

Do No Harm, Do Good, Stay in Love With God

January 21, 2024

Announcements and greetings

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

Centering words:

Let us center our hearts and minds in this sacred moment. May we find solace in the divine presence that unites us all.

Prelude

First Methodist Brass

Call to worship: Responsively

The God of all creation calls us.

We come, knowing that our deliverance and honor rest in God.

Power and steadfast love belong to God.

We come to sing and pray, celebrating the presence of this mighty, loving God.

*Opening hymn

I Sing a Song of the Saints of God

[♯] UMH # 712

**I sing a song of the saints of God, patient and brave and true,
who toiled and fought and lived and died for the Lord they loved and knew.**

**And one was a doctor, and one was a queen,
and one was a shepherdess on the green:**

they were all of them saints of God, and I mean, God helping, to be one too.

**They loved their Lord so dear, so dear, and God's love made them strong;
and they followed the right, for Jesus' sake, the whole of their good lives long.**

**And one was a soldier, and one was a priest,
and one was slain by a fierce wild beast:
and there's not any reason, no, not the least, why I shouldn't be one too.**

**They lived not only in ages past; there are hundreds of thousands still;
the world is bright with the joyous saints who love to do Jesus' will.**

**You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea,
in church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea;
for the saints of God are just folk like me, and I mean to be one too.**

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 712

Words: Lesbia Scott, 1929

Music: GRAND ISLE; John H. Hopkins, Jr. 1940

Opening Prayer: In Unison

Gracious and merciful Creator, as we gather here today, we seek your guidance and presence. Open our hearts to your word this day. Bless this worship with wisdom, compassion and understanding. Your spirit is welcome in this place and we boldly expect You, O God, to move our hearts, minds, and spirits to be ever mindful of your presence. Cast aside our fears and doubts and teach us to trust wholly in you. For we ask this in Jesus' Name, Amen.

Old Testament Reading: **Genesis 3:1-7**

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

Musical Response:

**I sing your praise for steadfast love;
fulfill your purpose for me.**

⁵ For God alone my soul waits in silence,

for my hope is from God,

⁶ **who alone is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.**

⁷ On God rests my deliverance and my honor;
my mighty rock, my refuge is God.

⁸ **Trust in God at all times, O people;**

pour out your heart before God who is a refuge for us.

Musical Response

⁹ Those of low estate are but a breath;

those of high estate are a delusion;

in the balances they go up;

they are together lighter than a breath.

¹⁰ **Put no confidence in extortion,**

set no vain hopes on robbery;

if riches increase, set not your heart on them.

¹¹ Once God has spoken;

twice have I heard this:

power belongs to God,

¹² **and to you, O Lord, belongs steadfast love,**

for you repay to all according to their work.

Musical Response

Special Music

There Was Jesus

Williams

Duet: Sheila André de la Porte and Randy Long

New Testament Reading: **Galatians 3:23-28**

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

Gospel Reading: **Mark 1:14-20**

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Special Music

First Methodist Brass

Message



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?

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?

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?

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?

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 L. Bell; Music: KELVINGROMVE; Traditional Scottish

Words © 1987 WGRG The Iona Community (Scotland), admin. by GIA Publications, Inc.

Used by permission CCLI 673591

Call to confession

Confession prayer: In unison

We humbly come before You, O God, acknowledging our shortcomings and seeking Your forgiveness. There are many times we have allowed the voices of temptation to overrule the voice of love and justice. But because You persistently love us, you are patient with our confusion, doubts, and misgivings. Forgive us, patient and persistent Lord, for the very many times we turn our backs on serving you and focus on our own comforts, wants and desires. Forgive us when we look the other way when people are in need. Forgive us of our angry attitudes and actions which hurt rather than heal. Wrap your arms around us, healing our wounds, binding us to you. Grant us strength to overcome our flaws and the wisdom to follow your path. In your grace, we find forgiveness, reconciliation and redemption. Amen.

Let us pause for a moment of quiet confession.

Words of assurance:

Nothing can separate us from the love of God. We shall continue to seek after God's heart as our own. God knows us and God loves us.

Invitation to the Offering

Please submit your offering as you feel lead 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

First Methodist Brass

Offering Prayer: In Unison

Bless our gifts this morning. Make our offering a path to holy living and action. May our very lives reflect the truth of our faith and our commitment to your world. With generous hearts, we pray. Amen.

*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.**

**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 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.**

The Faith We Sing Hymnal Number 2129
Words: Anon.; Music: Anon.

Please be seated for closing announcements and the Benediction.

Benediction: Responsively

Let us walk with Christ in our hearts and spirits.

We feel the power of the Holy Spirit guiding our path.

Know the love of God which is poured out for you and rejoice. Go in peace and may God's peace go with you. Amen,
and Amen!

Postlude

First Methodist Brass

Worship participants

Preaching: Rev. Tennille Power

Media: David Wilm

Musicians: Jack Roberts and the Chancel Choir

Sound room: Neal Hubbard, Bob Rice, and Cole Winslow

Ushers and Greeters: Bill Buga, Roger and Janice McFrederick, and Mike Zahnke

Each week, this service is broadcast live on 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 dedicated by Rev. Tennille Power in loving memory and in honor of Mildred Doss.

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

**Please stand as you are comfortable*

[♯] UMH ~ *United Methodist Hymnal*

[♯]FWS ~ *The Faith We Sing* (softcover hymnal)

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

312 Third Street, Elyria, Ohio 44035

440.322.6622

www.elyriafirstumc.org

There Was Jesus by Zack Williams with Casey Beathard and Jonathan Smith, 2019.

All songs are performed under license # 673591.

Third Street Review



January 21, 2024

First United Methodist Church

312 Third Street, Elyria, Ohio 44035

Phone: 440.322.6622

Email: church@elyriafirstumc.org

January Mission focus:

Human Relations Day

For more than half a century, United Methodists have observed this churchwide special Sunday in recognition of the message Jesus demonstrated during his life: all of God's children are important. One of the wonderful aspects of The United Methodist Church is that we can do so much more together than we ever could do on our own. Our gifts are part of building "the beloved community."

We will collect for this mission the entire month of January. You may give on-line via our website: elyriafirstumc.org or submit a check to: **Elyria First United Methodist Church**, indicate *Human Relations* on the memo line. Thank you for your generosity!

Mid-Winter Faith Study

Thursdays 7PM via Zoom

Beginning January 25th

Sherry Ruth will lead a study from ***Words of Life: Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments Today*** by Adam Hamilton. We'll unpack how Jesus reinterpreted the Ten Commandments showing us how every "thou shalt not" was intended to point us to a life-giving "thou shalt." Register for the study by calling the church office, 440.322.6622.

Study books are available in the church office for \$19.

**"When you walk with God,
you will never be lost."**

~ Karen Gibbs

Free Clothing Store

The Free Clothing Store is a labor of love! As the seasons are changing, ***we need Winter clothes.*** For our community to shop with dignity we need ***hangers, clothing racks and kind spirits*** who are willing to donate time. Please place any kind of hangers in the bin on the main level. The store will be open next **Saturday, January 27th**. If you are available to help work in the store **10 AM-12 PM**, please contact the church office at 440.322.6622.

*God's dream is
that you and I and all of us
will realize that we are family,
that we are made for togetherness,
for goodness, and for compassion.*

- Desmond Tutu

2024 Commitment Cards

If you have not already, please continue to pray, discern and return your commitment cards for 2024. We are grateful to continue the work in the community and for our neighbors. We cannot do this work without your help! Please mail or drop off the commitment card anytime!

Open Sponsorship Dates

Altar Flower dates:

January 28; February 4, 18, & 25

Cost \$22

Radio Broadcast dates:

February 4, 11, 28, & 25

Cost \$300.00 full, \$150.00 half

Or you can simply contribute any amount
to our Radio Fund!

Free Hygiene Store

We need to replenish the following items:

- † **Shampoo & Conditioner** (dry shampoo too)
- † **Dish and Hand Soap**
- † **Toothpaste**
- † **Kids toothbrushes**
- † **Deodorant for Women and Men**
- † **Body Wash & Lotion**
- † **Diapers** (size 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7)
- † **Pull-ups** (size 2T, 3T, 4T, 5T)
- † **Baby wash and lotion**
- † **Adult Diapers** (pull on type in size M, L, XL, 2XL)
- † **Feminine products** (Tampons, maxi pads)
- † **Adult Bladder Pads** (Poise)
- † **Cleaning Supplies** (glass, bathroom, and toilet
bowl cleaners)

Please place these items in the box located on the main level. Bless you! The Free Store is open on the fourth Saturday of the month. In January: **Saturday, January 27th**.

Lent Begins

February 14th!

Ash Wednesday service

7 PM

Happy Hour

Happy Hour is a twice per month luncheon held on the **2nd and 4th Tuesdays** at **noon**. Join us for a great meal, fun, and fellowship!

January 23rd; February 10th & 27th

Come – invite others into our church family!

Food Drive

We continue to collect for the **Salvation Army**. Please bring **any non-perishable item**. They can also use **sample/travel size toiletries and socks** for their guests.

Community Breakfast Needs

Thank you for your continued support of this most needed ministry in our community. Praise God for the gracious faithful volunteers who make our work possible every Sunday! We continue to need **plastic cutlery**. Donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Scripture readings for the week:

Sunday, January 21: **Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20**

Monday, January 22: **Psalm 46; Genesis 12:1-9; 1 Corinthians 7:17-24**

Tuesday, January 23: **Psalm 46; Genesis 45:25-46:7; Acts 5:33-42**

Wednesday, January 24: **Psalm 46; Proverbs 8:1-21; Mark 3:13-19a**

Thursday, January 25: **Psalm 111; Deuteronomy 3:23-29; Romans 9:6-18**

Friday, January 26: **Psalm 111; Deuteronomy 12:28-32; Revelation 2:12-17**

Saturday, January 27: **Psalm 111; Deuteronomy 13:1-5; Matthew 8:28-9:1**

Sunday, January 28: **Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28**