

Empowered to Flourish

May 4, 2025

**Please stand as you are comfortable*
† UMH ~ *United Methodist Hymnal* (hard cover hymnal)
‡ FWS ~ *The Faith We Sing* (soft cover hymnal)

Announcements and greetings

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

Centering Words:

We are not here by accident. God has planted us in this moment, in this place, and in this community to grow, to bear fruit and to reveal God's glory.

Prelude

Adagio & Andante from Voluntary op. 5 no. 1

Stanley

Call to worship:

Come, people of God, let us gather like trees planted by the water.

We come, rooted in faith, reaching toward the light of God's love.

The Lord has planted us with purpose, not by accident.

We are chosen, called, and cultivated to bear good fruit.

In every season-joy or sorrow, growth or waiting-God is at work in us.

We trust the Gardener's hand, and we welcome the Spirit's rain.

Let us worship the One who makes all things flourish.

We are planted in grace, growing in truth, and thriving in God's glory!

*Opening Hymn

Gather Us In

‡FWS # 2236

1.

**Here in this place, new light is streaming, now is the darkness, vanished away,
see, in this space, our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day.**

**Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.**

2.

**We are the young, our lives are a mystery; we are the old, who yearn for your face,
we have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.**

**Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.**

3.

**Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.**

**Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat, the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.**

4.

**Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven light years away,
but here in this space, the new light is shining, now is the kingdom, now is the day.**

**Gather us in, and hold us forever; gather us in, and make us your own;
gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.**

The Faith We Sing Hymnal Number 2236

Words: Marty Haugen

Music: Marty Haugen

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Opening Prayer: In Unison

God of love, plant us in the soil of your grace. Nurture us with the strength of Christ, the vine of everlasting life. Enlighten us with the wisdom of your Spirit, which flows through us today and all days. Abide with us and within us, O Holy One. Transform us into branches of your love, bearing fruit that feeds and nourishes a world hungry for kindness and compassion. Strengthen us that we may grow into your likeness, with courage and conviction. Live in us, that we may live in you, and live as your abiding presence in the world. In faith and trust, we pray. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: **Isaiah 61:1-4**

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

Psalter: **Psalm 1** Responsively with Sung Response #1

† UMH page 738

Musical Response:

**Walk in the light of God's counsel;
delight in the law of the Lord.**

¹ Blessed are those
who do not walk in the counsel of the wicked
**or stand in the way of sinners,
or sit in the seat of scoffers,**
² but their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on God's law they meditate day and night.

³ They are like trees
planted by streams of water,
that yield their fruit in season,
and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.

Musical Response

⁴ The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
⁵ **Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous,**
⁶ for the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

Musical Response

Anthem **Resurrection Praise** Larson

New Testament Reading: **Colossians 2:6-10**

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

Gospel Reading: **John 15:1-7**

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

*Hymn of Preparation

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

† UMH # 559

1.

**Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone,
chosen of the Lord, and precious, binding all the church in one,
holy Zion's help forever, and her confidence alone.**

2.

To this temple, where we call You, come, O Lord of Hosts, today;
with accustomed lovingkindness, hear Your servants as they pray;
and Your fullest benediction shed within its walls away.

3.

Here vouchsafe to all thy servants what they ask of thee to gain;
what they gain from thee forever with the blessed to retain,
and hereafter in thy glory evermore with thee to reign.

4.

Praise and honor to the Father, praise and honor to the Son,
praise and honor to the Spirit, ever Three, and ever One,
one in might, and one in glory, while unending ages run.

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 559

Words: 7th cent. Latin; trans. by John Mason Neale, 1851

Music: WESTMINSTER ABBEY; Henry Purcell, ca. 1680;

adapt. by Ernest Hawkins, 1842

Message



1.

**Great is thy faithfulness, O God, my Father; There is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; As thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.**

Refrain:

**Great is thy faithfulness, Great is thy faithfulness, Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hast provided; Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me.**

2.

**Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness To thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.**

Refrain

3.

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, Blessings all mine and ten thousand beside.**

Refrain

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 140
Words: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923
Music: William M. Runyan, 1923
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Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession: In unison

**God of purpose and patience, we confess that we have not always trusted the place You
have planted us. We have complained about the soil, resisted the pruning, and neglected
the roots of our faith. Forgive us for seeking shortcuts to fruitfulness. Forgive us for
comparing our growth to others, instead of trusting Your process. Remind us today that
You never plant without purpose. Restore us to the joy of being rooted in You. In the name
of Christ, the True Vine, we pray. Amen.**

Let us pause for a moment of quiet confession.

Words of assurance:

Hear the good news: Even when we wander from our purpose or resist where God has planted
us, God's mercy never fails, and God's grace still reaches deep. Through Christ, we are forgiven,
restored, and replanted in hope.

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

Chorale Cistercien

Alain

Offertory Prayer: In Unison

**Generous and faithful God, You have planted blessings in our lives-gifts of time, talent and
treasure, all given to bear fruit for Your Kingdom. As we return a portion of what You have
entrusted to us, may these offerings take root in good soil, producing ministries of hope,
healing, and transformation. Bless every seed sown today that it may grow into a harvest
of righteousness. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

Sharing in Holy Communion

Refrain:

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!

1.

**The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple,
the church is not a resting place, the church is a people.**

Refrain

2.

**We're many kinds of people, with many kinds of faces,
all colors and all ages, too, from all times and places.**

Refrain

3.

**Sometimes the church is marching, sometimes it's bravely burning,
sometimes it's riding, sometimes hiding, always it's learning.**

Refrain

4.

**And when the people gather, there's singing and there's praying,
there's laughing and there's crying sometimes, all of it saying:**

Refrain

5.

**At Pentecost some people received the Holy Spirit
and told the Good News through the world to all who would hear it.**

Refrain

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 558
Words: Richard K. Avery and Donald S. Marsh, 1972
Music: PORT JERVIS; Richard K. Avery and Donald S. Marsh, 1972
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Please be seated for closing announcements and the Benediction.

Benediction: Responsively

Beloved, let us go now, as trees planted by streams of living water

We are rooted in God's Word, nourished by God's Spirit

Let your life bear fruit in every season

We will grow in faith, reach out in love, and live in the fullness of hope.

May the gardener of your soul tend you with grace, prune you with purpose, and prosper you in peace.

We are planted with purpose, and we will grow as Christ's disciples and bear fruit for a world in need. We go forth to flourish! Amen!

Postlude

***Allegro* from Voluntary op. 5, no. 1**

Stanley

Worship Participants

Preaching: Rev. Tennille Power

Liturgist: Bailey Borer

Media: David Wilm

Musicians: Kingsley Wood, Jack Roberts, and the Chancel Choir

Sound room: Neal Hubbard

Ushers and Greeters: Bill Buga, Mike Gebhardt, Garry Gibbs, Bruce Schneider,
and Mike Zahnke

Today's altar flowers are sponsored by Sheila André de la Porte in appreciation of Maud André de la Porte and in honor of the 1st Anniversary of Christopher and Nivi André de la Porte.

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

Adagio & Andante from Voluntary op. 5 no. 1 by John Stanley. ***Resurrection Praise*** by Lloyd Larson; © 2024 The Lorenz Publishing Company. ***Chorale Cistercien*** by Jehan Alain. ***Allegro from Voluntary op. 5, no. 1*** by John Stanley. All songs are performed under license # 73591.

Resurrection Praise

Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to heav'n and voices raise;
sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise.
He who on the cross as Savior for the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, now is risen from the dead.

Now the iron bars are broken, Christ from death to life is born;
glorious life, and life immortal, on this holy Easter morn.
Christ has triumphed, and we conquer by his mighty enterprise;
we with him to life eternal by his resurrection rise.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory be to God on high;
Alleluia to the Savior who has won the victory;
Alleluia to the Spirit, fount of love and sanctity;
Alleluia! Alleluia! To the Triune Majesty.

Writer: Lloyd Larson

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Third Street Review



May Mission focus:

May 4, 2025

First United Methodist Church

312 Third Street, Elyria, Ohio 44035

Phone: 440.322.6622

Email: church@elyriafirstumc.org

Golden Cross Sunday

Our May mission focus centers on continuing community mission efforts. Golden Cross raises awareness and support for health and welfare ministries for individuals of all ages and stages of life within the conference. Financial gifts will help support health and welfare ministries such as hospitals, community-service organizations, retirement communities, and agencies that serve persons with disabilities, children, youth and families. On Golden Cross Sunday, God works through our prayers and support in acts of mercy to bless the lives of individuals of all ages and at all stages of life. Donations will be collected all month and can be made by cash, checks (indicate ***Golden Cross*** on the memo line) or online.

Scholarship Applications

It is now time to apply for the First United Methodist Church Scholarships. Please contact the church office for your application forms. These scholarships are available to qualified high school seniors who plan to further their education via any accredited technical school or college. All college students or graduate students are encouraged to apply as well. Applications are **due no later than Thursday, May 15, 2025**.

WEOL Update

We have been in conversation with WEOL, and we are at the same status as before. Our efforts are great and WEOL is working as collaboratively as possible, but so far, we do not have a solution. We are moving forward with being in discussion with the new owners to explore future possibilities. If you know someone, a member, friend, or neighbor, who listens, please help them as much as possible to transition to YouTube for our worship service. In the meanwhile, if anyone else needs assistance in accessing our online platforms, please do not hesitate to give us a call in the church office. We will help as best as we can! We will continue to provide updates as we receive them.

Community Breakfast

We are grateful for our faithful volunteers and those who cheerfully give to this much needed ministry. We are always in need of ***plastic bags and cutlery*** that are used weekly. Please contact the church office if you are interested in helping us serve in this vital ministry. If you want to donate plastic bags and cutlery, please bring them, and drop them in the donation box located on the main level.

Free Clothing Store

The Free Clothing Store is a labor of love! We thank all those who donated to the clothing store! And a special thank you to those who volunteer! We are now collecting ***SPRING AND SUMMER clothing***. The store will be open on **Saturday, May 24th 10 am-12 pm**, please contact the church office at 440.322.6622 with questions or to volunteer.

Free Hygiene Store

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

- **Cleaning Supplies** (glass, bathroom, and toilet bowl cleaners)
- **Paper towels & Toilet paper**
- **Kids Toothbrush and toothpaste**
- **Shampoo & Conditioner** (dry shampoo too)
- **Body Lotion**
- **Laundry & Dish Soap**
- **Women's and men's Body wash, Deodorant, and Razors**
- **Baby wash and lotion**

Please place these items in the box located on the main level. Join us on **Saturday, May 24th** from **10 am-12 pm!**

Happy Tuesdays

Tuesdays are our time for fellowship, fun and lunch! Our traditional **Happy Hour** will conclude for the summer on **May 13th**. We will resume the lunches in September on the **2nd and 4th Tuesdays** at **noon** in the **Fellowship Hall**. On the **1st and 3rd Tuesdays**, we will continue to gather as **BYOL-Bring Your Own Lunch** with fun and fellowship supplied!

Happy Hour ~ May 13th
BYOL ~ May 6th and 20th

Open Sponsorship Dates

Altar Flower dates:

May 25
Cost **\$22**

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

Scripture readings for the week:

Sunday, May 4:

Acts 9:1-20; Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

Monday, May 5:

Psalm 121; Ezekiel 1:1-25; Acts 9:19b-31

Tuesday, May 6:

Psalm 121; Ezekiel 1:26-2:1; Acts 26:1-18

Wednesday, May 7:

Psalm 121; Isaiah 6:1-8; Luke 5:1-11

Thursday, May 8:

Psalm 23; Ezekiel 11:1-25; Revelation 5:1-10

Friday, May 9:

Psalm 23; Ezekiel 20:39-44; Revelation 6:1-7:4

Saturday, May 10:

Psalm 23; Ezekiel 28:25-26; Luke 12:29-32

Sunday, May 11:

Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30