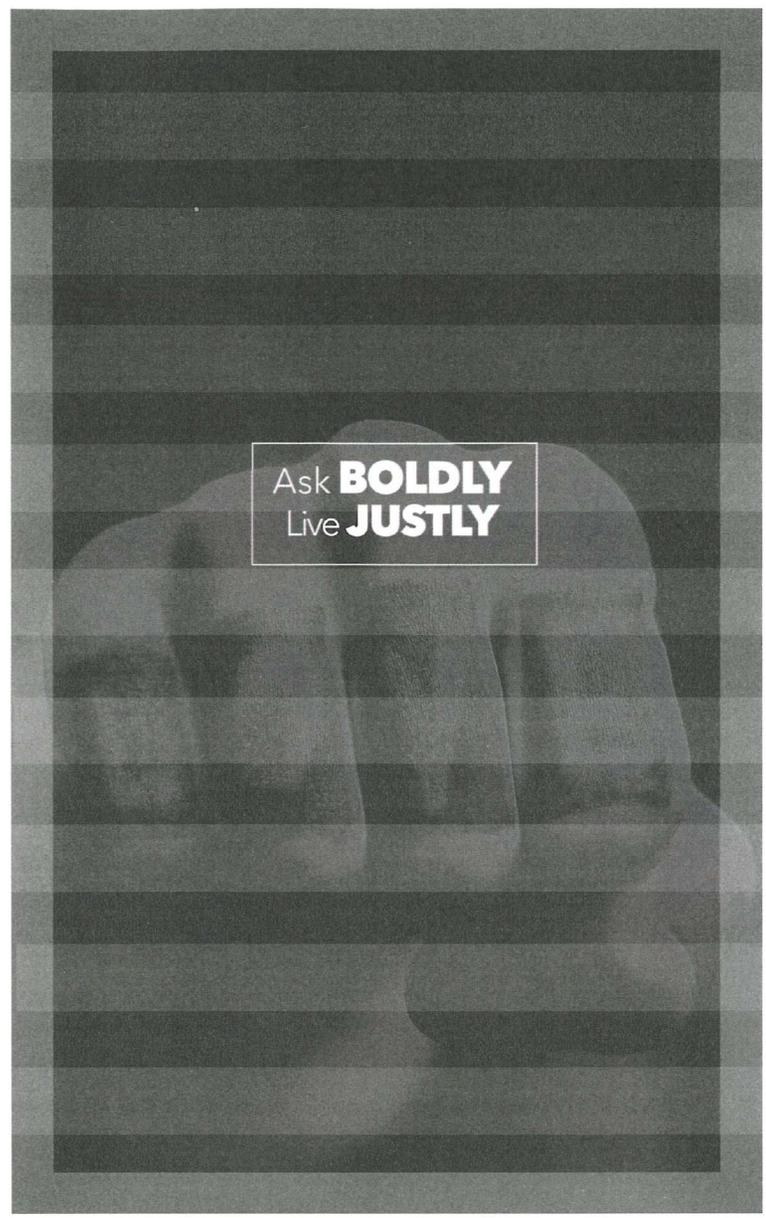
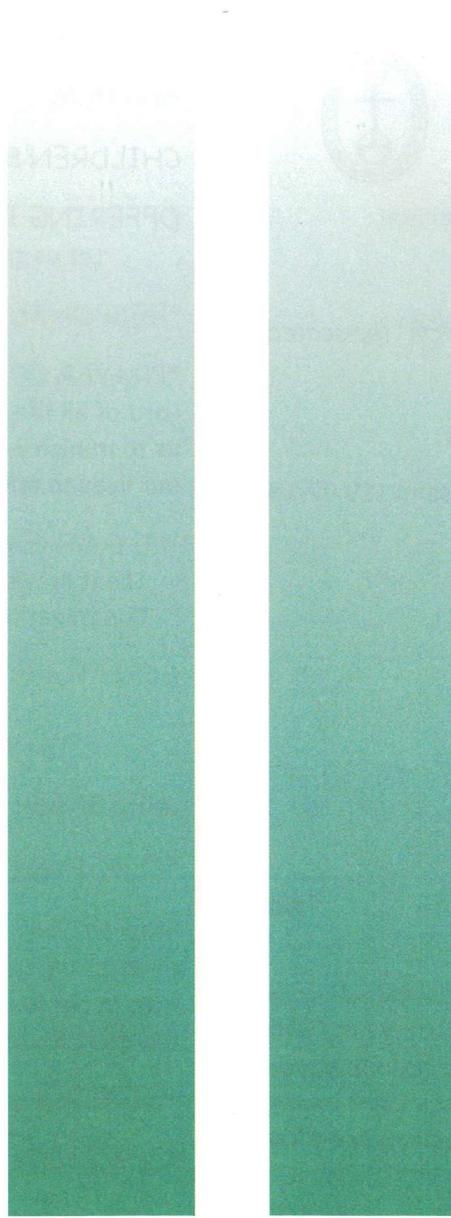
God, we thank you that your door is always opened to us. There is never a time when you will not listen to our pleas and problems. May we become persistent prayer warriors who never lose heart and never give up, for we know you answer us in your time and in your loving way. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

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



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St. John's United Church of Christ
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 19, 2025



**Please stand if it is comfortable to do so. Bold print is everyone in unison*

Harvest Homecoming

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, GREET ONE ANOTHER *(be seated)*

PRELUDE

CHURCH BELL *(the bell invites us to worship)*

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP *(responsively)* Based on Psalm 119:97-104

Oh, how I love your Scripture, Lord.

I rejoice in all that you have revealed.

I ponder your Word all day long.

It makes me wise and never becomes obsolete.

Your law guides my steps and keeps me from evil.

I stay on the path you laid out, avoiding any detours.

Your directions never lead me astray.

With your instruction, I understand the true meaning of life.

I hate false propaganda and deceit.

But your Word, O Lord -- your Word I love!

***OPENING HYMN** *O Word of God Incarnate (vs. 1 & 2)* #322

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

Your Word, O God, is living and active, a powerful means by which you speak to us. Give us ears to hear what you are saying, rather than hearing only what we want to hear. Give us courage to measure our attitudes and actions by your truth and the desire to align our lives by your call to discipleship. Light us with your Spirit and set our hearts ablaze with the yearning to know you and love you ever more deeply. Be with us as we worship. Amen.

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

ANTHEM

A Round of Thanks

Moore

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *(children please come forward)* *Jesus Loves Me*

OFFERING INVITATION**

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

***RESPONSE** *Now Thank We All Our God (v.1)* #715

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** *(unison)*

Lord of all life, you have brought your word to us today, and you have called us to ministry and service. We ask now that you would dedicate our gifts and our lives to faithful actions through the church of Jesus Christ. 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: Psalm 119:97-104
 New Testament: 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
 The Word of God for the People of God **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE *From Mubble-Fubbles to Crinkum-Crankum*

***CLOSING HYMN** *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* #66

***BLESSING** *(responsively)*

God has fed us with the stories of Scripture. God has fed us with the fellowship here in our worship. God has fed us with the presence of the Holy Spirit.

We go forth to serve and live in God's world. Amen.

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

***POSTLUDE**

Announcements

October is Pastor Appreciation Month!

Let's show our love and gratitude to Debbie for all she does. One of her bucket list dreams is a trip to Scotland — and we'd love to help make that dream come true. If you feel led, please consider donating toward this special gift. The office secretary, Kim, can take the donation for you.

** You may place your offerings in the designated basket or online at myucc.org and clicking on the *contribution* button. Please prayerfully consider setting up regular online donations to con-

SIGN THE LIST IN THE BACK OF SANCTUARY to make reservations for Dinner & Conversation on Thursday at 6:00pm. This week we are at Ponderosa.

NEXT SUNDAY is the CONFERENCE COVENANT TOUR with the Rev. Dr. Monica Ouehlette in the pulpit. A pulled pork dinner will follow in the Memorial Hall. Everyone is invited. It is also **REFORMATION SUNDAY** so be sure and wear **RED**.

BLESSING OF THE COSTUMES will take place during the Children's Moment on October 26th and all children are asked to wear their Halloween costumes to worship. (You won't want to miss Scarlett's big reveal).

MESSY CHURCH on November 5th from 5:30-7:00 pm features the theme of *Gratitude: The Bounty of the Earth and with lots of thankful* related games, crafts and activities. Dinner will be baked pasta, salad and garlic bread. Plan now to participate and join us for a great evening of Food, Fun and Fellowship. Invite your friends!

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.

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, Cindy Utley, Jessica Conner, and Marilyn 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 and Marilyn 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, October 19

Adult FF Class 9:30am
Worship 10:30 am
Harvest Home
Canned Goods Collection
Youth Group 11:30-1pm
Movie Night –Clue 5pm

Wednesday, October 22

Choir Practice 7 pm
November Newsletter items Due in Office Today

Monday, October 20

Church Board 7pm
Friends 5:30-6:15 pm

Tuesday, October 21

Vision Session with Supper 5:30 - 7 pm
Girl Scouts 4:30-6pm

Thursday, October 23

Dinner & Conversation
Ponderosa 6pm

Looking Ahead In October

Sunday, October 26

Adult FF Class 9:30am
Worship 10:30 am
Conference Covenant
Tour 10:30am

Wednesday, October 29

Choir Practice 7 pm
Laundry Love 6-8pm

Monday, October 27

Friends 5:30-6:15 pm

Tuesday, October 28

Cadet Girl Scouts 4:30-6pm

Thursday, October 30

Dinner & Conversation
CoCo's 6pm



Staff and Volunteers

Pastor:	Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins
Secretary	Kim Butler
Liturgist:	Eric Meyer
Head Usher:	Sandra Lange
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.