



# *Who Stole My Cheese*

***First Sunday after Pentecost***  
*May 31, 2026*

Prelude

***Morning Has Broken***

Young

Greetings

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

Centering Words:

You are the sign and the promise of God's presence, binding hearts, building community, and forming a family out of the disparate people of the world.

Call to worship:

Like Abram and Sarai, God calls us to go into the unknown, trusting that God's promises are true.

**Whether we are certain or full of doubts, God blesses us that we may be a blessing.**

God sends us into the world to journey by faith, believing that God's blessings are greater than anything we can imagine.

**Whether the path is straight or winding, God blesses us that we may be a blessing.**

As we gather to worship, may we remember that we are God's people, blessed by God to be a blessing to our world that is hurting and desperately in need of good news.

**God, form us today as a family of faith, that your blessings might flow out of us and into our world, drawing all people into your promise of abundant life and flourishing.**

\*Opening Hymn

***Faith, While Trees Are Still in Blossom***

UMH # 508

1.

**Faith, while trees are still in blossom, plans the picking of the fruit;  
faith can feel the thrill of harvest when the buds begin to sprout.**

2.

**Long before the dawn is breaking, faith anticipates the sun.  
Faith is eager for the daylight, for the work that must be done.**

3.

**Long before the rains were coming, Noah went and built an ark.  
Abraham, the lonely migrant, saw the light beyond the dark.**

4.

**Faith, uplifted, tamed the water of the undivided sea,  
and the people of the Hebrews found the path that made them free.**

5.

**Faith believes that God is faithful: God will be what God will be!  
Faith accepts the call, responding, "I am willing, Lord, send me."**

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 508

Words: Anders Frostenson, 1960; trans. by Fred Kaan, 1972

Music: FOR THE BREAD; V. Earle Copes, 1960

Words © Ansgar Film & Bokproduktion; trans. © 1976 Hope Publishing Co.; music © 1960 renewed 1988 Hope Publishing Co.

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Old Testament Reading: **Genesis 12:1-9**

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

Special Music

***A Military Tribute***  
Piano solo: Jack Roberts

Roberts

New Testament Reading: **Romans 2:13-24**

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

\*Gospel Reading: **Matthew 9:9-13**

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

Hymn of Preparation

***Be Thou My Vision***

♯ UMH # 451

1.

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me save that thou art.  
Thou my best thought by day and by night;  
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

2.

**Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
Thou my great Father, I thy dear child;  
Thou in me dwelling, with thee reconciled.**

3.

**Great God of Heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 451

Words: Ancient Irish; trans. by Mary E. Byrne, 1905; versed by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912

Music: SLANE; Trad. Irish melody; harm by Carlton R. Young, 1963

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harm. © 1964 Abingdon Press

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Message

***“Who Stole My Cheese”***

Hymn of Response

***Lord, You Give the Great Commission***

♯ UMH # 584

1.

**Lord, You give the great commission: Heal the sick and preach the Word.  
Lest the Church neglect its mission, And the Gospel go unheard,  
Help us witness to Your purpose With renewed integrity,  
With the Spirit's gifts empower us For the work of ministry.**

2.

**Lord, You call us to Your service: In My name baptize and teach.  
That the world may trust Your promise, Life abundant meant for each,  
Give us all new fervor, draw us Closer in community.  
With the Spirit's gifts empower us For the work of ministry.**

3.

**Lord, You make the common holy: This My body, this My blood.  
Let us all, for earth's true glory, Daily lift life heavenward,  
Asking that the world around us Share your children's liberty  
With the Spirit's gifts empower us For the work of ministry.**

4.

**Lord, You show us love's true measure: Father, what they do, forgive.  
Yet we hoard as private treasure All that You so freely give.  
May Your care and mercy lead us To a just society.  
With the Spirit's gifts empower us For the work of ministry.**

5.

**Lord, You bless with words assuring: I am with you to the end.  
Faith and hope and love restoring, May we serve as You intend  
And, amid the cares that claim us, Hold in mind eternity.  
With the Spirit's gifts empower us For the work of ministry.**

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 584  
Words: Jeffery W. Row-thorn, 1978  
Music: ABBOTT'S LEIGH; Cyril V. Taylor, 1941  
Words © 1978 Hope Publishing Co.;  
music © 1942, renewed 1970 Hope Publishing Co.  
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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

***Bless Thou the Gifts***

Williams

\*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:

**Calling God, you spoke to Abram and set him on a journey, not with full  
clarity, but with full trust. You promised blessing—and with it, purpose. We  
come now as your people, also journeying by faith, offering these gifts not for  
our greatness, but so that your promise might be fulfilled through us: to  
bless the world. Use these offerings to build relationships, to mend the  
broken, and to draw all families of the earth toward your heart. May our giving  
reflect our trust, and may our trust lead us to go where you send, step by  
step, stage by stage, into your future. Amen.**

Announcements

\*Closing Hymn

***I Have Decided to Follow Jesus***

♫FWS # 2129

**I have decided to follow Jesus;  
I have decided to follow Jesus;  
I have decided to follow Jesus;  
No turning back, no turning back.**

**The world behind me, the cross before me;  
the world behind me, the cross before me,  
the world behind me, the cross before me;  
no turning back, no turning back.**

**Though none go with me, I still will follow;  
though none go with me, I still will follow;  
though none go with me, I still will follow;  
no turning back, no turning back.**

The Faith We Sing Hymnal Number 2128

Words: Anon.; Music: ASSAM; Anon.

Benediction

Postlude

***Let There Be Peace on Earth***

Miller/Jackson

*\*Please stand as you are comfortable*

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

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

## Worship Participants

Preaching: Shema Roberts

Assisting/Liturgist: Kim Foster

Media Specialists: Denise Smith and John Borer

Musicians: Jack Roberts and the Chancel Choir

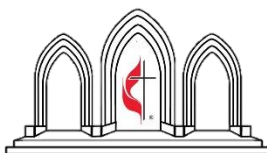
Sound: Neal Hubbard

Ushers and Greeters: John Borer 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 to celebrate God's love for our congregation and its future.

***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

***Morning Has Broken*** Trad. Gaelic melody; harm. by Carlton R. Young, 1988; harm. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House. ***A Military Tribute*** by John Roberts, ***Bless Thou the Gifts*** *Grenoble Antiphone*, 1753; adapt. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906. ***Let There Be Peace on Earth*** by Sy Miller and Jill Jackson. All songs are performed under license # 673591.

# Third Street Review



May Mission focus:

May 31, 2026

First United Methodist Church

312 Third Street, Elyria, Ohio 44035

Phone: 440.322.6622

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

## Golden Cross

Golden Cross ministries are hard at work every day, bringing hope and healing to people from cradle to grave. Donations can be made by cash, checks (indicate **Golden Cross** on the memo line) or on-line via our website: [elyriafirstumc.org](http://elyriafirstumc.org).

June Mission focus:

## Community Outreach

This month we will collect funds to aid our Community Outreach efforts. Many of the community members who come for a hot meal for breakfast or come to our free store for cleaning and hygiene products and shop in our clothing store, are victims and survivors of everything from Domestic Violence to health challenges. With our efforts every month, we are often the difference between someone not getting a meal and being able to survive for the month. We are called to do our part, and we do it well! We need support to continue our work in the community that may seem small but makes a world of difference. Your donation will support our local families in need. Cash or checks made payable to: *First United Methodist Church*, (indicate **Community Outreach** on the memo line). Donate online via our website: [www.elyriafirstumc.org](http://www.elyriafirstumc.org).

## Annual Conference 2026

June 11-13

East Ohio Annual Conference will begin on the morning of Thursday, June 11 and will conclude the afternoon of Saturday, June 13. They will meet on The College of Wooster campus.

The Annual Conference theme is

***“Celebrating Abundant Grace”***

and the words of Matthew 14:13-21 (NRSVA) will ground the services, sessions, and celebrations of their time together. Please keep the pastors and laity in your prayers for a successful conference.

## Attention High School Seniors and College Students

It is now time to apply for the First United Methodist Church Scholarships. Please contact the church office for your application forms. The 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, June 4, 2026**. *Thank you. The Scholarship Committee*

## ***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, June 27<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:

- **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, June 27<sup>th</sup> from 10 am-12 pm!**

## ***New Church Plan***

As a reminder, 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.

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

Thank you for your patience, your faith, and your willingness to walk through this season together.

Grace and peace, Karson

## ***Questions? Concerns?***

Pastor Karson is available **Tuesdays from 9 am - 4 pm** and **Thursdays, 11 am - 4 pm.** Please call the church office to set up a time to meet with him.

## ***Open Sponsorship Dates***

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

**June 21**

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

**June 21**

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

## Scripture readings for the week:

Sunday, May 31: **Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20; 1 Samuel 2:1-10; Psalm 113; Romans 12:9-16b; Luke 1:39-57**

Monday, June 1: **Psalm 29; Job 38:39-39:12; 1 Corinthians 12:1-3**

Tuesday, June 2: **Psalm 29; Job 39:13-25; 1 Corinthians 12:4-13**

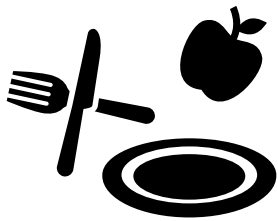
Wednesday, June 3: **Psalm 29; Job 39:26-40:5; John 14:25-26**

Thursday, June 4: **Psalm 33:1-12; Genesis 13:1-18; 2 Peter 2:17-22**

Friday, June 5: **Psalm 33:1-12; Genesis 14:17-24; Acts 28:1-10**

Saturday, June 6: **Psalm 33:1-12; Genesis 15:1-20; Matthew 9:27-34**

Sunday, June 7: **Genesis 12:1-9; Psalm 33:1-12; Hosea 5:15-6:6; Psalm 50:7-15; Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26**



## FATHER'S DAY TRIBUTE 2026

Father's Day Mission Project Is . . . Community Outreach



Carnations will grace the altars on **Father's Day, June 21<sup>st</sup>** and may be taken home following the services.

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

**Monies donated will be used to fund our Community Breakfasts and the Free Hygiene/Clothing stores.**  
*Please print names, including your own name(s) as you would like them printed in the worship service bulletins.*

Name of **Living Father** to be honored:

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed please find my minimum gift of \$10 for each name above: Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



Return to church office or place in the offering plate.  
Make checks payable to: EFUMC, designated for *Father's Day*.  
*Please do not include in your offering check. Thank you!*  
**DEADLINE: Sunday, June 14, 2026**





## June 2026 Daily Readings

Monday, June 1: **Psalm 29; Job 38:39-39:12; 1 Corinthians 12:1-3**

Tuesday, June 2: **Psalm 29; Job 39:13-25; 1 Corinthians 12:4-13**

Wednesday, June 3: **Psalm 29; Job 39:26-40:5; John 14:25-26**

Thursday, June 4: **Psalm 33:1-12; Genesis 13:1-18; 2 Peter 2:17-22**

Friday, June 5: **Psalm 33:1-12; Genesis 14:17-24; Acts 28:1-10**

Saturday, June 6: **Psalm 33:1-12; Genesis 15:1-20; Matthew 9:27-34**

Sunday, June 7: **Genesis 12:1-9; Psalm 33:1-12; Hosea 5:15-6:6; Psalm 50:7-15;  
Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26**

Monday, June 8: **Psalm 119:41-48; Genesis 16:1-15; 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:2**

Tuesday, June 9: **Psalm 119:41-48; Genesis 17:1-27; Hebrews 13:1-16**

Wednesday, June 10: **Psalm 119:41-48; Genesis 18:16-33; Matthew 12:1-8**

Thursday, June 11: **Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; Genesis 21:1-7; Hebrews 3:1-6**

Friday, June 12: **Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; Genesis 24:1-9; Acts 7:35-43**

Saturday, June 13: **Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; Genesis 24:10-52; Mark 7:1-13**

Sunday, June 14: **Genesis 18:1-15; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; Exodus 19:2-8a; Psalm 100;  
Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8-23**

Monday, June 15: **Psalm 126; Genesis 23:1-19; 1 Thessalonians 3:1-5**

Tuesday, June 16: **Psalm 126; Genesis 25:7-11; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-3:5**

Wednesday, June 17: **Psalm 126; Nehemiah 9:1-8; Luke 6:12-19**

Thursday, June 18: **Psalm 86:1-10; Exodus 12:43-49; Hebrews 2:5-9**

Friday, June 19: **Psalm 86:1-10; Genesis 35:1-4; Acts 5:17-26**

Saturday, June 20: **Psalm 86:1-10; Ezekiel 29:3-7; Luke 11:53-12:3**

Sunday, June 21: **Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17; Jeremiah 20:7-13; Psalm 69:7-18;  
Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39**

Monday, June 22: **Psalm 86:11-17; Genesis 16:1-15; Revelation 2:1-7**

Tuesday, June 23: **Psalm 86:11-17; Genesis 25:12-18; Revelation 2:8-11**

Wednesday, June 24: **Psalm 86:11-17; Jeremiah 42:18-22; Matthew 10:5-23**

Thursday, June 25: **Psalm 13; Micah 7:18-20; Galatians 5:2-6**

Friday, June 26: **Psalm 13; 2 Chronicles 20:5-12; Galatians 5:7-12**

Saturday, June 27: **Psalm 13; Genesis 26:23-25; Luke 17:1-4**

Sunday, June 28: **Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Jeremiah 28:5-9; Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18;  
Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42**

Monday, June 29: **Psalm 47; Genesis 22:15-18; 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12**

Tuesday, June 30: **Psalm 47; 1 Kings 18:36-39; 1 John 4:1-6**

The readings can also be found on the church's website:

<https://www.elyriafirstumc.org/june-scriptures>