

Serving Us Today

Disciples: All Members **Organist:** Ginny Beamish
Minister: Don Crist **Altar Decoration:** Becky Pierce
Liturgist: Mike Beamish **Head Usher:** Mike Beamish
Choir Director: Becky Pierce **Counters:** Mike Beamish &
John Gibbons

This Week

Today, Sunday, March 12 th	9:30 am 10:30 am	Sunday School Worship
Monday, March 13 th	2:00 pm	Trustee
Wednesday, March 15 th	10:00 am 12:00 pm 6:00 pm	History Team Council Choir
Thursday, March 16 th	10:00 am 11:30 am	Twisted Stitches Lenten Bible Study

***Wi-Fi Network: Welcome
Passcode: hereiamlord***

God is Still Speaking,



March 12, 2023

“The Persecuted”

Third Sunday in Lent

St. John’s United Church of Christ

130 S Walnut St

Troy, OH 45373

(937) 335-2028

Pastor Don Crist

INTROIT

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (Liturgist)

A friendly welcome to all! No matter who you are or where you are on your life's journey, you are welcome here.

BELLS TO WELCOME THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

PRELUDE

"La Caroline"

C.P.E Bach

OPENING WORDS (Liturgist)

Lord, be gracious to us; we long for you. Be our strength every morning, our salvation in time of distress. from Isaiah 33:2

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: God of sea and sky, you keep the earth flourishing.

People: We come before you weary from traveling through barren lands.

Liturgist: Miracle Worker, you caused a rock to crack and bring forth water.

People: Crack our hearts open and let your love flow from them like a spring.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION: (In Unison)

Holy One, we are thankful for who you are and all that you are. Your presence is desired here. We take joy in knowing that you are as close to us as our next breath. We thirst for you. May we be filled to overflowing with your love. Amen.

Church News

Adult Sunday School

Sunday school will be at 9:30am next Sunday, March 19th in the café. Next week's topic will be "Following the Light – You Light Up My Life!" with Mike Beamish leading.

Lenten Bible Study

Join us for Lenten Bible Study this Thursday, March 16th. We will gather in Fellowship Hall for soup and extras about 11:30. Then we'll spend some time discussing a few of the ideas presented by Jill J. Duffield in her book, Lent in Plain Sight. Finally, we will create a hands-on crafty souvenir of our discussion. A sign-up sheet for providing soup and extras (salad, sandwiches, artisanal bread) is available in the narthex.

Ladies Fellowship

Ladies Fellowship will be going to the Cornerstone Café at JVS on April 12th. We will meet at the church at 11:15am. If anyone would like to schedule a service at the JVS salon, please do so by 3/26 –there is a signup sheet in the narthex.

Well Child Clinic

During March, the Membership and Outreach Committee is collecting children's socks and underwear, sizes 6 months to 14 years, for the Well Child Clinic in Troy. Donations may be placed in the barrel in the Narthex. Please consider donation to children in need in our own community.

Free Concert

The Heidelberg University Concert Choir will be performing a concert for all to enjoy on Sunday, March 26, at 3:00 P.M. at First United Methodist Church, 110 W. Franklin Street here in Troy. This choir has long had a reputation of presenting fine music of many styles and musical periods. The Concert Choir will be joined by special guests, the Handbell Choir of Troy's First United Methodist Church. Presented by the Troy Mayors' Concerts organization, this concert offers an hour of some of the finest choral and bell music in the area.

THE CUP SHARED

Pastor: Take and drink, this is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you.

OUR PRAYER

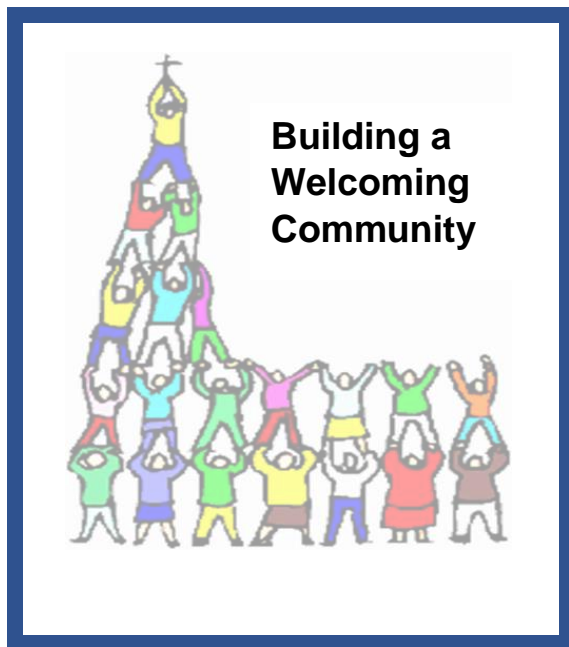
In Unison: In remembrance of the One who never gave up on love, we pray that the Spirit would make us one. Pour out your Spirit on this bread and this cup that through these ordinary gifts, we might taste a glimpse of your Kingdom. May they be for us a reminder of what we are capable of becoming and what we are capable of accomplishing together. Amen.

***HYMN: #290** "What a Fellowship" (Red Hymnal)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Song from The Creuse" César Franck

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***HYMN: #68** "God is Truly With Us" (Black Hymnal)

SCRIPTURE READING (Liturgist) Matthew 5:1-10

Matthew 10:1, 5-10, 37-39

CHOIR ANTHEM: "The Gift of Love" Hal Hopson

A TIME FOR KIDS OF ALL AGES: Ginny will be leading us in song. All under 5 are invited to gather together in the Sunday School area at the conclusion of this time.

MORNING PRAYER Don Crist

THE LORD'S PRAYER: (In Unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SILENT PREPARATION FOR LISTENING

We invite you to use these few moments of silence to welcome the Inner Teacher to speak to you as Don shares the morning message.

SERMON "The Persecuted" Don Crist

OFFERTORY INVITATION (Liturgist)

God gives freely, so let us give freely to God. Let us bring our gifts so that God's kingdom may become a reality here and everywhere. May these resources be more than enough. Amen.

OFFERTORY

“3.Verses”

Samuel Scheidt

*DOXOLOGY: (In Unison)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, Ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*DEDICATION PRAYER: (In Unison)

O God who calls us to go out into the world with generosity, may these gifts call us from our lives of comfort and towards a faith journey that embraces your love, justice, and compassion for a world in need of your healing. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION FOR CHILDREN

If there are children in worship with us this morning, we invite them to come to the front for a few moments with Pastor Don. It is important for children to know that they, too, are welcome at Christ's communion table.

Pastor: The Holy One be with you

People: And also with you

Liturgist: Open your hearts to the One who is Love

People: We open our hearts to you, O God

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God, our life-breath

People: To the One who sustains us, we rejoice in your presence!

Liturgist: With gratitude, O God, we remember that it is through you that we are made truly alive. Every creature and creation – all that is has been shaped by you. There is nothing on this earth that has not been touched by your sacred hand.

Pastor: In your love for us, you claim us – individually and as a whole – as your beloved ones. You will for us life abundant and you invite us into co-working with you towards a world where harmony among all life is restored.

People: And yet, daily, we turn away from you and one another. Destructive and divisive powers lure us away from connection and relationship. We forget that we need each other. We pretend that our lives are not deeply entangled. When injustice threatens our neighbors, we too easily cower or hide.

Liturgist: But you do not abandon us to our fear or sin. In the life of Jesus, Love enfleshed, we are shown that the invitation to join in your work of transforming and healing and restoring is always open. No matter our past. No matter our regrets. No matter the wrong done to us or the wrong we have done to others, you keep calling us back to you.

THE BREAD BROKEN

Pastor: In the life of Jesus, we are given an example of that love enfleshed. On the night of his arrest, he gathered around a table with his companions. He took bread, blessed it and broke it.

THE BREAD SHARED

Pastor: Then, he gave it to his disciples and said: “This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

THE CUP POURED

Pastor: After supper, he poured the wine and said to them: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”