November 1, 2026 **Matthew 23:1-12** **Partners in Service**

Long before he was Pope, a priest called Francis developed a prayer he called the five-finger prayer. On this All Saints Day, it's a good way to call to mind those saints in our lives and in the world who have led the way in the faith. Hold your hands palm down in front of you, and look at your fingers one by one, beginning with your thumb, which is the closest to your heart. Thumb: Pray for those closest to you. Pray for those in your chosen family, or for your close friends. Pointer finger: Pray for those saints who have pointed you in the right direction. Pray for older relatives, wise teachers, good employers, and thoughtful mentors. Middle finger: This finger stands tall. Pray for the saints in leadership in your community and the world. Pray for those in business, government, and church leadership whose decisions affect so many. Ring finger: This finger is the weakest of all the fingers. Pray for those on the margins, pray for the oppressed or the downtrodden. Pray for the ill and the dying. Pray for the addicted and the imprisoned. Pinky finger: This finger is the smallest. This is where you put your prayers for yourself. In today's scripture story, Jesus teaches the crowds and disciples about servant leadership. He showed them that when we are followers of Christ, our words and actions need to be consistent. As we pray this prayer, we can get clearer about who are the ordinary, everyday saints in our lives and the world. We can better understand who those are who walk their walk and talk their talk, those saints who have something to teach us here and now.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

BUL0109

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NOVEMBER 1, 2026



ALL SAINTS DAY
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

St. John's United Church of Christ

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

November 1, 2026

Totenfest/Memorial 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)

We come as a people of faith, thankful for all who have gone before us.

We stand in awe of so many who have served faithfully and shared and lived the good news.

May their example and their courage be a guide and model for our living.

Let us remember and join in holy fellowship as we sing our praise.

*OPENING HYMN *For All the Saints* (vs. 1-3) #637

* *WE CONFESS OUR SIN (unison)

Eternal God, Forgive us for not following the example of so many worthy saints who have gone before us. We tend to put them high on a shelf and forget to follow their lead. Forgive us our complacency, our lack of obedience to your call, and thus assure us of our forgiveness in Christ. Amen.

*GOD FORGIVES US (responsively)

The good news is for us all this day. Christ loves us and calls us forth to new life. No matter the past and no matter what we have done or not done, God's love nourishes us with new life and hope.

This is the good news, in Christ we are forgiven.

*RESPONSE *O For a World* (v.1) #683

ANTHEM *Pass the Bread, Pass the Wine*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *Jesus Loves Me*

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT Natasha Coomes

OFFERING INVITATION**

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

*RESPONSE *The Doxology* #46

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Generous God, thank you for the gifts you bestow upon us daily. Bless what we bring before you to bless others, we pray. Amen.

IN MEMORIAM

Vern Houchins	July 14, 1943	November 17, 2025
Ellen Riggs	July 8, 1941	May 3, 2026
Marjorie Beamon	December 13, 1942	June 10, 2026
Rev. Al Wilhouse	December 10, 1927	June 18, 2026

SCRIPTURE: Old Testament: Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37

New Testament: Matthew 23:1-12

L: The Word of God for the People of God **P: Thanks be to God**

MESSAGE *Freedom for the Weary*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion Anthem: *Remember Me*

*CLOSING HYMN *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God*

*BLESSING (responsively)

Let us take heart and labor diligently for the reign of God. May the grace of God complete every good work through the power of faith, that we might praise God with our lips and glorify Christ with our lives.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with the saints and all the departed faithful, lives and reigns now and forevermore. Amen.

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Go In Peace* #445

Announcements

COMMUNION AT ST. JOHN'S UCC is open to EVERYONE, no matter their age, church affiliation or non-affiliation, Confirmed or not. If you belong to Christ you are welcome at the table. It is God's table, not ours. No one should be denied God's grace through the sacrament.

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 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, and more! Join us for this awesome event.

WANTED FOR MESSY CHURCH: we will be preparing care kits for homeless individuals and the First City Sunrise Shelter 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. A labelled box has been placed in Memorial Hall for your donations.

NEXT SUNDAY we will recognize our veteran's in honor of Veteran's Day. Wear your poppy pin if you have one or pick up one in worship.

CONFIRMATION/BIBLE CLASS will meet on November 1st and 29th at 5:00 pm. We will also schedule a time to begin watching *Jesus of Nazareth*. Please try not to miss any class sessions since we only have three more to go. Be thinking about whether you will write a faith statement or do a project that expresses your faith. Continue to review the lesson handouts from each session.

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.

THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE is excitedly planning the celebration for the beginning of the Advent season this year with an Advent 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.

COMMITMENT SUNDAY will take place on November 15th with a catered meal (fried chicken dinner and dessert) 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.

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.

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.

NOVEMBER MOVIE NIGHT will feature *Young Washington* at 5:00 pm. A young George Washington faces war, betrayal and impossible choices that will forge a leader. A light supper will be served so please sign up on the sheet in 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.

BABE STORE CHEESECAKE FUND RAISER: Cheesecakes are $25.00 each and can be ordered at this link: **https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/G7HH2tGXOx**

Cheesecakes will be ready for pickup at the Church on November 19th.

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

At Home:

Mike Lankford

This Week in the Life of St. John's

Sunday, November 1
Adult SS Class 9:30am
Worship @ 10:30am
Communion
Totenfest
Confirmation 5pm
Stewardship Speaker (Natasha Coomes)

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

Tuesday, November 3
Sandy's Pantry 11-12:30
Worship Comm. 4:30pm
Preschool Mtg. 5:30pm
Messy Church Mtg. 5:30pm
CE Mtg. 6pm
Election Day
Membership Dev. Mtg. 5pm

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

Thursday, November 5
Sandy's Pantry 11-12:30
Dinner & Conversation
American Table @ 6pm

Friday, November 6
Phoebe's Mission 4:30-6pm

Looking Ahead In November 2026

Sunday, November 8
Adult SS Class 9:30am
Worship @ 10:30am
Veteran's Day Recognition
Stewardship Speaker (Becky Brockman)
Dinner After Church
Pastor Debbie's Birthday

Monday, November 9
BABE Store 12-5:30pm

Tuesday, November 10
Visioning Meeting

Wednesday, November 11
Handbells @ 3pm
Choir @ 4pm
Office Closed—Veteran's Day

Thursday, November 12
Dinner & Conversation
CowTown @ 6pm

Friday, November 13
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:	Kim Godare
Projection:	Jill Doggett
Sound:	Brian Fillingim
Liturgist:	Lori Sanders

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.