

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

February 15, 2026

Matthew 17:1-9

Dazzling Reign

The setting sun cast a warm glow against the wooden beams of the Vermont barn where my wedding reception was being held. As candles flickered on the tables, the music for the father daughter dance began playing. My father's eyes glistened when he realized the song chosen for our twirl on the dance floor was from "The Sound of Music." The movie had always been a favorite in our family as Julia Andrews traipsing through the Alps always tugged at my father's Swiss heart.

Climb every mountain, ford every stream, follow every rainbow until you find your dream.

In the movie, Mother Superior sings this to young Maria — played by Julia Andrews — who is struggling with God's call in her life. The older nun reminds Maria that following God will always mean going in surprising, new directions. There will be struggles, doubts and tears. But search the high and low, Mother Superior says. Follow the dream that will indeed require "all the love you can give, every day of your life for as long as you live."

The season of Lent is upon us, but before we trudge along with Jesus on the way to the cross, we find ourselves having a mountaintop experience. It is here we join Jesus who takes two of his followers to witness divine glory. Jesus is transfigured in dazzling light and the pillars of the faith, Moses and Elijah, stand with him. Jesus' friends are in awe.

It is an amazing moment meant to renew us for the journey ahead, bolstering our waning faith. But we are not meant to stay on the mountain forever. There is life to be experienced. There are mountains to climb, streams to ford, and rainbows to follow.

I chose this song for my dance with my father because I got married later in life. I was at the point where I thought saying "I do" would never come from of my lips. Yet through my setbacks, my father would always encourage me to hang on to faith. Follow your dream. Don't give up.

Lent is beginning. Take one last look at the dazzling glory from your mountaintop view. Now grab hold of God's hand and make your way back down into the world. Give your hopes, dreams and desires to God and, as you do, make sure to give them all the love that they will need for as long as you live.

God of mountain highs and valley lows, give us the strength and courage to follow You no matter how difficult or disruptive the path might seem. Help us to trust that where You lead us is to the place where the deepest desires of our hearts are found. 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
Transfiguration Sunday
 February 15, 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 blessing of God rests on our shoulders.

The love of God dwells in our hearts.

The word of God inflames our speech.

The compassion of God stirs us to care.

The word of God compels us to sing.

The mystery of God leads us to worship.

***OPENING HYMN** *When Morning Gilds the Skies* #100

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

God of Transfiguration, you meet us in the ordinary as well as the extraordinary moments of life. We seek you in the valleys and on the mountaintops. As you join us in worship, set us free to love and serve in Your name. Amen.

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

ANTHEM *Beloved, Let Us Love One Another*

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)

May these gifts and offerings be used to change both our hearts and the hearts of those in need. May we pledge to stay on the mountain with you, working side by side to show others both your glory and your great mercy. May we continue to be always astounded at the greatness of our God. Amen.

WE GATHER IN PRAYER

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

Congregational Response: *Here I Am, Lord* (chorus)

SCRIPTURE: Old Testament: Exodus 24:12-18

New Testament: Matthew 17:1-9

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

MESSAGE *Olympic Christians*

***CLOSING HYMN** *Shine, Jesus, Shine*

***BLESSING** (responsively)

We have spent this hour together in the presence of our Holy God. As you depart, remember that you are the face of Jesus to everyone you encounter.

May we live and love as God would, and may the world be changed because we have met Jesus face to face.

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. "Please join us for a free supper before the Ash Wednesday service this Wednesday, February 18th. Supper will be served between 6 and 6:45 pm. Stop by when you can."

Pastor Debbie will be in the parking lot from Noon-1:00 pm with *Ashes to Go*—drive through for a prayer and the Imposition of Ashes. So get your ash in church!

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
- Love and Sacrifice
- Hope and Courage through Adversity
- Forgiveness and Redemption

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 Procopio'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.

CELEBRATE MADRI GRAS with Pancakes at American Table at 11:00 a.m. on February 17th. Pastor Debbie will be at American Table restaurant for anyone who wishes to celebrate Mardi Gras with her.

MESSY CHURCH Our March 4th Messy Church theme is *Marching in the Light of God* and will feature a Science experiment, suncatcher, sunburst craft, lightbulb craft, treasure hunt with glow sticks and MORE! Dinner will be chicken pot pie, salad and ice cream treat. Everyone is welcome!

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.

CHURCH OFFICE will be closed tomorrow for President's Day

MARCH MOVIE NIGHT will be *Hamilton* on March 15th at 4:00 p.m. This movie is over 3 hours long so we are starting early. A light dinner will be served during the intermission. *Hamilton* is a revolutionary Broadway musical by Lin-Manuel Miranda that tells the story of American Founding Father Alexander Hamilton, blending hip-hop, R&B, pop, and traditional show tunes with a diverse cast to reimagine U.S. history. It follows Hamilton's rise from an immigrant to the first Secretary of the Treasury, exploring his political and personal life through his relationships with figures like Aaron Burr, George Washington, and Eliza Hamilton. The show won numerous awards, including 11 Tony Awards, a Grammy, and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. Some adult language and content but recommended for high school students and up. Sign up sheet in back of sanctuary.

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.

Prayers Posts

We ask for continuing prayer requests for: Tom Nowaskie, Marilyn Houchins, Tony Riley and Ellen Riggs. 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 15

Adult SS Class 9:30am
Fellowship Time @ 9:45
Worship 10:30am
Youth 4-5:30pm
Transfiguration Day

Tuesday, February 17

American Table @ 11 am
Girl Scouts 4:30-6:30pm

Thursday, February 19

Dinner & Conversation
Procopio's @ 6 pm

Monday, February 16

BABE Store 12-5:30pm
Music/Worship @ 5pm
Board Meeting @ 6pm
Office Closed

Wednesday, February 18

Ash Wednesday 12-1 pm
Supper @ 6 pm
Worship @ 7 pm

Friday, February 20

Pastor Debbie is Off

Looking Ahead In February 2026

Sunday, February 22

Adult SS Class 9:30am
Worship 10:30am
Youth 4-5:30pm

Tuesday, February 24

Girl Scouts 4:30-6:30pm
Hamilton Bible Study @ 11 & 6 pm

Thursday, February 26

Dinner & Conversation
Bobe's in Washington @ 6 pm

Monday, February 23

BABE Store 12-5:30pm

Wednesday, February 25

March Newsletter Items Due
Choir @ 7 pm
Laundry Love 6-8 pm

Friday, February 27

Pastor Debbie is Off



Staff and Volunteers

Pastor:	Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins
Secretary	Kim Butler
Liturgist:	John Riggs
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:	Brian Fillingim
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.