

THE UNITED CHURCH

PRESBYTERIAN – AMERICAN BAPTIST

April 28, 2024

PRELUDE: “Finale from Sonata No. 6 in D Minor, Op. 65” by Felix Mendelssohn

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING

OUR PREPARATION

Focus of the Day: Love begins with God and is only possible as He lives in and through us.

INTROIT: (11:00) “He Is Lord” (Hymn #97)

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: Look for God in this place.

People: We search for God's love and peace.

Leader: It is here, given for you out of God's absolute love for you.

People: Lord, help us receive that love and then to bring it to others.

Leader: Peace be to you all.

People: And also to you. AMEN.

***HYMN:** #364 “Jesus, Jesus, Jesus in the Morning”

***OPENING PRAYER:** Lord of wondrous light and power, we come to you this day to learn of your will for our lives. Heal our wounds; lift our spirits; give us courage and confidence to boldly serve you in all that we do. We pray this in Jesus' name, who taught us to pray...Our Father... (using debts and debtors...) Amen.

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

***GLORIA PATRI:** #807

GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH THE WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: John 15:1-8 (page 1068) {A.B. page 1187}

ANTHEM: (11:00) “I Am No Longer My Own” by Mary McDonald (words on insert)
The United Church Choir

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: Acts 8:26-40 (page 1086) {A.B. page 1208}

Sermon

“Perfect Love”

(1 John 4:7-21)

Pastor Wade Allen

OUR RESPONSE IN FAITH

***HYMN:** #604 “Where the Spirit of the Lord Is”

CCLI Song #27484, ©1974 Steve Adams Music, CCLI Lic. #11593017

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERTORY: “Dialogue” by Louis Marchand

***DOXOLOGY:** #809

***HYMN:** #509 “O, How I Love Jesus”

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: “Fuga from Sonata No. 6 in D Minor, Op. 65” by Felix Mendelssohn

** indicates an invitation to stand for those who are able and comfortable doing so.*

The rosebud today is to celebrate the birth of Scottie Banks Johnson on April 1st. He is the son of Will and Kathryn Johnson and grandson of Paul and Beth Johnson. Please keep the family in your prayers during this special time.

Our prayers and sympathy are with Linda Bailey, whose daughter, Alice, passed away last week. Please keep the family in your prayers during this difficult time.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Health concerns: Denice Bailey Tautges, Judy (friend of Sue Ann Clemens), Tom Babcock (friend of Jenny Caron), Hiram Bailey, Phyllis Gerhard (Karen Gardner's mother), Carly and Jenson Ferrante (family of Ardelle Bigos), Maryanne Fox (friend of Ardelle Bigos), Doug Cubbison (Connie Frye's brother), Edwin Gregory (friend of Royal Purdy), Tom Fortunato (Bill's brother), Erik Keating (son of Al & Dawn Rossi), Kiana Rae Moore (MacKenzie Brown's cousin), Louise Huck, Catherine Kurzdorfer (Adam Thorman's mother), Carolyn Verspoor, Marcus (friend of Sandi DiCicco), Garrett Nayer (nephew of Karen Gardner), Denise Loy (friend of Kory Massey), David Sanford, Jovannie Ramirez (Karen Roaix's grandson), Steve Sedlock (Nancy Tharp's brother), Clancy Cragle (Michelle's grandfather), the Herin Family (relatives of Kathie Meredith), David Crowe, Jack Schermond

Cancer: Jerrick Cesna (friend of Megan French), Mark Schreier (Virginia Holroyd's friend), Amy Jelensperber (Sheppard family), Dylan Smith (CA senior, friend of many), John Tornow (friend of Elaine Allen), Susan Hennessy (Jen Eveleigh's sister), Rich Crowley (Steve & Beth Smythe's friend), Tom & Monica Yurik (Bruce & Deb Gardner's friends), Deb Dawson (Steve Smythe's niece), Sasha (Megan French's friend), Roderick Simonds (father of Natalie Clark), Rob Stults (cousin of Wade & Christy Allen), Dawn Miller, David Pagoda (Eveleigh family friend), Jim Davis (Scott's father), Jackie Crego (Stan & Evey Wright's daughter), Stephen Carges (Paula Traber's brother)

Recovering: Bill Blance (Ed's brother), Gabbi Seeber, Kerry Van Iseghem, Joan Danaher, Sara Scharr, Sara Henderson, Arlene Willett, Patti Cagwin

Comfort and Peace: Harriet Morgan (Megan French's grandma), Mary Zimmerman (Wendy Bacon's mother)

MILITARY SERVICE: US Army LT1 Andrew Marlin (Tyler Bosecks husband) home from deployment, LTJG Nick Castiller (USN), MAC Adam Thorman (USN), E6 Cody Wells (USN) deployed to Japan, TSgt Timothy Peck (USAF)

MISSIONARIES: Carlos Bonilla & Mayra Giovanti – the BGs (Central/South America), Tim & Patti Long (Baja Mexico), Shelvis & Nancy Smith-Mather (S Sudan refugees in Uganda), Ryan & Alethia White (Berlin)

Some more upcoming dates you might want to put on your calendar (watch the Monthly Memo or future Lamplighters for details!):

May 5 – Exploring Membership Class

May 11 – Youth BBQ fundraiser

June 2 – Church Picnic

June 9 – Grad Sunday

June 29 – Red Wings Game

July 7 – Youth BBQ fundraiser

Aug 16-18 – United Church Retreat Weekend

Nov 2 – United Church Seminar

Highlights for This Week!

- **TODAY at 12:00 PM - United Church's Summer Mission Experience Meeting -** In lieu of a GROUP Workcamp trip this year, we are coordinating our own missions experience this summer! Join us to make our own experience to meet needs in our very own community! We will also have flexibility on dates and times, which will help our families work around their busy summer schedules.
- **An Exploring Membership class** will be held after the 11am service on May 5th. This class provides a chance for anyone interested to learn more about our church family and our core beliefs. Lunch will be provided; childcare can be provided if needed-please let Deb or Carolyn know if you need childcare. You can register by using the link below, on our church center app, or by contacting a staff member. <https://bit.ly/uccdgaEM>
- **ATTENTION PARENTS!** Do you have a graduate in the house? **Do you have a high school graduate??** What do they plan to do after high school? **Do you have a college graduate??** Where are they graduating from? What degree did they earn? What are their future plans? *We would love to celebrate these milestones with you and your adult children.* So, please let Deb Marshall know what your children are up to! **We need this info by May 9th.** Thank you!
- Our very own Paul Johnson will be “camp pastor” at Beaver Camp’s **Grandparent/Grandchild Camp** coming up on **July 17-19**. If you are a grandparent who would like to take your grandchild to this camp, you can find more info and sign up here: <https://beavercamp.org/camps-and-retreats/grand-parent>

ARE YOU VISITING US TODAY? If so, WELCOME to the United Church, we are so glad that you have chosen to worship with us. We invite you to check out our Welcome Table found in our Welcome Center, and to pick up a blue bag for yourself/your family to take home and to learn a little bit more about us. Please fill out a visitor card and drop it in the collection plate or mail in. **We are so happy that you joined us today and look forward to seeing you again soon!**

Children's Time ~ There is Children's Time today. After the children's sermon, children in **Kindergarten through 2nd grade** are invited upstairs to Room 26 for an age-appropriate lesson. Parents, please pick up your children promptly after the service. Thank you!

Nursery care is offered during both services and during the Sunday school hour for those too young to attend Sunday school so that parents may attend adult classes or help in children's classes. **8:45am nursery** ~ a combined nursery meets in room 10. **9:45am Sunday school nursery** ~ meets in room 11, the preschool nursery. **11:00am nurseries** ~ both the Infant/Toddler Nursery (Room 10) and the Preschool Nursery (Room 11) are available.

It's that time of year again ~ we have received **Summer Camp brochures!** Please take time to pray about and consider sending your child to Christian camp this summer. This experience can have a positive impact on your child's faith development! *Our church family believes that the Christian camp experience is so important that for any child from our church, we will pay half the tuition for one week at Christian camp ~ called a "campership."* This is **NOT** a need based scholarship. It is available to all families who attend Sunday mornings, Youth Club, and/or Cause programs. Campership requests are being received now until June 2. **We encourage you to register for camp soon – camps tend to fill up quickly and you may be able to take advantage of early bird discounts!!** Please look for the camp display in the gathering area. Any questions, please contact Deb Marshall.

Here are our campers so far...

Beaver Camp

Elise Cunningham, July 7-12 (Bears)
Amelia Cunningham, August 4-9 (Teen Camp)
Anna Zajac, August 4-9 (Teen Camp)

LeTourneau Christian Center

Isabella Harris-Chwiecko, July 15-19 (Arts and Crafts Camp)
Jackson Callard, July 22-26 (Adventure Quest Overnight Camp)
Juliana Callard, July 22-26 (Adventure Quest Overnight Camp)
Aria Hildebrandt, July 22-26 (Adventure Quest Overnight Camp)
Mason Hildebrandt, July 22-26 (Adventure Quest Overnight Camp)
Liam Hildebrandt, July 22-26 (Adventure Quest Overnight Camp)
Graham Beyrle, Aug 12-15 (Wacky Water 2)

NTS Camp at Houghton College

Walter Marshall, July 7-11



**Don't forget to put the Youth Chicken BBQ on your calendar for May 11!
In front of Runnings, 10:30 am until it runs out.**

I Am No Longer My Own

(Anthem)

I am no longer my own, I am no longer my own, but yours!
Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will;
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
I am no longer my own, my own, I am no longer my own, but yours!

Let me be employed for you, laid aside for you, be exalted for you,
or brought low for you, low for you, for you.

Let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things,
let me have nothing; I freely yield all things.

And now glorious blessed God, Father and Son and Holy Spirit,
You are mine and I am yours. So be it! I am yours. So be it!
You are mine and I am yours, I am yours, I am yours.
Amen!

MISSIONS ~ Faith and Action

"Thank you"

Today **The Cause** (our youth) will assemble 46 school kits for Church World Service. Thank you for the 276 pencils, 46 pencil sharpeners, and all the supplies donated.



Compassion is at the heart of CWS Kits, and because of dedicated volunteers and donors, each kit is filled with hope, packed with love and shared with our neighbors in need at just the right time.



It's getting hard to find something to purchase for \$10.00 today. We have an opportunity to buy a warm blanket and have it delivered to someone in need for only a \$10.00 donation to our annual **Blanket Sunday Offering for Church World Service**. Please consider spreading kindness, compassion and warmth by giving what you can on Blanket Sunday, **May 12**. Thank you for your help as we blanket the world with love.

Below is an excerpt from, *The Apology of Aristides*, as translated by D. M. Kay, taken from the Syriac version.

XV: But the Christians, O King, while they went about and made search, have found the truth; and as we learned from their writings, they have come nearer to truth and genuine knowledge than the rest of the nations. For they know and trust in God, the Creator of heaven and of earth, in whom and from whom are all things, to whom there is no other god as companion, from whom they received commandments which they engraved upon their minds and observe in hope and expectation of the world which is to come. Wherefore they do not commit adultery nor fornication, nor bear false witness, nor embezzle what is held in pledge, nor covet what is not theirs. They honour father and mother, and show kindness to those near to them; and whenever they are judges, they judge uprightly. They do not worship idols (made) in the image of man; and whatsoever they would not that others should do unto them, they do not to others; and of the food which is consecrated to idols they do not eat, for they are pure. And their oppressors they appease (lit: comfort) and make them their friends; they do good to their enemies; and their women, O King, are pure as virgins, and their daughters are modest; and their men keep themselves from every unlawful union and from all uncleanness, in the hope of a recompense to come in the other world. Further, if one or other of them have bondmen and bondwomen or children, through love towards them they persuade them to become Christians, and when they have done so, they call them brethren without distinction. They do not worship strange gods, and they go their way in all modesty and cheerfulness. Falsehood is not found among them; and they love one another, and from widows they do not turn away their esteem; and they deliver the orphan from him who treats him harshly. And he, who has, gives to him who has not, without boasting. And when they see a stranger, they take him in to their homes and rejoice over him as a very brother; for they do not call them brethren after the flesh, but brethren after the spirit and in God. And whenever one of their poor passes from the world, each one of them according to his ability gives heed to him and carefully sees to his burial. And if they hear that one of their number is imprisoned or afflicted on account of the name of their Messiah, all of them anxiously minister to his necessity, and if it is possible to redeem him they set him free. And if there is among them any that is poor and needy, and if they have no spare food, they fast two or three days in order to supply to the needy their lack of food. They observe the precepts of their Messiah with much care, living justly and soberly as the Lord their God commanded them. Every morning and every hour they give thanks and praise to God for His loving-kindnesses toward them; and for their food and their drink they offer thanksgiving to Him. And if any righteous man among them passes from the world, they rejoice and offer thanks to God; and they escort his body as if he were setting out from one place to another near. And when a child has been born to one of them, they give thanks to God; and if moreover it happen to die in childhood, they give thanks to God the more, as for one who has passed through the world without sins. And further if they see that any one of them dies in his ungodliness or in his sins, for him they grieve bitterly, and sorrow as for one who goes to meet his doom.

XVI. Such, O King, is the commandment of the law of the Christians, and such is their manner of life. As men who know God, they ask from Him petitions which are fitting for Him to grant and for them

to receive. And thus they employ their whole lifetime. And since they know the loving-kindnesses of God toward them, behold! for their sake the glorious things which are in the world flow forth to view. And verily, they are those who found the truth when they went about and made search for it; and from what we considered, we learned that they alone come near to a knowledge of the truth. And they do not proclaim in the ears of the multitude the kind deeds they do, but are careful that no one should notice them; and they conceal their giving just as he who finds a treasure and conceals it. And they strive to be righteous as those who expect to behold their Messiah, and to receive from Him with great glory the promises made concerning them. And as for their words and their precepts, O King, and their glorying in their worship, and the hope of earning according to the work of each one of them their recompense which they look for in another world,-you may learn about these from their writings. It is enough for us to have shortly informed your Majesty concerning the conduct and the truth of the Christians. For great indeed, and wonderful is their doctrine to him who will search into it and reflect upon it. And verily, this is a new people, and there is something divine (lit: "a divine admixture") in the midst of them.