

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 18, 2026

John 1:29-42

All That We Are

When the Spirit descended from heaven like a dove and remained on Jesus at his moment of baptism, John saw it. He was in the Jordan River baptizing his cousin, Jesus. He witnessed that holy, amazing moment. He knew Jesus was the one to follow — not him — and so, he told his two followers just that.

“Look, there’s the Lamb of God. That’s who you want to follow,” said John. So off they went after Jesus. Jesus, sensing he was being followed, turned and asked them bluntly, “What are you looking for?” To which they replied, “Where are you staying?”

What kind of question was that? So much meaning gets lost in translation as our modern ears hear this as a question of actual location or a curiosity about how one is living. But the former followers of John who wanted to be in the Jesus club, were not wanting to know if Jesus was in a hip neighborhood or residing in a swanky dwelling. Their question we discover is much deeper for the Greek word we translate into “staying” should read “abide.”

The word “abide” is an important one in John’s Gospel. It is used 10 times in the first 10 verses in John 15. The biblical definition for abide means “to be held or kept” or “to remain.” So, what the soon-to-be followers of Jesus wanted to know was who was holding this prophetic teacher. Who was “keeping” Jesus — keeping him safe, secure, steadfast?

Jesus’ reply “come and see” is also one that goes deeper than an invitation to tour his home and have a cup of tea. Jesus’ “come and see” is an invitation to an adventure that unfolds throughout the entire Gospel of John.

Come and see how I abide in God. Come and see the importance of abiding in me as I abide in you. Come and see how, with God, you will always be held tightly.

Let’s now revisit this story. Jesus walks by and we realize he is the one we need to follow. Just as we catch up with his flowing robes, he turns to us and asks, “What are you looking for?”

Pause here and really think about your answer. What have you been looking for? What have been our expectations of Jesus? What is it we hope to discover? Now dare to ask the question, “Where are you abiding?”

Show us, Lord, once and for all, how we can also remain in the safe and transformative care of God, so that we can face the trials of this life victoriously — and with grace.

Tell us, Lord, where you abide because we would like to abide there as well. Let us end our time together praying the words of the great old hymn, “Abide with Me.”

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide. The darkness deepens, Lord with me abide. When other helpers fail and comforts flee, help of the helpless, oh, abide with me. May it be so. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

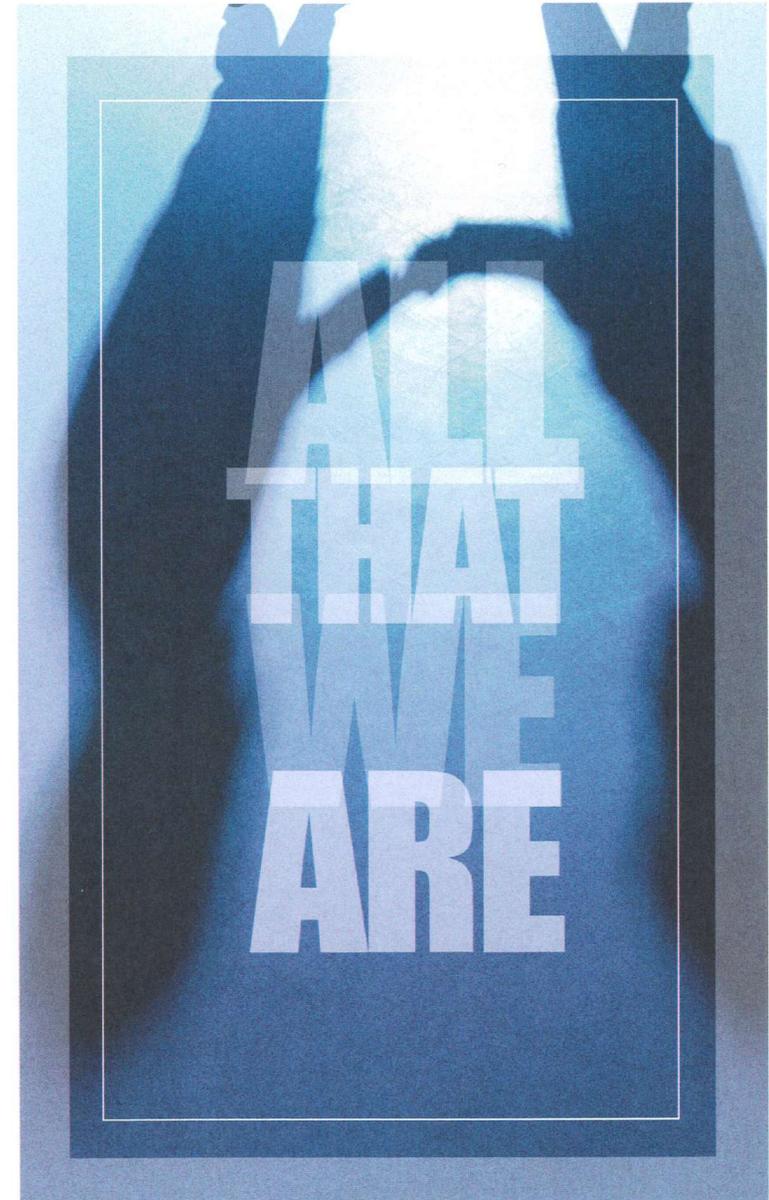
(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today’s Sunday Bulletin.)



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

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BUL0207





St. John's United Church of Christ
Second Sunday after the Epiphany
 January 18, 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)

Christ is calling, inviting, urging and wooing: Come and follow me!

Let us set aside our worry and fear, our busyness and competing agendas to respond to Christ's call.

Christ offers us the opportunity to walk with him, to come to know his heart more deeply day by day.

Nothing is more precious than opening our hearts to God, who fills us with love.

Christ grants us the privilege of working alongside him in our Father's business.

There is no higher call and no greater joy than making a difference in the kingdom of God.

Come, let us worship the One who calls us to follow!

We worship in joy, in gratitude, in praise: Jesus Christ is Lord of all!

* **OPENING HYMN** *Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult* (vs. 1-3) #337

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

We are welcomed into your presence this day by your gracious hospitality, O God. Grant that we will lay aside our cares and anxieties to concentrate our thoughts on you alone. Open us to the teaching and guidance for living which we receive, that we will be strengthened to walk with you and follow wherever you lead us. Through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.

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

ANTHEM *There's Something About That Name* Gaither

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)

Accept these gifts, O God, as testimonies of our love for you and our desire to serve you. Let these offerings be an affirmation that we are bound to one another as your people. In your generous name we pray. 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: Isaiah 49:1-7

New Testament: John 1:29-42

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

MESSAGE *Come, See, Follow*

* **CLOSING HYMN** *Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult* (vs. 4-5) #337

* **BLESSING** (responsively)

We have been given as a light to the nations. May God's good news in Christ reach to the end of the earth!

Let us be instruments of God's mercy, grace and justice, empowered by the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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

ANNUAL MEETING

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.

OFFERING ENVELOPES are available in the entry just outside the sanctuary or from the church office. This year, we have made a change. The envelopes are not dated, numbered or marked with your name so any leftover boxes/envelopes can be used next year. If you use an envelope, just make sure to write your name on the outside.

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

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 a Lenten Course based on the musical *Hamilton*. Plan now to attend.

DINNER & CONVERSATION: This week's dinner will be at Kelso's 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 Thanks to everyone who participated in our January 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, 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!

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 5:00 p.m. will feature *Saved!* Starring Mandy Moore, Jenna Malone and Macauley Culkin. When a girl attending a Christian high school becomes 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.

OUR ANNUAL UPDATES from the October 2025 Church Directory is now taking place through January 2026. If you would like to make a change in your personal entry, do so by calling the Church Office and leaving the corrections with Kim. 812-882-2720 or email stjohnsuccoffice@gmail.com. Items to change, add or delete are of the following: Photos, Resident Address, Email Address, Family Members, Phone numbers/work or home, Add new entries or delete entries and Errors in Spelling.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED tomorrow for Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

RETIRING OF THE GREENS will take place immediately following worship on January 25th. Please stay if you are able to help put away Christmas decorations. Many hands make the work easier and faster.

January Youth Dates:

01/18 (Sunday) 4pm—5:30pm

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

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

Mini-Marvels (age 4-2 grade) will have an opportunity to enjoy a winter afternoon from 3-5pm at church on Saturday, January 24. There will be crafts and activities at the M&M event. Also, there will be 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!

The St. John's Youth (7th- 12th Grade) meets at least twice a month upstairs in the youth space. During meetings the youth have a lesson, an activity and do mission work/community outreach. If there are any questions, please let Will Meyer know!

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 - Aperion 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
Ellen Riggs - Bridgepointe, 1900 College Avenue, Vincennes, IN 47591

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, January 18

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

Tuesday, January 20

Thursday, January 22

Dinner & Conversation
Kelso's @ 6pm

Friday, January 23

Pastor Debbie is Off

Monday, January 19

Office Closed
Worship/Music Meeting @ 5pm
Annual Meeting @ 6pm

Wednesday, January 21

February Newsletter Items
Due in Office Today
Choir @ 7pm

Looking Ahead In January 2026

Sunday, January 25

Adult FF Class 9:30am
Worship 10:30am
Retiring of the Greens after Worship

Tuesday, January 27

Girl Scouts 4:30-6:30pm

Thursday, January 29

Dinner & Conversation
Senor Tequila @ 6pm

Monday, January 26

BABE Store 12-5:30pm

Wednesday, January 28

Choir @ 7pm

Friday, January 30

Pastor Debbie is Off



Staff and Volunteers

Pastor:	Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins
Secretary	Kim Butler
Liturgist:	John Riggs
Head Usher:	Brad Summers
Organist:	DeEtta Welte
Music Director, Pianist:	Becky Brockman
Children & Family Ministry Coordinator:	Will Meyer
Nursery Attendant:	Darcie Bahr
Projection:	Jill Doggett
Sound:	Lonny Vieck
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.