



Faith

UNITED CHURCH *of Christ*

Rev. Ted Brelsford | Pastor
Rev. Gary Burdick | Pastor Emeritus
Dr. Ruth Foley | Music Director

Sunday, April 21, 2024
10:15 a.m. Worship Service

4th Sunday of Easter

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Time of Silent Preparation

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Creator God, you call us to hospitality, to care for others as you have cared for us.

People: For there are angels among us.

Leader: Loving God, you call us to give you glory in the compassion we show to one another.

People: To love without judgment of ourselves or of others.

Leader: We gather as one body, seeking to walk in the way you have set for us.

All: We gather as one body, to worship the One who is love.

INVOCATION

*HYMN *In the Bulb There is a Flower* Gray #678

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Merciful God, we acknowledge that you are our God and we have covenanted to be your people. But we confess there are times when we fail to live out that covenant in our lives. We miss opportunities to love others. We

allow fear to make us small in our faith. We follow the desires of our own heart instead of seeking your presence.

All: Holy God, forgive us for what we have done and for what we have left undone. Remind us again of your presence near us and in us. Free us from guilt, shame, and self-doubt. Help us to live with integrity, to act courageously as your people, and to show the love of God in all of our words and actions. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ and to the glory of your name. Amen.

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

***THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

CHILDREN'S LESSON

SCRIPTURE READING

I John 3:16-24

¹⁶ This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? ¹⁸ Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

¹⁹ This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence: ²⁰ If our hearts condemn us, we know that God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹ Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God ²² and receive from him anything we ask, because we keep his commands and do what pleases him. ²³ And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. ²⁴ The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 10:11-18

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴ “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷ The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”

SERMON “Love in Action”

BAPTISM Reagan Elizabeth Grove, daughter of Derek and Amy Grove

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE and LORD’S PRAYER

***HYMN** *For the Bread Which You Have Broken* Gray #772

HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Prayer of Praise and Blessing

Words of Institution

Partaking Together

Those who wish to partake should come forward by the center aisle. The pastor will place a piece of bread in the palm of your hand and then you may take a cup from the tray. Gluten free wafers are available. Grapes and crackers are available for children at the table to your left in front of the pulpit.

***HYMN** *They’ll Know We Are Christians* Black #2223, vs.1,2,3

***GIFTS and OFFERINGS** *There is an offering plate on the small table near doors as you exit the sanctuary. May God bless the missions of our church and the needs of the world through the gifts of our resources. Amen.*



***DOXOLOGY**

***BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL BLESSING** *Go Now in Peace*

*Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with us each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know He will guide us in all we do.*

***POSTLUDE**

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

For peace in this country and the world, for our military, for all who are at war, and those who have lost loved ones and are grieving. And also for those whose needs we do not know. Bill Bates, Herb Berlin, Vickie Bieger, Sue Cook, Gary Cook, Stephen Dearth, Barb Fink, Louise Forney, Pat Granville, Jim Henry, Scot Kish, Eleanor Kraft, Bruce Lounsbury, Carol Mueller, Claudia Renzi, Chuck & Sheila Recktenwalt, Loretta Rishel, Tom & Marilyn Rucker, Joe Ryan, Fred Shear, Linda Smerka, Sydney Stisser, Janet Taber, Bob Tills, and Joyce Whittemore.

For Those in the Military: Zachary Braun, Justin Buczek, Teegan Partridge, Cadan Skinner, Jamie-Lynn Smerka, Joe Solak, Mark Solak, Aaron Wellman, and Mark Williams.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **The Endowment Committee** will meet today immediately after worship in the Senior High room.

- **Please turn in articles for the May-June newsletter** to Kathy in the church office by this Thursday, April 25.
- **Faith UCC t-shirts will arrive in May!** Order yours today (orders will be taken through April 21). Free to members and friends, donations accepted at time of pick up. See order sheet at table in narthex.
- **Recognition Sunday:** Next Sunday, April 28, we will be recognizing and honoring long-time members (50 or more years), long-lasting lives (80 or more years), and long-enduring marriages (50 or more years) during worship. If someone you know should be included please let Kathy Lounsbury or Mary Beth Dauer know.
- There will be a Coffee Hour next Sunday, April 28, sponsored by the Deacons.
- **The Christian Education Committee** will meet after worship on May 5.

OPERATING BUDGET INCOME & EXPENSES

Average weekly operating expenses: \$2,465
 Offering collection for **April 14, 2024:** \$ 1,468
 Current: \$ 1,378 Benevolent: \$ 90
 Attendance on Sunday, April 14, 2024: 44

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