



# Dreaming of an Intergenerational Future

**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!**

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

## + 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

bleed 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.

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

Those in early retirement,  
**All: 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.

Jesus: 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?

Julie: 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 them have the resources they need to thrive - thereby helping to “equip the saints for ministry?”

Jonathan and Daniel:  
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



# 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.

## 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

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,  
5300 OTIS RD SE, CEDAR RAPIDS



tending to  
the sacred

A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE OF ENGAGING WITH CREATION

## TERRA DIVINA



Red Cedar Chamber Music presents:

## VOYAGERS

Travel the world with a program of folk-inspired music, featuring premieres of works by Wajdi Abou Diab, Victoria Malaway, Jimmy Kachulis, Lauren McCall, and Roydon Tse.



Miera Kim, violin  
Carcy Bostian, cello

Saturday, April 27  
7:00 pm

St. Paul's Sanctuary  
Tickets: \$20 at the door, students Free

## TAIZE WORSHIP



Youth & Adults Welcome

May 1 | 6:40-7:20 pm | Gathering Space



## Tasting Luncheon

a fundraiser of St. Paul's Women in Faith

THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024  
11:30 am-1:00 pm | Wesley Center  
Tickets \$15



INTERGENERATIONAL

## LISTEN AND LEARN ACTIVITY



May 5 | 10:10 am | Sanctuary



**ONLINE**

[stpaulsumc.org/give](http://stpaulsumc.org/give)



**MAIL**

Cash/Check/Credit/Debit  
1340 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue SE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403



**TEXT-TO-GIVE**

text **SPUMCCR**  
to **73256**



**IN PERSON**

Offering Plate



# 4 WAYS TO GIVE