

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 28, 2026

Matthew 10:40-42

Holy Welcome

When I first began living on my own, my mother would ask if my kitchen was stocked with treats for those who dropped by unexpectedly. Was there coffee? Tea? Cream and sugar for the coffee and tea? Cookies?

My answer was always “no,” to which she would sigh in exasperation, “But you have to have cookies.”

I was living on an assistant editor’s salary in Manhattan. The thought of spending money on “extravagant” extras for those phantom guests was ludicrous to me. Even more ludicrous was my mother thinking that any stash of cookies would survive uneaten in my cupboards.

Perhaps it was that missing Martha Stewart gene in me that kept my cupboards empty of treats for others. Perhaps it was my mom’s deep-seated generational belief that good manners meant feeding someone at the spur of the moment.

Whatever it was, I do not deny that hospitality is important — and biblical. For in the breaking of the bread, humanity’s differences give way to a truth that connects us all: We are hungering for belonging, which begins with a welcome.

Jesus once told his friends that whoever welcomes them, welcomes him. And so, welcoming is a powerful, holy act that we often fail to see as such.

Think about a time when your schedule was interrupted by an unexpected visitor. You probably felt annoyed. But afterward you realized how that encounter was a blessing, turning your day — and attitude — around.

Now think back to a time when you called on someone without notice and were given a chilly hello and swift good-bye. How did that make you feel?

The reality is that we are all standing on proverbial welcome mats praying that the door before us opens to a place of acceptance — a place that tells us in the welcoming, that we are not only seen, but that our existence matters.

Such a welcome doesn’t have to be extravagant. It doesn’t even require having coffee and cookies on hand in the pantry. (Sorry, mom.) A simple cup of cold water to one of God’s little ones is meaningful, Jesus points out.

St. David of Wales had a motto in life and that was “do the little things.” On his deathbed in the 6th century, he reminded his monks to keep offering small acts of love, for those are the acts that make the world a better place.

Our holy welcomes are acts of love we can show others. And the good news is that our spiritual pantries are already stocked. We have the presence of ourselves to give both stranger and friend.

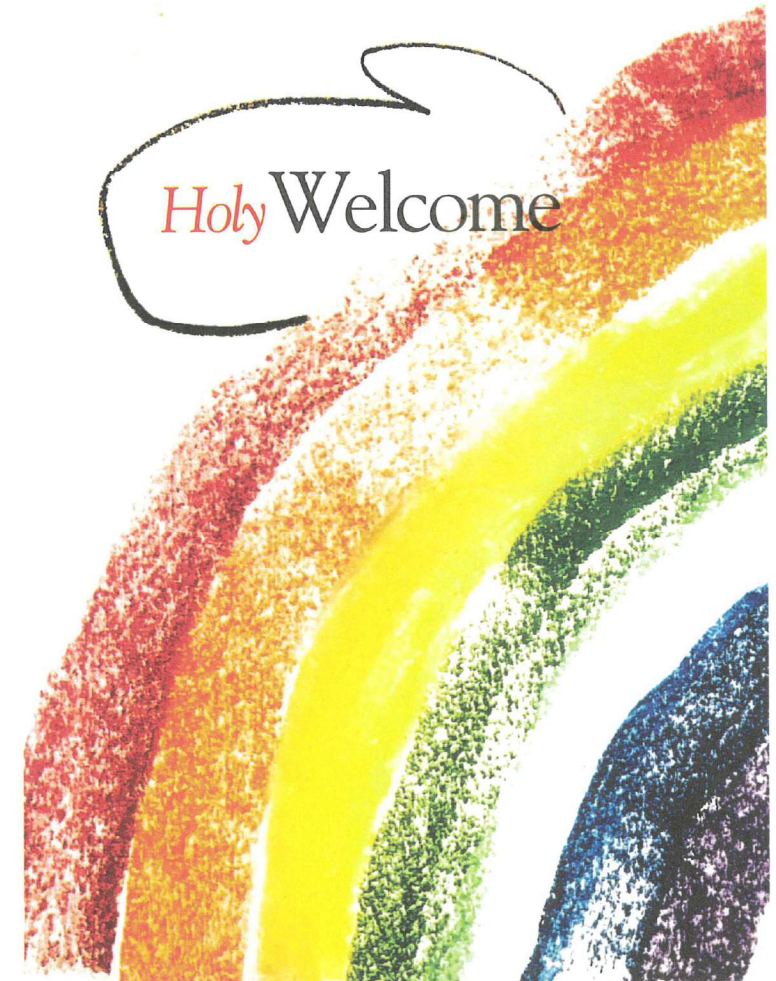
Loving God, at the very start of creation You saw that humans should not be alone. We were meant to be there for one another, to slow down and show up for the one who is needing to know they are not invisible. May today we find those holy moments to connect with our siblings. In Jesus’ name, we pray. 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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8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE
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St. John's United Church of Christ
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
 June 28, 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)

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

Here we have come to find rest and strength and renewal for our weary lives.

Christ Jesus is here offering us rest and safety and comfort and love.

We give God thanks and praise for God's many mercies, grace and love. Now together we worship and celebrate the Good News of Jesus Christ.

***OPENING HYMN** *Morning Has Broken* #53

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

Lord, so many folks misunderstand, thinking Christianity is a way for perfect people. Once one joins everything is smooth, or at least appears to be. It isn't true. It is an extra burden, working to become Christlike. Jesus did not favor the good folks. He ate with sinners, healed the sick, spoke to the confused, welcomed lepers and cared for the outcasts. We don't belong to Jesus because we are good. We come to Jesus because we sin. And in Christ's redeeming love and your grace, we grow more into his likeness. Come, worship with us. Amen.

***RESPONSE** *Spirit of the Living God* #25

LITURGICAL DANCE IN THE LYRICAL STYLE Isabella Lange

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (children please 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.

***DOXOLOGY** #46

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (unison)

WE GATHER IN PRAYER

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

Congregational Response: *Spirit of God, Unseen as the Wind*

SCRIPTURE:

Old Testament: Psalm 13

New Testament: Matthew 10:40-42

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

MESSAGE *How Long, O Lord?*

***CLOSING HYMN** *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing* #5

***BLESSING** (responsively)

Because of God's say-so, we can now go forth to think more clearly, feel more deeply, speak more truthfully;

Love more extravagantly, serve more creatively, give more lavishly, live more abundantly and act more compassionately. 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

UNITED STATES OF KINDNESS is a movement to complete 250 acts of kindness in celebration of the 250th birthday of the United States. We encourage everyone to perform one act of kindness per day for the rest of the year.

GALAXY: Launching Kids on a Mission of God's Love VBS will take place on June 29-July 2 from 5:30-7:30 each night. Children entering Kindergarten through 6th Grade are invited to register. A light supper will be served before breaking into galactic activities including storytelling, crafts, science demos, and games. Please register today! Bring your friends and families! Registration forms on the table in the narthex. Please sign the list to help with needed food items.

JUNE MOVIE NIGHT is June 28th at 5:00 pm, featuring *Remarkable Bright Creatures* starring Sally Field and Alfred Molina. *Each night at the Sowell Bay Aquarium, 70-year-old custodian Tova Sullivan quietly tends to her routine work. She's recently bonded with the giant Pacific octopus, Marcellus, despite the language (and species) barriers between them.* A light supper will be served and everyone is invited.

CHURCH PARADE FLOAT: Will and the youth will be developing a float for the July 4th city parade promoting our various missions to the community. It will be built on July 2nd & 3rd if you would like to help. Please see Will for details.

CATCH THE MEROM SPIRIT: All Ages Church Camp July 12-18. This non-deonominal camp is being led by retired UCC minister, Rev. Bev Kahle and provides an excellent opportunity for your kids to have the Merom Experience. Last year, the Board voted to cover the expenses of any church young person who wished to attend a session at Merom. Registration is online and Pastor can give you the link.

PRESCHOOL FUNDRAISER: Come dine at Procopio's on Tuesday, July 21st for either lunch (11-1:30) or dinner (4:00-9:00) or BOTH and help raise funds for our preschool. Procopio's will donate 20% of their sales that day (dine-in or carryout and even gift cards) to our preschool. This is a great way to help support this vital community mission so plan now to participate!

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

COMING UP IN JULY:

- 12TH Alan Pancake will be in concert during worship. Pastor Debbie on vacation.
- 19th Vera Mattingly will sing in worship.
- 26th Christmas in July!
Jonathan Clark will provide special music.
Fellowship Time.

WE OFFER OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS to the family of Rev. Al Willhouse who entered eternal life on June 18th. Rev. Al served our congregation from 1974-1990 and was Merom Camp Director. Cards may be sent to his wife, Leta, at 1662 Cloister Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46260. Memorial Service will be held July 11, 2026 at Matthews Mortuary, in Brownsburg, Indiana. Visitation will be from 10-noon with Services at noon at Matthews Mortuary. Memorial donations may be made to either Eden Theological Seminary 475 East Lockwood Ave St. Louis, MO 63119-3124 or Church World Services PO Box 968 Elkhart, IN 46515-9962 .

The FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR this morning are in memory of Reverend Albert Willhouse's passing.

Prayers Posts

We ask for continuing prayer requests for: Marilyn Houchins, Rhonda Webber (Brenda Fillingim Niece), John Mineo, Cindi Gilmore, Kim Godare's daughter Mallory, Jeremy Carpenter, Caden Utley and Kelsey Pepmeier Oladubu (Janet Daniels' niece), Lynn Simmons, Ray Pieper, Suzi Evans (friend of Brian Fillingim) and Lee (12 year old grandson of Brian Fillingim friend), Dayton Piper (18yrs. Old, Lincoln High School graduate – cancer), Danny Archer and family of Dale Linneweber

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

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

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

This Week in the Life of St. John's

Sunday, June 28

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

Monday, June 29

BABE Store 12-5:30pm
Bible School (5:30-7pm)

Tuesday, June 30

Bible School (5:30-7pm)

Wednesday, July 01

Bible School (5:30-7pm)

Thursday, July 02

Dinner & Conversation
Ponderosa —6pm
Bible School (5:30-7pm)

Friday, July 03

Pastor's Day Off
Office Closed

Looking Ahead In July 2026

Sunday, July 05

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

Monday, July 06

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

Tuesday, July 07

Wednesday, July 08

Christian Education @ 6pm

Thursday, July 09

Dinner & Conversation
Cowtown —6pm
Technology Mtg. @10am

Friday, July 10

Pastor's Day Off



Staff and Volunteers

Pastor:	Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins
Secretary	Kim Butler
Church Board President:	Saundra Lange
Pianist:	Pat Sparks
Children & Family Ministry Coordinator:	Will Meyer
Head Usher:	Saundra Lange
Projection:	Jill Doggett
Sound:	Andrew Anson
Liturgist:	Ren Simmons

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.

