



CENTRAL

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April 28, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter (White)

Prayer Focus: General Conference

Welcome to worship at Central!

In the name of Jesus Christ, welcome to worship at Central where it is our mission to follow Jesus by loving God and loving our neighbors. I, along with the rest of our clergy team, Rev. Ann Kovan and Rev. Meg Jiunnies, are grateful you've chosen to make Central a part of your day today. We have prayed for you and planned for you, and hope you have a meaningful worship experience. Whether it's your first time worshiping with us or you're a lifelong member, we welcome any opportunity to speak with you about how to connect with God through Central. If it is your first time worshiping with us, please fill out a connect card and bring it to the Welcome Center where you will receive a gift from the church. Please do not hesitate to reach out to one of us this week if we can be of service. Once again, welcome!

Rev. Thomas W. Smith,
Senior Pastor

Music Note

Today's Offertory *Standin' in the Need of Prayer* was arranged by Calvin Taylor, music publisher, concert performer, and recording artist. He received the Bachelor of Music degree from Oberlin College Conservatory of Music, Master of Music degree from The University of Michigan, Diploma from the Grove School of Music, and the Doctor of Musical Arts Degree from the University of Kentucky. He has toured throughout the world, playing in North and South America, Europe, the Far East, and most recently Ukraine and Russia. As arranger and composer, his music has been heard and enjoyed by untold thousands.

Birth Announcement

A rose has been placed on the Sanctuary altar in honor of the birth of Hayden McKenna Hinton. Patrick and Kylie welcomed Hayden on February 8, 2024. Grandparents are Jed and Patti Cribb and Mutt and Donna Hinton.

Order of Worship

GATHERING

The People Come Together in the Lord's Name

PARISH CONCERNS

(The service of worship begins. The prelude is offered on behalf of the entire congregation. Quiet meditation and private prayer are encouraged.)

OPENING VOLUNTARY Jacob W. Weber

Thee Will I Love, My Strength, My Tower (ICH WILL, DICH LIEBEN)

*CHIMING OF THE HOUR

(*All who are able are asked to stand.)

*GREETING

Leader: In the Lord we will seek refuge.

People: God will never let us be put to shame.

Leader: The Lord is our rock of refuge;

People: God is a strong fortress to save!

*HYMN IN PROCESSION 66 LAUDA ANIMA

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 881 Apostles' Creed

*GLORIA PATRI 71 GREATOREX

Glory Be to the Father

COLLECT AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Jesus our Master, meet us while we walk in the way and long to reach that heavenly country.

Grant that as we follow your light we may keep to the way of righteousness and not wander into the darkness of this world's night while you, who are the Way, the Truth, and the Life are shining within us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, we now pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

PROCLAMATION

God's Word is Shared

EPISTLE LESSON 1 John 4:7-21

Leader: The Word of the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM Robert Powell

Christ, the Vine

Christ, the vine, and God, the gardener, we, the branches bearing fruit. We can bring forth shoots of promise when our lives in Christ take root. Christ, the fruit from Jesse springing, you fulfilled the prophet's trust. And you pray that we, your body, will fulfill your trust in us. Christ, may we submit to pruning that we bear more grapes for wine. Help us, when we're overburdened, draw new strength from you, the vine. You invite us to be partners, growing Spirit's fruit anew. Keep us one in love together: you in us, and we in you!

GOSPEL LESSON John 15:1-8

Leader: The Word of the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!

*ACT OF PRAISE 752 (R2) Psalm 22: 1-18, 25-31

CHILDREN'S TIME

(Children are invited to the chancel. An offering will be received from the children during Children's Time. After Children's Time, children ages 2nd grade and older will return to their seats and children ages 3K to 1st grade will go with a leader and may be picked up in room #145 or #147 after the service.)

*HYMN 560 ACCEPTANCE
Help Us Accept Each Other

*NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Acts 8:26-40
 Leader: The Word of the Lord!
People: Thanks be to God!

SERMON Rev. Ann Kovan
 Title: *Follow the Verbs*
 Series: *Belong, Behave, Believe*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONDING IN FAITH

We Respond to God's Word in Worship

OFFERTORY Spiritual, arr. Calvin Taylor
Standin' in the Need of Prayer

*DOXOLOGY 94 LASST UNS ERFREUEN
Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SENDING FORTH

We Respond to God's Grace with Our Lives

*BENEDICTION

*HYMN IN PROCESSION 568 ITALIAN HYMN
Christ for the World We Sing

CLOSING VOLUNTARY David German
Trumpet Processional in G

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Assisting in Worship

Preacher Rev. Ann Kovan
 Liturgist Rev. Meg Bryce Jiunnies
 Children's Time Brandie Love
 Organist/Choir Director Dr. Don Grice
 Organist/Choir Accompanist Beverly Hazelwood
 Lay Readers Julie Knight, Teresa Brunson
 Acolyte Rennie White
 Crucifer James Wade Timms
 Chancel Choir

IN MEMORY OF

GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET

Betty Searcy by Harriett Hailey, Jane Ilderton, William Rogers

IN HONOR OF

BEDS MINISTRY

Anne McNair by Gale & Dick Dixon

SPECIAL GIFTS

DISCRETIONARY FUND by Anonymous, Sunshine Class

DISCRETIONARY FUND, YOUTH MINISTRY by Chuck Lindler

2024 STEWARDSHIP REPORT

2024 General Operating Budget	
Approved Budget for 2024	\$2,318,729.52
Received Week of 04-21-2024	\$36,798.15
Received YTD	\$616,788.04
2024 Capital Building Fund	
Received Week of 04-21-2024	\$550.00
Received YTD	\$8,983.50
2024 Special Gifts	
Received Week of 04-21-2024	\$6,904.25
Received YTD.....	\$32,005.59
2024 Endowment Gifts	
Received YTD	\$565.00

ATTENDANCE REPORT FOR APRIL 21, 2024

Sanctuary Service	318
Service of Prayer & Holy Communion	17
Children's Sunday School	37
Adult Sunday School	61
UMYF	120