

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 19, 2026

Luke 24:13-35

Breaking Bread

Dear readers, I have some Eastertide questions for you. Consider this your Risen Lord check in.

First, where have you recently seen the Risen Lord on your path? Second, what have been the conversations that left you feeling as if you were in the presence of the divine? Third, when did your heart burn with the truth of the Gospel fully awakening your senses?

Finally, when was the last time you ripped into a warm, soft loaf of bread and, before slathering a piece with butter, paused and imagined the Lord with you in that breaking of the bread?

I have always been enamored with the resurrection encounter of the travelers on the road to Emmaus who didn't realize Jesus was walking with them until he later joined them for a meal. Luke's Gospel tells us that after Jesus blessed and broke the loaf, the travelers' eyes were opened, and they recognized him for who he was: The Risen Lord.

And so, every opportunity I have I will take a loaf of bread and share not only the yeasty goodness with friends, but I will ask them to join me in realizing that in this ordinary act we are experiencing something extraordinary. We are being given an opportunity for fellowship with not just one another but with Jesus our Lord.

Perhaps this ritual of mine was born out of the slow food movement that originated in Italy in the 1980s. It was a call to take time to thoughtfully and lovingly prepare a meal rather than nuking something quick to eat. Slow down to savor the food before you, because it is only when we are fully present that we can see all that we should be grateful for.

Yes, breaking bread is an everyday sacred occurrence in my home where I slow down to be fully present to my Risen Lord. Coincidentally, during the slow food movement of the 1980's, Michael Philip Ward wrote a song called, "In the Breaking of the Bread."

Based on the Emmaus encounter, the lyrics beautifully go beyond the bread breaking, reminding us that opportunities to see the Risen Lord are all around: *In the walking on the road, we saw Him. In the telling of our hopes, we saw Him. In the burning of our hearts, we saw Him. In the breaking of the bread, we saw Him. Suddenly our eyes were opened, and we knew He was alive.*

May this day your eyes suddenly open to the truth that Jesus is with you in every step you take and in every prayerful moment you make.

Sustaining and bounteous God, we thank You for the Bread of Life, our Risen Lord, who walks alongside us on our Emmaus Roads, always listening to our questions, our fears and our doubts. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

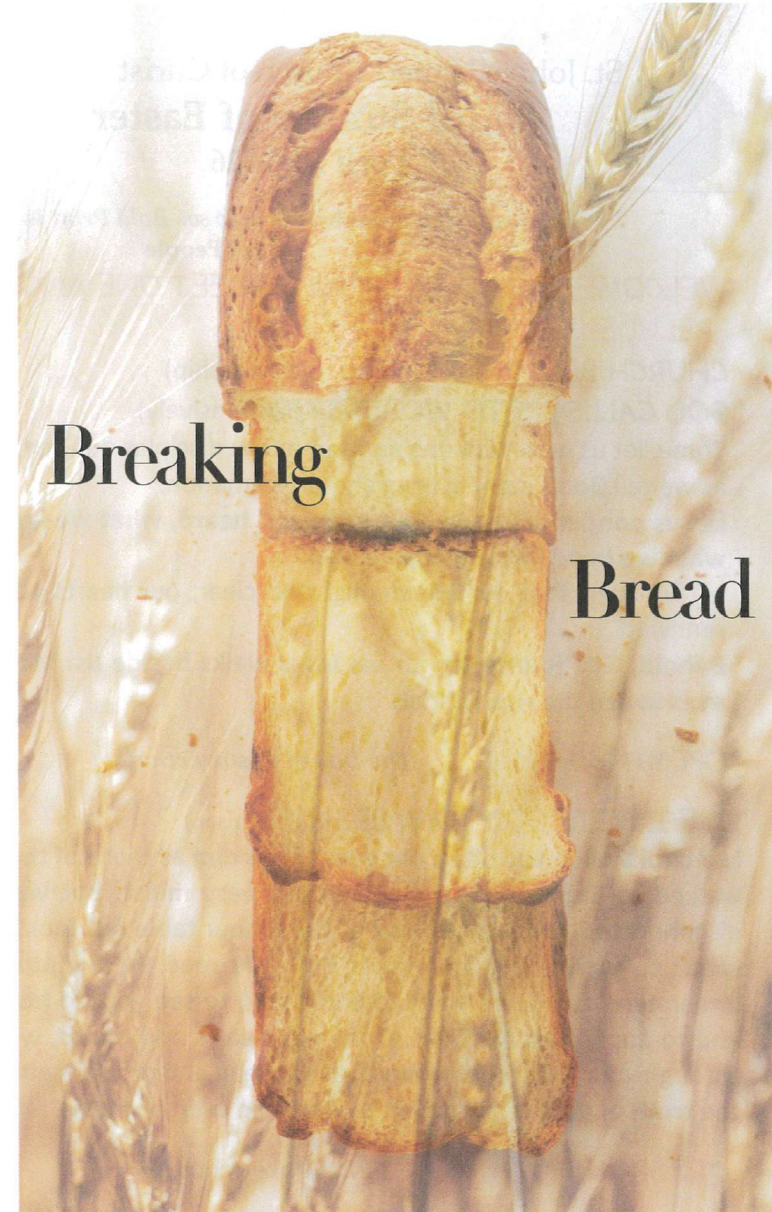
(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today's Sunday Bulletin.)



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

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BUL0308





St. John's United Church of Christ
Third Sunday of Easter
 April 19, 2026



* Please stand if it is comfortable to do so. **Bold Print is for all People**

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, GREET ONE ANOTHER (be seated)

PRELUDE

CHURCH BELL (the bell invites us to worship)

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

Come, let us walk with one another as the disciples did. Let us journey together as we tell God's story in song and proclamation.

Let us ponder what we have seen and heard, what we know to be true, and what we hope beyond hope is real.

Let us walk, that our minds might be clear, our hearts open, and our spirits renewed.

Behold, God journeys with us; Jesus walks beside us. May the Spirit give us eyes to see the risen Christ.

* **OPENING HYMN** *The Day of Resurrection* #228

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

Merciful Savior, too often our eyes are as dim as those of the two disciples who walked to Emmaus. You stand in our very midst, but we are unaware and disconnected. We sit with you at the dinner table but look right past you. You speak to us, but our hearing is dull. We read the Scriptures, but we fail to understand. Lord, we want to know you, to see you, to hear your Word to us and to apply it to our lives. Open our hearts and minds, we pray; speak to us through your Spirit so this Word, as it is read and proclaimed, penetrates us with the truth of your resurrection power. Join us in our worship. Amen.

* **RESPONSE** *Christ Arose* (chorus) #224

ANTHEM *What a Friend*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (children come forward)

Jesus Loves Me

OFFERING INVITATION

God is so good and we are richly blessed. Let us give back to God with gratitude and thanksgiving.

* **RESPONSE** *In the Garden* (v.1) #227

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (unison)

Great and generous God, 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: *He Lives* (chorus) #226

SCRIPTURE: Old Testament: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
 New Testament: Luke 24:13-35

The Word of God for the People of God **Thanks be to God**

SERMON *On the Road Again*

* **CLOSING HYMN** *Just a Closer Walk With Thee* #557

* **BLESSING** (responsively)

With renewed hope, we walk and live and breathe. God is not dead; God is alive!

Let us carry this hope to the world. Our God is not dead, but alive and in us. Amen.

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

* **POSTLUDE**

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.

Never put a period where God has put a comma, God is still speaking!

MESSY CHURCH on May 6th from 5:30-7:00 pm will be *May the Force be With You: From Padawan to Master*. Our Scripture will be various verses from throughout the New Testament. We will have lots of *Star Wars* related games, crafts and activities. Dinner will include special *Star Wars* based foods with pretzel light sabers and Wookie Cookies for dessert. Please feel free to wear any *Star Wars* shirts or costumes you have. Plan now to participate and join us for a great evening of Food, Fun and Fellowship. This is our last Messy Church until September.

SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS The Musical will be presented at Lincoln High School on April 24th & 25th at 7:00 pm and on April 26th at 3:00 p.m. Several young people from our church family are involved. Lucas Doggett is Squidward, Vera Mattingly is Perch Perkins (and two other roles) and Adelynn Lange is on the stage crew. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students & VCSC employees and available online. The show running time is 75 minutes. Let's support our young people.

LILACS WANTED: Pastor Debbie is looking for a gallon Ziploc bag of Lilac blossoms for jelly making. When your lilac blooms, could you please share the harvest? Also looking for anyone with **mint** for the same purpose.

LAUNDRY LOVE needs a volunteer leader for Wednesday May 27, June 24, and July 29 while Jana is out of town. Please contact the church office if you can help.

Following the worship service on May 3 there will be a reception honoring our graduates. All are invited.



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.

BLOCK PARTY will be held on Sunday, April 26th from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Join us as we Rock the Block with music by Wood & Wire (Larry Marchino's group), FREE hamburgers, hot dogs and beverages, a bounce house, pig races, Corn Hole, games, "tattoo" parlor, raffle baskets and **MORE!** Invite your friends and join us! Bring a lawn chair if you wish. This event is for church as well as community.

DINNER & CONVERSATION: This week's dinner will be at Senor Tequila 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.

NURSERY SERVICES: Currently we do not have a nursery attendant but small children are welcome (under parental supervision) to quietly utilize the *playground* at the back of the sanctuary. The nursery is available if needed and an usher can take you there and turn on the speakers so you can hear the service.

OUR HEARTFELT SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS go to the family of Rich Cummins (twin brother of Ray Cummins (Brayton's dad) who entered eternal life April 14th. At the time of this writing, arrangements were not finalized.

Prayers Posts

We ask for continuing prayer requests for: Tom Nowaskie, Marilyn Houchins, Rhonda Webber (Brenda Fillingim Niece), John Mineo, Cindi Gilmore, Kim Godare's daughter Mallory, Jeremy Carpenter, Dale Linneweber and Brayton/Allison Cummins following the death of his Uncle.

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

This Week in the Life of St. John's

Sunday, April 19

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

Tuesday, April 21

Girl Scouts

Thursday, April 23

Ministerial Alliance @ noon
Dinner & Conversation
Senor Tequila

Monday, April 20

BABE Store 12-5:30pm
Music/Worship @ 6pm
Board Mtg. @ 6pm

Wednesday, April 22

Choir Practice @ 7pm
May Newsletter Items Due

Friday, April 24

SpongeBob Square Pants
Musical at Lincoln High
School @ 7pm

Looking Ahead In April /May 2026

Sunday, April 26

Adult SS Class 9:30am
Worship 10:30am
Block Party @ 4-6pm
Sponge Bob @ 3pm

Monday, April 27

BABE Store 12-5:30pm

Tuesday, April 28

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

Wednesday, April 29

Choir Practice @ 7pm
May Newsletter Items Due

Thursday, April 30

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

Friday, May 01



Staff and Volunteers

Pastor:	Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins
Secretary	Kim Butler
Church Board President:	Saundra Lange
Organist:	DeEtta Welte
Music Director, Pianist:	Becky Brockman
Children & Family Ministry Coordinator:	Will Meyer
Head Usher:	Saundra Lange
Projection:	Jill Doggett
Sound:	Brian Fillingim
Liturgist:	John Riggs

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.