

## SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 7, 2026

Genesis 12:1-9

### The Call of Abram

Corrie Ten Boom once said, "Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God." It was that belief in God's protection that gave her the courage to hide Jewish families during the World War II German occupation.

It's amazing what we can do when we trust our next steps to God. Sadly, many of us never get the chance to be awed by this great God because we prefer the safety of what we are familiar with rather than risk any new beginning.

Yet throughout the generations the stories overflow of those who dared to say "yes" to God's invitation to step off the beaten path. Abram is one of those who can tell such a tale. Although Abram was beyond the dreaming big stage, as we often believe we enter as we age, God told him to leave kindred behind. It was time to go to a land where God would make Abram's name great. It would be a place Abram's offspring would inhabit and keep multiplying in.

Abram couldn't pass up this offer. It was too enticing, especially since he and his wife, Sarai, were childless. Could there still be a chance to leave a legacy?

They packed their belongings and set forth. And God did not disappoint. Abram, whose name was changed to Abraham, signifying the new thing God was doing in his life, had descendants as numerous as the stars in heaven. Sarai's name was also changed to Sarah.

I've always been enamored by Abram's call story, as it has bolstered my fainting heart when daring to step into an unknown future. But before you applaud my faith, let me point out that my Abram moments happened when I was filled with youthful ignorance.

Now that I'm older, I find myself hesitant to go in any direction without first asking God, "Does the journey come with a pension and health care?" I had always hoped my faith, not my fear, would grow stronger as I aged.

It's one thing to heed God's call in our youth, but who among the AARP card carriers would be excited for such a journey? Our golden years should be ones of rest and comfort, not unknown adventures. Yet God doesn't worry about the fire hazard those numerous candles on our birthday cakes have turned into. God still wants to blaze a glorious future for us.

Who will dare to have the faith of old Abram? I pray I will. I pray you will. For we all have a call story still waiting to be told.

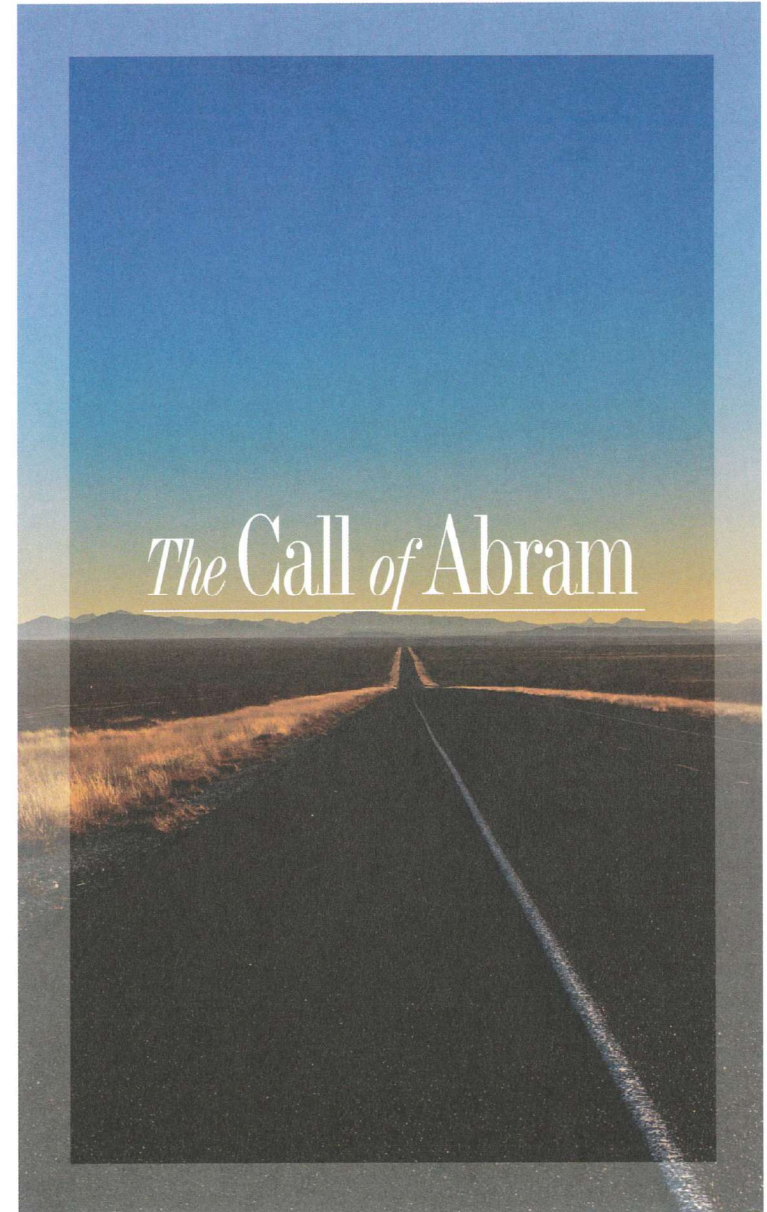
*God of amazing adventures and divine protection, may this day we tell our fears to be gone. May faith overflow in our hearts, helping us to trust our unknown futures to a God who we do know: the God of love who never lets us down. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*

(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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St. John's United Church of Christ  
**Second Sunday after Pentecost**  
 June 7, 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)

We have gathered here to worship God.  
**We have come as isolated individuals with our pains and confusion, with our apathy and pride, and our anger and fears.**

Some of us come to rest or relax, to leave behind a busy schedule.

**Some of us come with feelings of rejection and doubts of whether we are acceptable.**

We bring with us our prejudices and biases.

**But we come open to worship the God who can make us whole.**

\* **OPENING HYMN** *Heal Me, Hands of Jesus* #504

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

**Come, Creator God, who made the heavens with a word, who gathers the oceans together. Come, powerful God, whose wisdom stands forever, a gift to all generations. Come, generous God, who provided safe travels and a blessing to Abraham and Sarah. Come, healing God, who calls us daughters and sons, whose grace can make us whole. Come, great God, who is worthy of our gladdest songs, and our deepest commitment. Amen.**

\* **RESPONSE** *Spirit of the Living God* #259

**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)

**Gracious Lord, we are your servants. Let these offerings be our sacrifice of thanksgiving and praise. In your name. Amen.**

**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 33: 1-12

New Testament: Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

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

**MESSAGE** *The Compassion of the Christ*

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

\* **CLOSING HYMN** *O Christ the Healer* (vs. 1 & 2) #503

\* **BLESSING** (responsively)

May God bless us, embrace us and send us forth renewed, refreshed, revitalized.

**May we live each day in the name of love, include all in our circle of love, and treat all with a spirit of love, through the Spirit who is Love. 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 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.

**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 6<sup>th</sup> 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!

**NEW MEMBERS** will be welcomed into full church membership in late June or early July. If you would like to formally unite with the congregation, please see Pastor Debbie Jo.

**CALLING ALL CONFIRMANDS:** If you have a young person entering 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade (or above) who is ready for Confirmation, please contact Pastor Debbie Jo ASAP. We would like to get the class organized and some of the requirements completed over the summer. Regular classes will begin in the fall with Confirmation taking place on May 2, 2027. Confirmation will not be offered again until the 2028-2029 school year.

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

**RAINBOW OVER THE BRIDGE:** As part of PRIDE month, we will be hosting a booth at Rainbow Over the Bridge on Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. We will be handing out rainbow bracelets and buttons and providing free PRIDE temporary tattoos. We will give out information on our church and outreach missions. The event is from 4:00-9:00 p.m. so please sign up for a shift or to help set-up/clean-up. A list is in the back of the church.

**NOTICE IS GIVEN OF A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** following worship on June 14<sup>th</sup> for two items of business: 1. To decide which Association of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference to covenant with now that the Wabash Valley Association has been dissolved and 2. Hear an update on Preschool Enrollment and possible shortfall for the 2026-27 academic year. More details were sent to each member last week.

**JUNE MOVIE NIGHT** is June 28<sup>th</sup> (NOTE DATE CHANGE) 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.

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

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

**FATHER'S DAY** will be celebrated in worship on June 21<sup>st</sup>. Invite your fathers, grand-father's, uncles, and anyone who has been like a father to you so they may be recognized.

**CATCH THE MEROM SPIRIT:** All Ages Church Camp July 12-18. This non-denominational 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.

**STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH (STC)** Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ. We will collect the offering today.

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

## 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, Chris Sanders, Caden Utley and Kelsey Pepmeier Oladubu (Janet Daniels' niece), Lynn Simmons, Nina (Pastor Debbie's granddaughter), Ruth (Pastor Debbie's sister) in the death of her husband, Luis and Ray Pieper.

### **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

### **At Home:**

Gary Meyer  
Mike Lankford

## This Week in the Life of St. John's

### Sunday, 07

Adult SS Class 9:30am  
Worship 10:30am  
Strengthen the Church Offering

### Monday, June 08

BABE Store 12-5:30pm

### Tuesday, June 09

Visioning @ 5:30pm

### Wednesday, June 10

Christian Ed. @ 6pm

### Thursday, June 11

Tech. Meeting @ 10am  
Dinner & Conversation  
Coco's—6pm  
Outreach/Bene. @ 11am

### Friday, June 12

Pastor's Day Off

## Looking Ahead In May 2026

### Sunday, June 14

Adult SS Class 9:30am  
Worship 10:30am  
Congregational Mtg.

### Monday, June 15

BABE Store 12-5:30pm  
Worship Comm @ 5pm  
Board Meeting @ 6pm

### Tuesday, June 16

### Wednesday, June 17

### Thursday, June 18

Dinner & Conversation  
Carriage Inn —6pm

### Friday, June 19

Pastor's Day Off



## Staff and Volunteers

<b>Pastor:</b>	Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins
<b>Secretary</b>	Kim Butler
<b>Church Board President:</b>	Saundra Lange
<b>Pianist:</b>	Pat Sparks
<b>Children &amp; Family Ministry Coordinator:</b>	Will Meyer
<b>Head Usher:</b>	Marvin Covey
<b>Projection:</b>	Saundra Lange
<b>Sound:</b>	Jonathan Lange
<b>Liturgist:</b>	Brenda Roark

## 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.

