



Nobody Fits the Stereotype

Second Sunday of Easter
April 7, 2024 | 9:00 am

+ Please Stand

Bold Text = Congregation speak or sing

Chancel Flowers

*Barbara Ross gives flowers
in loving memory of her husband Don Ross.*

Worship Attendants

Rev. Jonathan Heifner, Lead Pastor

Rev. Ryan Roth-Klinck, Associate Pastor of Discipleship

Rev. Daniel Niyonzima, Associate Pastor, African Nationals

Dr. Mark Baumann, CAGO, Coordinator of Music Ministries

Michael Sauer, Director of Sanctuary Choir

Bruce Nesmith, Liturgist

Martin Downs, piano

Michelle Langston, flute

Brian Azelborn, Slide Presenter

Maury Anderson, Videographer

Bob Lee, Audio & Video Streaming

The Roundtable Team

Cynde Clymer

Carol Curry

Bill Daylong

Cindy Edge

Holli Schneekloth

Stan Vandersall

GATHERING

Welcome

Prelude

How Firm a Foundation

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

Messiah Bells

with Martin Downs, piano

Call to Worship

This morning, we will continue our poll about the generations by playing a game I like to call “Which generation fits the stereotype?” Bruce, Becca, or I will name some stereotypes of different generations, and we were hoping you could help us determine which generation you think best fits the stereotype of the two options we give you.

For our first set of stereotypes, you can choose between Baby Boomers, who were born 1946-1964, and Millennials, who were born 1981-1996.

If you think Boomers are the better fit, raise your left hand, and if you think Millennials are the better fit, raise your right hand.

Okay, here are our first questions.

Which generation is entitled?

Which generation is self-centered?

Which generation is tech-savvy?

Now for our second set of stereotypes. You can choose between the Silent Generation, who were born 1928-1945, and Generation Z, who were born 1997-2012. If you think the Silent Generation is a better fit, raise your left hand; if you think Gen Z is the better fit, raise your right hand.

Which generation struggles with relationships?

Which generation is outspoken?

Which generation is concerned with their public image?

Now for our last set of stereotypes:
Generation X, who was born
between 1965 and 1980, and the
Greatest Generation, who were born
before 1928. If you think Gen X
is a better fit, raise your left hand,
and if you think the Greatest
Generation is the better fit,
raise your right hand.

Which generation is
concerned about money?
Which generation has a reputation
for being hard workers?
Which generation
often feels forgotten?

All right, give yourself a hand.
Great job stereotyping each
other's generations!

Now we have a surprise for
everyone here! Did you know
no one generation fits any
of these stereotypes?

Other generations have called
Millennials and Boomers entitled,
self-centered, and tech-savvy.

Both Generation Z and the
Silent Generation are known
to struggle with relationships,
are outspoken, and are concerned
with their public image.

Both the Greatest Generation and
Generation X are concerned about
money, have a reputation
for being hard workers,
and often feel forgotten.

We are not the only ones who
have experienced stereotypes about
who we are. Nathanael stereotyped
Jesus based on where he came from.
Yet, Jesus worked to help Nathanael
move beyond his preconceived
judgment. We are called to
follow Christ's example by
working to move beyond our
biases about other generations.

All: From generation to generation, God calls us to let go of our stereotypes!

We aspire to be a church community where people of all ages can flourish! So, whether you are a child or an elder, young or retired, in your mid-life or somewhere in between, you are welcome here!

All: You are embraced, loved, and called by God. Let's worship God together! Amen!

+ Hymn of Praise to the Triune God

Jesus Calls Us

UMH 398

**Jesus calls us o'er
the tumult of our life's wild,
restless sea; day by day
his sweet voice soundeth,
saying, "Christian, follow me!"**

**As of old the apostles
heard it by the Galilean lake,
turned from home
and toil and kindred,
leaving all for Jesus' sake.**

**Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would
keep us, saying,
Christian, love me more!"**

**In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and
pleasures, "Christian,
love me more than these!"**

**Jesus calls us! By thy mercies,
Savior, may we hear thy call,
give our hearts to thine obedience,
serve and love thee best of all.**

Passing of the Peace

Each week, we take time to bless each other with peace because we believe God truly desires peace for all.

A blessing is a way to wish for wholeness in someone's life, so please ensure everyone has peace passed to them, regardless of their generation.

As we pass the peace to each other, we would also like you to ask your neighbors a question to help us foster deeper connections in our community.

If you are online, please include your response to this question in the comment section. This week, we'd like you to ask each other:
How do you NOT fit the stereotypes of your generation?

May the peace of Christ
be with you!

All: And also with you!

FORMING

Life of the Community

Act of Praise

Child of God

Mark A. Miller

Sanctuary Choir

No matter what people say,
or think about me,
I am a child, I am a child of God.

No matter what people say,
or think about you,
You are a child,
you are a child of God.

No matter what the world says,
or thinks about me,
I am a child, I am a child of God.

No matter what the church says,
decisions, pronouncements on you,
You are a child,
you are a child of God.

And there is nothing,
or no one who can separate,
They can't separate you from the
truth that you're someone,
You are family, you are meant to be,
a child, a child of God!
You are a child of God!

Prayers of the Generations

God of the many generations,
we far too often forget Christ's
commandment to love our neighbors
as ourselves. We recognize we have
not always listened and sought
to understand our neighboring
generations, those who have come
before or after us.

**All: We seek to be better
neighbors, God! May we
listen and learn to love our
neighboring generations!**

Teens and young adults,
we affirm and bless you

All: We affirm and bless you!

Teens and young adults,
we affirm and bless you

All: We affirm and bless you!

Teens and young adults,
we affirm and bless you.

All: We affirm and bless you!

And, as part of this faith
community, we also remember
those who are suffering...

God in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer.

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.**

Affirmation of Faith

We believe God is present in the
darkness before dawn,
**All: in the waiting and
uncertainty where fear and
courage join hands, conflict and
caring link arms, and the
sun rises over barbed wire.**

We believe in a with-us God,
**All: who sits down in our midst
to share our humanity.**

We affirm a faith that takes us
beyond the safe places...
**All: into action, into vulnerability,
and into the streets.**

We commit ourselves to be the body
of Christ together,
**All: to be a community who
seeks to listen and understand the
experiences of each generation,
so we can work for change.**

May we be willing to put
ourselves on the line, bear
responsibility, take risks, live
powerfully, and even
face humiliation;
**All: May we stand with those
on the edge, choose life, and be
used by the Spirit for God's new
community of hope. Amen.**

+ Hymn of Preparation

*What Good Can Come
from Nazareth?*

(see slides)

Text: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
Used by permission of the author

Tune: AURELIA

(*The Church's One Foundation*) stanzas 1-3

**“What good can come from
Nazareth? Can any good at all?”
Nathaniel said to Philip
when he heard Philip's call.**

**The prophets never praised it —
that little backwoods place.
He thought God wouldn't
choose it to be a means of grace.**

**And yet, when he met Jesus,
Nathaniel changed his ways.
His words that put down others
soon turned to words of praise.
He called our Savior “Rabbi!”
and “Son of God!” and “King!”
What change a little listening
and openness can bring!**

**“What good can come from
strangers?” O God,
we hear the shout.
For some hate other people
and seek to push them out.
May we who follow Jesus
be glad to “Come and see!”
May we learn from each
other with true humility.**

+ Gospel Lesson

John 1:43-51
The Voice

The next day Jesus set out to go into Galilee; and when He came upon Philip, He invited him to join them.

Jesus: Follow Me.

Philip, like Andrew and Peter, came from a town called Bethsaida; and he decided to make the journey with Him. Philip found Nathanael, a friend, and burst in with excitement:

Philip: We have found the One. Moses wrote about Him in the Law, all the prophets spoke of the day when He would come, and now He is here—His name is Jesus, son of Joseph the carpenter; and He comes from Nazareth.

Nathanael: How can anything good come from a place like Nazareth?

Philip: Come with me, and see for yourself.

As Philip and Nathanael approached, Jesus saw Nathanael and spoke to those standing around Him.

Jesus: Look closely, and you will see an Israelite who is a truth-teller.

Nathanael: How would You know this about me? We have never met.

Jesus: I have been watching you before Philip invited you here. Earlier in the day, you were enjoying the shade and fruit of the fig tree. I saw you then.

Nathanael: Teacher, You are the One—God’s own Son and Israel’s King.

Jesus: Nathanael, if all it takes for you to believe is My telling you I saw you under the fig tree, then what you will see later will astound you. I tell you the truth: before our journey is complete, you will see the heavens standing open while heavenly messengers ascend and descend, swirling around the Son of Man.

For the Word of God in scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen!

*What Good Can Come
from Nazareth?*

(stanza 4)

**O God of all our cultures,
now make us one, we pray.
May we see your grace working
in all your lands this day.
May we hear others’ stories —
what makes them sad or strong,
Till — list’ning —
we find friendship,
with love our common song.**

Sermon

Response to the Word

Baptism
UMH 33

Presentation of the Candidate

Baptism
TFWS 2252

**Come, be baptized
in the name of the Father.
Come, be baptized
in the name of the Son.
Come, be baptized
in the name of the Spirit.
Come, be baptized in love.**

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

On behalf of the whole Church,
do you renounce the spiritual forces
of wickedness, reject the
evil powers of this world,
and repent of your sin?

I do.

Do you accept the freedom
and power God gives you to
resist evil, injustice, and oppression
in whatever forms they
present themselves?

I do.

Do you confess Jesus Christ as your
Savior, put your whole trust in his
grace, and promise to serve him as
your Lord, in union with the church
which Christ has opened to people
of all ages, nations, and races?

I do.

Will you nurture Isaiah in Christ's
holy church, that by your teaching
and example, he may be guided
to accept God's grace for himself,
to profess his faith openly,
and to lead a Christian life?

I will.

Do you, as Christ's body,
the Church, reaffirm both
your rejection of sin and your
commitment to Christ?

We do.

Will you nurture one another
in the Christian faith and life,
and include Isaiah in your care?
**With God's help we will proclaim
the good news and live according
to the example of Christ. We will
surround him with a community
of love and forgiveness, that he
may grow in his trust of God, and
be found faithful in his service
to others. We will pray for him,
that he may be a true disciple who
walks in the way that leads to life.**

Let us join together in professing the
Christian faith as contained
in the Scriptures of the
Old and New Testaments.

**Do you believe in God the Father?
I believe in God,
the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?
**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only
Son, our Lord, who was conceived
by the Holy Spirit, born of the
Virgin Mary, suffered under
Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died,
and was buried; He descended to
the dead. On the third day he rose
again; He ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the
Father, and will come again to
judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Thanksgiving Over the Water

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, when nothing existed
but chaos, you swept across the dark
waters and brought forth light. In the
days of Noah you saved those on the
ark through water. After the flood
you set in the clouds a rainbow.

When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt, you led them to freedom through the sea. Their children you brought through the Jordan to the land which you promised.

**Sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Tell of God's mercy each day.**

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a womb. He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit. He called his disciples to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection and to make disciples of all nations.

**Declare God's works to
the nations, God's glory
among all the people.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit, to bless this gift of water and the one who receives it, to wash away sin and clothe him in righteousness throughout his life, that, dying and being raised with Christ, He may share in his final victory.

**All praise to you, Eternal God,
through your Son Jesus Christ,
who with you and the Holy Spirit
lives and reigns for ever.**

Amen.

Baptism with Laying on of Hands

Isaiah Peter,

I baptize you in the name of the
Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Isaiah, the Holy Spirit work within you, that being born through water and the Spirit, you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

You Have Put On Christ
UMH 609

**You have put on Christ,
In Christ you have been baptized.
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

It is our joy to welcome
a new sibling in Christ.

**Through baptism you are
incorporated by the Holy Spirit
into God's new creation and
made to share in Christ's royal
priesthood. We are all one in
Christ Jesus. With joy and
thanksgiving we welcome you as a
member of the family of Christ.**

Commendation and Welcome

Members of the household of God,
I commend Isaiah to your love
and care. Do all in your power to
increase his faith, confirm his hope,
and perfect him in love.

**We give thanks for all that God
has already given you and we
welcome you in Christian love.
As members together with you
in the body of Christ
and in this congregation
of The United Methodist Church,
we renew our covenant
faithfully to participate
in the ministries of the Church
by our prayers, our presence,
our gifts, our service, and our
witness, that in everything God
may be glorified
through Jesus Christ.**

Offering Invitation

SENDING

+ Sending Hymn

Will You Come and Follow Me

TFWS 2130

Michelle Langston, flute
congregation, flute & piano

**Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't
know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in
you and you in me?**

**Will you leave yourself
behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?**

**Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?**

**Will you let the blinded
see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free
and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean,
and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you
and you in me?**

**Will you love the “you”
you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside
and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you’ve
found to reshape the world
around, through my sight
and touch and sound in you
and you in me?**

**Lord, your summons echoes
true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same. In your
company I’ll go where your love
and footsteps show.
Thus I’ll move and live
and grow in you and you in me.**

Invitation to Gather and Blessing

Before our closing blessing, I want to remind everyone about the spiritual practice Jonathan asked us to try out together. After the service, please come to the gathering space, just through the doors behind me, and take some time to intentionally connect with someone who is from a different generation than yourself. If you are visiting our church, we are delighted you joined up today and we would love to connect with you after the service to hear your story. Thank you all for worshiping with us here in person and online.



Blessing

Going Forth

Postlude

Préludium in G

Franz Tunder

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welcome

ALL

**We gather to worship God, whose nature is love.
And because God's love knows no bounds,
All are welcome here.**

All

ages

races

abilities

ethnicities

life circumstances

gender identities, expressions, and sexual orientations.

**We joyfully celebrate the diversity of All God's children
as we are inspired by the Holy Spirit to love as Jesus loves.**

Welcome to God's extravagant, inclusive love!

Welcome to St. Paul's!



What's Happening

at






ST. PAUL'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Scan Me

Scan QR Code above to view our events calendar.

APPLY FOR  **SCHOLARSHIP**

APPLY HERE
Deadline
April 15

ST. PAUL'S
UMC FOUNDATION
A LIVING LEGACY

**Afternoon Coffee
with Father Lapsley**
South African priest and anti-apartheid activist




April 16, 2:00 pm
Gathering Space



**SERENDIPITOUS
CONVERSATIONS**

April 21, & 28 | 10:00 am
*Join us for a time of storytelling and conversation
with Barb Hanson and Selenthia Jeffers.*



**Earth Keeping:
Energizing People
of Faith for
Climate Justice**

4.21.24

April 21 | 4:00-6:00 pm
Adults & Youth (6th-12th grade)

**DEMOCRACY &
THE DREAM**

FREE FAMILY MAY DAY CELEBRATION

MAY BASKETS Decorate a basket and fill it with a treat.	KIDS VOTE Cast your vote in a kid-friendly election to see your vote count!	GET INVOLVED Register to vote, learn about training for Poll Workers
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APRIL 27TH, 10AM - 12PM
**BEEMS B AUDITORIUM
CEDAR RAPIDS PUBLIC LIBRARY
450 5TH AVE SE**



APRIL 27, 2024
2:00-3:30 P.M.

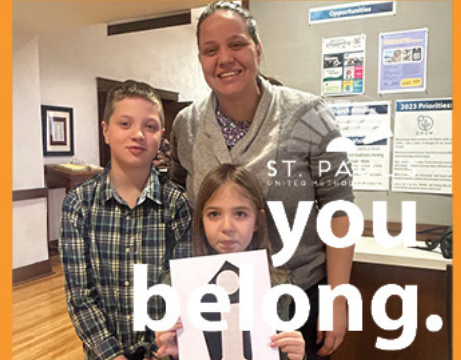
INDIAN CREEK NATURE CENTER,
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A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE OF ENGAGING WITH CREATION

TERRA DIVINA




tending to the sacred



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IN PERSON

Offering Plate



4 WAYS TO GIVE