

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER  
PENTECOST

November 2, 2025

Luke 19:1-10

Transforming Love

There's a church school song sung throughout the generations teaching children about Zacchaeus, "a wee little man" who wanted to see Jesus amid the crowds towering over him that he climbed a tree to catch a glimpse.

As the song goes, while in the tree, Jesus spots the tax collector and shouts, "Zacchaeus, you come down. For I'm going to your house today."

And Jesus did just that. He dined with Zacchaeus. It was a transformative meal because Zacchaeus, honored to host such a great guest, opened his heart — and coin bag — and vowed to share his wealth with others.

While Jesus was pleased, others were not.

We have all been where Zacchaeus was. No, not precariously straddling tree limbs to see Jesus. We have been in the place where others might not think we deserve redemption, forgiveness, or even that holy second chance.

Why is it that we often begrudge others of God's grace?

While I can't think of who might not have been happy with my second chances in life, I can vividly remember the times I have been in the crowd wondering why the Lord noticed someone like Zacchaeus.

Did my eyes roll with the others? Did I join in the disparaging whispers? I should have been rejoicing that if Zacchaeus could change, so could I. For the Lord sees me — and you.

That day, Jesus saw into the heart of Zacchaeus when others couldn't. He knew this "wee little man" wanted to grow spiritually, as witnessed in the tree he scurried into — a sycamore.

In Israel, the sycamore tree symbolizes spiritual elevation. It represents the willingness to change. Zacchaeus was willing to change that day.

What about us? How badly do we want to see the Lord? Would we be willing to climb the branches of change, hoist ourselves up on the limbs of spiritual elevation, and feel the bark of renewal?

The good news is we don't have to find a tree to climb. Jesus has already spotted us, and he knows the goodness that is in our hearts.

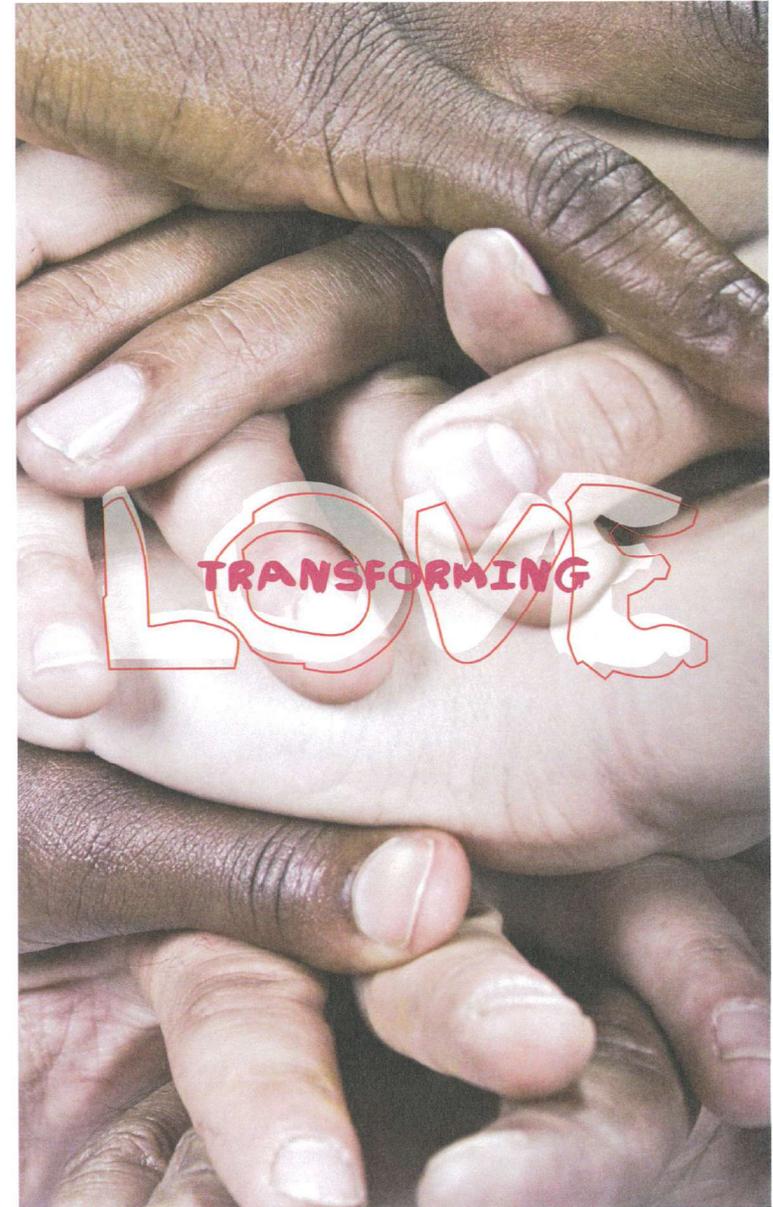
*God of grace and mercy, how reassuring it is to know that we are never lost in the crowd. You see our hearts and know our struggles. You never withhold your healing love. And for that, we thank you. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*

(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  
 Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost  
 November 2, 2025  
*Totenfest/Memorial Sunday*



\* 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)

We come as a people of faith, thankful for all who have gone before us.

**We stand in awe of so many who have served faithfully and shared and lived the good news.**

May their example and their courage be a guide and model for our living.

**Let us remember and join in holy fellowship as we sing our praise.**

\* **OPENING HYMN** *For All the Saints* (vs. 1-3) #637

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

**Eternal God, Forgive us for not following the example of so many worthy saints who have gone before us. We tend to put them high on a shelf and forget to follow their lead. Forgive us our complacency, our lack of obedience to your call, and thus assure us of our forgiveness in Christ. Amen.**

**\*GOD FORGIVES US** (responsively)

The good news is for us all this day. Christ loves us and calls us forth to new life. No matter the past and no matter what we have done or not done, God's love nourishes us with new life and hope.

**This is the good news, in Christ we are forgiven.**

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

**ANTHEM** *Welcome Home* Althouse

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

*Jesus Loves Me*

**STEWARDSHIP MOMENT**

Allison Cummins

**OFFERING INVITATION\*\***

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

\* **RESPONSE** *The Doxology* #46

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

**Generous God, thank you for the gifts you bestow upon us daily. Bless what we bring before you to bless others, we pray. Amen.**

**IN MEMORIAM**

Gayle Lynn Huffer	December 6, 1955	July 4, 2025
Carol Graham	March 14, 1938	July 29, 2025
Bruce A. Deckard	July 25, 1954	October 13, 2025

**SCRIPTURE:** Old Testament: Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

New Testament: Luke 19:1-10

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

**MESSAGE** *God's Halftime Speech*

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

\* **CLOSING HYMN** *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*

\* **BLESSING** (responsively)

Let us take heart and labor diligently for the reign of God. May the grace of God complete every good work through the power of faith, that we might praise God with our lips and glorify Christ with our lives.

**Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with the saints and all the departed faithful, lives and reigns now and forevermore. Amen.**

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

\* **POSTLUDE**

## 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.

**DREAMING GOD'S DREAM: No Gift Too Small, No Dream Too Big** is the theme of this year's Stewardship campaign. For the next few weeks, we will be sharing our dreams for our congregation as we approach our Stewardship Sunday on November 9<sup>th</sup>. During our recent Visioning gatherings, we have heard a lot of the dreams church members have for our congregation. Let's work together to make those

**Evangelism and Membership Committee** will meet on Monday, November 3rd. @ 4pm.

**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**

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

**MOVIE NIGHT:** Join us on Sunday, November 16th at 5:00pm 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 the back of sanctuary so we can better

**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.

## Prayers and Posts

**We ask for continuing prayer requests for:** Gary Meyer, Don Osborne, Jr., Conway Wilson and Davissyn Brown, brother of Daxton Brown (preschooler). The Family of Mark Schutter, Kelvin Strange, Lynne Simmons, Katrina Memering, Jasmine Zeller, The Family of Cindy Utley, Jessica Conner, and Marilyn and Vern Houchins. Jo Tarrh, sister of Jill Lopez and Jerri Johanningsmeier.

**WE EXTEND OUR HEARTFELT CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS** to the family of Thomas William Crowley who entered eternal life on October 27, 2025. Visitation will be held at Frederick's Funeral Home from 10-12 on Monday, November 3rd with the service following led by Pastor Paul. A luncheon will take place afterwards in Memorial Hall.

### 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 2

Adult FF Class 9:30am  
Worship 10:30 am  
Totenfest/Memorial Sunday  
10:30 Communion

#### Wednesday, November 5

Choir Practice 7pm  
Messy Church/Advant Festival 5:30-7pm

#### Friday, November 7

Phoebe's Mission

#### Monday, November 3

Friends 5:30-6:15 pm  
Membership & Evangelism 6:30pm

#### Tuesday, November 4

Cadet Girl Scouts 4:30-6pm  
Election Day

#### Thursday, November 6

Dinner & Conversation  
@ 6pm – El Charro

### Looking Ahead In November

#### 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



### 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>	Sandra Lange
<b>Sound:</b>	Jonathan Lange
<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.

