

Second Sunday of Easter  
April 23, 2023

8:30 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

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GATHERING

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

**Prelude** - *Processional* - Martin Shaw

**Call to Worship**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

**By whose great mercy we are given new birth**

Into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ

**In whose image and likeness we are being made**

**Opening Hymn No. 139\*\*** - *Praise to the Lord the Almighty*

*Praise to the Lord,*

*the Almighty, the King of creation.*

*O my soul, praise him,*

*for he is thy health and salvation!*

*All ye who hear,*

*now to his temple draw near;*

*join me in glad adoration!*

*Praise to the Lord,*

*who o'er all things so wondrously reigning*

*beast thee on eagle's wings*

*e'er in his keeping maintaining.*

*God's care enfolds all, whose true good he upholds.*

*Hast thou not known his sustaining?*

*Praise to the Lord,*

*who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;*

*surely his goodness*

*and mercy here daily attend thee.*

*Ponder anew*

*what the Almighty can do,*

*who with his love doth befriend thee.*

*Praise to the Lord, who doth nourish thy life and restore thee.*

*fitting thee well for the tasks that are ever before thee.*

*Then to thy need God as a mother doth speed,*

*spreading the wings of grace o'er thee.*

*Praise to the Lord!*

*O let all that is in me adore him!*

*All that hath life and breath,*

*come now with praises before him!*

*Let the amen sound from his people again;  
gladly forever adore him.*

***Invocation***

**Almighty God, you give us the joy of celebrating our Lord's resurrection. Give us also the joys of life in your service, and bring us at last to the full joy of life eternal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**PROCLAMATION**

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

***Scripture Reading***

Psalm 103:1-8

Of David.

Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and do not forget all his benefits—  
who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,  
who redeems your life from the Pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,  
who satisfies you with good as long as you live  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The LORD works vindication  
and justice for all who are oppressed.  
He made known his ways to Moses,  
his acts to the people of Israel.  
The LORD is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

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** - *My Jesus, I Love Thee* - Dan Forrest

**11:00** - *Who is the One* - Craig Courtney

***God's Word for Young Disciples***

***Scripture Reading***

2 Cor 5:16-21

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

**Sermon** - *Beloved Community: Reconciliation is the Mission*

Pastor Jon Priebe

### **RESPONSE**

*The people of God respond to the Word*

**Hymn of Response No. 427** - *Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life*

*Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life*

*Where cross the crowded ways of life,  
where sound the cries of race and clan,  
above the noise of selfish strife,  
we hear your voice, O Son of man.*

*In haunts of wretchedness and need,  
on shadowed thresholds dark with fears,  
from paths where hide the lures of greed,  
we catch the vision of your tears.*

*From tender childhood's helplessness,  
from woman's grief, man's burdened toil,  
from famished souls, from sorrow's stress,  
your heart has never known recoil.*

*The cup of water given for you still  
holds the freshness of your grace;  
yet long these multitudes to view  
the sweet compassion of your face.*

*O Master, from the mountainside  
make haste to heal these hearts of pain;  
among these restless throngs abide;  
O tread the city's streets again.*

*Till all the world shall learn your love  
and follow where your feet have trod,  
till, glorious from your heaven above,  
shall come the city of our God!*

## **Discipleship Moment**

### **Offertory**

**8:30** - *Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands* (Hymn 319) - J. S. Bach

**11:00** - *One Faith, One Hope, One Lord* - Craig Courtney

### **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. 729\*\* - O Day of Peace That Dimly Shines**

*O day of peace that dimly shines  
through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,  
guide us to justice, truth, and love,  
delivered from our selfish schemes.  
May swords of hate fall from our hands,  
our hearts from envy find release,  
till by God's grace our warring world  
shall see Christ's promised reign of peace.*

*Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb,  
nor shall the fierce devour the small;  
as beasts and cattle calmly graze,  
a little child shall lead them all.  
Then enemies shall learn to love,  
all creatures find their true accord;  
the hope of peace shall be fulfilled,  
for all the earth shall know the Lord.*

### **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** - *Canzona* - Jean Langlais

**The flowers on the altar are dedicated to the glory of God and given in honor of Ryan and Erin Skinner, by Eric Skinner.**

**Thank you to Craig Courtney**, who is directing the choirs this morning.

**Service Music: 11:00** Chancel and Epworth Choirs; Chad Wagner, trumpet

**Music:** One License A-731491

## Next Steps

### The Prince of Peace

*Matthew 5:9* – Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

The world has been going through a phase of drawing apart, or *divergence*

### Justice ≠ Vengeance

*2 Cor. 5:20* – Our mission is the reconciliation of the world

*Beloved Community* transforms the world through Nonviolence and Love

Questions for Reflection: What do I believe the promised Kingdom of God will look like on Earth? How would the crime, poverty, and separation that harm our society be different if everyone lived by Christ's way?

Question for Discussion: In his 1957 speech, "Birth of a New Nation," Dr. King said, "The aftermath of nonviolence is reconciliation. The aftermath of violence is emptiness and bitterness." How have you seen reconciliation come when a conflict was disarmed through words or actions of gentleness and nonviolence?

Memory Verse: **2 Corinthians 5:20** – "*So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*"

Readings for this Week: James 1:19-26, 1 John 4:7-13, John 13:33-35

## CHURCH NOTES

**Craig Courtney Concert TODAY:** Return this afternoon at at 3 pm, to hear the Chancel and Epworth Choirs under the direction of Craig Courtney. He will conduct a concert featuring his own compositions. Mr. Courtney is internationally known and you will recognize many of his anthems - some of which are probably your favorites.

**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](mailto: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.

**Summit Bells Concert:** The Summit Bells, a greater Akron Area community handbell ensemble will be performing in concert in our sanctuary 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.

**Golf Outing:** The 17th Walter "Bud" Mills Golf outing is coming which is the major fundraising event for the Epworth Choir Tour in the spring and 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, and a 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 (chair of the committee) for further information. Thank you.

**Shoebboxes For Christmas:** In an effort to 100 shoebboxes this Christmas, we are asking for different donations each month. During April we would like to collect washcloths, jump ropes, and costume jewelry for kids. If you have questions, please contact Linda Demeter at 740-334-9290.

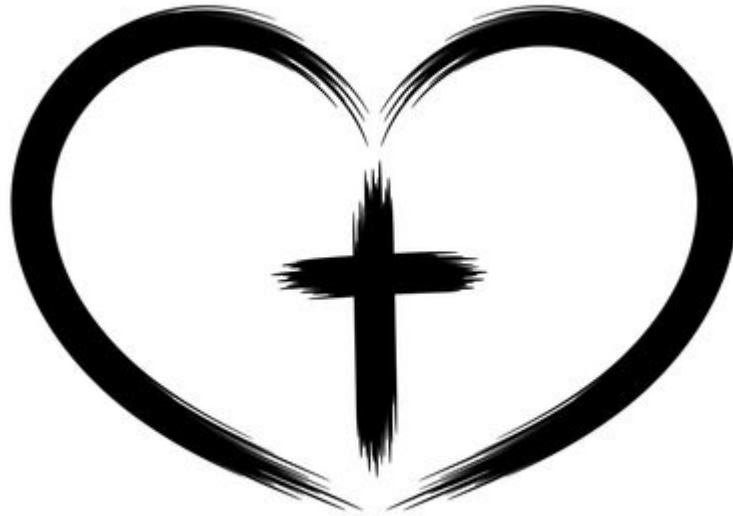
**Items Needed For VBS:** The annual collection of supplies for VBS is up this week. Items needed to be donated are on cards on the board in the Breezeway. Any help you can provide will be greatly appreciated. All items are due to be returned by May 28, 2023.

**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.

**Need Youth Names:** If you have a student who will be entering 7th grade in the fall and would like to receive information on Epworth Choir and YF, please send an email to [epworthyouth2@gmail.com](mailto:epworthyouth2@gmail.com). There will be an opportunity for your youth to come to Youth Group on Sunday, May 2, to see what it's all about! We would also like to have the names of all graduating seniors so that they can be recognized at the church service on Sunday, May 21, Senior Sunday. Please send it to Jen McKenna at [epworthyouth2@gmail.com](mailto:epworthyouth2@gmail.com) or call the church office.



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH –  
PRAYER BULLETIN  
APRIL 23, 2023**



**MINISTERS & STAFF:**

Forrest Waller & Mike Ward

**HOSPITALIZED:**

Doris Kuzas – Western Reserve

**MEMBERS TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER:**

Kathy & Scott Adie Bob Ahonen Debbie Amundsen Shirley Asher Mary Ellen Atwood Jim Bailey 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 Marcia Liikala Pat Park Kathi Sawyer Cynthia Schrier Christina Shaw Ken Tunstall
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**DEEPEST SYMPATHY & PRAYERS:**

Family of member Marge Blocksom on her death on 4/3.

Family of member Neil Lindsley on his death on 4/3.

Carol Lewis and family on the death of her husband member, Gerald Lewis on 3/30.