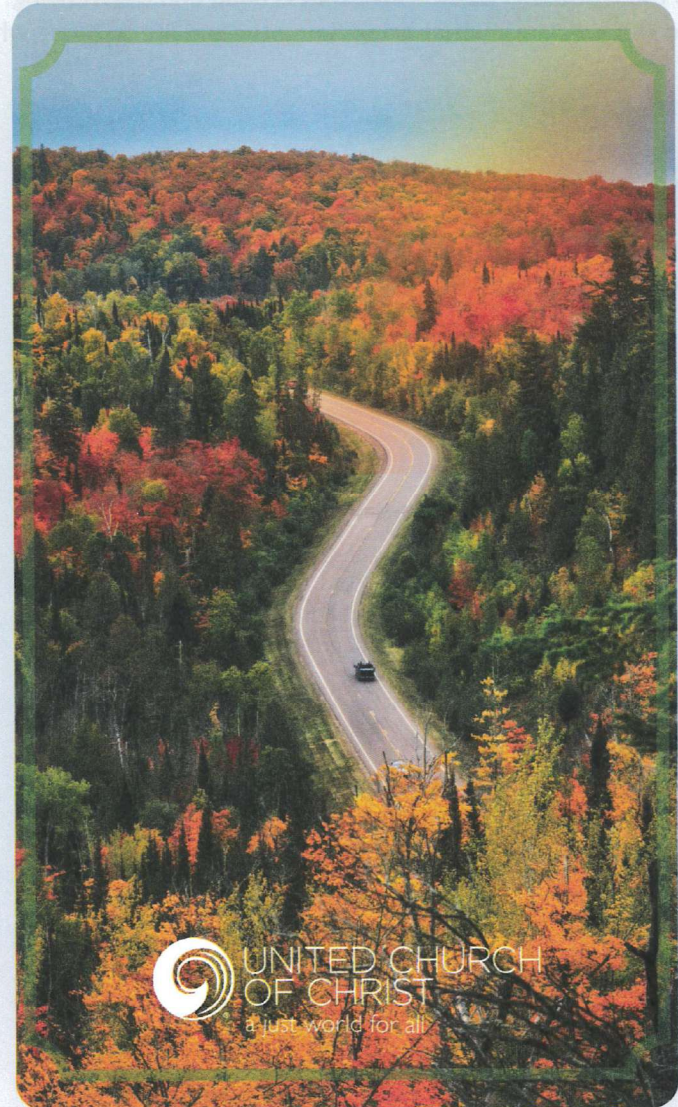


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8 1/2" x 14 UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE
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SEPTEMBER 13, 2026



SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



St. John's United Church of Christ
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
 September 13, 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)

Let us focus on God's presence.

In the midst of a world where people hunger and thirst ...

Come worship a God who feeds the hungry.

In the midst of a world where people are abused and oppressed ...

Come worship a God who calls for compassion and justice.

In the midst of a world filled with wars and rumors of war ...

Come worship a God who desires nothing less than peace for the world.

In the midst of a world of spiritual emptiness ...

Come worship a God who gives life meaning.

Come, let us worship the Lord, whose grace and love know no end!

***OPENING HYMN** **O God, Our Words Cannot Express**
 (tune: *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*)

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

We hold up before you, our Creator, all of our loved ones who have passed from earth into eternity. Especially, we remember those who have laid down their lives that others might live. Keep them in our memories. Keep them in our hearts. Bring them safely into your eternal arms as we worship. Amen.

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

GRANDPARENTS RECOGNITION

SOLO

John Mineo

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (children please come forward) *Jesus Loves Me*
 (Children K-6th Grade are welcome to leave with Faith Ventures leaders)

****OFFERING INVITATION:** God is so good and we are richly blessed. Let us give back to God with gratitude and thanksgiving.

***RESPONSE** *For the Beauty of the Earth* (v. 1) #56

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (unison)

Accept these gifts, O God, as testimonies of our love for you and our desire to serve you. Let these offerings be an affirmation that we are bound to one another as your people. In your generous name we pray. 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: Psalm 46: 1-3

New Testament: Colossians 3:12-15

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

MESSAGE *Remembrance of 9-11*

REMEMBRANCE VIDEO

***CLOSING HYMN** *O God Our Hearts Were Shattered*
 (tune: *O Sacred Head Now Wounded*)

***BLESSING** (responsively)

Carry peace into the world this week -- peace that unites and restores. Carry love into the world this week -- love that is blind and overflowing. Carry joy into the world this week -- joy that brings laughter and life to those who can see

neither. Carry grace & hope into the world this week -- that extends to even the deepest hurts you have received.

We go forth with the peace, love, joy, grace and hope that can only come from our great God. 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

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.

CHOIR & HANDBELLS rehearse with Jonathan Clark on Wednesdays with handbells at 3:00 pm and choir at 4:00 pm. All ringers and singers are invited to attend.

CONFIRMATION CLASS will meet on September 13th & 27th at 5:00 p.m. If you haven't yet signed up for the class, please do so ASAP so books and Bibles can be ordered.

SEPTEMBER MOVIE NIGHT is September 20th at 5:00 featuring Ryan Gosling in the recent mega box-office hit, *Project Hail Mary*. Science teacher Rylan Grace wakes up on a spaceship with no recollection of who he is or how he got there. As his memory returns, he begins to uncover his mission: solve the riddle of the mysterious substance causing the sun to die out. He must call on his scientific knowledge to save everything on Earth from extinction but an unexpected friendship means he may not have to do it alone.

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 firefighters, Bounce House, free food, marshmallow roasting 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. Please let us know if you can help set-up and clean-up.

OUR STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN is *There Our Hearts Shall Be* based on Matthew 6:21. Watch for more details from the Stewardship Committee in the weekly bulletin.

CHURCH PICNIC DATE is September 27th at the Open Air Pavillion in Gregg Park. Mark your calendars! The Church Board will be providing pulled pork (by Brayton Cummins) and everyone is asked to bring a side dish to serve 10-12 people and a lawn chair.

PET BLESSING will take place during the Fall Festival. Pastor Debbie will be set up throughout the event to bless 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.

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!

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!

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.

CARD SHOWER FOR COLES: Longtime church family members, Jay and Karen Cole, have moved to North Carolina. Their new address is 1941 Kimball Drive, Greenville, NC 27834. Let's wish them well in their new home close to their children's families! (Reminder: update your church directory.)

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.

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 and Dan Flowers.

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

This Week in the Life of St. John's

Sunday, September 13

Adult SS Class 9:30am
Fellowship 10:00 am
Worship @ 10:30am
Youth Meeting 3:30-5:00pm
Grandparents Recognition
Remembrance: 25th Anniversary of 911
Confirmation Class 5:00pm

Monday, September 14

BABE Store 12-5:30pm
Pastor @ Christian Nationalism Workshop

Tuesday, September 15

Wednesday, September 16

Handbells @ 3pm
Choir @ 4pm
Pastor Debbie out of office

Thursday, September 17

Dinner & Conversation
Kelso's @ 6pm

Friday, September 18

Pastor's Day Off

Looking Ahead In September 2026

Sunday, September 20

Adult SS Class 9:30am
Worship @ 10:30am
Youth @ 11:30-1pm (Lunch Provided)
Movie @ 5pm—Project Hail Mary

Monday, September 21

BABE Store 12-5:30pm
Finance/Stewardship @ 5pm
Church Board @ 6pm

Tuesday, September 22

Wednesday, September 23

Handbells @ 3pm
Choir @ 4pm
October Newsletter Due

Thursday, September 24

Dinner & Conversation
Dragon 2000 @ 6pm
Ministerial Assoc. @ noon

Friday, September 25

Pastor's Day Off
Dolly Parton Day 9-25



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 Cummins
Projection:	
Sound:	Andrew Anson
Liturgist:	Hope Clausman

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.