

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:30 a.m.

April 28, 2024

### GATHERING

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

*Prelude - Benedictus - Alec Rowly*

*Introit - Rejoice! Rejoice! - Ruth Schram*

#### **Call to Worship**

As members of Christ's tree of life,

**we are connected, in love, to God.**

As members of Christ's tree of life,

**we are connected, in love, to one another.**

As members of Christ's tree of life,

**we strengthen our connection through worship.**

#### **Opening Hymn 166\*\* - All Praise to Thee, for Thou, O King Divine**

All praise to thee, for thou, O King divine,  
didst yield your glory that of right was thine,  
that in our darkened hearts thy grace might shine:  
Alleluia!

Thou cam'st to us in lowliness of thought;  
by thee the outcast and the poor were sought,  
and by thy death was God's salvation wrought:  
Alleluia!

Let this mind be in us which was in thee,  
who wast a servant that we might be free,  
humbling thyself to death on Calvary:  
Alleluia!

Wherefore, by God's eternal purpose, thou  
art high exalted o'er all creatures now,  
and given the name to which all knees shall bow:  
Alleluia!

Let every tongue confess with one accord  
in heaven and earth that Jesus Christ is Lord;  
and God the Father be by all adored:  
Alleluia!

#### **Invocation**

**Loving God, send your Spirit among us now.  
Bind us to you in love this day,**

that we may worship in unity and friendship.  
Bind us to you in love this hour,  
that we may be strengthened  
to bring abundant love to your world.  
In love and gratitude, we pray. Amen.

#### PROCLAMATION

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

**Scripture Reading** - Psalm 22:25-31

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

**Gloria Patri** (sung)

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. Amen.

**Children's Anthem** - *I'm Goin'a Sing When the Spirit Says Sing* - Traditional

**God's Word for Young Disciples**

**Anthem** - *I must tell Jesus* - Larry Shackley

*I must tell Jesus all of my trials;  
I cannot bear these burdens alone;  
In my distress He kindly will help me;  
He ever loves and cares for His own.  
I must tell Jesus! I must tell Jesus!  
I cannot bear my burdens alone;  
I must tell Jesus! I must tell Jesus!  
Jesus can help me, Jesus alone.*

*I must tell Jesus all of my troubles;  
He is a kind, compassionate Friend;  
If I but ask Him, He will deliver,  
Make of my troubles quickly an end.*

*When I am discouraged, when i feel forsaken,  
Jesus can help me, Jesus alone.*

**Scripture Reading** - John 15:1-8

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

**Sermon** - *I Am the True Vine*

Pastor Howard Pippin

#### RESPONSE

*The people of God respond to the Word*

**Hymn of Response 566\*\* - Blest Be the Dear Uniting Love**

*Blest be the dear uniting love  
that will not let us part;  
our bodies may far off remove,  
we still are one in heart.*

*Joined in one spirit to our Head,  
where he appoints we go,  
and still in Jesus' footsteps tread,  
and do his work below.*

*O may we ever walk in him,  
and nothing know beside,  
nothing desire, nothing esteem,  
but Jesus crucified!*

*We all are one who him receive,  
and each with each agree,  
in him the One, the Truth, we live;  
blest point of unity!*

*Partakers of the Savior's grace,  
the same in mind and heart,  
nor joy, nor grief, nor time, nor place,  
nor life, nor death can part.*

**Discipleship Moment**

**Offertory** - Prelude on the Hymntune "Evan" -Karl Stahl

**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 700\*\* - Abide with Me**

*Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;  
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.*

*Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away;  
change and decay in all around I see;  
O thou who changest not, abide with me.*

*I need thy presence every passing hour.  
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?  
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.*

*I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;  
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.*

*Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;  
shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.  
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.*

**Benediction and Response** - *Benediction and Sevenfold Amen* - K. Lee Scott

**Postlude** - *Grand Choeur*  
"Joshua" - G.F. Handel

*from the Oratorio*



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

In honor of Joe and Linda Demeter's 29th Wedding Anniversary.

*Benediction and Sevenfold Amen* was given in memory of Nancy Campbell Howell by Epworth Alumni

**Service Music:** Epworth, Chancel and Bethlehem Choirs

**Music:** One License A-731491

## **NEXT STEPS**

### **I am the True Vine**

#### **Remain connected to Jesus.**

To remain is to stay connected -- to abide is to live --and Jesus is talking about a **living** connection.

#### **If we are connected to Jesus we are connected to God.**

Jesus is saying, If you're going to relate to God you need to relate to me --for I am the vine.

#### **The connection bears fruit.**

The only way to produce fruit is to remain attached to the tree -- the vine.

#### **To bear fruit we must be pruned.**

God is the great vinedresser. We need to allow God to prune our pride, our fear, our laziness, our brokenness, our messes, and our sinfulness.

**Questions for Reflection:** How do you stay connected to Jesus everyday? When you are not as connected what do you experience?

**Questions for Discussion:** How can the church share the benefits of staying connected to the True Vine-Jesus Christ?

**Memory Verse:** Vs. 4 -- "Remain in me, as I also remain in you.

**Readings for this week:** - Acts 10:44-48 - Psalm 98 - 1 John 5:1-6 - John 15:9-17

## CHURCH NOTES

**Men's Time Out:** All the men of the church and community are invited to gather on the first Saturday of every month for some food, a time for discussion, and lots of fellowship! It runs from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. in Wesley Hall and the next one will take place on **Saturday, May 4.**

**Calling All Seniors!** If you or your child is a senior in high school, please call the church office and let us know so that we don't miss honoring someone on Senior Sunday - May 19.

**New Handbell Choir:** Do you love seeing the handbells on Sunday mornings? Here is your chance to play them. Dean Wagner is putting together a new handbell choir for beginning to intermediate players. Rehearsals will be on Thursdays from 6 - 6:45 p.m. The beginning date yet to be determined. Please contact Dean at Ext. 221 or email him at [hdwagnerfumc@gmail.com](mailto:hdwagnerfumc@gmail.com). <mailto:hdwagnerfumc@gmail.com>

**Vacation Bible School:** Registration is now open for Camp Firelight VBS on June 17-21. Register online at <https://fumccf.mycokesburyvbs.com> or get a flyer from the office or Welcome Center. VBS is from 9 - 12 for children aged 3 (by 9/24/24) - 4<sup>th</sup> grade. SERVE is at the same time for grades 5-6, and the afternoon Extreme program is from 12-5.

**VBS Volunteers Needed/VBS Teacher Training:** We are still looking for volunteers to help with VBS, SERVE, and Extreme. We specifically need someone to lead elementary Recreation and Storytelling. Please contact Donna Curfman at Ext. 213 or [dcurfmanfallsumc@gmail.com](mailto:dcurfmanfallsumc@gmail.com) if you are available and interested. Also, Those who have committed to helping with VBS, should please plan to attend one of the required Teacher Training Sessions. These are scheduled for Wednesday, May 29. Choose between two sessions: the first is at 12:30 p.m. followed by a meeting of all those working with the preschool part of VBS; the second a session at 6:30 that night. If you cannot attend on the 29th, you may attend a make up session after the service on Sunday, June 2. It is really important for you to be present at one of the meetings. Please RSVP to Donna Curfman as to which session you will attend.

**Panda Express Fundraiser** - On Monday, May 6, plan to order your lunch or dinner (or both!) between 10 a.m. and 9:30 p.m. from the Panda Express located at 2855 State Rd. in the Falls. They will donate 20% of event sales to Work Camp. You may go there with a paper flyer or show a picture of it on your smartphone or you may order online at [PandaExpress.com](https://PandaExpress.com) (or on the app) using 368086 in the fundraiser code box.

**Chess Camp is returning this year!** The program for children going into grades K and up will run in the mornings from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. the week of June 24 – 28. Beginners through advanced chess players are all welcome for a cost of \$25. This will include lunch each day. Brochures are available at the Welcome Center, in the church office and on our website.

**Work Camp:** Each year a group of adults and youth from First Church go to Henderson Settlement in Kentucky. There they take on projects for the folks who live there: painting, roofing, repairing. Helping these folks is a wonderfully rewarding experience. This year Work Camp will take place June 2 - 8. If you are interested in going, or just want more information, please contact Jack Steele at 330-697-8344.

**Annual Golf Outing:** It is time to mark your calendars again for the 18th Annual Bud Mills Memorial Golf Outing to benefit the Epworth tour of 2025. The outing is at Brookledge again on June 22 at 1:30. You may play in the event for \$90. We will be seeking hole and cart sponsors as well at the \$150 and \$25 levels.

**Grief Group Forming:** Have you recently or not so recently experienced the loss of a loved one and are looking for support? We are forming a grief recovery group this summer. Please express your interest to Pastor Pippin or by calling the church office.

**Habitat For Humanity:** First Church partners with Habitat to build a home yearly. We will begin our next home in mid to late May and will be volunteering one Saturday each month from May through September or October. No experience is necessary. You must be 18 years or older and will participate in things such as siding, painting, insulating, etc. We are able to have 7 volunteers each time. The home will be in a new allotment off of Dan Street called Silver Maple Ridge. If you would like to participate, please let Kim Kerr at [Kdk3rr@gmail.com](mailto:Kdk3rr@gmail.com) or 330-606-7736.

**Volunteer Groups:** In February, Pastor Jon shared that we had begun some discussions with our neighbors on Church Square (St. John's Episcopal and First Christian) about collaborating more closely and potentially redeveloping the block to more faithfully and effectively meet the needs of our community. We are ready to begin some of these conversations in earnest this spring and summer. We will have three teams of members of each congregation; a Prayer Team, an Admin/Legal Team, and a Real Estate Re-Development Team. So that each congregation is represented equally in the groups, we may not be able to bring everyone on yet who is interested. There will be more places to provide input as the project would proceed this fall. However, if you are interested in participating in the groups forming this spring, please let me know at [fallsfirstjon@gmail.com](mailto:fallsfirstjon@gmail.com).

**Church Wide Potluck Lunch:** Please plan to bring your favorite dishes to share on May 19th for a church potluck. We look forward to this special gathering. Save the date!

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH –  
PRAYER BULLETIN  
APRIL 28, 2024**



**MEMBERS TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER:**

Scott Adie	Jeff Iula
Bob Ahonen	Delphia Lowe
Debbie Amundsen	Lee Minier
Jim Beebe	Kathi Sawyer
Mark & Cindy Blaser	Bonnie Shultz
Don Corbett	Karen & Michael Taucher
Mary Griest	Ken Tunstall
Jim Henes	

**DEEPEST SYMPATHY & PRAYERS:**

Family of member Phyllis Wilson on her death on 4/17.

Todd Ederer & family on the death of his father, Alan El Ederer on 4/19.