

The Vision Beautiful

When we hear someone say how blessed they are or how blessed a friend is, we automatically think of how their lives are filled with answered prayers, abundant grace, and equally abundant provision. But when Jesus preached his Sermon on the Mount to the masses, he turned the idea of what a blessing is upside down.

I wonder what the reaction really was when all those who needed to hear an inspirational message from Jesus heard his take on a blessed life instead.

Blessed are you who are poor in spirit. Blessed are you who mourn. Blessed are you who are meek. Blessed are you who hunger. Blessed are you who have been reviled and persecuted. Blessed are you in all the muck of life — my addition, not Jesus'.

I woke up the other the day desperately needing to remember once again that a blessed life is not a charmed life. I needed to know that no matter what this world throws at me or what others might say about me or do to me, that I am blessed because I am a child of God.

In my moments where I feel no one hears me, Jesus is listening. Those days I feel invisible, Jesus sees me. Those days when I really feel as if I hate the world (please tell me I am not alone here), I know that Jesus isn't judging me. Rather, like any understanding friend, my Lord and my Savior, walks alongside me, softening the calluses forming on my heart by a world filled with chaos, anger and violence.

Days like these I need to stop everything and run into the arms of Jesus. I need to feel the safety and security of his redeeming love. I need to hear his beautiful voice reassure my blessedness. For the world will try its best to drag us down, but Jesus is there to always lift us up.

So blessed are you this day. You who hurts. You who has been betrayed. You who are tired. You who are doubting. You who has lost your way, your purpose, you're your faith.

Blessed are you. Period. No questions asked. Why? Because you are a beautiful child of God — seen, heard and loved.

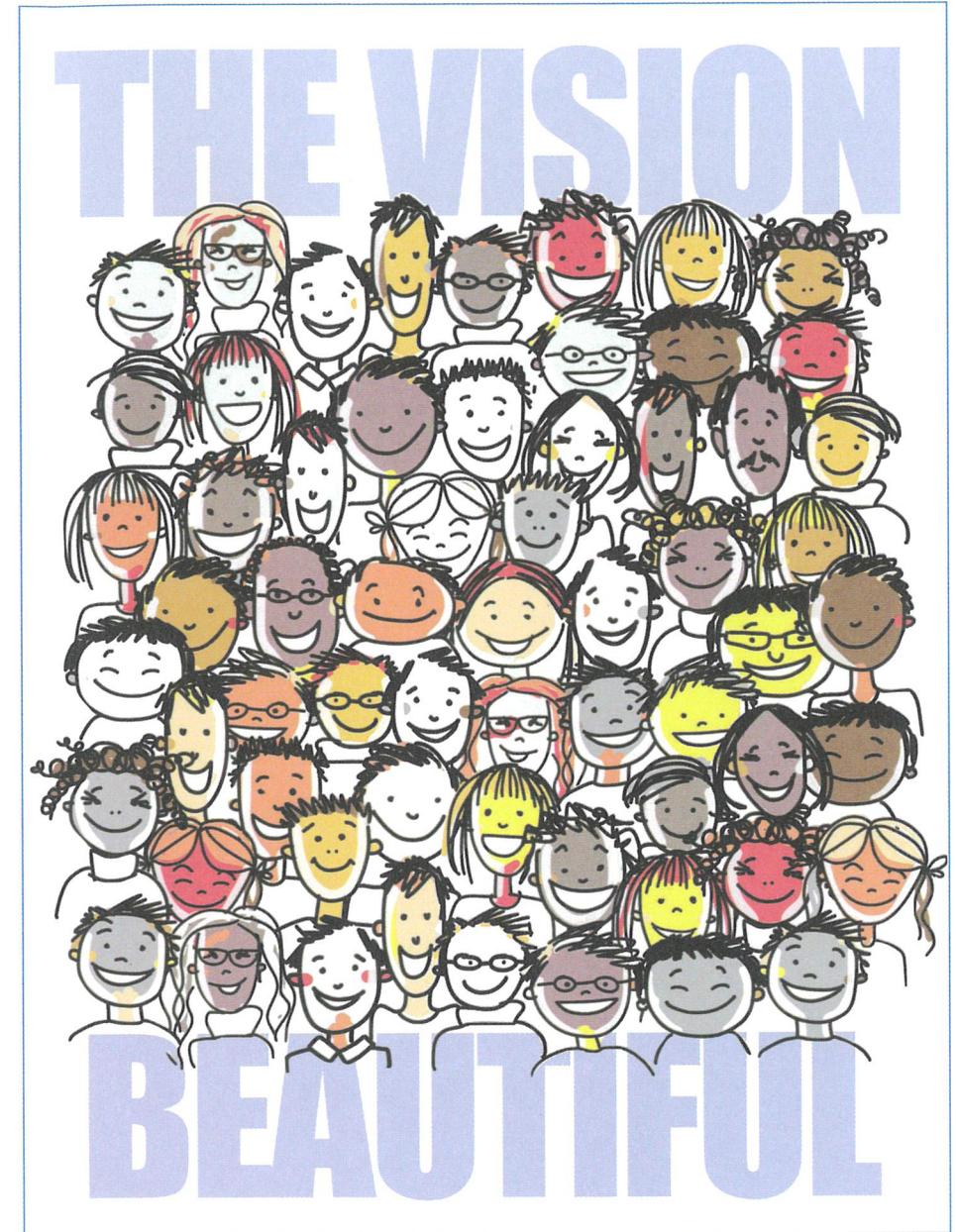
God of grace and great hope, we ask that You bless the brokenness in our lives, putting back together the shattered pieces of dreams or relationships in a new way. And, as You do, may we hear deep in our hearts the reassuring and restorative words that through all of life's ups and downs that we are indeed blessed. 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
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
 February 1, 2026



* 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)

The world belongs to the Lord. The earth and its people are God's.

How good and lovely it is to live together in unity.

Love and faith come together; justice and peace join hands.

If the Lord's disciples keep silent, these stones would shout aloud.

Lord, open our eyes;

And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

***OPENING HYMN** *The Church's One Foundation* (vs. 1 & 2) #272

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

Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, who stand in the house of the Lord! Lift up your hands to the holy place, and bless the Lord. May the Lord bless you always.

***RESPONSE** *I Am the Light of the World* (chorus)

ANTHEM *Carry the Light*

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** *Great is Your Faithfulness* (chorus) #86

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (unison)

Great and generous God, we make melody in our hearts to say thank you for all your wonderful gifts to us. Please accept our tithes and offerings, given so that others might know you and find your peace. Amen.

WE GATHER IN PRAYER

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

Congregational Response: *When I Needed a Neighbor* v. 1

SCRIPTURE: Old Testament: Psalm 27:1, 4-9

New Testament: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

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

MESSAGE *Top of the Charts*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

***CLOSING HYMN** *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* (vs. 1, 4, 5) #91

***BLESSING** (responsively)

My friends, Jesus came that we might know what a life of love looks like. As you go from this place, go as a people renewed and restored with love in your heart to serve Christ and one another.

We go forth as a people of hope. 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 click on the *contribution* button. Please prayerfully consider setting up regular online donations to continue our outreach into the community.

LENT BEGINS on February 18th with Communion and the Imposition of Ashes at 7:00 p.m.

ASHES TO GO ON Ash Wednesday, February 18th, Pastor Debbie will be in the parking lot from noon-1:00 pm for anyone who is unable to make it to a service. She will have a prayer, impose ashes and provide info on our church's Lenten activities. Share with your friends.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY on Tuesdays beginning February 24th at 11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each week. *The Room Where It Happens* is an exciting Lenten course written by Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin, inspired by the filmed version of the award-winning stage musical *Hamilton*. The course has been written in the hope that all ages can be involved in the room where it happens for discussions about what the Bible and the experience of Christian faith teach us about some of the big issues faced in the musical by Alexander Hamilton: his responses to injustice, adversity, and temptation, his search for identity, and his realization that he (and all of us) can make a difference in the world. The course has five weekly sessions

- Identity and Belonging - Ambition and Temptation - Hope and Courage through Adversity
- Forgiveness and Redemption - Love and Sacrifice

Each session includes suggestions for inspiring songs from the musical to watch, with relevant Bible passages and discussion questions. Invite your friends and join us.

LENTEN SELF-DENIAL OFFERING Check out the explanation sheet included in this newsletter. Set aside a dish, box, jar, can, basket, whatever and each day toss in the amount listed on the sheet as a daily reminder of all the blessings you have received at God's hands. Bring your offerings on Easter Sunday as a special Lenten sacrifice.

DINNER & CONVERSATION: This week's dinner will be at Café Moonlight at 6:00 pm on Thursday night. Please sign the list in the back of the sanctuary so we can reserve a large enough table.

MESSY CHURCH Our February 4th Messy Church theme is *Love One Another* and will feature card making for friends and shut-ins, playdoh, Love You to Pieces craft, Science project, Would You Rather game and so much more! Dinner will be sloppy joes, chips and fruit with a King Cake to celebrate Mardi Gras on February 17th. Everyone is welcome!

February Youth Dates:

02/01 (Sunday) 11:30—1pm (Lunch Provided)

02/04 (Wednesday) 7pm—8pm (After Messy Church)

02/15 (Sunday) 4-5:30pm

Thank you for all the help and buying soup at the CFM fundraiser. The fundraiser was a great success and proceeds will go towards the 2026 Children and Family In-town Mission Week in July and future CFM activities.

With the heavy snow at the end of January the Mini-Marvels (age 4-2 grade) winter activity has been moved to Saturday, February 7 from 3-5 pm at church. At the activity there will be crats, fames and light snacks to enjoy too! This will be a great activity to invite friends, grandparents and other family members to come to the fun activity too!

PASTOR DEBBIE will be attending an all-day Anti-Racism Training in Evansville on February 7th as required by the Indiana-Kentucky Conference. On February 28th she will attend an all-day Committee on Ministry Summit in Carmel, IN. She represents the Wabash Valley Association on the Committee on Ministry.

LAM Banquet: St John's UCC is again sponsoring a table at the LAM (Life After Meth) banquet which will be held on February 19th at Highland Woods Community Center. This is an opportunity to learn about an important local ministry that we support and includes a meal. We encourage members who have never attended to consider attending. Doors open at 5:30 PM, program at 6:00 PM. Please place your name on the sign-up sheet in the back hallway no later than Sunday February 15th if interested in attending. Any seats not used by church members will be donated for LAM program participants. Contact Larry Marchino, the church office or LAM at 812-830-8238 or 812 899-2397 with any questions.

CELEBRATE MADRI GRAS with Pancakes at American Table at 11:00 a.m. Traditionally Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) is a day to use up all the "fat" in one's household prior to the beginning of the Lenten Season the following day. Pancakes are a traditional food to celebrate before the weeks of self-denial and fasting. Pastor Debbie will be at American Table restaurant on Tuesday, February 17th at 11:00 a.m. for anyone who wishes to celebrate Mardi Gras with her.

MOVIE NIGHT on February 8th at 4:00 p.m. will feature *Saved!* Starring Mandy Moore, Jenna Malone and Macauley Culkin. When a girl attending a Christian high school become pregnant, all of her former friends turn on her and she is ostracized and demonized. In spite of the seriousness of the topic, this is a comedic satire with a dash of drama. Rated PG-13. A light supper will be provided and everyone is invited.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING is one of the four denominational offerings we collect each year. This offering supports relief efforts for hunger, poverty, natural disasters, climate change, immigration/migration and refugees. It serves individuals and communities in need providing people with safety, sustenance and hope. This year's offering will be collected during worship on March 15th.

Prayers Posts

We ask for continuing prayer requests for: Gary Meyer, Marilyn Houchins, Tony Riley and Ellen Riggs. Mollie Joice, cousin of Darcie Bahr, Bobby Bahr. Prayers for Megan Jennings upon the death of her dad. Prayers for Rhonda Webber (Brenda Fillingim Niece)

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

**Prayer requests or updates can now be relayed to the church office during regular office hours and Pastor Debbie during the evening/weekend.
Email: st.johnsuccoffice@gmail.com or call 812-882-2720 M-F, 9 am - 1 pm.**

This Week in the Life of St. John's

Sunday, February 01

Adult FF Class 9:30am
Worship 10:30am

Tuesday, February 03

Girl Scouts 4:30-6:30pm
Sandy's Pantry 11:00-12:30

Thursday, February 05

Sandy's Pantry 11:00-12:30
Dinner & Conversation
Café Moonlight @6pm

Monday, February 02

BABE Store 12-5:30pm

Wednesday, February 04

Choir @ 7pm

Friday, February 06

Pastor Debbie is Off
Phoebe's Mission 4:30—6pm

Looking Ahead In February 2026

Sunday, February 08

Adult FF Class 9:30am
Worship 10:30am
Movie (Saved) @ 5pm

Tuesday, February 10

Girl Scouts 4:30-6:30pm

Thursday, February 12

Technology Mtg @10am
Outreach/Benevolence @ 11am
Dinner & Conversation
Applebee's 6pm

Monday, February 09

BABE Store 12-5:30pm
Evangelism & Membership @ 6:30

Wednesday, February 11

Messy Core @ 5:30pm
Christian Ed @ 6pm
Choir @ 7pm

Friday, February 13

Pastor Debbie is Off



Staff and Volunteers

Pastor:	Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins
Secretary	Kim Butler
Liturgist:	Lucas Doggett
Head Usher:	Ren Simmons
Organist:	DeEtta Welte
Music Director, Pianist:	Becky Brockman
Children & Family Ministry Coordinator:	Will Meyer
Nursery Attendant:	Darcie Bahr
Projection:	Sandra Lange
Sound:	Jonathan Lange
Church Board President:	Sandra Lange

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.