

**LOL! Living Out Love:
The Heart of the Gospel**

February 2, 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:

The Holy One's steadfast love and faithfulness are shared with all. We are called to the greatest commandment: to abide in God's love and to love one another as God has loved us—not as servants, but as friends.

Prelude

Praeambulum in F

Scheidemann

Call to worship:

Beloved, we are called to love one another, because love is from God.

God's love is poured upon us from our birth.

We are called to extend the love of God to all people.

God's love is taught to us through the witness of God's faithful people.

We are called to proclaim God's love in all that we say and do.

In all creation, in all our relationships, may God's love be made known.

*Opening Hymn

Your Love, O God, Has Called Us Here

♯ UMH # 647

1.

**Your Love, O God, has called us here, for all love finds its source in you,
the perfect love that casts out fear, that love that Christ makes ever new.**

2.

**O Gracious God, you consecrate all that is lovely, good, and true,
bless those who in your presence wait and every day their love renew.**

3.

**O God of love, inspire our life, reveal your will in all we do;
Join every husband, every wife in mutual love and love for you.**

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 647

Words: Russell Schultz-Widmar, 1982

Music: CORNISH; m. Lee Sutor, 1984

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music © 1984 M. Lee Sutor

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Opening Prayer: In Unison

God of Love, we come before You with hearts open to Your presence, seeking to be transformed by Your love. You have called us to love You with all our heart, soul, and strength and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Today we gather as Your people, longing to live out this divine command. Let your presence speak within us in the languages we speak, in the ways we live, move, and have our being. Fill this place with your Holy Spirit, Lord. May Your love flow through us—guiding our thoughts, shaping our words, and directing our actions. We dedicate this time to You, for we long to hear you, and to understand. We pray that you will abide in us, that we may abide in you, this day, and all days. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: **Deuteronomy 6:4-9**

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

Musical Response

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord, thirsting for you my God.

¹ O God, you are my God; I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where no water is.

² **So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,
beholding your power and glory.**

³ Because your steadfast love is better than life,
my lips will praise you.

⁴ **So I will bless you as long as I live;
I will lift up my hands and call on your name.**

Musical Response

⁵ My soul is feasted as with marrow and fat,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips

⁶ when I think of you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in the watches of the night;

⁷ **for you have been my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.**

⁸ **My soul clings to you;
your right hand upholds me.**

Musical Response

⁹ But those who seek to destroy my life
shall go down into the depths of the earth;

¹⁰ **they shall be given over to the power of the sword;
they shall be prey for jackals.**

¹¹ But the king shall rejoice in God;
**all who swear in God's name shall glory;
but the mouths of liars will be stopped.**

Musical Response

Anthem

This Little Light of Mine

arr. Hayes

New Testament Reading: **Romans 5:1-8**

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

Gospel Reading: **John 15:12-17**

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

Hymn of Preparation

I Come with Joy

UMH # 617

1.

**I Come With Joy To Meet My Lord, Forgiven, Loved, And Free;
In Awe And Wonder To Recall His Life Laid Down For Me, His Life Laid Down For Me.**

2.

**I Come With Christians Far And Near To Find, As All Are Fed,
The New Community Of Love In Christ's Communion Bread, In Christ's Communion Bread.**

3.

**As Christ Breaks Bread And Bids Us Share,
Each Proud Division Ends; The Love That Made Us, Makes Us One,
And Strangers Now Are Friends, And Strangers Now Are Friends.**

4.

**And Thus With Joy We Meet Our Lord; His Presence, Always Near,
Is In Such Friendship Better Known: And Strangers Now Are Friends,
And Strangers Now Are Friends.**

5.

**Together Met, Together Bound, We'll Go Our Different Ways;
And As His People In The World, We'll Live And Speak His Praise,
We'll Live And Speak His Praise.**

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 617

Words: Brian Wren, 1969

Music: The Southern Harmony, 1835; harm. by Charles H. Webb, 1987

Words © 1971 Hope Publishing Company;

harm. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

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Message



1.

**Savior, like a shepherd lead us, Much we need Thy tender care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us, For our use Thy folds prepare:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.**

2.

**We are Thine, do Thou befriend us, Be the guardian of our way;
Keep Thy flock, from sin defend us, Seek us when we go astray:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Hear, O hear us when we pray;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Hear, O hear us when we pray.**

3.

**Thou hast promised to receive us, Poor and sinful though we be;
Thou hast mercy to relieve us, Grace to cleanse, and power to free:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to Thee;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Early let us turn to Thee.**

4.

**Early let us seek Thy favor, Early let us do Thy will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior, With Thy love our bosoms fill:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast loved us, love us still;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, Thou hast loved us, love us still.**

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 381
Words: Attr. t Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1936
Music: William B. Bradbury, 1859

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession: In unison

Almighty God, we come before You with humbled hearts, confessing we have not always lived out the love You have called us to embody. We have failed to love You with our whole heart, soul, and mind. We have withheld love from our neighbors, choosing selfishness over service, judgment over grace, and fear over grace. Forgive us, O God, when we love in word but not in action. Forgive us for the times we have been impatient, unkind, envious or boastful. Forgive us for the times we have strayed from Your perfect example of love and instead kept a record of wrongs instead of extending forgiveness when we have been quick to anger and slow to listen. Cleanse our hearts and renew our spirits. Teach us to love as Christ loves, sacrificially, unconditionally, and abundantly. Help us to see our neighbors through Your eyes, to serve with joy, and to seek reconciliation where there is division. May our love be more than words, but a reflection of Your transforming power in our lives. In the name of Jesus Christ, who is Love Incarnate, we pray. Amen.

Let us pause for a moment of quiet confession.

Words of assurance:

Hear the good news: God is love and God's love made a way for us through Jesus Christ. Let us go forth in the assurance of God's mercy, walking in love and sharing God's grace with the world.

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

Toccata per l'Elevazione

Fescobaldi

Offertory Prayer: In Unison

O God, our hearts sing with thanksgiving for the many gifts and graces you bring to our lives. We give you thanks for your steadfast love and faithful Spirit. Receive this offering and the gift of our whole selves, that we might give as we have received and love as we have been loved. Amen.

Sharing in Holy Communion

*Closing 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
Words © 1987 WGRG The Iona Community (Scotland),
admin. by GIA Publications, Inc.
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Please be seated for closing announcements and the Benediction.

Benediction: Responsively

As we go from this place, may we carry the love of Christ in our hearts.

We will love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, and mind.

May we see the image of God in every person we meet.

We will love our neighbors as ourselves, extending kindness, grace and compassion.

Go forth, strengthened by the Spirit, to live out the love of the Gospel.

We go in love, we go in peace, we go in the name of Jesus. Amen!

Postlude

An Wasserflüssen Babylon

Pachelbel

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

Each week, this service is broadcast live on the radio station WEOL 930 AM/100.3 FM. Today's radio broadcast is sponsored with money from the Radio Fund. Thank you to those who donate to the fund 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 in appreciation of the folks that continue to create a wonderful Happy Hour that nourishes us as we enjoy a wonderful meal and fellowship.

If you are interested in joining our church family, please call the church office at 440.322.6622 or email our pastor at tennillep@elyriafirstumc.org.

If you have any pastoral needs or prayer concerns, please call the church office, 440.322.6622.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

312 Third Street, Elyria, Ohio 44035 440.322.6622

www.elyriafirstumc.org

An equal opportunity provider

Praeludium in F by Heinrich Scheidemann. ***This Little Light of Mine*** arranged by Mark Hayes. ***Toccata per l'Elevezione*** by Girolamo Frescobaldi. ***An Wasserflüssen Babylon*** by Johann Pachelbel. All songs are performed under license # 73591.

Third Street Review



February 2, 2025

First United Methodist Church

312 Third Street, Elyria, Ohio 44035

Phone: 440.322.6622

Email: church@elyriafirstumc.org

February Mission focus:

Save Our Children

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. They have adopted areas of focus called the 5 Pillars. These include academic skill-building, social emotional learning, health and wellness awareness, community engagement, and college & career readiness.

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. Thank you for your generosity!

Sports Day Sunday!

In honor of Super Bowl Sunday®, on **Sunday, February 9th**, please wear your favorite sports team apparel. Whether it's a hat, T-shirt, or sweatshirt, wear your favorite team! We will have a **SOUPer Bowl/Chili Fellowship** immediately after our worship service. Come and proudly represent your favorite team next Sunday, February 9th!

End of Year Statements

For anyone who gave in the year of 2024, the end of year statements have been mailed if you did not pick it up. If you did not receive it in the mail, you may request your statement to be emailed to you by calling the office or emailing Heather Tucker at heathert@elyriafirstumc.org. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the church office.

Free Hygiene Store

Our Free Hygiene Store, which is open to community residents, is a continuing success and our shelves need replenishing. We served an additional 3 families last month. We are grateful to be a helping hand to those in need! We are grateful for your continued support of this much needed ministry. Our needs for January 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**

We thank those who generously give to this outreach arm of our church! Please place these items in the box located on the main level. Bless you! Join us next **Saturday, Saturday, February 22nd** from **10 am-12 pm** if you would like to volunteer.

Second Harvest Grant

Elyria First UMC has received a food grant from Second Harvest Food Bank! We have been awarded \$1000 to use for the Community Breakfast and the Free Hygiene Store. We have a wonderful partnership with Second Harvest, and we are so blessed! God is good!

Free Clothing Store

The Free Clothing Store is a labor of love! For our community to shop with dignity we need ***clothing racks and kind spirits*** who are willing to donate time. The store will be open next **Saturday, February 22nd 10 am-12 pm**, please contact the church office at 440.322.6622 with questions or to volunteer.

Community Breakfast

Each Sunday, our Community Breakfast outreach serves on average 125 people a week. 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. Let's continue our work in 2025!

Commitment for 2025

THANK YOU for all those who prayed and discerned their giving for the 2025 year. For those still praying and discerning, we are with you in prayer. We are called in 2025 to be faithful stewards of all God has entrusted. By pledging your gifts, you help us plan effectively for the year ahead, ensuring we can continue to be a light in the world and meet the needs of those around us. Every dollar represents an act of faith, a step of trust, and a legacy of love. We thank you for being a part of this journey of faith and generosity.

Open Sponsorship Dates

Altar Flower dates:

March 2 and 9

Cost \$22

Radio Broadcast dates:

February 9, 16, and 23

Cost **\$300.00 full, \$150.00 half**

Or you can contribute any amount to our Radio Fund!

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

Happy Tuesdays

Tuesdays are our time for fellowship, fun and lunch! Our traditional **Happy Hour** is on the **2nd and 4th Tuesdays at noon in the Fellowship Hall**. Here a meal will be prepared, and we welcome all to come and fellowship! On the **1st and 3rd Tuesdays**, we will gather as **BYOL-Bring Your Own Lunch** with fun and fellowship supplied!

Happy Hour ~ February 11th and 25th

BYOL ~ February 4th and 18th

Scripture readings for the week:

Sunday, February 2: **Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13;
Luke 4:21-30; Malachi 3:1-4; Psalm 84; Psalm 24:7-10; Hebrews 2:14-18;
Luke 2:22-40**

Monday, February 3: **Psalm 56; 1 Kings 17:8-16; 1 Corinthians 2:6-16**

Tuesday, February 4: **Psalm 56; 2 Kings 5:1-14; 1 Corinthians 14:13-25**

Wednesday, February 5: **Psalm 56; Jeremiah 1:11-19; Luke 19:41-44**

Thursday, February 6: **Psalm 138; Numbers 20:22-29; Acts 9:19b-25**

Friday, February 7: **Psalm 138; Numbers 27:12-23; Acts 9:26-31**

Saturday, February 8: **Psalm 138; Judges 3:7-11; Luke 4:42-44**

Sunday, February 9: **Isaiah 6:1-13; Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11**