

Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 30, 2023

8:30 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

GATHERING

The people of God come together in the Lord's name

Prelude - *Livre d'orgue: Recit de tierce en taille* - Nicolas de Grigny

Call to Worship - (John 11:25)

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life."

We believe in him,

Though you may die, you will live,

everyone who lives and believes in him will never die.

Opening Hymn No. 364** - *Because He Lives*

God sent His son, they called Him Jesus;

He came to love, heal and forgive;

He lived and died to buy my pardon,

An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives!

Chorus

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,

Because He lives, all fear is gone;

Because I know He holds the future,

And life is worth the living,

Just because He lives!

How sweet to hold a newborn baby,

And feel the pride and joy he gives;

But greater still the calm assurance:

This child can face uncertain days because He Lives!

Chorus

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,

Because He lives, all fear is gone;

Because I know He holds the future,

And life is worth the living,

Just because He lives!

And then one day, I'll cross the river,

I'll fight life's final war with pain;

And then, as death gives way to victory,

I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives!

Chorus

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,

Because He lives, all fear is gone;

*Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living,
Just because He lives!*

Invocation

**Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen**

PROCLAMATION

The Word of God is read and proclaimed for all ages

Scripture Reading - Proverbs 18:13

If one gives answer before hearing,
it is folly and shame.

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

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Anthem

8:30 - Nothing But the Blood of Jesus - Craig Courtney

What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

O precious is the flow that makes me bright as snow;

no other fount I know; nothing but the blood of Jesus.

For my pardon this I see: nothing but the blood of Jesus.

For my cleansing this my plea: nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my hope and peace: nothing but the blood of Jesus.

This is all my righteousness: nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Nothing can for sin atone: nothing but the blood of Jesus.

Naught of good that I have done: nothing but the blood of Jesus.

O precious is the flow that makes me bright as snow;

no other fount I know; nothing but the blood of Jesus.

11:00 - Secure - Craig Courtney

*A storm is raging, Lord. The boat I sail is small and, oh, so frail.
The wind is blowing, Lord. I cannot hold the course against the gale.
The lightning strikes on every side, nowhere to run, nowhere to hide.
Your hand alone can hold the tide, Lord, rescue me.*

*I am sinking, Lord. The boat is taking water, going down.
Part the waters, Lord. I long to plant my feet on solid ground.
Oh, Lord of earth and sky and sea, your hand is reaching out to me,
I know that You have heard my plea, my hope is sure.*

*I am sinking, Lord. The boat is taking water, going down.
Part the waters, Lord. I long to plant my feet on solid ground.*

*Oh, Lord of earth and sky and sea, your hand is reaching out to me,
I know that You have heard my plea, my hope is sure.
Oh, Lord of earth and sky and sea, your hand is reaching out to me,
I know that You have heard my plea, I am secure.*

God's Word for Young Disciples

Scripture Reading - James 1:19-26

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless.

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

Sermon

Pastor Jon Priebe

RESPONSE

The people of God respond to the Word

Hymn of Response No. 560 - Help Us Accept Each Other**

*Help us accept each other
as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother,
each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us*

*and Bring us to believe:
we are ourselves accepted
and meant to love and live.*

*Teach us, O Lord, your lessons,
as in our daily life
we struggle to be human
and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people,
for all - not just for some,
to love them as we find them
or as they may become.*

*Let your acceptance change us
so that we may be moved
in living situations
to do the truth in love;
to practice your acceptance
until we know by heart
the table of forgiveness
and laughter's healing art.*

*Lord, for today's encounters
with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance,
for justice and for bread,
we need new eyes for seeing,
new hands for holding on:
renew us with your Spirit;
Lord, free us, make us one!*

Discipleship Moment

Offertory - *Where Charity and Love Prevail* (Hymn 549) - Raymond Haan

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/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. 561 - Jesus, United by Thy Grace**

*Jesus, united by thy grace
and each to each endeared,
with confidence we seek thy face
and know our prayer is heard.*

*Help us to help each other, Lord,
each other's cross to bear;
let all their friendly aid afford,
and feel each other's care.*

*Up unto thee, our living Head,
let us in all things grow;
till thou hast made us free indeed
and spotless here below.*

*Touched by the lodestone of thy love,
let all our hearts agree,
and ever toward each other move,
and ever move toward thee.*

*To thee, inseparably joined,
let all our spirits cleave;
O may we all the loving mind
that was in thee receive.*

*This is the bond of perfectness,
thy spotless charity;
O let us, still we pray, possess
the mind that was in thee.*

Benediction and Choral Response - (Hymn 668)

Let us now depart in thy peace, blessed Jesus. Send us to our homes with God's love in our hearts. Let not the busy world claim all our loyalties. Keep us ever mindful, dear Lord, of thee.

Postlude - Plein jeu - Louis Marchand

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

in honor of Sarah Demeter on receiving a Masters degree, by her parents Joe and Linda Demeter;

in honor of their 29th anniversary, by Joe and Linda Demeter.

Service Music: 8:30 Epworth Choir; **11:00** Chancel Choir

Music: One License A-731491

Next Steps

Gladly the Cross-Eyed Bear

vs. 20 – what’s more frustrating than being misunderstood?

vs. 19 – it’s easier to listen in order to speak and quick to anger

Blessed Are the Peacemakers

vs. 21 - Making peace requires humility in seeking to understand others

Redemption and reconciliation are built on friendship and understanding

Questions for Reflection: Think for a moment about a group or person with whom you have a strong disagreement. Is it possible that their position comes from the best intentions like you believe yours does? How could you take the time to learn one thing you don’t understand about the background or reasoning of the person you disagree with that may drive where they are coming? How might your disagreements be different if you try this?

Question for Discussion: One of the King Center’s principles for building Beloved Community through nonviolence notes that Beloved Community is built through friendship and understanding. Is there someone in your neighborhood whose name you don’t know? How can you get to know them better in order to understand them in order to make a friend?

Memory Verse: James 1:19 – *“You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen,
slow to speak, slow to anger.”*

Readings for this Week: Romans 12:2, Isaiah 58:1, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

CHURCH NOTES

Please stay for a short "State of the Church" meeting with Pastor Jon immediately following today's 11:00 worship service.

Summit Bells Concert: The Summit Bells, a greater Akron Area community handbell ensemble will be performing in concert in Wesley Hall on Sunday, April 30 at 2:30. The group rehearses at First Church on Monday evenings and is extremely grateful for the support our church has provided over the years. The concert will include works recently performed at BronzeFest 2023 in Portage, Michigan, and some of Dean Wagner's handbell compositions. The concert is free and open to the public. Invite all of your friends to hear this wonderful group of musicians.

Nursery Help: We are in need of helpers in the nursery on Sunday mornings beginning immediately. If you are interested, please contact Donna Curfman at Ext. 219 or dcurfmanfallsumc@gmail.com.

Deadline Approaching: It is hard to believe, but the school year is quickly winding down, and this means it is time for interested graduating seniors to apply for the Reid and Roberta Montgomery Scholarship. Applications may be picked up in the church office beginning Monday, April 3, and **the deadline to submit applications will be Sunday, April 30**. Applicants must be a member of First Church, a graduating senior, and planning to enroll in college or a technical school for the 2023-2024 school year.

UMW/UWF Accessory Sale Donations: We are asking for donations of gently-used jewelry and purses for the Accessory Sale which will take place on Saturday, May 13, from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. in Wesley Hall. The deadline for donations is May 7. All money raised goes to missions. Donations may be dropped off in the church office. If you have any questions, contact Sue Boltz at 330-928-8635.

Items Needed For VBS: The annual collection of supplies for VBS is up this week. Items needed to be donated are on cards on the board in the Breezeway. Any help you can provide will be greatly appreciated. All items are due to be returned by May 28, 2023.

Golf Outing: The 17th Walter "Bud" Mills Golf outing, the major fundraising event for the Epworth Choir Tour, will be held at Brookledge Golf Club on June 24th, at 1:30. As always, prizes and raffle baskets and a good time will be had, with dinner to follow in the shelter house. Cost per golfer is \$85. Individuals or businesses may sponsor a hole for \$150 or a cart for \$25. We are also seeking sponsors for gift/raffle prizes. Please contact Dean Wagner, or Jim Boss for further information. Thank you.

Vacation Bible School: Registration has begun for *The Hero Hotline* which runs from June 19 - 23. Programs for children aged 3 (by September) through 4th grade are from 9 a.m. to noon. Children in 5th and 6th grades will participate in a program of mission projects and field trips. VBS Extreme is an afternoon extension program with activities and field trips for those entering 1st through 6th grades. There are limited openings for each program so register early. Registration deadline is May 26.

Stewardship Campaign Update

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>vs.</u>	<u>Budget</u>
<u>1Q 2023 Income</u>	\$251,619		\$251,425
<u>1Q 2023 Expenses</u>	\$231,246		\$231,963
<u>1Q 2023 Surplus</u>	\$20,273		\$19,462

The current budget has a shortfall of \$55, 687.

Pledged and Non-pledged giving:

	Current Year	Last Year
	\$660, 000	\$710, 000

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH –
PRAYER BULLETIN
APRIL 30, 2023**



MINISTERS & STAFF:

Forrest Waller & Mike Ward

HOSPITALIZED:

MEMBERS TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER:

Kathy & Scott Adie Bob Ahonen Debbie Amundsen Shirley Asher Mary Ellen Atwood Behrman family Mark & Cindy Blaser Robert Boyd	Larry Brimlow Don Corbett Jim Evans Jean Finnegan Rose Gregory Mary Griest Joyce Haberkost Jim Henes	Phil Hennen Doris Kuzas Marcia Liikala Pat Park Kathi Sawyer Cynthia Schrier Christina Shaw Ken Tunstall
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DEEPEST SYMPATHY & PRAYERS:

Family of member Bob Todd on his death on 4/24.

Family of member Emily Welty on her death