

# CHRIST

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**First Sunday of Lent**

**March 9, 2025**

\*Please stand in body or in spirit.

10:30am Worship Service

### **THE GATHERING**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Phil Jennings

**PRELUDE**

**INTROIT**

*As the Deer*

TFWS 2025

**CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup> (PSALM 91)**

Leader: You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, say to the Lord

**People: You are my refuge and my fortress. You are my God in whom I trust**

Leader: Because you have made the Lord your refuge, the Most High will be your dwelling place

**People: No evil shall befall us. No scourge shall come near our tents.**

Leader: Those who love the Lord, God will deliver. God protects all God's children. God saves and honors them in times of trouble.

**People: Show us your salvation, O God. Show us your favor as we offer you our worship!**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE**

*A Mighty Fortress is Our God*

UMH 110

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

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**O God, our refuge and fortress, forgive us when we fail to trust in you. We fall to temptation; we are swayed by false words; we speak false words of our own. We choose our ease and comfort over your demanding claims upon us and upon the world. In turning from you, we settle for less than the abundant generosity you intend. Forgive us, we pray. Do not let us be put to shame, O God. Hear us as we call to you and show us your salvation. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

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<sup>2</sup> Confession sequence reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion*. Copyright 2013.

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

### PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

MINISTRY OF MUSIC *Sing Unto the Lord* C. Yannerella  
CHILDREN'S HAPPENING

SCRIPTURE READINGS Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Pew Bible 158  
Romans 10:8b-13 Pew Bible 921  
\*Luke 4:1-13 Pew Bible 835

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

\*GLORIA PATRI *Glory Be to the Father* UMH 71

SERMON *Tests and Traditions* Pastor Dianne Tobey Covault

### RESPONSE TO THE WORD

HYMN OF REFLECTION *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley* TFWS 2112

CALL TO THE OFFERING<sup>3</sup>

OFFERTORY

\*DOXOLOGY *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH 95

\*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Gracious and Generous God, we are amazed by the good gifts you bestow in abundance. Thank you for food that sustains us on our journey. Thank you for the company of saints to whom we are joined. Thank you for giving us your work to do on earth. We offer back to you a portion of all that we have received, setting down our baskets in celebration of your greatest gift, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING WITH INTERCESSIONS

THE LORD'S PRAYER UMH 895

SHARING OF HOLY COMMUNION

\*HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* UMH 127

\*BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *My Life is in You, Lord* TFWS 2032

\*POSTLUDE

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

# CHURCH EVENTS FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK

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

- SUN (03/09):** Communion  
Sunday School, 9:00am  
Worship, 10:30am  
**Finance, 11:45a/Emma Lang Lounge**
- TUE (03/11):** Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm  
Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm
- WED (03/12):** Lenten Supper & Study, 5:30p/WPUCC
- SAT (3/15):** **North Coast Men's Chorus "Beatlemania", 7:30p/Maltz PAC**
- SUN (03/16):** Communion  
Sunday School, 9:00am  
Worship, 10:30am  
**North Coast Men's Chorus "Beatlemania", 3p/Maltz PAC**

## *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			

# COMMUNITY CONCERT

Come see Jared Gadowski Littleton and the North Coast Men's Chorus on March 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 or March 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 as they present "Beatlemania" at the Maltz Performing Arts Center (1855 Ansel Road, Cleveland). You can find more information at [ncmchorus.org](http://ncmchorus.org).

## 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: **Think of someone in your life who embodies your word. What can you learn from them?**

## IN THE GARDEN

Welcome back gardeners! Yay!

The garden will reopen this year **TODAY** for returning gardeners and on April 15<sup>th</sup> for first year gardeners.

The bed fee this year will be \$24. The full fee goes directly to the garden itself. This will allow for the new foundations to continue being worked on!

We are looking forward to seeing you soon!

-Roy

## 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.

## 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.

## ALL IN COMMUNITY DINNER

EOC Missions is sponsoring an upcoming All In Community Dinner and Discussion with Dr. Mike Davis, Religious Services administrator at the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction on March 11 at Strongsville UMC. Please share this event on your social media and with your congregation this coming Sunday. You never know who has been involved with the justice system or has a family member who has been involved with the justice system. Free, but we do need guests to register in advance as we are providing a meal. Registration has been extended through March 9. More details and registration on the AIC webpage ([www.eocumc.com/allincommunity/index.html](http://www.eocumc.com/allincommunity/index.html)).

# SERMON NOTES

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

In Luke 4:1–13, the devil tempted Jesus to turn stones into bread, to take control of the kingdoms of the world, and to perform a spectacular stunt that would “wow the crowd.” Jesus refused to take control in these ways. Instead, Jesus chose another way to feed hungry people, to demonstrate what the kingdom of God looks like, and to enter Jerusalem humbly. Why do think Jesus chose another way to “do justice” and what are some ways that you and your faith community practice justice in his name?

## HOUSEHOLD PRAYER: MORNING

Loving God, all night I slept in your shadow,  
sheltered by you.  
As I enter into the gift of this day,  
I trust that you are with me.  
May I see signs and wonders of your presence in the  
world today,  
for you alone are God.  
I ask that this day afford me opportunities to celebrate  
and share with others the abundance of your grace and love.  
Help me to be open to all people you bring my way,  
for you yourself make no distinctions,  
but are Lord of all.  
In Christ’s name, I pray. Amen.

## HOUSEHOLD PRAYER: EVENING

God, my dwelling place, as the shadows fall, I rest in you.  
Thank you for the faith that held me fast this day.  
Thank you, too, for every person who offered me grace,  
and for those to whom I could also show grace.  
I pray this night for all who long to see a sign of your power  
in the darkness that surrounds them.  
Be near to them and show them your salvation.  
And in the morning when I rise,  
give me your work to do for another day;  
in Jesus’ name. Amen.

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<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

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

Cell: 216.509.4229

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

Office Hours this week: Monday-Wednesday by appointment.

LITURGIST: *Phil Jennings*

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



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## *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.*

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