

# CHRIST

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Third Sunday of Lent**

\*Please stand in body or in spirit.

**March 23, 2025**

10:30am Worship Service

### THE GATHERING

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Janis Pongallo

**PRELUDE**

**INTROIT**

*As the Deer*

TFWS 2025

**CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>**

Leader: O God, our God, we seek you.

**People: Our souls thirst for you.**

Leader: Our spirits long for you,

**People: for we are parched and weary in these desert times, these wilderness places.**

Leader: But your love, O God, is better even than life.

**People: Our words will praise you, our actions bless you.**

Leader: Let us seek the Lord where God may be found.

**People: Call upon the Holy One, who is near.**

Leader: We will bless you as long as we live.

**People: We will lift up our hands and call on your name.**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE**

*Marching to Zion*

UMH 733

**CALL TO CONFESSION<sup>2</sup>**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**We confess that we have not always brought forth good fruit. In the midst of chaos and frenzy, we have often lost our way. Our feet have strayed from the place where we met you. Our egos have kept us from noticing our missteps; Yet, with you, we know there's another chance for change. There is another opportunity to bear good fruit In a world full of spoiled and rotten produce and**

---

<sup>1</sup> Scifres, Mary; Beu, B. J.. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2022 (p. 73). Kindle Edition.

<sup>2</sup> Confession sequence adapted from Rev. Mia M. McClain on the Worship Ways site of the United Church of Christ, <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/lent-3c-march-20-2022/> found at <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/steadfast-love-a-lenten-playlist/third-sunday-in-lent-year-c-lectionary-planning-notes/third-sunday-in-lent-year-c-liturgical-resources>

systems designed to kill. We are called to be the change that sustains generations. Let us lean with you into this chance for transformation.

## WORDS OF GRACE

### PASSING OF THE PEACE

## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

MINISTRY OF MUSIC	<i>My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less</i>	Mote/Radford
CHILDREN'S HAPPENING		
SCRIPTURE READINGS	Isaiah 55:1-9	Pew Bible 598
	Psalms 63:1-8	UMH 788
	*Luke 13:1-9	Pew Bible 848

God is still speaking. **And we are still listening. Thanks be to God!**

*GLORIA PATRI	<i>Glory Be to the Father</i>	UMH 71
SERMON	<i>Just Deserts</i>	Pastor Dianne Tobey Covault

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

HYMN OF REFLECTION	<i>Come, Sinners to the Gospel Feast</i>	UMH 616
CALL TO THE OFFERING		
OFFERTORY		

*DOXOLOGY	<i>Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow</i>	UMH 95
-----------	---	--------

### \*OFFERTORY PRAYER<sup>3</sup>

God of wilderness and Promised Land, in days of want and in days of plenty you have been with us. By these gifts we now share, may others know of your providence and care. Send us—not only our offerings, but our very selves—to console and comfort, to lift up and reach out, to listen and sit beside your children everywhere at the one Table you have set; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING WITH INTERCESSIONS

THE LORD'S PRAYER	UMH 895
-------------------	---------

### SHARING OF HOLY COMMUNION

---

<sup>3</sup> Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion*. Copyright 2013.

\*HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP

*I'll Fly Away*

TFWS 2282

\*BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*My Life is in You, Lord*

TFWS 2032

\*POSTLUDE

## CHURCH EVENTS FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK

*Non-weekly meetings and activities are in bold print.*

- SUN (03/23):** Communion  
Sunday School, 9:00am  
Worship, 10:30am
- TUE (03/25):** Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm  
Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm  
**Iftar Dinner, 7:00pm/WPUCC**
- WED (03/26):** Lenten Supper & Study, 5:30p/WPUCC
- SAT (03/29):** **Community Meal, 5:00pm/Jump Fellowship Hall**
- SUN (03/30):** Communion  
Sunday School, 9:00am  
Worship, 10:30am

*We Are All God's Children*

## REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

*\* denotes member*

*Bobby Blankenship	Carol	Frank	Lindsey Parker
*Monta Demchak	Caroline	Gail	Lynn Parker
*Dave Dickman	Chris M.	Geof Funk	Mary
*Cindy Light	Darlene	J & J	Mary Ellen
*John Motley	Darlene	Jan	Mary W.H.
*Peter Oesterreich	Daryana	Jim	Max
*Janis Pongallo	David R.	Jim	MJ
*DeeDee Rencehausen	Dennis	John	Rosie
*Nadene & Dennis Smith	Diane	Joshua C.	Roy Buser
*Joan Thorkelson	Dixie	Kathy	Seth Buser
*Galen Younkin	Dotty	Laurie	Sheri G.
Ukraine, Israel and Gaza	Doug Emery	Lee	Ted and Marie Nyland
Al Tobey	Ed Rote	Lily Van Scyoc	Tom Szor
Carol De Laat	Erik T.	Lindsey Elswick	Viola
Pastor Jason Thompson			

## STAR WORDS

At the beginning of the year, we handed out “Star Words”. I invite you to take the word you chose and use it throughout the year as a way to center your prayer time and to be aware of God’s presence throughout the day. If you have not received a word, please let Pastor Dianne know and she will get one to you! Each week in the bulletin there will be a journal prompt or reflection question that encourages you in your use of the word.

For this week: **How does your word change the way you speak about yourself?**

## SPRING FLING

Mark your calendars for our **Spring Fling – Soup and Salad Luncheon** for Sunday, April 13 after our Palm Sunday worship service. We will have a variety of soups and lots of salad toppings. We will also have some special entertainment. This was always a popular event for our congregation so please plan to join us and invite your friends and neighbors. Proceeds will go to GROW which helps fund our community meals.



## CHILDREN’S EASTER BAG EVENT

The Education Committee needs your help by requesting candy or snack donations for the Neighborhood Children’s Easter Bag giveaway which will be held on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. Please no peanut butter or nuts! Rather not give candy? Consider donating fruit snacks, crackers, pretzels, etc. Rather not shop? Consider a cash donation and I will be happy to shop for you. As always, we appreciate your support! Any questions, see Shari Graves or call 216-213-2466.

## *Christ UMC Welcomes All*

*We welcome all persons to our church without regard to race, ethnic or cultural background, social status, gender, sexual orientation, age, theological perspective, political affiliation, or other means people use to categorize or discriminate against others. For our full statement, go to our website.*

## BALDWIN WALLACE CONCERT

The BW Women's Chorus and SJA Chorale present "Sing Into Spring". This concert will take place at Baldwin Wallace's Gamble Auditorium (96 Front Street, Berea) on Friday, April 4 at 8:00pm. There is no cost to attend.

## IFTAR DINNER

West Park UCC, in conjunction with North Ohio Intercultural Association, is hosting an Iftar Dinner on Tuesday, March 25 at 7:00pm. An Iftar is the meal served after sunset during Ramadan. An RSVP is required in order to know how much food to prepare. For more information or to RSVP, please contact West Park's office at [westparkuccoffice@gmail.com](mailto:westparkuccoffice@gmail.com) or by calling 216-671-7228.

## SPRING CONCERT

Excitement is in the air! Get ready to be part of something extraordinary at **Medina Chorus Inc's** Spring 2025 Concert, "**A Trip to Broadway**". It's an afternoon with something for every Broadway lover, including musical selections from West Side Story to Wicked. Don't miss out, come join us! Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 3PM at Medina United Methodist Church located at 4747 Foote Rd in Medina. For more information, visit their website at <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/a-trip-to-broadway-medina-chorus-spring-concert>.

# SERMON NOTES

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION<sup>4</sup>

Luke 13:1–9 tells the story of a fruitless fig tree that the owner is ready to cut down. The gardener, however, asks for a little more time. The gardener wants to tend and cultivate the soil in the hope that figs may yet grow. The gardener is open to a different future for this tree, in spite of its present condition. Think about my own life, or the life of someone I love, in relationship to this story: What needs special tending? What will cultivate the “soil” of daily life so that new growth, new possibilities, might emerge? And what can I learn from this gardener about allowing for a different outcome, a new possibility?

## HOUSEHOLD PRAYER: MORNING

Gracious God,  
this new day carries the potential for growth and new life.  
Help me to attend to those things in me  
that need care and attention.  
Sow your word in me  
that I may grow in faithfulness and understanding.  
Shake me out of dull routines,  
so that I may take part in the good news  
you continue to tell urgently and passionately.  
In Christ’s name. Amen.

## HOUSEHOLD PRAYER: EVENING

As I lie down this night in the shadow of your wings,  
God of my life,  
I know that you will be with me  
even as you have helped me through this day.  
Whether I am weary from the day,  
or whether the day has been a rich feast of blessings,  
I give thanks for your power and glory,  
which are present in every circumstance.  
As I give myself over to rest and sleep,  
I remember that your steadfast love is better than life.  
So, I pray, surround me with your love tonight and always.  
In the peace of Christ I pray. Amen.

---

<sup>4</sup> These questions for reflection and prayers are reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion. Copyright 2012.



# CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3625 West 138th Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44111  
216.671.2600 FAX: 216.671.2601 [www.christumc.com](http://www.christumc.com)

PASTOR: *The Rev. Dianne Tobey Covault, OSL*

Cell: 216.509.4229

Email: [pastordiannetc@gmail.com](mailto:pastordiannetc@gmail.com)

Office Hours this week: Dianne will be on vacation from 3/24 through 4/1. In case of a pastoral emergency, please reach out to our lay leaders, Galen Younkin and Al Naab, who will connect you with the Rev. Andrew Scott, the pastor on call, if necessary.

LITURGIST: *Janis Pongallo*

USHERS: *Al Naab, Phil Jennings, John Murphy*

GREETER: *Nancy Horton*

ACOLYTES: *Ian Eagan, Ben Eagan, Eli Gadomski Littleton, TJ Wood, Grace Horton*

AUDIO and VIDEO TECHNICIANS: *John Motley, Rob Pongallo*

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: *Susan Balesky*

ORGANIST/PIANIST: *Roy Buser*

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR: *Desiree Tarpeo*

Email: [office@christumc.com](mailto:office@christumc.com)

Office Hours: *Monday-Thursday, 9:00am-2:00pm*

## GOAL - FOCUS - STRATEGIES

**GOAL:** Grow in relationship with Jesus Christ in order to change the world around us, starting with our own community.

**FOCUS:** To achieve this goal, we will prioritize reaching out to our community as essential to our personal and congregational growth as Christians.

### STRATEGIES:

1. We will build meaningful relationships with the people in our community.
2. We will strive to listen and understand the needs of our community.
3. We will use our building and resources to meet those needs in a tangible way.



QR CODE



COPYRIGHT LICENSES: *CCLI 1446526, CSPL 112047, OneLicense A-727707*

***Ask an usher if you would like a LARGE PRINT HYMNAL,  
Braille hymnal or hearing device.***