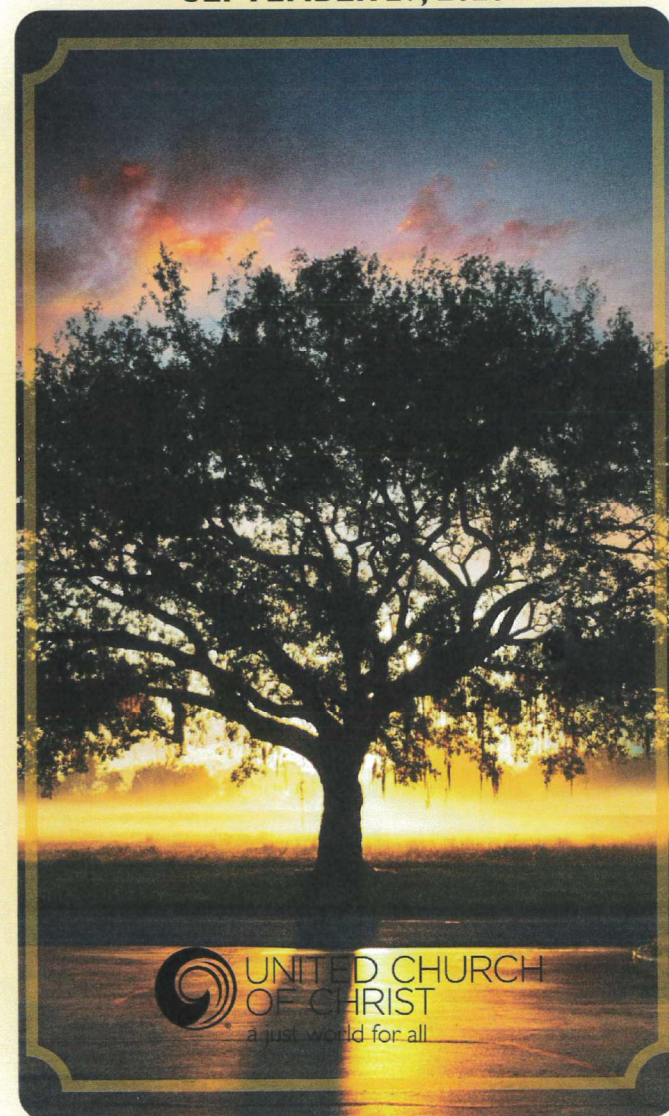


BUL0104



8 1/2" x 14 UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE
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SEPTEMBER 27, 2026



EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



St. John's United Church of Christ
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
 September 27, 2026



* Please stand if it is comfortable to do so. **Bold print** is everyone in unison

Church Picnic

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, GREET ONE ANOTHER (be seated)

PRELUDE

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP (responsively)

We yearn to be in the presence of the Holy One,
To linger in the house of prayer,
 To walk beside still streams,
To behold the radiance of creation,
 To sing as matches our joy,
To offer our sacrifice of service,
 To dwell all our days enfolded in the love of God,
To praise God with our deeds and melodies.

***OPENING HYMN** *Kum Ba Yah (Come by Here)* #590

Kum Ba Yah, my Lord (3x) O Lord, Kum Ba Yah
Someone's crying, Lord (3x) O Lord, Kum Ba Yah
Someone's singing, Lord (3x) O Lord, Kum Ba Yah
Someone's praying, Lord (3x) O Lord, Kum Ba Yah

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

We are not alone; we live in God's world. We believe in God who has created and is creating; who has come to us in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new; who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church, to celebrate God's presence; to live with respect in creation; to love and serve others; to seek justice and resist evil; to proclaim Jesus' message of hope, inclusion and grace. Amen.

***RESPONSE** *Seek Ye First (v. 1)* #354
Seek ye first the kingdom of God and God's righteousness; And all these things shall be added unto you. Al-le-lu, Al-le-lu-ia!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *Jesus Loves Me* #113

WE GATHER IN PRAYER

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

Congregational Response: *Seek Ye First (v. 2)* #354

Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek and you shall find; Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you. Al-le-lu, Al-le-lu-ia!

SCRIPTURE:

Old Testament: Genesis 1:1-5

New Testament: Romans 1:20

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

MESSAGE *The Power of Words*

***CLOSING HYMN** *Creator God, Creating Still (v. 1)* #62
Creator God creating still, By will and word and deed. Create a new humanity, To meet the present need.

***BLESSING** (responsively)

Go forth, go into the world. Go into these cooling days of Fall. Enjoy God's creation and all that God provides. Celebrate the autumn time of the earth where life is enhanced by the glorious colors of God's world..

We go forth sharing, witnessing and living the Good News. Amen.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** *Lord, I Want to be a Christian* #589
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart (2x) In-a-my heart, In-a-my heart, Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart

***POSTLUDE**

Announcements

THANK YOU to Kim Godare and her team for organizing the picnic today and to Brayton Cummins for cooking the pulled pork.

CONFIRMATION CLASS will meet tonight at **6:00 pm**. Our topic tonight will be the Bible, how it came to be, what part it plays in our faith and more.

FAITH VENTURES is our Faith Formation program (formerly Sunday School) for grades K-6th. Participants leave with the teachers following the Children's Moment and return by end of service. Younger children are invited to play quietly under parental supervision in the Playground in the back of the sanctuary.

A NIGHT AT THE RACES on Saturday, October 17th (NOTE: DATE CHANGE) to watch our own Delaynee Coomes compete in Dirt Track racing at Red Hill Raceway in Sumner, IL. Sign up to attend on the sheet in the back of the sanctuary. The entrance fee is \$25 (cash only facility) and hot laps begin at 7:30 pm. More details to come. If we have enough people, we may take the church van. Let's turn out and support Delaynee!

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), Face Painting, Vincennes Firetruck and fire-fighters, Bounce House, free food, marshmallow toasting for S'mores, gift card raffle, carnival games, race car, pumpkin painting and MORE! Plan now to participate and volunteer to help! Invite your friends and families. **WE NEED THE LOAN OF SEVERAL POP-UP TENTS. PLEASE LET THE OFFICE KNOW IF YOU HAVE ONE WE CAN USE. Also needed: \$20 gift cards for raffles. We need lots of help to set-up & clean-up. Please volunteer to help.**

PET BLESSING will take place during the Fall Festival. Pastor Debbie will be set up throughout the event to blessing any animal you wish to bring. Dogs must be leashed, Cats & small animals in carriers and large animals (horse, cow, llama, elephant) must be tethered and controlled by the owner. Each animal will receive a small tag and prayer card.

MESSY CHURCH on October 7th from 5:30-7:00 pm is **DO, LOVE, WALK** based on Micah 6:6-8: *And what does the LORD require of you but to DO justice and to LOVE kindness and to WALK humbly with your God?* Activities include experimenting with magnets, Scripture "cup game," foot craft, rhythm stick painting and playing, compass necklace and more. We will also do our cattle round-up we didn't get to last month. Dinner is walking tacos, fruit cup and raw veggies & dip. Join us for an evening of faith, food, fellowship and fun.

WHILE PASTOR IS AWAY: October 11th will feature a "Mission Sunday" with our local missions being shared by various members of our congregation. On October 18th, the service will be led by the Youth Fellowship & Will.

BIBLE PRESENTATION to all fourth-grade students during worship on October 4th. If you have a fourth grader, please let Pastor know ASAP so we can have a Bible ready to present.

PASTOR ON STUDY LEAVE: Pastor's Call Agreement allows for two weeks study leave each year. In October she will be traveling to Scotland to visit the Abbey on the Isle of Iona and visit a number of cathedrals and chapels throughout the country. On a fun note, she will be having tea aboard the Hogwart's Express (a.k.a. the Jacobite Steam Engine), and visiting other historical sites. She will be away from the pulpit on October 11th & 18th, returning in time for Reformation Sunday on October 25th. The church has established an appreciation fund for donations towards her trip. If you would like to contribute, please do so by October 4th. Thanks!

Laundry Love: Jana Vieck is needing help with Laundry Love October 30th. If anyone can help out it would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

FELLOWSHIP TIME HELP: Please sign up to help with Fellowship Time at 9:45 on October 11th, November 15th and December 20th. A clipboard is in the back of the sanctuary.

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.

THE NEIGHBORS IN NEED offering supports ministries of justice and compassion, with one-third of the offering given to the Council for American Indian Ministries and the remaining two-thirds supporting UCC justice ministries. In 2025 the Neighbors in Need Offering supported 26 grant recipients across the UCC who were engaged in projects of direct service and advocacy. We will gather our NIN offering in worship on **October 4**. Thank you for your support and generosity!

TAX-WISE TO SUPPORT OUR CHURCH from Mackenzie B. Jones, CPA: If you are age 70.5 years or older, you can give directly from your IRA to our church through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). This type of gift can count towards your required minimum distribution (RMD) and may help reduce your taxable income. It's a simple and tax-efficient way to support the ministry you care about. Please consult your financial advisor or IRA custodian to learn how to make a QCD.

Congratulations! Vera Mattingly won the title of 2027 Miss Crossroads to America Teen.

Prayers Posts

We ask for continuing prayer requests for: Marilyn Houchins, John Mineo, Cindi Gilmore, Kim Godare's daughter Mallory, Marvin Covey, Colten Kirchoff, Jane Ann Marchino, Jana Vieck, Brenda Fillingim, Olivia Robinson, Derrick Flowers, family of Nancy Stultz (passing of her brother) and Ryan Watts.

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:

Mike Lankford

This Week in the Life of St. John's

Sunday, September 27

Adult SS Class 9:30am
Church Picnic & Outdoor
Worship at Gregg Park
Confirmation Class @ 6pm

Monday, September 28

BABE Store 12-5:30pm

Tuesday, September 29

Wednesday, September 30

Handbells @ 3pm
Choir @ 4pm
Laundry Love from 6-8pm

Thursday, October 01

Dinner & Conversation
Carriage Inn @ 6pm
ETSA luncheon @ noon

Friday, October 02

Pastor's Day Off

Looking Ahead In October 2026

Sunday, October 04

Adult SS Class 9:30am
World Communion
Fall Festival 3-5 pm
Confirmation @ 5pm

Monday, October 05

BABE Store 12-5:30pm

Tuesday, October 06

Pre-School @ 5:30pm
Congregational Life @ 5:30pm
Messy Church @ 6pm

Wednesday, October 07

Handbells @ 3pm
Choir @ 4pm
Messy Church 5:30-7pm

Thursday, October 08

Dinner & Conversation
Off The Square @ 6pm

Friday, October 09

Pastor's Starts Study Leave



Staff and Volunteers

Pastor:	Rev. Debbie Jo Atkins
Secretary	Kim Butler
Church Board President:	Sandra Lange
Choir Director	Jonathan Clark
Pianist:	Pat Sparks
Children & Family Ministry Coordinator:	Will Meyer
Head Usher:	Allison Cummings
Projection:	Jana Vieck
Sound:	Lonny Vieck
Liturgist:	Elaine Workman

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.