UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

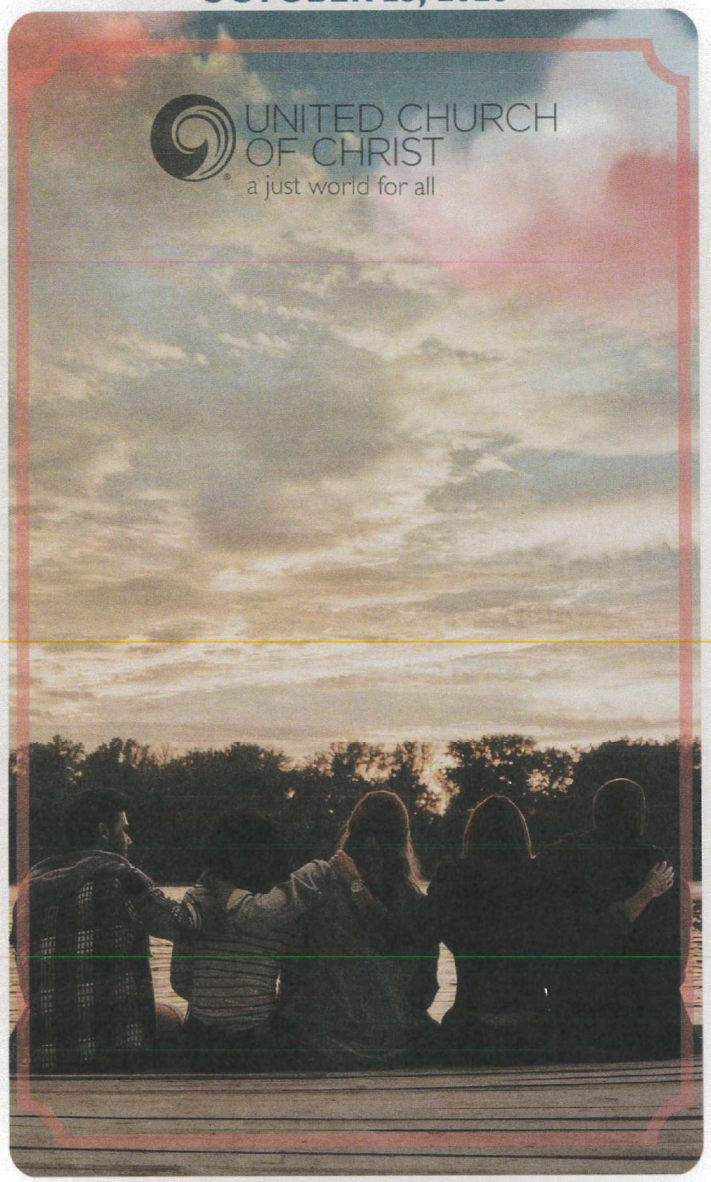
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81/2" x 14 UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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OCTOBER 25, 2026

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
a just world for all



TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

St. John's United Church of Christ

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 25, 2026

Reformation Sunday

* *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) Martin Luther

Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled.

My Lord, fill it.

I am weak in the faith; strengthen me.

I am cold in love; warm me and make me fervent, that my love may go out to my neighbor.

I do not have a strong and firm faith; at times I doubt and am unable to trust you altogether.

O Lord, help me. Strengthen my faith and trust in you.

In you I have sealed the treasure of all I have.

I am poor; you are rich and came to be merciful to the poor.

I am a sinner; you are upright.

With me, there is an abundance of sin; in you is the fullness of righteousness.

*OPENING HYMN *The Church's One Foundation* #

*WE INVITE GOD TO WORSHIP (unison) adapted from prayers of Martin Luther

Waken our hearts, O Lord, our God; make them ever watchful to serve you and your purposes. Trouble us with the smallness of our vision and work. Rekindle in us a renewed desire for the coming of your glorious kingdom when all wrongs will be made right, when everything that is broken will be made whole, and when we will trade a cross for a crown. Amen.

*RESPONSE *Seek Ye First* (v.1) #354

ANTHEM

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE & COSTUME BLESSING *Jesus Loves Me*

OFFERING INVITATION**

Let us give back to God with gratitude for all blessings received.

*RESPONSE *Now Thank We All Our God* (v.1) #715

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Generous God, accept our gifts and transform them to do your will. May we continue to be your hands and feet as we minister to those around us. Amen.

WE GATHER IN PRAYER

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

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

SCRIPTURE: Old Testament: Psalm 90:1-6

New Testament: Romans 3:19-28

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

MESSAGE *Positive Witness*

*CLOSING HYMN *A Mighty Fortress is Our God* #65

*BLESSING (responsively)

My friends, go forth from this place nourished by the gifts of God's love through Christ our Lord.

So loved and so nourished, may we love and nurture others so that the kindom of God may come. 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. Pasrticipants 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 Prayground in the back of the sanctuary.

MESSY CHURCH on November 4th from 5:30-7:00 pm is ***GROWING GENEROSITY*** based on 2 Corinthians 8-11: *And God is able to provide you with every blessing[f] in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.* Activities will include painting rocks, Generosity Tag, a Treasure Toss, Care Kits in a Sock, and more! Join us for this awesome event.

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

WE NEED YOUR HELP: Hanging of the Greens will start after worship on November 15th. Volunteers are needed to help with moving trees to the sanctuary and hanging garland. On November 22nd., we need help with decorating the trees and the sanctuary.

MEMORIAL SUNDAY/TOTENFEST will take place in worship on November 1st. We will remember those of our church who have entered into eternal life during the past year: Vern Houchins, Ellen Riggs, Marjorie Beamon, and Rev. Al Wilhouse. A candle will be lit, the bell rung, and yellow roses will be in honor of each person recognized.

THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE is excitedly planning the celebration for the beginning of the Advent season this year with anAdvent Festival on Sunday, November 29, immediately following worship service until 2:00 PM. Plans include lunch, lots of craft creations, candy/cookie making, games and good old-fashioned fellowship. Please mark your calendar for this festive day. If you are interested in helping in some way with the Advent celebration, please contact Jill Lopez.

LOOKING AHEAD! This year's Children and Youth Christmas program will be held during worship service on Sunday, December 13th. "The Heart of Christmas" promises to be a very special service. Parts and practice schedules for the youth and children will be distributed soon. Please plan to attend.

MESSY CHURCH will be preparing care kits for homeless individuals and the First City Sunrise Shelter for homeless individuals and we need your help. Please consider donating any of the following items: socks, (long-thermal/warm), gloves, travel size personal items (toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant), and hand warmers: reusable or disposable.

WANTED: The Preschool is in need of a 2-4 shelf bookcase. If you have one in good condition you would like to donate, please contact Laura Arial at 812-899-1731.

COMMITMENT SUNDAY will take place on November 15th with a catered meal following the service. Plan now to attend.

THERE OUR HEARTS SHALL BE is the theme of this year's Stewardship campaign which kicks off in October. We will be sharing our dreams for our congregation as we approach our Stewardship Sunday on November 15th. During the past 18 months of Visioning gatherings, we have heard a lot of the dreams church members have for our congregation. Let's work together to make those dreams into reality.

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.

WANTED: The Preschool is in need of a 2-4 shelf bookcase. If you have one in good condition you would like to donate, please contact Laura Arial at 812-899-1731.

NEXT SUNDAY we will recognize our veteren's in honor of Veteren's Day. Wear your poppy pin if you have one or pick up one in worship. It is also our first week of our Stewardship campaign.

FROM OUR CONFERENCE MINISTER:
I am inviting **you and one or two lay people in your congregation** to join the first gathering of our STAR (Small Town And Rural) Network. This Network is open to pastors and lay people in towns of 25,000 or fewer people. We will share the blessings and challenges of being church in small town and rural settings, engaging in community ministry, growing in faith, guiding our children and youth, and celebrating. We will share ideas, best practices and resources. We will encourage and support each other in ministry.
This Network will meet monthly on Zoom (and hopefully once a year in-person). **The first gathering will be on Wednesday, October 28 at 7:00 pm EST / 6:00 pm CST.**
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82213755218?pwd=klHallTu8BUBmSa8N0aQMv6aAeT6ur.1

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, 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

This Week in the Life of St. John's

Sunday, October 25
Adult SS Class 9:30am
Worship @ 10:30am
Confirmation @ 5pm
Reformation Sunday
Customary Blessing

Monday, October 26
BABE Store 12-5:30pm

Tuesday, October 27

Wednesday, October 28
Handbells @ 3pm
Choir @ 4pm
Laundry Love 6-8pm

Thursday, October 29
Dinner & Conversation
Log Inn@ 6pm

Friday, October 30

Looking Ahead In October 2026

Sunday, November 1
Adult SS Class 9:30am
Worship @ 10:30am

Monday, November 2
BABE Store 12-5:30pm

Tuesday, November 3

Wednesday, November 4
Handbells @ 3pm
Choir @ 4pm

Thursday, November 5
Dinner & Conversation
American Table @ 6pm

Friday, November 6
Pastor's Day Off

St. John's
United Church of Christ

Staff and Volunteers

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

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.