



6th Sunday of Easter
Mother's Day
May 10, 2026

Prelude

Praeludium ex D

Scheidmann

Greetings

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

Centering Words:

God loves you and hears your prayers. God is waiting to flood your live with healing and hope.

Call to worship:

God has listened to our prayers in steadfast love.

God has tested us and has not rejected us.

Have no fear, and do not be troubled; the Spirit of truth dwells in you.

God is never far from us, the Spirit gives us breath and keeps us alive.

God has brought us to this time and place.

In Christ we live and move and have our being.

*Opening Hymn

The Gift of Love

♯ UMH # 408

1.

**Though I may speak with bravest fire,
And have the gift to all inspire,
And have not love, my words are vain,
As sounding brass, and hopeless gain.**

2.

**Though I may give all I possess,
And striving so my love profess,
But not be given by love within,
The profit soon turns strangely thin.**

3.

**Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
Our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
By this we worship, and are freed.**

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 408

Words: Hal Hopson, 1972; Music: Trad. English melody; adapt by Hal Hopso, 1972

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First Reading: **Acts 17:22-31**

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

Special Music

Exsultate Justi In Domino

da Viadana

First Methodist Brass

Second Reading: **1 Peter 3:13-22**

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

*Gospel Reading: **John 14:15-21**

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

Hymn of Preparation

Seek Ye First

♯ UMH # 405

1.

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness;
And all these things shall be added unto you.**

Hallelu, Hallelujah!

2.

**Ask, and it shall be given unto you; Seek, and you shall find.
Knock, and it shall be opened unto you.**

Hallelu, Hallelujah!

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 405

Words: Karen Lafferty, 1972; Music: Karen Lafferty, 1972; © 1972 Maranatha! Music

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Message

“Love First”

Musical Response

Beloved, if God So Loved Us

Barnby

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.

Offertory

Praise The Lord on High

First Methodist Brass

Villard

*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:

Abiding Spirit of Love, you have not left us orphaned. Even in our uncertainty, you draw near, whispering truth, stirring memory, teaching us to live as those who know we are loved. As Jesus offered himself in love and obedience, so we offer these gifts today—not out of obligation, but as signs of our love and trust. Take them, bless them, use them—to remind the world that Christ’s story abides in us. May your Spirit strengthen us to live what we give and give what we believe. In the name of the one who promised never to leave us. Amen.

Sharing in Holy Communion

Announcements

*Closing Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

♯ UMH # 384

1.

**Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.**

2.

**Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast!
Let us all in thee inherit; let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent to sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.**

3.

**Come, Almighty to deliver; let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never, never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy host above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.**

4.

**Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee;
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 384
Words: Charles Wesley, 1747; Music: BEECHER; John Zundel, 1870

Benediction

Postlude

Magnificat primi toni

Titelouze

**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. Marcus Atha

Liturgist: Bailey Borer

Media Specialists: Denise Smith and John Borer

Musicians: Kingsley Wood, Jack Roberts and the Chancel Choir

Sound: Neal Hubbard

Ushers and Greeters: Mike Gebhardt, Garry Gibbs, Bruce Schneider, 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 the loving family of Norma Jean Yearley in loving memory of Norma on this Mother's Day.

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

An equal opportunity provider

Praeludium ex D by Heinrich Scheidmann. *Exsultate Justi In Domino* by Ludovico da Viadana. *Beloved, if God So Loved Us* by Joseph Barnby. *Praise The Lord on High* by Scott Villard. *Magnificat primi toni* by Jehan Titelouze All songs are performed under license # 673591.

Third Street Review



May Mission focus:

May 10, 2026

First United Methodist Church

312 Third Street, Elyria, Ohio 44035

Phone: 440.322.6622

Email: church@elyriafirstumc.org

Golden Cross

See the insert for listing of those remembered this Mother's Day.

Golden Cross ministries are hard at work every day, bringing hope and healing to people from cradle to grave.

Your contributions are multiplied because we are stronger and more efficient together. When you give to support these excellent ministries, God blesses your generosity, and the lives you touch are forever changed.

Donations will be collected all month and can be made by cash, checks (indicate **Golden Cross** on the memo line) or online on-line via our website: elyriafirstumc.org.

Fellowship Time

Come, enjoy goodies and wonderful fellowship in the **Parlor** after worship next **Sunday, May 17th**. A send off for our organist Kingsley Wood will be held. *Kingsley will graduate and move to his next opportunity in the fall. His last Sunday with us will be May 24th*. Let's shower Kingsley with God's love – bring a card, share some life wisdom, and/or whatever else you can imagine he will need!

Spring Open House

We will host a **Spring Open House next Saturday, May 16th**. **Thank you volunteers** who have stepped up to make this a welcoming and successful event! If you don't remember which time slot you signed up for, please call Julie Joy at 440.322.6622.

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, May 23rd** from **10 am-12 pm!**

Celebrate 100 Wonderful Years!

Wednesday, May 20th, 2 pm, at Wesleyan Village's **Cascade Hall**, come celebrate the 100th birthday of Betty Bailey and Mae Drage. All are welcome!

312 Happy Hour

Join us for a great meal, fun, and fellowship on Tuesday, **May 12th at noon in Fellowship Hall!** This will wrap up the Happy Hour until fall. *No Happy Hour May 26th due to Memorial Day.*

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, May 23rd 10 am-12 pm.**

New Church Plan

In July, we will take a one-month *pause* from regular Sunday services. This is not a shutdown, but a strategic shift. During this time, we will focus on training, alignment, and preparation so that we are ready for what comes next.

A key part of July will include church site visits. We will be visiting other churches and learning from what they are doing well. Worksheets will be provided to help guide these visits.

During this pause, pastoral care will continue. If there are needs for visits, calls, or funerals, we will be available and responsive.

In August, we will begin preview services. These will allow us to test and refine our Sunday experience, family ministries, and connection systems. It will also be a time to begin inviting others to come and experience what is being built.

Our goal is to move toward a full relaunch in the fall, with systems in place and teams ready.

Open Sponsorship Dates

Altar Flower dates: **Cost \$22 ~ May 31**

Radio dates: **Cost \$300 (includes advertising!) ~ May 24 and 31**

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

Memorial Day

Formerly known as Decoration Day, Memorial Day commemorates all men and women who have died in military service for the United States. To continue the *decoration* tradition, please bring geraniums to church **May 24th** to grace the altar, they will be planted in the memory garden in the courtyard!

Scripture readings for the week:

Sunday, May 10: **Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21**

Monday, May 11: **Psalm 93; Genesis 9:8-17; Acts 27:39-44**

Tuesday, May 12: **Psalm 93; Deuteronomy 5:22-33; 1 Peter 3:8-12**

Wednesday, May 13: **Psalm 93; Deuteronomy 31:1-13; John 16:16-24**

Thursday, May 14: **Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47; Psalm 93; Ephesians 1:15-23;**

Luke 24:44-53

Friday, May 15: **Psalm 93; 2 Kings 2:1-12; Ephesians 2:1-7**

Saturday, May 16: **Psalm 93; 2 Kings 2:13-15; John 8:21-30**

Sunday, May 17: **Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11;**

John 17:1-11

Mother's Day Tributes

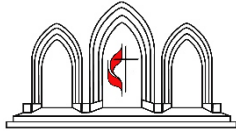
Sunday, May 10, 2026



Flower proceeds go to the Golden Cross Sunday. The Health and Welfare Ministries of the United Methodist Church focuses on raising funds for health and welfare ministries. It supports programs for older adults, children, and families, with donations aiding in medical care and aid.

First United Methodist Church

312 Third Street Elyria, Ohio 44035



Mother's Day Tributes

Gifts in Esteemed Honor

Given by

Herb & Sheila André de la Porte

Kim Foster

Allen Grobe

Sharon Meadows

Ben Nagel & Brittany Morales

Honoree

Maud & Barbara André de la Porte, Gail Brown, Carolyn Guss, Lindsey Peters, & "mom to be" Allison Mackaman

Joanne Allison

Annette Grobe

My stepdaughter Willow

Loni Nagel, Ruth Mallasch, Rita Nagel, & Jean Schnell

Gifts in Loving Memory

Given by

Herb & Sheila André de la Porte

John Borer

Charlotte Carlson

Percy Claycomb

Patricia Downie & family

Emily & Tyler Edwards

Judy Erdman & Debra Wahl

Kim Foster

Annette Grobe

John & Paula Hammond

David & Theresa Knarr, Sr.

Sharon Meadows

Dennis & Denise Ostergaard

Denise Smith

Claudette Williams

Honoree

Sarah France

Joan Borer

Bessie Hutchinson & Pearl Carlson

Mary Louise Benton Claycomb

June Turner

Anita Edwards

Edna Erdman

Rose Foster

Anna Gnizak & Erma Grobe

Lila Hammond & Bette Lu Parrish

Wilma Ruder & Patricia Knarr

My Mom

Gunild Ostergaard & Irene Reich

Elaine L. Smith & Momma Jo Demchak

Delcie Orndorff

Following the service, you may take a carnation for each person whom you have recognized with a tribute. Please take a red carnation for those honored or a white carnation for those memorialized.

Exciting Updates on Our Church's Next Season

Church Family,

I want to share a few important updates as we continue moving toward this new vision of our church.

Over the past several weeks, we have been investing significant time with design teams and architects to thoughtfully shape both the space and the experience of what's ahead. You may have already noticed that our transitional sign has now been installed. It's a small but meaningful step that signals something new is taking shape.

I'm also excited to share that our leadership team has unanimously approved several key staff positions, and we are now moving forward in the hiring process. At this stage, we are waiting for final confirmations as each candidate communicates with and honors their current communities. While we're not ready to share names just yet, we believe God has brought us the right people for this moment, and we look forward to introducing them very soon.

We have also finalized a clear financial plan for the future. Our approach is to steward what God has entrusted to us by preserving long-term resources while making intentional investments into a strong and sustainable launch. This gives us a clear path toward becoming a self-sustaining church in the years ahead.

As part of our communication strategy, we will be pausing our radio broadcast in July and evaluating its long-term effectiveness in September. At the same time, we are continuing to expand how we connect with people through digital and in-person opportunities.

We are also getting very close to revealing our new name and logo. This has been a thoughtful and prayerful process, and we are excited to share it with you soon as we step more fully into the future God is calling us toward.

There are some great opportunities coming up to connect with our community as well. On May 16, we will host an open house as part of a county-wide community event from 12 PM to 4 PM. We will have a bounce house, cotton candy, and a chance for people to experience our space in a relaxed and welcoming environment. We would love for you to be part of it.

Additionally, the counseling center currently using part of our building will be transitioning out at the end of May. This opens up new possibilities for how we can use that space moving forward, and we will keep you informed as plans develop.

There is a lot happening right now, and I am grateful for the way this church continues to lean in with faith, flexibility, and a shared sense of mission. We are building something meaningful together, and I truly believe the best is still ahead.

Grace and peace, Karson