

***Welcome to  
St. John's United Church of Christ***



**“Prayer”**

**“A Church Where God Is Doing A New Thing”**

# ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Ninth Sunday after Pentecost*

**July 25, 2010**

**10:15 a.m.**

*Large print Bulletins, Music are located in the Narthex.  
Nursery attendant is available during Worship in Room M-11.*

## **ENTER TO WORSHIP**

### **SCRIPTURE FOR PRIVATE MEDITATION**

(Let us prepare our hearts, minds and spirits to praise and worship our Lord.)

**“On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul.”** (Psalm 138:3, New Revised Standard Version)

### ***CENTERING WITH THE RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL***

(At the bell's ringing, let us concentrate on Jesus and His promise of salvation.)

## **PRELUDE**

### **LIGHTING OF THE CHURCH CANDLES**

### **BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please sign the Ritual of Friendship Pad located at the end of each pew.*

### **\*SONGS OF PRAISE**

St. John's Worship Band and Vocalist Karen Hoover

### **\*THE CALL TO WORSHIP** (Responsively)

Leader: We gather seeking acceptance.

**People: What if we are not granted inclusion?**

Leader: We gather seeking reconciliation.

**People: What if we can't come together?**

Leader: We gather seeking restoration.

**People: What if we are unable to be connected with one another?**

Leader: Take heart...God accepts us, for Jesus is our advocate.

**People: Praise be to God!**

**\*MORNING PRAYER** (In Unison)

Lord, we come here today from tiring weeks, from hectic days and lonely times, from happy experiences and pleasing results, from all different types of lives. We come seeking forgiveness, friendship, comfort, knowledge, solitude, or perhaps we come without reason. We are here to sing, to listen, to talk, to love and to be loved. For whatever reason we find ourselves here, Lord, may we be open to You and to others around us, so that we may experience Your love and will.

Help us to always pray even as You taught Your Disciples to pray--  
*The Lord's Prayer* (Debts, Debtors)

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE IN OUR FELLOWSHIP**

(Let us stand and welcome one another.)

**\*"Gloria Patri"**

(Green Hymnal)

**#623**

**A TIME MAINLY FOR CHILDREN**

Pastor Don Morgan

**WORSHIP IN SONG**

St. John's Worship Band and Vocalist Karen Hoover

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Psalm 138** (Old Testament p. 577)

**Luke 11: 1-13** (New Testament p. 72)

**\*HYMN OF PREPARATION**

**"Come, We That Love the Lord"**

(Green Hymnal)

(3 verses)

**#18**

**SERMON**

**"Prayer"**

Pastor Don Morgan

**INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND FELLOWSHIP**

**PRAYERS**

Pastoral Prayer, Prayers of the People

**PRESENTATION OF OUR TIME, TALENT AND OFFERINGS**

**OFFERTORY**

**\*Doxology**

(Green Hymnal)

**#625**

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Pastor Don Morgan

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

**“All People That on Earth Do Dwell”**

(Green Hymnal) (3 Verses)

**#20**

**\*BENEDICTION** (Responsively)

Leader: God is good

People: **All the time.**

Leader: And all the time

People: **God is good.**

**\*RECESSIONAL**

**“God Be with You”**

(Green Hymnal)

**#602**

**\*POSTLUDE**

**DEPART TO SERVE**

**\*All who can comfortably stand, please do so.**

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***Altar Flowers***

The beautiful flowers on the Altar this morning are given by Mark and Linda Hapner in memory of Linda’s Dad, Harlie Henson.

***July’s Second Mile Mission***

**“Church Community Service”**

***Thank you for supporting this worthwhile mission.***

**ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
NEWS AND NOTES, JULY 25, 2010**

**Today: Welcome!**

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**Tuesday:** Prayer Shawl Ministry 2:30 PM

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**Wednesday:** Bible Study 10:30 AM

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**Thursday:** Men's Breakfast & Bible Study Room M-3 6:00 AM  
Atria Bible Study 10:30 AM

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***Next Sunday***

Sunday School classes – all ages 9:00 AM  
Coffee & Donuts Room M -1 9:50 AM  
Worship 10:15 AM

***Jaime Cramer***

***Freewill Offering Today***

Jaime, who lives in Ft. Wayne, lost everything recently in a house fire. There is a basket in the Narthex for your donations as you leave Worship today. Jaime grew up in St. John's & needs your help! *Thank you!*

***New Class Sunday Mornings***

Every Sunday at 9:00 am you may join in a class for new members and/or learning about St. John's. Pastor Don is leading the class in Room M-12 (Parlor).

***Dinner Out***

The signup sheet is on the Narthex bulletin board today for the next Dinner Out, which will be on Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. We will be eating at Jade Gardens, 1308 Nappanee Street.

***Congregational Meeting Called***

A Congregational Meeting will be held immediately following Worship on Sunday, August 8<sup>th</sup>. A letter has been sent and you may have received it or will shortly. It is extremely important for everyone concerned to respond as this is an emergency as to whether or not St. John's will be able to continue.

***Shrimp for Sale***

We have more delicious shrimp for sale in the kitchen freezer.

***We wish a Happy Birthday to:***

Janelle Bowen	07/29	Owen Leisure	07/31
Tricia Lankford	07/29	Raechel Ring	07/31

***Happy Anniversary to:***

Jim & Michelle Rhoads 07/31

***The Lord's Prayer***

**Our Father, Who art in Heaven  
Hallowed be Thy Name.  
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done,  
On earth as it is in Heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
Forever. Amen.**

***Food Pantry Support***

Volunteers from Church Community Services pick up donations on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month. You may bring cans and packaged food anytime each month for the pantry at Church Community Services. *Thank you very much for your support!*

## **Those on Duty to Assist You Today**

**Consistory:** Lois Leib

**Liturgist:** Linda Couch

**Greeters:** Donn & Billie Horein

## **Our Church Staff**

Rev. Donald Morgan.....**Pastor**

Jan Adamson.....**Secretary**

Debbie Hoover.....**Organist**

Carol Ann Torres.....**Custodian**

## **Consistory**

Frank Hughes.....**President**

Linda Couch.....**Secretary &**

George Freese.....**Vice President**

**Financial Secretary**

Sidney Dew.....**Treasurer**

## **Contact Information**

**Pastor Don:** 574-226-5042

**2701 E. Bristol Street, Elkhart, IN 46514**

**Email:** [pastor@stjohnsucc.net](mailto:pastor@stjohnsucc.net)

**Office:** 574-264-4640

**Fax:** 574-206-0631

**Email:** [office@stjohnsucc.net](mailto:office@stjohnsucc.net)

**Office Hours:** Monday to Thursday 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Friday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

**Altar Flowers:** **Connie Dew – 574-822-0232** or email: [dezinegirl@comcast.net](mailto:dezinegirl@comcast.net)  
“Back Porch Flowers”

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE:** [www.stjohnsucc.net](http://www.stjohnsucc.net)

## **Little Cherubs Preschool & Daycare**

***Little Cherubs Telephone:*** 574-266-9303

***Director:*** Michelle Rhoads

***Email:*** [lcpreschool@yahoo.com](mailto:lcpreschool@yahoo.com)

***Website:*** [www.littlecherubspreschool.com](http://www.littlecherubspreschool.com)

## Thankfulness

By Stephen C. Gray, Conference Minister

*“Therefore, since Jesus was delivered to you as Christ and Lord, live your lives in union with him... let your hearts overflow with thankfulness.” (Col2: 6-7)*

As I look back over my life’s journey, one of the experiences that most profoundly shaped my attitude toward life occurred some 37 years ago in the first church I served in Langdale, Ala.

Awaking at my desk after a short cat nap, I turned to my typewriter to continue writing my sermon only to be greeted by wavy lines of type. I tried closing one eye and then the other, but what I saw was just the same. I wore glasses, but nothing like this had ever happened before. Something was radically wrong with my eyesight. The local optometrist only scratched his head after looking at my eyes. He made a phone call and I left immediately for a two hour drive to Atlanta to see two eye specialists. Both eye specialists examined my eyes and both scratched their heads. They made a phone call and four hours later, I was on a plane for Boston to see one of the world’s retinal experts at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Hospital.

I waited all the next day to see Dr. H. McKenzie Freeman. Ahead of me were patients from every continent in the world. It took Dr. Freeman about two minutes to diagnose my condition – my sight could be restored. The next day he operated on my eyes with surgical equipment he had created just six months earlier. I was only the second person in the world to undergo such surgery. The surgery was successful. While diminished, my eyesight was restored and has continued to serve me all these years. Such was not the case for all the patients that saw Dr. Freeman.

As I left the hospital, I was overcome with a sense of my own mortality – something unusual for someone 26 years of age and in the “prime of health.” But as a Christian believer, I was also overcome by feelings of gratitude and thankfulness for what I had come to realize was the “gift” of my eyesight. I had taken it for granted, but I had come to learn it was “just on loan.” Since that surgery, I have been ever so fortunate to be able to express to God each morning my thankfulness for the continuing gift of sight. In so doing, over the years, I have adopted an attitude of thankfulness for so many other things that are truly gifts given by God.

That does not mean that I have not had my disappointments nor experienced a sense of loss for “gifts” that others have been given that I have not. But while our culture tries to convince me that there are so many things that I need for the truly good life, my experience so many years ago overwhelms me with the knowledge of all the good things with which I have been blessed and for which I cannot help but express my thanksgiving to God: my family, my health, my vocation, my “daily bread,” the country in which I live, the gift of gifts of seeing and hearing and laughing and loving.

***What is it that you are thankful for? In how many ways has God blessed your life?***