

Fifth Sunday of Easter April 28, 2024 | 9:00 am

+ Please Stand
Bold Text = Congregation speak or sing

Chancel Flowers

Jerry and Barb Oakland present flowers in honor of Becca Nims and all other delegates to the UMC General Conference.

Worship Attendants

Rev. Jonathan Heifner, Lead Pastor
Rev. Julie Wehner, Associate Pastor of Congregational Care
Rev. Daniel Niyonzima, Associate Pastor, African Nationals
Dr. Mark Baumann, CAGO, Coordinator of Music Ministries
Michael Sauer, Director of Sanctuary Choir
Miriam Mackey, Liturgist
Dave Radack, Slide Presenter
Keith Williams, Videographer
Celeste Downs, Audio

The Roundtable Team

Cynde Clymer Carol Curry Bill Daylong Cindy Edge Stan Vandersall

GATHERING

Welcome

Prelude

Jubilate Amen
arr. Ruby Shaw Hollis
Tower Bells

Call to Worship

This week, we will continue our poll of the generations by showing you pictures of the biggest trends from different decades. We want you all to help us rate these trends with a thumbs up of approval or a thumbs down of disapproval.

The 1970's Shag Carpet Star Wars Tupperware Bell Bottoms

The 1980's
Big Hair!
80's Rock bands
Rubix Cubes
Cassette players

The 1990's
Blockbuster
Beanie Babies and Furbies
AOL Instant Messenger
Frosted Hair tips

The 2000's
UGG Boots
Ipod and Flip Phones
Harry Potter
MySpace

The 2010's
Streaming tv shows
and movies, like Frozen!
Hipster
Smartphones
Crocs

The 2020's
Tik Tok
Stanley Cups
The Return of the Fanny Pack
Middle Hair part

Miriam: Trends and popularity can be hard to predict. Many have dismissed something as a silly fad, only to look back and see how it defined a whole generation.

Julie: If we lived back before
Jesus was born, the Hebrew
people seemed to be trending in
the wrong direction. They were
captives in their homeland, stripped
of citizenship, and were a small,
annoying minority in the
Grand Roman Empire.

Miriam: Yet, despite their circumstance, the most faithful among them continued to dream of the day when God would restore them and make everything right in the world.

Julie: They likely never imagined that Jesus would be the one who would go viral, and it was only later that those who followed him truly understood his significance in God's work here on earth. Today, we follow in the footsteps of our ancestors as we continue to dream and believe in God's healing work in our world.

All: From generation to generation, God calls us to dream of an Intergenerational future in our church!

Miriam: 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!

<u>Julie</u>: Please rise in body or spirit as we sing our first hymn, <u>Come, Christians, Join to Sing.</u>

+ Hymn of Praise to the Triune God

Come, Christians, Join to Sing
UMH 158
congregation & Tower Bells

Come, Christians, join to sing:
Alleluia! Amen!
loud praise to Christ our King:
Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice,
before his throne rejoice;
praise is his gracious choice.
Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high:
Alleluia! Amen!
Let praises fill the sky:
Alleluia! Amen!
He is our guide and friend;
to us he'll condescend;
his love shall never end:
Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet the Lord again:
Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain:
Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore
his goodness we'll adore,
singing forevermore:
Alleluia! Amen!

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 share a brief story with your neighbors 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 what kind of future do you hope for.

May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

FORMING

Life of the Community

Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-9

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

All: The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

All: They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

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.

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

Those in early retirement,

<u>All</u>: We affirm and bless you!

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.

Act of Praise

Somebody's Calling My Name spiritual, arr. Wendell P. Whalum Men's Ensemble

+ Gospel Lesson

Luke 2:41-52 adapted from The Voice

Every year during Jesus' childhood, His parents traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover celebration.

When Jesus was 12, He made the journey with them. They spent several days there, participating in the whole celebration.

When His parents left for home, Jesus stayed in Jerusalem, but Joseph and Mary were not aware.

They assumed Jesus was elsewhere
in the caravan that was traveling
together. After they had already
traveled a full day's journey toward
home, they began searching for Him
among their friends and relatives.

All: Jesus! Where are you? Have you seen our son?

When no one had seen the boy,
Mary and Joseph rushed back to
Jerusalem and searched for Him.
After three days of separation, they
finally found Him—sitting among
a group of religious teachers in the
temple—asking them questions,
listening to their answers. Everyone
was surprised and impressed that
a 12-year-old boy could have such
deep understanding and could answer
questions with such "wisdom.
His parents, of course,
had a different reaction.

Mary: Son, why have You treated us this way? Listen, Your father and I have been sick with worry for the last three days, wondering where You were, looking everywhere for You.

<u>Jesus</u>: Why did you need to look for Me? Didn't you know that I must be working for My Father?

Neither Mary nor Joseph really understood what He meant by this. Jesus went back to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. His mother continued to store these memories like treasures in her heart.

And Jesus kept on growing—in wisdom, in physical stature, in favor with God, and in favor with others.

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!

Sermon

Response to the Word

Stephen Ministry Commissioning

Julie, because we believe in your gifts, calling, and training in this ministry, today we will commission you as a Stephen Leader for our congregation. We have some vows to ask you that will serve as your commitment to this role within our church.

Will you assume this role as Stephen Leader in the confidence that it comes from God?

<u>Julie</u>: Yes, with the help of God.

Will you nurture the skills you have learned and use them in service to others—to support, encourage, and build up people, and to enable excellent care while trusting in God's healing?

Julie: Yes, with the help of God.

Jonathan and Daniel, will you lift up the ministry of Julie and the other Stephen ministers of the congregation, recommending this ministry to those who need this kind of care, encouraging people with the appropriate gifts to serve in Stephen ministry, and helping the have the resources they need to thrive thereby helping to "equip the saints for ministry?"

<u>Jonathan and Daniel</u>: Yes, with the help of God.

Members of the church, will you open your hearts to the ministry of Julie and pray for her as a servant of Christ?

All: Yes, with the help of God.

Let us pray over Julie together.

We would like to recognize all of our Stephen Ministers and leaders in the congregation and ask them to rise so we can recognize them and celebrate Julie's commissioning together.

Act of Praise

A New Jerusalem Arise
Kyle Pederson
Sanctuary Choir

Offering Invitation

SENDING

+ Sending Hymn

We Are the Church UMH 558 (stanzas 1 & 2)

I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!

All who follow Jesus,
all around the world!
Yes, we're the church together!
The church is not a building,
the church is not a steeple,
the church is not a resting place,
the church is a people.

I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!

All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together! We're many kinds of people, with many kinds of faces, all colors and all ages, too, from all times and places.

I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!

Invitation to Gather

Blessing

Going Forth

Postlude

Come, Christians, Join to Sing
Neil Harmon

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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!



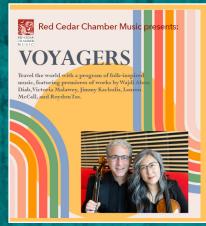
Scan OR Code above to view our events calendar.



FREE FAMILY MAY DAY CELEBRATION







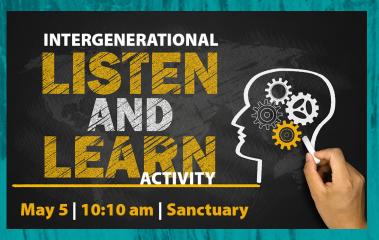
Miera Kim, violin Carcy Bostian, cello

Saturday, April 27 7:00 pm St. Paul's Sanctuary

Tickets: \$20 at the door, students Fre































IN PERSON
Offering Plate



