

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 2, 2026

Matthew 14:13-21

Face to Face

Carrie Breck had her hands full tending to five children while making meals, washing laundry, and knitting socks for those many little feet. And yet the young homemaker, born in 1855, found the time to write poetry — lyrical words inspired by her praises to God that were always on the tip of her tongue.

It is said that many times she wondered, while busily doing chores, what it would be like to see Christ. So, with the words from 1 Corinthians 13 on her heart that spoke of seeing through a dark glass now but then seeing the heavenly promise clearly — face to face — she began writing.

Her poem would later become the beloved hymn, “Face to Face with Christ My Savior,” which was first sung in 1899.

Only faintly now I see him | With the darkened veil between | But a blessed day is coming | When his glory shall be seen.

Five thousand people once had a blessed day that came to them unexpectedly. They gathered on the mountainside hungering to hear Jesus’ beautiful words of life — and found themselves soon hungering for something to silent their growling bellies.

Jesus’ friends were quick to suggest sending them away to get their dinners in the surrounding villages. Jesus wouldn’t have that. He told his friends to give the crowd something to eat. I could only imagine the shock on their faces as they just didn’t know how they would feed such masses.

When told there was nothing but five loaves of bread and two fish on hand, Jesus had them bring the measly offering to him. It was then he blessed and broke the loaves and had the food distributed. Everyone had their fill and still there was enough leftover bread to overflow 12 baskets.

There will be a day when we will all come face to face with Christ our Savior. A day when all his glory shall be seen. But until then, we need to keep alert to the glimpses of glory that shine now in the dark. We need to train our eyes to see the God moments. We need to actively seek those God moments, for they are everywhere. Miracles still abound. There is always a measly loaf of bread in our lives waiting to bless, break and share.

Dazzling God, we know that while now we see dimly in a mirror, we will come face to face with You and all Your glory. Help us this day to live into the God moments, expecting miracles where they are least expected. May we go about our busy lives always with Your promise of provision in our hearts. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

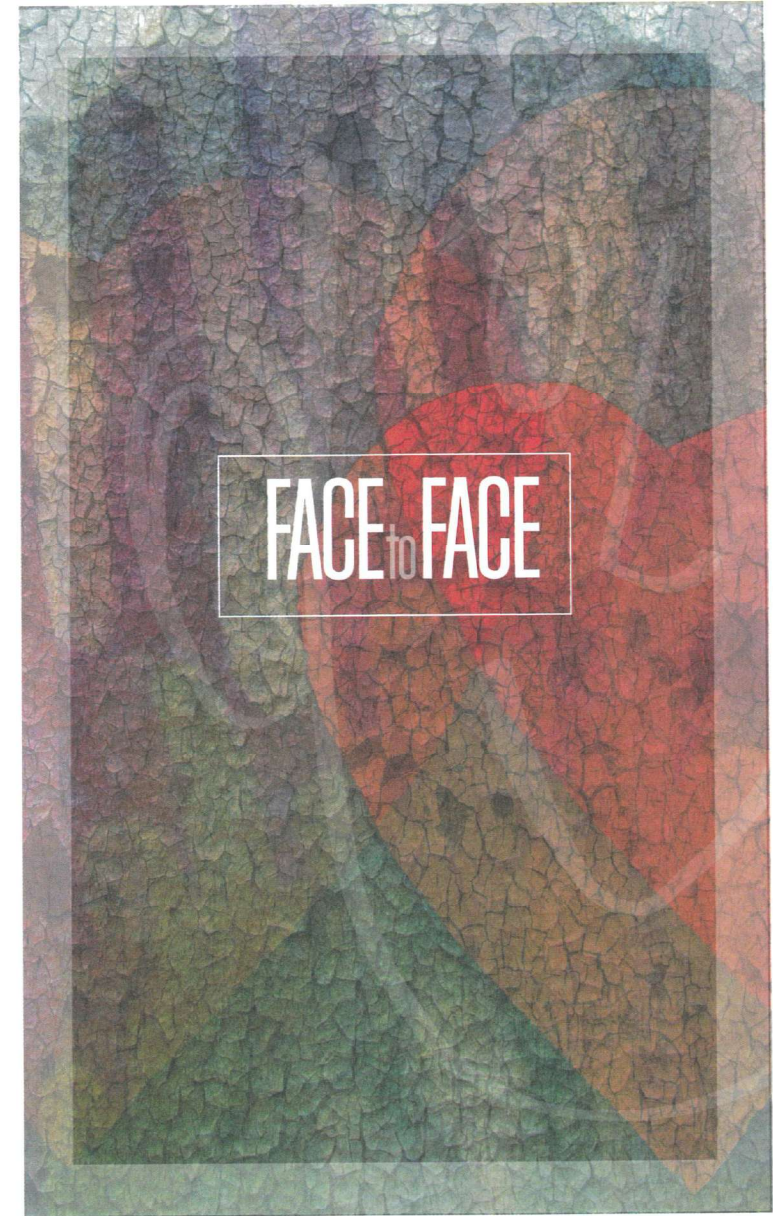
(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today’s Sunday Bulletin.)



8.5" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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BUL0409





St. John's United Church of Christ
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 2, 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)

Sometimes, O God, we feel like Jacob, wrestling with angels.

Strengthen us.

Sometimes we feel battered and broken.

Touch us.

Sometimes we grow so weary in the struggle.

Refresh us. Together, let us seek the face of the Divine.

* **OPENING HYMN** *The God of Abraham Praise* #24

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

We praise you, extraordinary God, for the holiness of ordinary things — a gathering of fellow believers, a song of praise, a prayer of thanksgiving, a word, a loaf of bread, a cup, a fountain of water. Send your spirit to rush, cool and clear, through our dry and brittle places. May the spirit seep into the cracks and crevices of our hearts, that we might know you more fully and worship you more deeply. Amen.

* **RESPONSE** *Gloria Patri* #35

SPECIAL MUSIC Wood & Wire

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Backpack Blessing *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** *We Give Thee but Thine Own* (v. 1) #382

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (unison)

Generous God, we offer our gifts and our lives; may the spirit in which they are given allow them to free rather than bind, to heal rather than wound, and to serve the reign of the Lord of Life. Amen.

WE GATHER IN PRAYER

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

Congregational Response: *Hear Our Prayer, O God* #306

SCRIPTURE:

Old Testament: Genesis 32:22-31

New Testament: Romans 9:1-5

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

MESSAGE *The Greatest Fight of All Time*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

* **CLOSING HYMN** *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* #622

* **BLESSING** (responsively)

Leave this place, friends, with the certain knowledge that our creating, redeeming and sustaining God goes with you,
Equipping us with wisdom and grace to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ. Amen.

* **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** *Let There Be Peace on Earth* #677

* **POSTLUDE**

Announcements

***You may place your offering in the plate at the back of the sanctuary or online at myuc.org and clicking on the contribute button. Please prayerfully consider setting up regular online donations to continue our outreach into the community.*

3-2-1 Blast Off! Launching our fall programming on Sunday, August 16, at 9:45 am with an expanded Fellowship Time. Faith Ventures begins, our ministry for children in kindergarten through 6th grade. Children attend the 10:30 a.m. worship service with their families and will be dismissed immediately following the Children's Message. Faith Ventures will include a Bible lesson along with fun, hands-on activities that reinforce the day's lesson.

AUGUST MOVIE NIGHT will be held on August 16th at 5:00 pm featuring *Keeping the Faith* starring Ben Stiller, Edward Norton, and Jenna Elfman, with Anne Bancroft in a supporting role. Best friends since they were kids, Rabbi Jacob Schram and Father Brian Finn are dynamic and popular young men living and working on New York's Upper West Side. When Anna Reilly, once their childhood friend and now grown into a beautiful corporate executive, suddenly returns to the city, she reenters Jake and Brian's lives and hearts with a vengeance. Sparks fly and an unusual and complicated love triangle ensues. A light supper will be provided. Everyone invited.

CONFIRMATION CLASS will have its first gathering on Sunday, August 23rd at 5:00-6:00 p.m. All students in Grades 6 & up are invited to participate. Even if you are not yet sure if you are ready to make a commitment to Christ and church membership, we encourage you to attend as an opportunity to explore your faith, ask questions, and hear the opinions of others in the class as together we continue our faith journey. This first class will be a time of getting to know one another, gain an understanding of Confirmation, and order our books and Bibles. PLEASE give it a chance and join us for this important exploration of our faith, history, mission and how we all belong together in God's family.

MESSY CHURCH UPDATE: On Wednesday, August 5th at 10:00 am, the Core Team and any willing volunteers will be organizing and inventorying the Messy Church room as we prepare for a new program year beginning on September 2nd. Please let Pastor know if you can help.

WANTED: FAITHFUL KIDS FOR GOD'S POSSE is the theme for our **MESSY CHURCH** rootin'-tootin' round-up on September 2nd from 5:30-7:00 pm. Grab your cowboy gear and giddy-up to our western theme night of fun for the whole family. Eat at the chuck wagon, interactive worship and lots of activities, crafts and games. Invite your friends and families and join us. YEE-HAW!

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

NEW MEMBERS TO BE RECEIVED: On August 9th we will be welcoming six new members into our church family. If you would like to unite with the congregation, please speak with Pastor.

FALL FESTIVAL sponsored by The Membership & Evangelism Committee will take place on Sunday, October 4th from 3:00-5:00 p.m. at the Church Parking Lot, featuring: Lincoln Trail Mobile Farm (petting zoo), Vincennes Firetruck and firefighters, Bounce House, free food, marshmallow toasting for s'mores, gift card raffle, carnival games, and MORE! Plan now to participate and volunteer to help! Invite your friends and families.

CHURCH PICNIC DATE is September 27th at the Open Air Pavillion in Gregg Park. Mark your calendars!

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.

CHOIR DIRECTING will be done by Conway Wilson on September 6th. If anyone is interested in singing that Sunday, that would be great! We will be having a practice the Wednesday before September 6th @ 7pm. You can call Connie Coulter 812-881-7343 or Cindy Deckard 812-887-2999 with any questions.

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, Kelsey Pepmeier Oladubu (Janet Daniels' niece), DeEtta Welte, Phyllis King, mother of Melissa Pancake, Marvin Covey, Colten Kirchoff and Marty's daughter-in-law and son Morris, Jane Ann Marchino and Mark Strange.

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

This Week in the Life of St. John's

Sunday, August 02

Adult SS Class 9:30am
Fellowship Time @ 10am
Men's Group —Special Music
Backpack Blessing
Communion

Monday, August 03

BABE Store 12-5:30pm
Membership/Evang. @ 5:30pm

Tuesday, August 04

Wednesday, August 05

Organize Messing Church
Room @ 10am

Thursday, August 06

Dinner & Conversation
Haub House @ 6pm
Preschool Begins

Friday, August 07

Pastor's Day Off
Phoebe's Mission 4:30-6:00pm



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:	Michelle Grube
Projection:	Saundra Lange
Sound:	Lonny Vieck
Liturgist:	Cindy Deckard

Looking Ahead In August 2026

Sunday, August 09

Adult SS Class 9:30am
John Mineo —Special Music
New Members Received

Monday, August 10

BABE Store 12-5:30pm

Tuesday, August 11

Wednesday, August 12

Christian Ed @ 5:30pm

Thursday, August 13

Dinner & Conversation
American Table @ 6pm

Friday, August 14

Pastor's Day Off

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.