

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER  
PENTECOST

November 9, 2025

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

Hold on to Faith

Have you ever fallen ill with FoMo? I haven't, but I do know friends who came down with a severe case of it and it wasn't pretty.

FoMo stands for "Fear Of Missing Out." The term entered our vocabularies sometime around 2004 just as social media was taking off. As more people scrolled the Internet incessantly, watching videos of other people's exotic trips, perfect family picnics, and swanky restaurant reviews, the sense of missing out on life grew.

While the ancient church in Thessalonica didn't have Facebook or Instagram, the people were still coming down with FoMo. Well, more like FoMo's earlier strain that we will call FoMJC — Fear of Missing Jesus Christ.

False prophets were coming out of the woodwork spreading rumors that the much-anticipated return of Jesus had already happened. Because of this fake news, the Apostle Paul had to write a letter to the dear people in the Thessalonica church to ease their angst of being left out of something amazing.

After assuring the congregation that the Lord had not yet come back, Paul advises them to stand firm in their faith and hold fast to the teachings of Christ that they were taught. He even chides them a little with his reprimand, "Don't you remember what I told you?"

I have a soft spot in my heart for the Thessalonians. I know how easy it is to believe fake news. One click bait headline is all it takes to get caught in a tangle web of misinformation. And anyone who has fallen down the soul-sucking black hole of social media knows that FoMo is highly contagious with those happy faces staring back at you, living the life you wish you had, infecting the sacredness of all God has indeed blessed you with.

Now more than ever, the faithful need to reread Paul's letter. We need to hold fast to our faith and remember all that we were taught about God's ways and God's truths.

There will always be false prophets. There will always be click bait headlines. There will always be that one friend who posts about a picture-perfect life. The world today will do its best to make you think you are missing out on something fun or important. But you aren't. For we who live in Christ are not missing anything at all. We who hold on to God's Word and choose to walk the Jesus way will get to see and experience the beauty and grace that are in this world.

Let the false prophets talk gibberish. Let social media influencers ramble on about their latest adventures. You my friend, have something better. You have your faith. Hold on to it. And remember, there is no FoMo with God by your side.

*God, our days are in your loving hands. There is no fear of missing out on what life has to offer for you are leading us. You orchestrate our comings and goings. We praise you that every day is a blessed one, filled with your beautiful God moments. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*

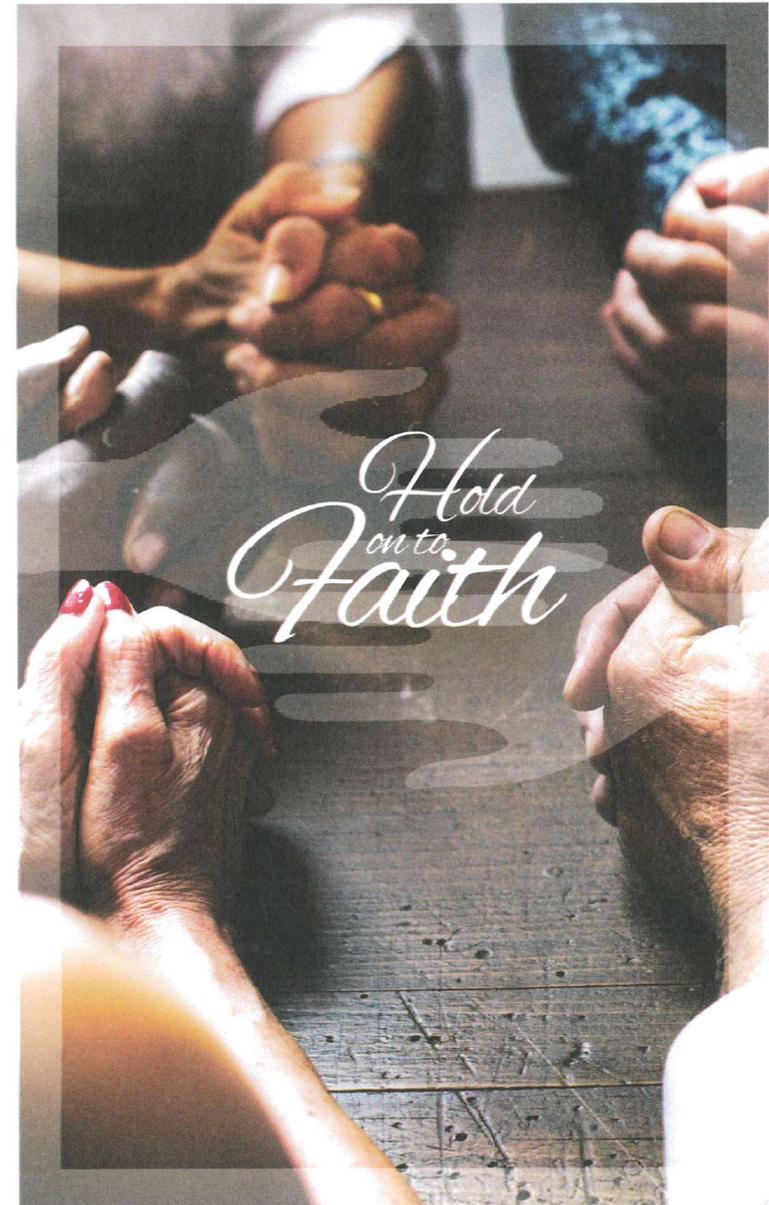
(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's Sunday Bulletin.)



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

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St. John's United Church of Christ  
 Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost  
 November 9, 2025



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

*Stewardship Sunday*

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

PRELUDE

CHURCH BELL (the bell invites us to worship)

**GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP** (responsively)

If we want to reap a lush green lawn, We must be generous with seeding.

**If we sparingly sow the seed, The lawn will be thin, prone to weeds and disease.**

We are lush lawn people, who understand that we reap what we sow.

**We gather in church, to sow the spirit of God,**

To reap the same we sow and more,

**For God's spirit multiplies with the planting,**

And grows more rich, and full, and beautiful,

**When we open our hearts, letting the love seeds go.**

\* **OPENING HYMN** *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* (vs. 1-3) #25

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

**Dear God of soil, seed and harvest, We are your richly planted, ripening people in various stages of faith. We pray that in this hour you will water our souls, brighten our minds, lengthen our roots, stretch our stems, and touch our hearts, that we might be strengthened with a generosity to sow your seeds as needed. Amen.**

\* **RESPONSE** *O For a World* (v.1) #683

**ANTHEM** *My Faith Still Holds* Gaither

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*Jesus Loves Me*

STEWARDSHIP DEDICATION

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

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

**Bless the time we give, that it may be purposeful. Bless the talent we bring, that it may have meaning. Bless the gifts we bear so that they are given in pure love. Thanks be to you, our Creator. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE:** Old Testament: 1 Samuel 1:4-10  
 New Testament: Luke 12:32-34

L: The Word of God for the People of God **P: Thanks be to God**

**MESSAGE** *Dreaming God's Dream*

\* **CLOSING HYMN** *We Give Thee but Thine Own* #382

\* **BLESSING** (responsively)

Let us go forth as workers together with God proclaiming the Good News, performing deeds of justice, mercy and kindness, giving evidence of Christ's love in all that we do.

**And may the grace of God be with us all. Amen.**

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

\* **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

\*\* 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 continue our outreach into the community.

**COMMUNION AT ST. JOHN'S UCC** is open to EVERYONE, no matter their age, church affiliation or non-affiliation, Confirmed or not. If you belong to Christ you are welcome at the table. It is God's table, not ours. No one should be denied God's grace through the sacrament.

**PASTOR DEBBIE** is on vacation this week in Las Vegas. She will return to the pulpit next Sunday.

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

### November Youth Dates

- 11/05 (Wednesday) 7pm-8pm **After Messy Church**
- 11/14 (Friday) 6pm-10pm **KFC & Youth "An Evening at Church"**
- 11/16 (Sunday) 4pm-5:30pm
- 11/23 (Sunday) 5pm-7:30pm **CFM Holiday Fundraiser Prep**
- 11/30 (Sunday) 11:30am-1pm **Lunch Provided**

### Recognition of our Servicemen

**Currently Active:** Mitchell Cooper US Navy  
Aaron Lange Army Battalion Commander

**Former Servicemen:** Steve Cooper US Air Force  
Marvin Covey Navy & Army National Guard  
Garry Hall US Marines  
John Jackson US Army  
Charles Klein US Marines  
Michael Lankford US Air Force  
Lonny Vieck US Army  
Ed Cummings Army National Guard  
Dasny Cooper US Navy  
Ray Pieper Peace Corps



**MOVIE NIGHT:** Join us on Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 for a light supper and the comedy, *The Money Pit*, starring Tom Hanks and Shelley Long. A couple buys their dream home only to discover it's a real "fixer-upper." Please sign up on the sheet in back of sanctuary so we can better plan for the meal.

**ACOLYTES:** Calling all interested young people in Grades 4-12 who would like to serve as acolytes for Sunday morning worship. Acolytes serve as "light bearers." They carry the light of Christ into the sanctuary during the Prelude and light the candles on the altar. At the close of the service, they carry the light of Christ out into the world during the Postlude. Pastor Debbie Jo will have a training for those interested in serving on Sunday morning, November 9th. At 9:30a.m.

**Who from St. John's UCC** will ring bells for the Salvation Army's annual campaign? Eight 1-hour shifts at Save A Lot (inside) begin at 11 a.m. and end at 7 p.m. on Monday, December 1st. Dress or accessorize festively or not, but wearing a smile is a must! Displaying Christmas camaraderie by having 2 persons or a family per shift would be ideal. To claim a shift, see Brenda Roark or call or text her at 812-890-1221

## Prayers and Posts

**We ask for continuing prayer requests for:** Gary Meyer, Don Osborne, Jr. and Conway Wilson. The Family of Mark Schutter, Kelvin Strange, Lynne Simmons, Katrina Memering, Jasmine Zeller, Cindy Utley, Jessica Conner, and Marilyn and Vern Houchins. Jo Tarrh, sister of Jill Lopez and Jerri Johanningsmeier, Mollie Joice, cousin of Darcie Bahr and prayers for Bobby Bahr.

### **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:**

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](mailto:terrybaseball@gmail.com)  
Text or phone call: 812-887-2797.**

## This Week in the Life of St. John's

### Sunday, November 9

Adult FF Class 9:30am  
Worship 10:30 am  
Stewardship Sunday  
Acolyte Training 9:30am

### Tuesday, November 11

Sandy's Pantry 11—12:30pm  
*Office Closed—Veteran's Day*

### Thursday, November 13

Sandy's Pantry 11-12:30pm  
Dinner & Conversation 6pm @ Monical's

### Monday, November 10

BABE Store 12-5:30pm  
Friends 5:30-6:15 pm  
Pastor on Vacation all week

### Wednesday, November 12

Christian Education 6pm  
Choir Practice 7pm

## Looking Ahead In November

### Sunday, November 16

Adult FF Class 9:30am  
Worship 10:30 am  
Youth Group 11:30–1pm  
Movie Night (The Money Pit) @ 5pm

### Tuesday, November 18

Girl Scouts 4:30-6pm  
Preschool Meeting 6pm

### Thursday, November 20

Dinner & Conversation 6pm @ Café Moonlight

### Monday, November 17

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

### Wednesday, November 19

Choir Practice 7pm  
December Newsletter Due in Office Today



## Staff and Volunteers

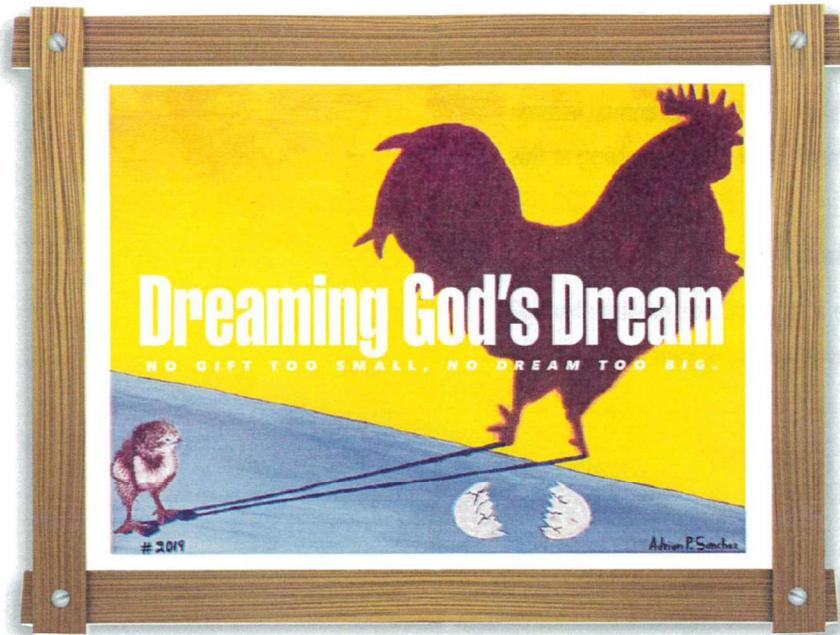
<b>Pastor:</b>	Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins
<b>Secretary</b>	Kim Butler
<b>Liturgist:</b>	John Riggs
<b>Head Usher:</b>	Sandra Lange
<b>Organist:</b>	DeEtta Welte
<b>Music Director, Pianist:</b>	Becky Brockman
<b>Children &amp; Family Ministry Coordinator:</b>	Will Meyer
<b>Nursery Attendant:</b>	Darcie Bahr
<b>Projection:</b>	Jana Vieck
<b>Sound:</b>	Lonny Vieck
<b>Church Board President:</b>	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.



## Deciding on a Financial Commitment

**W**hile there are many ways to support the congregation, our annual campaign provides a chance to think in a particular and prayerful way about the choices we make with our money in support of the church.

Your financial gifts make possible all the programs, projects, ministry and worship experiences that define our community life.

Deciding how much of our income to donate to charitable organizations can be difficult. Our faith tradition lifts up the model of a tithe, a gift of 10% of one's income to charity. There are a variety of ways to think about a tithe. Some view a tithe as 10% of one's income given to the church. Gifts given over and above that 10% are offerings to other meaningful organizations. Others think of a tithe as giving 5% of income to the work of our congregation and 5% to the work of other charities.

We see tithing as the goal in our practice of abundant generosity.

Some in our community already tithe, providing 5% or more of their annual income to our congregation. We are grateful for the leadership and example giving at this level sets.

Many more of us are on the journey towards abundant generosity.

As you think about your resources, could you take a step towards greater sharing? That might look like giving half-a-percent or one percent more of your income in the coming year.

### CONSIDER YOUR PLEDGE AS A PERCENT OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.

Annual Income	Monthly Income	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
20,000	1,667	33	50	67	83	167
25,000	2,083	42	63	83	104	208
30,000	2,500	50	75	100	125	250
35,000	2,917	58	88	117	146	292
40,000	3,333	67	100	133	167	333
45,000	3,750	75	113	150	188	375
50,000	4,167	83	125	167	208	417
60,000	5,000	100	150	200	250	500
75,000	6,250	125	188	250	313	625
100,000	8,333	167	250	333	417	833
125,000	10,417	208	313	417	521	1042
150,000	12,500	250	375	500	625	1250
200,000	16,667	333	500	667	833	1667

On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity. Giving even 1% more of annual income to charity would be transformative for our congregation and other organizations doing good in our community.



## Stewardship Sunday–Dedication Litany

God gave us starry nights and sunsets that take our breath away.

**God gave us summer rainstorms and the crunch of fall leaves.**

God gave us the sound of music—choirs singing in harmony, the swell of the violin, the satisfying ripple of the snare.

**God gave us blueberry pancakes, Vermont maple syrup, and coffee—that holy bean water that wakes our bones.**

God gave us feather down blankets, fall scented candles, and sacred worn-down slippers that slide onto weary feet.

**God gave us grandmothers that slip candy into our hands and grandfathers that smell like peppermint and books.**

God gave us toddlers that bounce up and down to music and smash food into their open mouths like baby birds- with palms flat.

**God gave us new years of life, marked by embarrassing renditions of “happy birthday” in restaurants and the extinguishing of a candle on a glorified pastry.**

God gave us nurses and doctors, who cover shots with colorful band aids and keep lollipops in their scrub pockets.

**God gave us welcome mats and nametags and all manner of things that help us feel at home in a place.**

God gave us cats that curl up next to us to lend their warmth and dogs that run and slide to the front door to welcome us home.

**God gave us old familiar blue jeans that feel like home, and sweaters pulled over hands that feel like security.**

God gave us church—this imperfect clump of humanity that gathers week after week, striving to be better, striving to do good in the world.

God gave and gave, and gives and gives; and how do we respond?

**We say thank you.**

**We give what we can.**

**We let it feel like a joy, not an obligation.**

**We let it feel like a gift, not a burden.**

**We show up in this space.**

**We believe these gifts can somehow make a difference,  
and we refuse to give up on this world.**

**Thank goodness for a God that forever outgives.**

**Thank goodness for the opportunity to say thank you for it all.**

**Amen.**