

Fourth Sunday of Easter  
May 8, 2022

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8:30 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

*Prelude - Crown Him with Many Crowns - Joel Raney*

***Call to Worship***

There is one Body and one Spirit,

**Who calls us together in one hope.**

With all humility and gentleness,

**With patience, bearing with one another in love,**

Prisoners of the Lord, making every effort

**To maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.**

***Opening Hymn No. 545\*\* - The Church's One Foundation***

The church's one foundation

is Jesus Christ her Lord;

she is his new creation

by water and the Word.

From heaven he came and sought her

to be his holy bride;

with his own blood he bought her,

and for her life he died.

Elect from every nation,

yet one o'er all the earth;

her charter of salvation,

one Lord, one faith, one birth;

one holy name she blesses,

partakes one holy food,

and to one hope she presses,

with every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder

we see her sore oppressed,

by schisms rent asunder,

by heresies distressed,

yet saints their watch are keeping;

their cry goes up, "How long?"

And soon the night of weeping

shall be the morn of song.

Mid toil and tribulation,

and tumult of her war,

she waits the consummation

of peace forevermore;

till, with the vision glorious,

her longing eyes are blest,  
and the great church victorious  
shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union  
with God the Three in One,  
and mystic sweet communion  
with those whose rest is won.  
O happy ones and holy!  
Lord, give us grace that we  
like them, the meek and lowly,  
on high may dwell with thee.

**Invocation** (Dr. Gail Ramshaw)

**O God, our light, our beauty, our rest: In the light of the resurrection of your Son you have brought us into your new creation. Form us into your people, and order our lives in you; through Christ our Lord. Amen. Alleluia.**

### **PROCLAMATION**

*The Word of God is read and proclaimed for all ages*

#### **Scripture Reading**

1 John 4:12-19 (New Testament page )

No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Children's Anthem** (11:00)

*With the Help of the Spirit of the Lord* - Jane Southwick Cool

**God's Word for Young Disciples**

**Anthem**

8:30 - *I Believe* - Mark Miller

11:00 - *Yet Will I Sing* - Alisa Bair

**Sermon** - *Toward Perfection in Love*

***Hymn of Response No. 551\*\* - Awake, O Sleeper***

Awake, O sleeper, rise from death,  
and Christ shall give you light;  
so learn his love, its length and breadth,  
its fullness, depth, and height.

To us on earth he came to bring  
from sin and fear release,  
to give the Spirit's unity,  
the very bond of peace.

There is one body and one hope,  
One Spirit and one call,  
one Lord, one faith, and one baptism,  
one Father of us all.

Then walk in love as Christ has loved,  
who died that he might save;  
with kind and gentle hearts forgive  
as God in Christ forgave.

For us Christ lived, for us he died  
and conquered in the strife.  
Awake, arise, go forth in faith,  
and Christ shall give you life.

***Discipleship Moment***

***Offertory***

***Doxology***

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Prayers of the People and 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**SENDING FORTH**

*The people of God are sent forth to serve others and witness  
to their faith.*

***Closing Hymn No. 550\*\* - Christ, from Whom All Blessings Flow***

Christ, from whom all blessings flow,  
perfecting the saints below,  
hear us, who thy nature share,  
who thy mystic body are.

Join us, in one spirit join,  
let us still receive of thine;  
still for more on thee we call,  
thou who fillest all in all.

Move and actuate and guide,  
diverse gifts to each divide;  
placed according to thy will,  
let us all our work fulfill;

Never from thy service move,  
needful to each other prove;  
use the grace on each bestowed,  
tempered by the art of God.

Many are we now, and one,  
we who Jesus have put on;  
there is neither bond nor free,  
male nor female, Lord, in thee.

Love, like death, hath all destroyed,  
rendered all distinctions void;  
names and sects and parties fall;  
thou, O Christ, art all in all!

***Benediction and Choral Response*** - (Hymn No. 143)

**And God will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun,  
and hold you in the palm of God's hand.**

***Postlude***

*Toccata in F Major* - Dietrich Buxtehude



**The flowers on the altar are dedicated to the glory of God and given:**

in loving memory of loved ones, by Jerry and Bonnie Nine

**Liturgists:** 8:30- Chad Wagner; 11:00 - Bruce McInosh

**Service Music:** 8:30 - Epworth Choir; Regan Lieberth and Emily Hipkins, solos 11:00 - Chancel Choir; all Children's Choirs

**Altar Guild:** Jen LaFleur, Carol Lewis

**Music:** One License A-731491

**\*\*Please rise as you are able. Please silence all cell phones and other electronic equipment. Hearing devices and large print hymnals are available in the narthex. CDs of the service are available by signing up at the Welcome Center.**

## Next Steps

### Perfection in Love

vs. 18 - why do we still fear and love others less than flawlessly?

the imperfections of other Christians cause some to stumble at following Jesus

### Justifying Grace

vs. 19 – we are loved by God because God is good, not because we are good

vs. 12 – God’s love is then completed in us when love others completely

### Pot Roasts in the Crock Pot

God’s Sanctifying grace works more like a crock pot than a microwave

the work of God is unfinished in me while I move toward perfection in love

Questions for Reflection: What unfinished work is there still to do in my heart and life? Are there people who I do not love completely? At what times do I find myself motivated more by self-interest than by God’s compassionate love for others? Am I willing to surrender these moments of self-interest to God’s sovereign hands?

Questions for Discussion: In his sermon, “The Weight of Glory,” C.S. Lewis noted how difficult it is to accept that God truly delights in us. Moreso, that God could delight in the people around us and desire that they be made into the image of Christ, as we are. In every interaction of our day, then, we meet people who are in the process of moving closer or further from the ideal form of themselves, Christ-likeness, to which God aspires they might grow. Our interactions with them carry eternal consequences: did I help that person love God and become like Christ or did I hinder them?

How differently will I treat the people in my life knowing that each person is under construction by the unfinished work of God to make them like Christ?

Memory Verse: 1 John 4:12 – (the Message) - *No one has seen God, ever. But if we love one another, God dwells deeply within us, and his love becomes complete in us—perfect love!*

Readings for this Week: Philippians 3:7-16, James 1:19-27, James 2:14-26

## CHURCH NOTES

**Work Camp Fundraiser: TOMORROW** Panda Express is the site of our next fundraiser to help pay for projects at Henderson Settlement. They will donate 20% of all sales from 10:30 am to 9 pm. Panda Express is located at 2855 State Rd. (In the same plaza as the movie theater.) You may pick up a flyer at the Welcome Center or you may download their app and order online using code 336067.

**UMW Accessory Sale NEXT Saturday:** It's back! The sale will take place next Saturday, May 14, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Wesley Hall. We are asking for donations of gently used jewelry, purses, and scarves. The deadline for donations is Sunday, May 8. All money raised goes to missions.

**New to First Church?** A new Discovery Class will be offered by Pastor Jon from 9:45 - 10:45 a.m. in the Parlor, on Sundays from May 8 – May 22. Discovery Class is open to anyone. We will discuss how the church can help you to grow as a Disciple, what the United Methodist Church believes and how we practice our faith, and how and where you can get involved in our ministries. You may sign up at the Welcome Center or in the church office.

**Vacation Bible School:** Registration for VBS is still open at <http://firstchurchcf.mycokesburyvbs.com>. A reminder to those who have registered that you need to complete and mail or bring your payment to the church in order to hold your space. Also, those registering for SERVE and Extreme must complete the Medical Form. There is still a need for a few helpers for all VBS, SERVE, and Extreme programs. Please contact Donna Curfman if you are able to help.

**The Giving Tree** has been set up in the Breezeway. Please check it for items which are needed for VBS and other children's program. All donations should be turned in by May 29. Perishables are due June 12.

**Church Square Community Garden:** Would you be interested in gardening as a mission project for the church? Each year we plant, weed, water, and harvest produce such as beans, tomatoes, lettuce, peppers, etc. The produce then goes to Good Neighbors and other community organizations. Planting will take place Saturday, May 28. If you are interested in helping, please contact Millie Keyser at 330-945-4858 or [millie.keyser@sbcglobal.net](mailto:millie.keyser@sbcglobal.net).

**Holy Land Evening of Sharing:** On Sunday, May 15, from 6:15 to 8 pm, Pastors Karol and Jim will be sharing pictures and stories of their February, 2020 trip to the Holy Land with Bishop Malone. They will answer questions about the upcoming trip to the Holy Land in February, 2023 for those who are interested in taking an amazing journey as we follow the footsteps of Jesus.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** Do you know how to knit or crochet? First Church Prayer Shawl Ministry has been working hard for many years, knitting and crocheting prayer shawls for many people who are hurting mentally or physically. If you would be willing to help us, please contact Mary Tunstall (330-923-9870) or Kathy Walker (330-338-5900) to get more information.

**Golf Outing:** The next Walter Bud Mills golf outing will be on Saturday June 25, 2022, at 1:30. Cost is \$75 per golfer, or \$300 per foursome or \$55 for youth golfers. There will be dinner and prizes and a raffle. All proceeds benefit the Epworth Choir. We are looking for raffle items/baskets and for hole sponsors for the outing. Brochures are available at the Welcome Center.

**VBS/Teacher's Training:** These sessions are mandatory for all who are involved in VBS or the Sunday School program. They will be held on Wednesday, May 25, 2022 from 12:30 - 2 p.m. or 5:30 - 7 p.m. A light meal will be provided. Safe Sanctuary training will be held for all new helpers or those who need to be re-certified. More information will be sent to all who need this.

**VBS needs:** We are in need of the tubes from paper towels for a VBS mission project. Please drop off before Sunday, June 5.

**Church Finances:** Hold the date of Sunday, May 15, for a brief informational meeting about how our church provides funds for the building, staff, and ministries that we need each year. It will take place following the 11:00 worship service.

**Church Budget update:**

**Compared to Budget**

	Mar. <u>2022</u>	Year-to-date <u>3/31/22</u>	Annual Budget <u>2022</u>	Projected Actual <u>2022</u>
Income	-\$9,194	-\$12,931	\$780,918	\$767,987
Operating Expenses	-\$2,001	-\$2,946	\$835,345	\$832,399
Total Over/Under	-\$11,195	-\$9,985	-\$54,427	- \$64,412

**Capital Campaign Update:** As of April 14, 2022: Our remaining loan balance is \$28,954

Capital Funds receipts balance: \$8,001

**Total needed to pay off loan: \$20,953**

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH –  
PRAYER BULLETIN  
May 8, 2022**



**MINISTERS & STAFF:**

Forrest Waller

**HOSPITALIZED:**

**MEMBERS TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER:**

Scott Adie	Jean Finnegan	David Potter
Bob Ahonen	Dave Gohr	Robby & Lou Robinson
Shirley Asher	Rose Gregory	Kathi Sawyer
Glenn Atwood	Joyce Haberkost	Kay Steiner
Paul Beal	Jim Henes	Michael Taucher
Alice Becher	Ann Kaiser	Ken Tunstall
Behrman family	George Kirk	Jim Vogel
Donna Copeland	Jeanette Murray	Peg Yeager
Don Corbett	Pat Park	

**DEEPEST SYMPATHY & PRAYERS:**

Sue Brokaw on the death of her husband, member Russ Brokaw on 4/28.

Christine Benson and family on the death of her father, Robert Heydorn on 4/19.