

We are Sent Forth

Hymn #634 "Now let us from this Table Rise"

Sending

Go now, in the love of our God.

We will live for others through our God.

Go now, in the grace of Jesus.

We will release others, just as we have been released.

Go now, in the community of the Spirit.

We will serve others in every need, in every place, in every heart.

(Liturgy by Thom M. Shuman)

Participants in this morning's Worship Service

Pastor Rev Bruce McDaniel
 Organist..... Linda Allen
 Pianist..... Kathy Bame
 Liturgist Alyce Roller
 Greeters: East Pat Fortney
 North Jay and Anne Deutschman
 Ushers..... Eric Myers

*Christ United Methodist Church
 301 West Main Street
 Portage, Ohio 43451-0218*



1 John 4:8

Prayer/Concerns Requests

Linda Allen	Family of Wayne Allen
Richard Angel	Jim Avery
Family of Peggy Biller	John Castner
Joanne Hatchor	Betty Hampshire
Arthur Moreland	Jessalyn Pearce
Joe Perez	Eileen Smith
Family of Drew Tyson	Joshua, Sarah & Jarrod Boltz
Mike & Courtney Foore	The people stranded on Mt. Everest
The people of NEPAL	



Worship: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Christ Church Vision Statement:
 CHRISTIAN SERVANTS UNITED IN MISSION TO THE COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD
[HTTP://HOME.DACOR.NET/CHRISTUMC/](http://home.dacor.net/christumc/)

Christ United Methodist Church

May 3rd, 2015
5th Sunday of Easter Day

We Gather for Worship

*(this symbol is an invitation to stand if you are able)

Sharing of Events and Ministries

Invitation to Encounter the Holy

Prelude

* Call to Worship

Here in this sanctuary, with the congregation of the faithful, and the unfaithful

we choose to lay down our fears for a while, to boldly sing God's praise.

Here in the vineyard of the Lord, with our sisters and brothers in Christ,

grandparents tell stories of faith to little ones sitting on their laps.

Here where God waits to serve us at the Table:

we shall be so filled with love that we will run to serve others.

*Hymn # 421 "Make Me a Captive, Lord"

* Prayer of the Day

Divine Vine Grower; teach us to love one another with that passion which comes from your overflowing heart, so those around us will recognize us as sisters and brothers, bound together by your love not divided by our fears.

Vine of our lives teach us to serve one another with that compassion which comes from our broken heart, for the hungry are our brothers, the immigrants are our sisters, and the homeless are our families.

Fruit-bearing Spirit teach us to include others with that embracing welcome which comes from your inviting heart, offering forgiveness to those who hurt us, peace to all filled with hate and hope to those burdened by despair. Teach us how to embody your love more and more.

We Proclaim God's Word

Time with the Children

"The True Vine"

Reading of the Sacred Text

1 John 4:7-21

Interpretation of the Sacred Text

"Sharing in God's Life"

We Respond to God's Word

Prayers of the Community of Faith

Gathering the Prayers of the People

Offering Prayers to the Created Order

Call to Reconciliation and Prayer of Release

The seeds of grace, hope, joy, and love are planted deep within us, so they can bear fruit in our lives. But we resist staying connected to the Vine, thinking we can flourish on our own. Let us, in this moment, admit that sometimes it feels like we have removed ourselves from God's presence, we admit this, so that we can once more feel God abiding deep within us.

Mother of Compassion, called to be one body, we fragment ourselves into a million selfish pieces. As your children of love, we insist on the right to despise our sisters and brothers; even though your complete love was broken for us, we are afraid to give of ourselves to the world. Abide in us, Vine Grower.

Release us from this sense of feeling unconnected so we may live boldly, love fearlessly, and proclaim unceasingly that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior.

Silence is kept for a moment

Do you feel it – there, deep down in your hearts? God's love is alive, beating, breathing – in you!

Because God abides in us, we can live for others, allowing God's love to bear fruit in us. Thanks be to God, that we are released! Amen.

Invitation to Give Our Presence, Our Gifts, Our Service and Our Witness

*Doxology and Prayer of Thanks

From you comes every gift we need, every blessing we have.

May we not hoard them for ourselves, but offer them back to you,

That the poor might be fed,

The lonely befriended,

And the despairing be filled with hope.

This we pray in confidence that it will be so

Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving – see insert

Stewardship of Time and Talents, April 26, 2015

General.....	\$2,879.33	Coffee/Outreach.....	\$17.00
Parsonage.....	\$105.00	Easter Offering.....	\$20.00
Hospitalization	\$100.00	Food Pantry	\$3.00
Building	\$40.00	Attendance	50

Schedule of Events and Meetings for this Week

Today, May 3, 2015.....	9:00 AM.....	Worship
.....	10:00 AM	Sunday School
Monday, May 4, 2015	9:00 AM	Sermon Shaping
Tuesday, May 5, 2015	7:00 PM.....	Scout Meeting
Friday, May 8, 2015.....	8:00 AM.....	REACH (all day)
Saturday, May 9, 2015	10:00 AM	Food Pantry

Announcements and Reminders



The annual **MOTHER AND CHILD DINNER** will be held on Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at 6pm. Reservations are required and can be made with either Millie Broka or Anne Deutschman. Deadline date is Sunday, 5/10/15. This dinner is in honor of all women, we hope to see you there. A free will donation is requested.

Mark your calendars now for Christ UMC **ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL**. Monday, May 25th, 2015, and please tell your friends.

FESTIVAL OF SHARING – SCHOOL KITS The United Methodist Women (UMW) are collecting: (1) pair of metal scissors with rounded tips; (3) 70 count spiral notebooks; (1) 12 inch ruler; (1) hand held pencil sharpener (1) large eraser (6) new pencils with erasers and (1) box of 24 crayons. Kits will be packed in September. **THANK YOU**.



Portage Lions Club continues to collect old reading and/or prescription **EYEGASSES** you no longer use. The eyeglasses are cleaned and given to those in need. Please place them in the box located in the Narthex, at CUMC. Thank you.

The Outreach Committee at CUMC would appreciate receiving the following **LABELS**: 1) **BOX TOPS** for Education 2) Campbell Soup labels 3) and any current **COUPONS** that you are not able to use. Thank you.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

May the God of searches be with you.

And also with you.

Bring your hearts to the One who loves you.

We offer them so God may plant fruit-bearing seeds in them.

Lift songs of praise to our God.

We will join our hearts and voices in proclaiming, "God has done it!"

"Get up," you cried to your Word and Spirit, "and go down the wilderness road to chaos." And so they went, calling forth life out of nothingness, planting seeds that branched into vines, pouring clear water into earth's hollows, crafting us in your imaginative image.

You showed all of this to us, with delight in your heart, but we did not understand what we were seeing, and so chose to close our eyes and our hearts and tried to be our own guides in this life.

Though we loved you last, you loved us first, sending your prophets to declare what you had done,

but we continued to abide in the tangled briars of temptation. So you sent Jesus to us, the One who would bear your fruit of healing our blindness and hardness of heart and offer hope for all your children.

With those who seem to intuit your hearts, with those seeking to understand your hopes, we lift our songs of thanksgiving to you.

Holy, holy, holy are you, God of us all. All creation bears fruit in glorifying you. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who comes to abide in us. Hosanna in the highest!

Branch weaving God, Love is your language of holiness, And Jesus Christ, is the true Vine of your heart. When we were wandering lost and alone, trying to understand what we were doing, he crossed over glory to join us in this journey we know as life.

When we could do nothing to prevent our bondage to this belief that we could go it alone, separated from you God, he came to set us free.

(Over)

When we could not learn how to understand that we did not have to remain stuck in our old lives and old ways of being, he went down the wilderness road into the cold tomb of death, so, as you raised him to new life, he might proclaim to us, "God has done it!"

.....As we seek to abide in Jesus, as we long to bear fruit in the kingdom, we speak of the mystery known as faith:

Christ died, that we might live through him;

Christ was raised, that he might live through you;

Christ will come, that all might live through eternity with you.

Abide in us at this Table, as you pour out your Spirit on the gifts of the bread and cup, and on your children gathered in this place. The broken bread reminds us that you loved us first so that, as we eat of it, we might put the needs of the hungry, the searching, the hurting, the lonely before our own.

The cup of grace nourishes us so we can go over and join the oppressed and the outcasts, intertwining our branches with theirs, so we all become part of the Vine of justice and of hope.

Then, when we are gathered around your Table in the fullness of Your Kingdom with our sisters and brothers of all time and places, we will join in singing with one voice and heart, "You have done it,"

Because there is One God there is One Loaf. Though we are many and diverse we are one around this table.

The Bread which we break is the Bread of Life, broken so that all may be healed of their brokenness.

The Cup which we share, is the Cup of Release, release offered and given by Christ so that we might be freed to live for others and for God.

Come now and share in this offering.

