



Let Your Light Shine!

5th Sunday after Epiphany
February 8, 2026

Prelude

"Of Foreign Lands and People"
from *Scenes from Childhood*, op. 15

Schumann

Greetings

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

Centering Words:

In the beginning God brought forth light out of the darkness. This light has shown throughout the centuries in the lives of prophets and teachers, young and old, and in the life of Christ. This light still shines today in you. Let your light shine!

Call to worship: Taken from Psalm 112

Praise the Lord! Happy are those who fear the Lord, who take great delight in God's commandments.

Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright; they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.

For the righteous will never be moved; they will be remembered forever.

ALL: Let us worship God!

*Opening Hymn

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

UMH # 127

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah, Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty, Hold me with Thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven, Feed me till I want no more;
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar Lead me all my journey through.

Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer, Be Thou still my Strength and Shield;
Be Thou still my Strength and Shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's destruction, Land me safe on Canaan's side.

Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to Thee;
I will ever give to Thee.

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 127

Words: William Williams, 1745

Music: CWM RHONDDA; John Hughes, 1907

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Prayer of Praise and Adoration:

Merciful God, what no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, you have prepared for those who love you and revealed to us through the gift of your Spirit. You have sent us in Christ not only the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that comes from you, that we may know and understand the bountiful gifts you give us. Hear now our worship as we interpret spiritual things to those who are spiritual. Amen.

First Lesson: **Isaiah 58:1-12**

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

Second Lesson: **1 Corinthians 2:1-12**

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

Anthem

Ah Holy Jesus

Courtney

*Gospel Lesson: **Matthew 5:13-20**

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

Message

Let Your Light Shine!

Hymn of Response

This Little Light of Mine

UMH # 585

1.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

2.

**Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

3.

**All through the night, I'm gonna let it shine.
All through the night, I'm gonna let it shine.
All through the night, I'm gonna let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 585

Words: Afro-American spiritual

Music: Afro-American spiritual; adapt. by William Farley Smith, 1987

Adapt © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

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Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

The path that you choose for us, O God, is: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, to share our bread with the hungry, to bring the homeless poor into our houses, to cover the naked, and not to hide ourselves from our own kin. Break forth the light of dawn to dispel our darkness when we disobey you and let the glory of the Lord shine through when we do. For then when we cry for help you shall answer and say, "Here I am."

Assurance of Pardon:

"If you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted . . . the Lord will guide you continually . . . so that you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. . . Take delight in the Lord and God will make you ride upon the heights of the earth; God will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

Invitation to the Offering

Please submit your offering as you feel led by placing it in the plates on the altar railing, or text your gift to 833-756-0325, or on our website: www.elyriafirstumc.org.

Offertory

Chromhorne en Taille

Couperin

*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:

You flavor our actions, O God, and illumine our minds. May the fruits of our labors nourish others. May the wisdom you give us lead others to know the living Christ. May our lives be seasoned by service, and the light of our good works bring glory to your name. We have received an abundance of your grace and mercy. Accept now our offerings as we go forth to serve you. In all that we accomplish let us give you the honor your name is due. Amen.

Announcements

*Closing Hymn

How Great Thou Art

UMH # 77

1.

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed

Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

2.

When through the woods, and forest glades I wander
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees
When I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur
And see the brook, and feel the gentle breeze

Refrain

3.

And when I think, that God, His Son not sparing
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in
That on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin

Refrain

4.

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration
And then proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!"

Refrain

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 77

Words: Stuart K. Hine, 1953

Music: Stuart K. Hine, 1953

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Benediction

Postlude

Allegro Vivace from Sonata no. 2

van Beethoven

**Please stand as you are comfortable*

¹ UMH ~ *United Methodist Hymnal* (hard cover hymnal)

² FWS ~ *The Faith We Sing* (soft cover hymnal)

Worship Participants

Preaching: Rev. Kurt D. Walker

Liturgist: Kristen Jones

Media Specialists: Denise Smith and David Wilm

Musicians: Kingsley Wood, Jack Roberts and the Chancel Choir

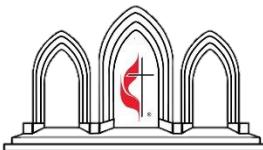
Sound: Neal Hubbard

Ushers and Greeters: John and Paula Hammond, 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 by Kris and Randy Long in loving memory of grandson Daniel James Long.

The altar flowers are sponsored by Charlotte Carlson in loving memory of Pastor Kent's February 11th heavenly birthday; in loving memory of her brother George's February 12th earthly birthday; and her husband Henry's February 14th heavenly 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

An equal opportunity provider

"Of Foreign Lands and People" from *Scenes from Childhood*, op. 15 by Robert Schumann. **Ah Holy Jesus** by Craig Courtney, copyright © 2006. **Chromhorne en Taille** by François Couperin. **Allegro Vivace** from Sonata no. 2 by Ludwig van Beethoven. All songs are performed under license # 673591.

Third Street Review



February 8, 2026

First United Methodist Church

312 Third Street, Elyria, Ohio 44035

Phone: 440.322.6622

Email: church@elyriafirstumc.org

February Mission focus:

Save Our Children

For more than 40 years, Save Our Children has been a beacon of support for Elyria's youth, born from the heart of the youth ministries program at Asbury United Methodist Church. The program provides on average 95 children in grades K- 12 in Elyria with a safe place to go after school. Their mission is to enhance literacy, foster academic excellence, and nurture leadership skills among the vulnerable youth in our community. You may give on-line via our website: elyriafirstumc.org or submit a check to: *Elyria First United Methodist Church*, indicate **SOC** on the memo line. Changing the world one child at a time. Thank you for your generosity!!

Fellowship Time

Come, enjoy goodies and wonderful fellowship in the **Parlor** after worship on **Sunday, February 22nd**. If you would like to bake or host this monthly time of fellowship in the future, please see Darlene Lewis or Carol Stomierski, or call the church office.

Share Your Gifts/Talents

YOU have **gifts and talents** to share. The Community Breakfast and our Free stores need you!

Volunteering once a month can make a significant difference in the life of our ministries, the community, and YOU!

Please contact the church office to cheerfully offer your gifts and talents to serve in these vital ministries in 2026!

Community Breakfast

Still thinking about joining a breakfast team? The 1st and 4th teams can really benefit with your help! **Prayerfully consider joining a breakfast team this year**, then call Julie Joy in the church office (440.322.6622) to volunteer!

Free Clothing Store

We are accepting clothing, coats, blankets, and linens once again. Please place items in the box on the main level. Thank you! The store will be open to the community on **Saturday, February 28th 10 am-12 pm.**

Severe Weather

It's been several years since we have had extreme cold and snow like we did this past month. Based on the weather service warning system, if **Level 1** is issued, we will be **open** and will worship. *Only come if you feel safe.* If **Level 2 or 3** is issued, **please stay home!** We are registered on iAlert system and News5Cleveland. We will utilize those programs and send an email to reach as many as possible.

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 February 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, Deodorant, and Razors**

Please place these items in the box located on the main level. The store will be open on **Saturday, February 28th** from **10 am-12 pm!**

312 Happy Hour

Happy Hour is a twice per month event held on the **2nd and 4th Tuesdays at noon** in Fellowship Hall!

Join us for a great meal, fun, and fellowship on
February 11th and 24th!

Lent Begins February 18th

Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. Lent echoes the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert and enduring temptation by Satan, according to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, before beginning his public ministry. Make time to pray, fast, and prepare your heart for Easter!

Open Sponsorship Dates

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

February 22

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

February 15 and 22

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

90th Birthday Celebration

All are invited to the 90th Birthday Celebration for **Barb Nakanishi**. It will be held at **Wesleyan Village** in **Cascade Hall** on **Saturday, February 21st 1-4 pm**.

Scripture readings for the week:

Sunday, February 8: **Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 112:1-10; 1 Corinthians 2:1-16;
Matthew 5:13-20**

Monday, February 9: **Psalm 119:105-112; 2 Kings 22:3-20; Romans 11:2-10**

Tuesday, February 10: **Psalm 119:105-112; 2 Kings 23:1-8, 21-25;
2 Corinthians 4:1-12**

Wednesday, February 11: **Psalm 119:105-112;
Proverbs 6:6-23; John 8:12-30**

Thursday, February 12: **Psalm 2; Exodus 6:2-9; Hebrews 8:1-7**

Friday, February 13: **Psalm 2; Exodus 19:9b-25; Hebrews 11:23-28**

Saturday, February 14: **Psalm 2; 1 Kings 21:20-29; Mark 9:9-13**

Sunday, February 15: **Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2; Psalm 99; 2 Peter 1:16-21;
Matthew 17:1-9**