

# CHRIST

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

\*Please stand in body or in spirit.

**May 18, 2025**

10:30am Worship Service

### **THE GATHERING**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Jane Thorkelson

**MINUTE PERSON**

Haven Home

**PRELUDE**

*Thank God for a Garden*

T. DelRiego

Emanuel Mora, soloist

Ruth Ann Cunningham, accompanist

**INTROIT**

*Honor & Praise*

TFWS 2018 v. 1

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

Leader: From the highest heavens to the deepest seas,

**People: Let all creation praise the Lord.**

Leader: From the rising sun to the waning moon,

**People: let all creatures praise the Lord.**

Leader: From the new heaven and new earth,

**People: let everything that draws breath praise the Lord.**

Leader: Come! Let us worship.

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE**

*Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*

UMH 89

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION<sup>2</sup>**

**We seek and find you in Creation, O God, in the world you have made and the people you have called. Your vulnerable, powerful Lamb is our shepherd and guide, leading us to share the shelter of your abundant life. Let us recognize you here in the beauty of this morning and in its challenge; may the Risen One, your Shepherd-Lamb, lead us to act for your justice and peace: so that all may drink from your springs of the waters of life, and find their tears of sorrow and pain wiped away. In the name of the Risen One we pray: Amen**

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<sup>1</sup> Beu, B.J.; Scifres, Mary. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2025: Worship Resources for Every Sunday of the Year (p. 124). Kindle Edition.

<sup>2</sup> from the United Church of Christ. Posted on **Wild and Precious Life**. <http://stephenmfearing.wordpress.com/category/easter/>

**WORDS OF GRACE**

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC**

*Praise to the Lord, Alleluia*

J. Carter

**CHILDREN'S HAPPENING**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Acts 11:1-18

Pew Bible 895

Revelation 21:1-16

UMH 1007

\*John 13:31-35

Pew Bible 877

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

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

*Glory Be to the Father*

UMH 71

**SERMON**

*No Exceptions*

Pastor Dianne Tobey Covault

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

**HYMN OF REFLECTION**

*Morning Has Broken*

UMH 145

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

**OFFERTORY**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

UMH 94

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**God of mystery, you promise us a life of blessedness, if only we would learn to love, as you have loved us. May the gifts we bring before you this day be a sign of our commitment to love one another well. Amen.**

**SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Leader: O God of love,

People: Raise us to new life in Christ

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

UMH 895

**PRAYER RESPONSE**

*All I Need is You*

TFWS 2080 vs. 1, 3

**\*HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP**

*In the Midst of New Dimensions*

TFWS 2238

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

*You Alone Are Holy*

TFWS 2077 v. 1

**\*POSTLUDE**

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<sup>3</sup> Offering sequence from Beu, B.J.; Scifres, Mary. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2025: Worship Resources for Every Sunday of the Year (p. 126). Kindle Edition.

# HAVEN HOME

Mission Statement: “The Haven Home provides compassionate support and safe, stable housing for pregnant and parenting women experiencing homelessness. Through personalized enrichment services and a nurturing environment, we empower these women to build resilient foundations, fostering independence to move them from poverty to prosperity.”

Cynthia Rios, Director

Fisher Grace

Rhonda Clark

## 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: **What synonyms most closely reflect your current understanding of your word?**

## CALLING ALL 2025 GRADUATES

Please contact the church office by May 25 if you, your child or grandchild is graduating. From where is the graduate graduating, special degree, plans for next year? Graduation Sunday will be June 8.

# CHURCH EVENTS FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK

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

- SUN (05/18):** Sunday School, 9:00am  
Worship, 10:30am
- TUE (05/20):** Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6:30pm  
Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm
- SUN (05/25):** Sunday School, 9:00am  
Worship, 10:30am

## *We Are All God's Children*

### REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

*\* denotes member*

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

# SERMON NOTES

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

In Acts 11:1–18, Peter, led by the Spirit, discloses God’s new directions to heal creation, and the church reconfigures its social boundaries. The Gentiles, who were excluded from the church in Jerusalem because their eating habits were judged to be vile and unclean, are now included by the reconciling work of the Spirit. Where is God’s Spirit opening us to new directions in mission this day?

### HOUSEHOLD PRAYER: MORNING

Delivering God,  
each day we awaken to your goodness  
and our hearts cry out in praise  
as you set us to tasks for the life of the world.  
Do not let us hinder your love,  
but strengthen our will,  
as we offer thanks in every simple gesture of this day. Amen.

### HOUSEHOLD PRAYER: EVENING

Faithful God,  
the nightly dance of earth, moon, and stars  
speaks of your gift:  
love given, love received.  
We give thanks this night  
for the love you have shown to us this day.  
Let us rest in your peace and awaken in joy. 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  
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: Monday-Wednesday by appointment

LITURGIST: *Jane Thorkelson*

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.***