

# BUILDING COMMUNITY

*A Community of Hospitality  
and Welcome*

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
*April 12, 2026*

Prelude

**Scherzo from Sonata no. 2**

van Beethoven

Greetings

*The assembly responds or joins in unison when our text is **bold**.*

Centering Words:

Let mutual love continue, as it gathers your family and friends close. Let mutual love increase, as it extends to the stranger, the lost, and the lonely.

Call to worship:

Come, God's voice sounds into our lives again!

**We are grateful to hear the call.**

Many mornings we hear other voices.

**Voices urging us to care only about ourselves, to serve other gods: our work, bank accounts, egos, peer groups, ideologies.**

Come, hear God's voice calling you to God's healing care.

**We come to rest and be fed.**

Feel God's freeing love. Be fed.

**God is our strength and our helper. We come.**

\*Opening Hymn

*The Summons*

♪FWS # 2130

1.

**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?**

2.

**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?**

3.

**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?**

4.

**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?**

5.

**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.**

The Faith We Sing Hymnal Number 2130

Words: John Bell

Music: KELVINGROVE; Traditional Scottish

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First Reading: **Genesis 18:1-8**

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

Special Music

First Methodist Brass

Second Reading: **Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16**

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

\*Gospel Reading: **Matthew 25:34-40**

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

Hymn of Preparation

***Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus***

♯ UMH # 349

**Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face,  
and the things of earth will grow strangely dim  
in the light of his glory and grace.**

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 349

Words: Helen H. Lemmel, 1922

Music: Helen H. Lemmel, 1922

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Message

***“Expecting You”***

Musical Response

First Methodist Brass

Invitation to the Offering

*As you feel led, please place your offering and/or completed connection card  
in the basket at the back of the chapel, or text your gift to 833-756-0325,  
or Contribute Now on our website: [www.elyriafirstumc.org](http://www.elyriafirstumc.org).*

Offertory

First Methodist Brass

\*Doxology

**Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow**

♯ UMH # 95

**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.**

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 95

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674

Music: OLD 100TH; Attr. to Louis Bourgeois, 1551

\*Offertory Prayer:

**We offer our gifts with thanksgiving for all whose labor provides the good things we enjoy. We bring from our abundance these tokens of gratitude to you for granting us life and all the we need to sustain it. Thank you for the privilege of sharing with those who are hungry, thirsty, naked, sick, imprisoned, or friendless. We reinvest our lives, with our money, in your renewing, transforming work. Amen.**

Announcements

\*Closing Hymn

***For the Healing of the Nations***

♯ UMH # 428

1.

**For the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray with one accord;  
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords;  
to a life of love in action help us rise  
and pledge our word, (pledge our word) help us rise and pledge our word.**

2.

**Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release,  
that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.  
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die  
and hope increase, (hope increase) fear will die and hope increase.**

3.

**All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned;  
pride of status, race, or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.  
In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span,  
(life's brief span) may we hallow life's brief span.**

4.

**You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind;  
for our growing in your likeness bring the life of Christ to mind,  
that by our response and service earth its destiny may find, (may find)  
earth its destiny may find.**

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 428

Words: Fred Kaan, 1965

Music: QWM RHONDDA; John Hughes, 1907Clara H. Scott, 1895

Benediction

Postlude

***Scherzo from Sonata in A, D959***

Schubert

*\*Please stand as you are comfortable*

♯ UMH ~ *United Methodist Hymnal* (hard cover hymnal)

♯ FWS- *The Faith We Sing* (soft cover hymnal)

## Worship Participants

Preaching: Rev. Karson Collins

Liturgist: Sheila André de la Porte

Media Specialists: Denise Smith and John Borer

Musicians: Kingsley Wood, Jack Roberts and the Chancel Choir

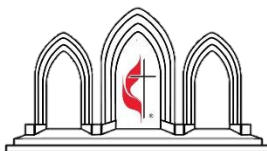
Sound: Neal Hubbard

Ushers and Greeters: Roger & Janice McFrederick, and Mike Zahnke

This service is broadcast live on the radio station WOBL 1320 AM and 107.7 FM. Today's radio broadcast is sponsored with money given for our radio ministry. Thank you to those who donate which allows us to continue our radio ministry as we share God's love with the radio audience and the community.

The altar flowers are sponsored by Carl Purdey in loving memory of Linda Purdey, in celebration of Linda's April 20<sup>th</sup> earthly birthday.

***If you are interested in joining our church family, or if you have any pastoral needs or prayer concerns, please call the church office at 440.322.6622.***



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

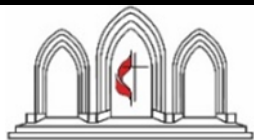
312 Third Street, Elyria, Ohio 44035 440.322.6622

[www.elyriafirstumc.org](http://www.elyriafirstumc.org)

An equal opportunity provider

***Scherzo from Sonata no. 2*** by Ludwig van Beethoven. ***Scherzo from Sonata in A, D959*** by Franz Schubert. All songs are performed under license # 673591.

# Third Street Review



April Mission focus:

April 19, 2026

First United Methodist Church

312 Third Street, Elyria, Ohio 44035

Phone: 440.322.6622

Email: [church@elyriafirstumc.org](mailto:church@elyriafirstumc.org)

## ***Peace with Justice***

United Methodists relate by seeking peaceful solutions, creating, and supporting peace-related ministries in our conference and learning about peaceful, just efforts around the world. Our Social Principles call us to love our enemies, seek justice and serve as reconcilers of conflict. Donations for this support programs and ministries to educate, equip, and mobilize actions in support of identified Economic, Health, and Gender Justice Priorities. Half of the funds collected on this Special Sunday remain in the Annual Conference to strengthen social justice ministries within the local conference.

Donations will be collected all month and can be made by cash, checks (indicate ***Peace with Justice*** on the memo line) or online on-line via our website: [elyriafirstumc.org](http://elyriafirstumc.org).

## ***Fellowship Time***

Come, enjoy goodies and wonderful fellowship in the **Parlor** after worship today!

"The secret of change is to focus  
all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new."  
~ Socrates

## ***New Church Plan***

In May and June, we will continue with regular Sunday services (*no first Sunday service*) while also beginning to communicate more clearly about what is coming next. Communion will be served on the 2<sup>nd</sup> instead of the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday.

We will host a **Spring Open House on May 16<sup>th</sup>**, and volunteers are needed to help make this a welcoming and successful event. If you would like to volunteer for a couple of hours or even 1 hour, please contact Julie Joy in the church office.

Call Julie at 440.322.6622  
Tuesday-Thursday 9 am - 4 pm

## ***312 Happy Hour***

Join us for a great meal, fun, and fellowship on **April 28<sup>th</sup> at noon in Fellowship Hall!**

## ***Free Clothing Store***

We are accepting clothing, coats, blankets, and linens. Please place items in the box on the main level. The store will be open to the community on **Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> 10 am-12 pm.**

## ***Free Hygiene Store***

We are grateful for your continued support of this much needed ministry. Being open to the community and filling in the gap for many families is a blessing!

Our needs for April include:

- **Baby Wash and Lotion**
- **Cleaning Supplies** (glass, bathroom, and toilet bowl cleaners)
- **Laundry & Dish Soap**
- **Shampoo & Conditioner** (dry shampoo too)
- **Women's and Men's Body Wash**

Please place these items in the box located on the main level. The store will be open on **Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>** from **10 am-12 pm!**

### ***Update from Karson:***

I wanted to share a quick update on where we are in the New Church process right now.

On the staffing side, we have made strong progress. Our Communications Director and Pastoral Care positions are currently under final review.

I also have our Youth Director and Associate (with a focus on Family Ministry) ready to begin the formal process, with SPRC planning to set interview and next step dates in the coming weeks. In addition, I have a potential Worship Leader scheduled to come next month to lead us in worship, which will give me a great opportunity to evaluate fit in a live setting.

The one area we have not yet made meaningful progress on is the Non-Profit Director role, which remains open currently.

On the facilities side, we expect to receive something from the architects by the end of the week that will allow us to begin making more concrete decisions moving forward.

Overall, we are continuing to move forward with clarity and momentum. I'll keep you updated as each of these pieces develops. Thank you all for your continued support and leadership in this season.

Karson

### ***Open Sponsorship Dates***

Altar Flower dates: **Cost \$22**

**May 17, 24, and 31**

Radio dates: **Cost \$300** (*includes advertising!*)

**May 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31**

Please call the church office at 440.322.6622 to reserve your special date!

### ***Attention Parents and Grandparents***

Summer is approaching and East Ohio Camps are opening their doors for visits. Open houses and **Summer Camp Preview Days** will take place **April 25<sup>th</sup>** at **Camp Wanake** from 2-6 pm, and **May 3<sup>rd</sup>** from 2-5 pm **Camp Aldersgate**.

## ***Scripture readings for the week:***

Sunday, April 19: **Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35**  
Monday, April 20: **Psalm 134; Genesis 18:1-14; 1 Peter 1:23-25**  
Tuesday, April 21: **Psalm 134; Proverbs 8:32-9:6; 1 Peter 2:1-3**  
Wednesday, April 22: **Psalm 134; Exodus 24:1-11; John 21:1-14**  
Thursday, April 23: **Psalm 23; Exodus 2:15b-25; 1 Peter 2:9-12**  
Friday, April 24: **Psalm 23; Exodus 3:16-22, 4:18-20; 1 Peter 2:13-17**  
Saturday, April 25: **Psalm 23; Ezekiel 34:1-16; Luke 15:1-7**  
Sunday, April 26: **Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10**

## ***Let's Connect***

April 19, 2026

Hi everyone,

In my first sermon, I talked about hearing your “but God” stories—the moments where God has shown up in your life in a way only God could. One of the things that matters most to me as your pastor is getting to hear those stories and also making space for any questions you have about all we’re building together.

As we continue building rhythms together, I want to make it easier for us to connect during the week.

Beginning next week, I’ll have set times available for meetings in the office:

† Tuesdays from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

† Thursdays from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

If you’d like to meet, I would truly love that. You can reach out to the office to schedule a time, and we’ll find something that works within those windows.

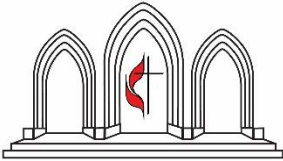
These are simply consistent meeting times to help make connection easier, not limitations. If something urgent comes up outside of those windows, please don’t hesitate to reach out.

I’m grateful to be on this journey with you and look forward to more conversations in the days ahead.

Grace and peace,

Karson

# MOTHER'S DAY TRIBUTE 2026



Mother's Day is May 10<sup>th</sup> flower proceeds will go to the **Golden Cross Sunday** offering.

Carnations will grace the altars and may be taken home following the services.

Red carnations designate a living mother who is honored while white carnations will memorialize the life of a deceased mother.



*Please print names, including your own name(s) as you would like them printed in the worship service bulletins.*  
Name of **Living Mother** to be honored:

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Name of **Deceased Mother** to be memorialized:

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Enclosed is my minimum gift of \$10 per name above: Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

**Return to church office or place in the offering plate.**  
**Make checks payable to: EFUMC, designate for Mother's Day.**  
***Please do not include in your offering check. Thank you!***  
**DEADLINE: Monday, May 4, 2026**