

When All Seems Lost

Joseph was a dreamer. He was also the child his father loved the most, which didn't sit well with his brothers. So much so, they plotted to kill their younger sibling. But not wanting Joseph's blood on their hands, they threw him in a pit instead. When the pit didn't ease their guilty conscience, they then sold the boy for 20 pieces of silver to a group of Ishmaelites on their way to Egypt.

Yes, Joseph was a dreamer. And yes, he was the family's golden child. But I believe what really spurred the brothers' hatred was that Joseph dared to dream.

"Here comes the dreamer," his brothers would say with a biting sarcasm when Joseph approached. Here comes the one with lofty ideas, with bold plans, with a vision that quite honestly isn't enviable but downright frightening because it holds a mirror to our inability to embrace a new way of living.

And that's the thing about dreams. They have the power to unsettle others. A reason why many life coaches advise against sharing too freely our most treasured dreams with everyone, because not everyone will understand and be supportive. Many a dream has been squashed by a naysayer who thought they were listing all the cons out of love and concern for the dreamer.

What a shame it is that in our lives we give too much power to the opinions of others, especially when it comes to our dreams, for those dreams just might be from God who, in the Bible, often communicated in nocturnal slumbering.

And when a dream is a God dream, they are never then the sole property of the dreamer. They are for the making of a better world, which comes at the price of the old world having to come to an end or at least make some big changes. Thus, why people often seek to kill dreams.

Yes, here comes the dreamer. No, I am not referring to Joseph, but to you, for we all have dreams. Some so big they might seem impossible, but they are not. Some within reach, ready to be grabbed hold of. And all with the ability to change life as we know it.

As Harriet Tubman once said, "Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience and the passion to reach for the stars and to change the world."

If all seems lost now for you, my dear dreamer, it is not. Keep reaching. Keep believing. God is with you.

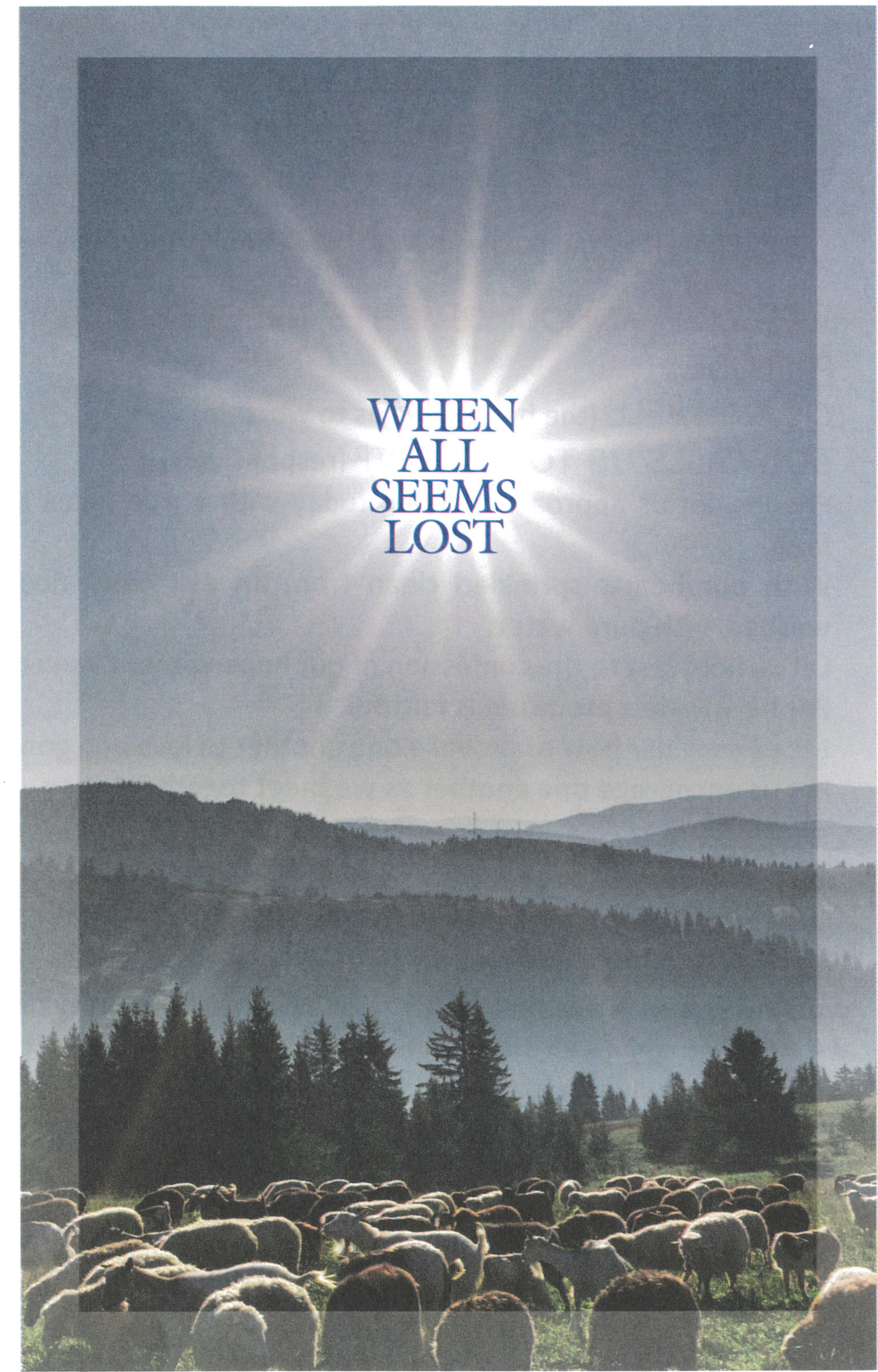
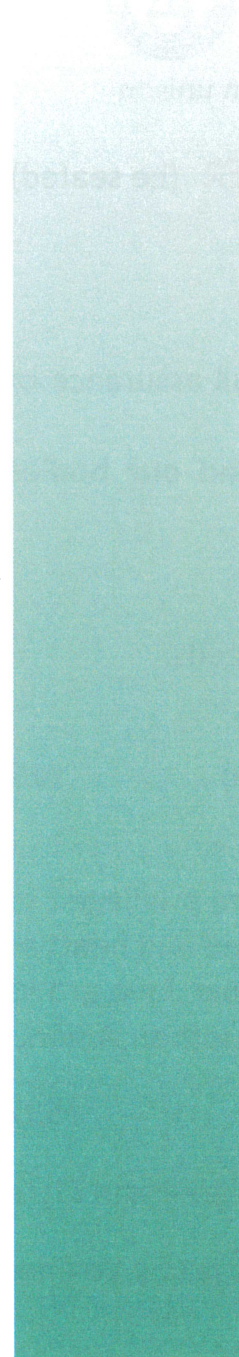
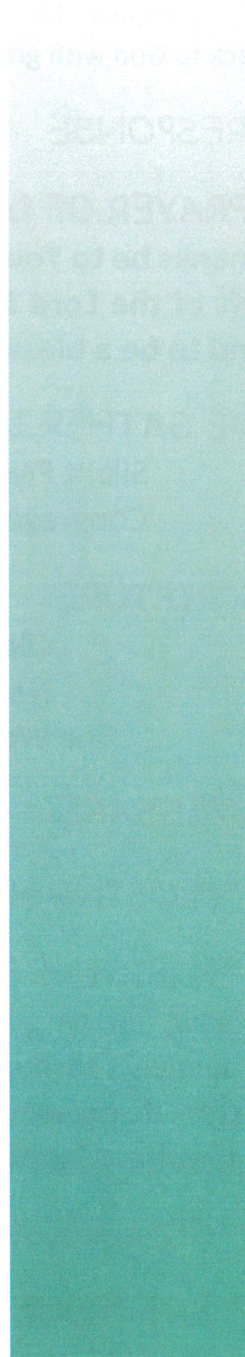
Inspiring God, may today we find ourselves daring to dream once again. May we find the strength to take those forgotten dreams off the dusty shelves of our hearts. May we believe beyond belief, that with You, all things are indeed possible. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

(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
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
August 9, 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)

Friends, let us approach worship today with a true heart in full assurance of faith,

With our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering,

For he who has promised is faithful.

Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds.

Let us encourage one another as we meet together today.

* **OPENING HYMN** *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* (vs. 1-3) #25

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

You have brought us, O God, to another Lord's Day, when we are privileged to worship you with our siblings in Christ. May we have unity of mind and heart as we open ourselves to the movement of your Holy Spirit. As your love grows within us, may we have rich fellowship with you and with one another. Amen.

* **RESPONSE** *Just a Closer Walk with Thee* (refrain) #557

SPECIAL MUSIC Jonathan Clark

SACRAMENT OF ADULT BAPTISM Karla Kay Vollmer

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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** *Give Thanks* #528

* **PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (unison)

Thanks be to You, O God, for all good gifts, and especially for your inexpressible gift of the Lord Jesus. Help us, O Lord, to see wherein we have been blessed, and to be a blessing to others. Amen.

WE GATHER IN PRAYER

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

Congregational Response: *Great is Thy Faithfulness* (refrain) #86

SCRIPTURE:

Old Testament: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

New Testament: Matthew 14:22-33

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

MESSAGE *That's Bad, No, That's Good*

* **CLOSING HYMN** *All Creatures of Our God and King* #22

* **BLESSING** (responsively)

Now, let us go out from this place and witness to the next generation of believers through our humility before God, our trust in God;

Our disciplined life because of God, our attentiveness to God, and our steadfast faithfulness in God's eternal grace and presence. Amen.

* **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** *Go in Peace* #445

* **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.

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!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS to our congregation: Laura Arial, Karla Vollmer, Carson Sanders, Joel Sanders, and Cindy & Jim Utley.

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

FALL FESTIVAL sponsored by The Membership & Evangelism Committee will take place on Sunday, October 4th from 3:00-5:00 p.m. in the church parking lot, featuring: Pet Blessing Lincoln Trail Mobile Farm (petting zoo), Vincennes Firetruck and firefighters, Bounce House, free food, marshmallow roasting for s'mores, gift card raffle, carnival games, face painting 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.

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 - Aperion 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 09

Adult SS Class 9:30am
Jonathan Clark —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

Outreach/Bene @ 9:30am
Dinner & Conversation
American Table @ 6pm

Friday, August 14

Pastor's Day Off
IKC Annual Mtg.—Carmel

Looking Ahead In August 2026

Sunday, August 16

Adult SS Class 9:30am
3-2-1 Blast Off @ 9:45am
Fellowship Time @ 10am
Worship @ 10:30am
Lauren Story —Special Music
Movie @ 5pm

Monday, August 17

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

Tuesday, August 18

Visioning Mtg. @ 5:15pm

Wednesday, August 19

September Newsletter Items
Due in Office

Thursday, August 20

Dinner & Conversation
Log Inn @ 6pm

Friday, August 21

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:	Michelle Grube
Projection:	Jana Vieck
Sound:	Brian Fillingim
Liturgist:	Brad Summers

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.