

May 10, 2026

Stories That Matter

The Story Abides



WELCOME

PRELUDE *To Greet the Morning* Paxton

CALL TO WORSHIP

Easter people, no matter the bends and curves in our path, Jesus does not leave us alone on this journey of faith.

**God gives us the Spirit, our Advocate and Helper.**

The Spirit lives in and among us, pointing us all toward the way, the truth, and the life of Jesus.

**God gives us the Spirit, our Guide and Guardian.**

The Spirit draws us into God's story, showing us how to cooperate in writing God's dream into reality.

**God gives us the Spirit, our Dream-Giver and Story-Keeper.**

Easter people, God's story abides in you, calling you to live as co-creators of love and abundant life.

**We come to worship God and listen for the Spirit who inspires, guides, and helps us join in God's story, until God's kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN NO. 539

*O Spirit of the Living God*

A LITANY

To those who gave birth to their first child this year - **we celebrate with you.**

To those who have lost a child - **we mourn with you.**

To those who are in the trenches with little ones every day and wear the badge of food stains - **we appreciate you.**

To those who have experienced loss through miscarriage, failed adoptions, or running away - **we mourn with you.**

To those who walk the hard path of infertility, fraught with pokes, prods, tears, and disappointment - **we walk with you. Forgive us when we say foolish things. We don't mean to make this harder than it is.**

To those who are foster moms, mentor moms, and spiritual moms - **we need you.**

To those who have warm and close relationships with your children - **we celebrate with you.**

To those who have disappointment, heartache, and distance with your children - **we sit with you.**

To those who lost their mothers this year - **we grieve with you.**

To those who experienced abuse at the hands of your own mother - **we acknowledge your experience.**

To those who lived through driving tests, medical tests, and the overall testing of motherhood - **we are better for having you in our midst.**

To those who are single and long for marriage and children of your own - **we grieve the ways life has not unfolded as you had hoped.**

To those who step-parent - **we walk with you on these complex paths.**

To those who envisioned lavishing love on grandchildren, yet that dream is not to be - **we grieve with you.**

To those who will have emptier nests in the upcoming year - **we grieve and rejoice with you.**

And to those who are pregnant with new life, both expected and Surprising - **we anticipate with you.**

This Mother's Day, we walk with you. Mothering is not for the faint of heart and we have real warriors in our midst.

**We remember and honor you.**

SIGNS OF PEACE AND UNITY IN CHRIST

PASSING OF THE FRIENDSHIP FOLDERS

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

SUNG RESPONSE No. 191, vs. 1 *Jesus Loves Me*

**Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to him belong;**

**they are weak, but he is strong.**

**Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!**

**Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

ANTHEM

*Ride the Chariot* arr. William Henry Smith  
Men's Ensemble

SCRIPTURE

John 14:15-21

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you. "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

MESSAGE

*The Story Abides*

SHARING OUR STORIES

Spotlight on UWF

PRAYER HYMN NO. 328

*Surely the Presence of the Lord*

TIME OF PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

OFFERING

You may give your offering by using the QR code on your screen, at [umcwc.org](http://umcwc.org), through the mail, by automated giving through Realm, or by dropping it off at our office. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY

*One Faith, One Hope, One Lord* Craig Courtney  
Men's Ensemble

OFFERTORY RESPONSE NO. 95

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and holy Ghost. Amen.**

OFFERING PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN NO. 369

*Blessed Assurance*

SUNG BENEDICTION

*Con amores, la mi madre* Juan de Anchieta  
Chancel Choir

*Translation:*

*Because of your love, Mother,  
I was able to sleep.  
I dreamt what was in my waking heart,  
And your love consoled me,  
Much more than I deserved.*

BENEDICTION

Go now to love and serve God in the blessing of the Spirit who journeys with you as we live the unfolding story of God's dream for creation here and now. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

*A Joyous Acclamation*

Smith

**Bold text indicates congregational response.**

**Worship Participants**

Message: Cyndi Stouffer

Liturgist: Rev. Allen Keller

Readers: Anne Holton, Katie Price, Connor, Jack, and Libby

Message for Growing Christians: Kelly Lynn

Chancel Choir Director: Jeannie Nelson

Men's Ensemble Director: Mike Muzzo

Organist: Steve Campitelli

Live Stream Team: Tim Case, CC Clark,

Brad Rush, Jacqueline Rush, Cory Smith

## Education and Growth Opportunities

Sunday School for all ages is at 10:00 AM

Children's Sunday School (Rm 4-5)

Youth Sunday School (Youth Rm)

Adult Sunday School

Mustard Seed (Rm 12)

Seekers (Rm 7)

Upper Room (Chapel)

Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays at 9:30 AM

Men's Bible Study

Wednesdays at 7:30 AM

Youth Group

Sundays at 6:00 PM

PM

Pastor Jo Higgins Children's Library - Books for 1 year olds through teenagers. Located on the lower level.

## Connection and Sharing Opportunities

Chancel Choir (Adults)

Thursdays at 6:30 PM

Children's Choir

Wednesdays at 6:30 PM

Praise Team

Wednesdays at 7:15 PM

Carillon Choir

Wednesdays at 7:30 PM

Sunshine Memory Café

Tuesdays at 1:00 PM

*A welcoming place for persons with memory loss and their care partner.*

Coffee With the Pastor

2nd Monday, 10 AM, at

Gramm's Diner Wednesday Night Out Dinner

Wednesdays at 5:45 PM

Retired Men's Lunch Group 2nd Wednesday at 11:30 AM

United Women in Faith

1st Tuesday at 6:30 PM,

Sept-May

*Circles meet at various times throughout the month.*

Web Dance

1st Sunday of each month, 6:00 pm,

Sept-May

*High school hosted themed dance party for adults with intellectual disabilities*

## Opportunities for Growth, Fellowship, and Service

**ACT Now (formerly Act In Faith)** - Items for their Community Cupboard can be dropped off at the table in the Gathering Area. Donations of paper towels, toilet paper, dish soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, shampoo, all purpose cleaner, and laundry detergent are needed, as these items are not available at other cupboards.

**Unused hotel toiletries needed** - Items go to Ronald McDonald House, Safe Harbor, and Salvation Army. Place items in the basket by the elevator in the Gathering Area.

**Stephen Ministry** - Stephen Ministry is a one-to-one confidential lay caring ministry for people who are going through a tough time. If you would like more information about how one of our trained Stephen Ministers can walk with you during this time, contact Kelly Lynn (Kelly@umcwc.org).

**PRAYER NEEDS** - The full list of prayer concerns can be found on the round table in the Gathering Area. Requests are also sent through our "Prayer Link". To receive the prayer link contact Luanne Sims (lsimsumcwc@gmail.com). To submit a prayer request, please sign the form in the friendship folder or contact Pastor Cyndi (pastorcyndi@umcwc.org).

## HAPPENING THIS WEEK

**Today, May 10 - Happy Mother's Day**

**Monday, May 11**

10:00 AM - Coffee With the Pastor at Gramm's Kitchen

2:00 PM - UWF Reading Group (Chapel)

7:00 PM - Narcotics Anonymous (Fiesta Center)

7:00 PM - Boy Scouts (Rm 4))

**Tuesday, May 12**

1:00 PM - Sunshine Memory Café (Fiesta Center)

**Wednesday, May 13**

7:30 AM - Men's Bible Study (Chapel)

11:30 AM - Retired Men's Lunch Group (West Chester Diner)

5:45 PM - Wednesday Night Out Dinner

6:30 PM - Church Council (Chapel)

7:15 PM - Praise Team (Fiesta Center)

7:30 PM - Carillon Choir (Rm 12)

**Thursday, May 14**

6:30 PM - Chancel Choir (Rm 10)

**Saturday, May 16**

9:00 AM - Church Clean Up Day

## UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

**MAY 17 - 8:45** - The children from the Children's Center will present special music

**PENTECOST SUNDAY - MAY 24 - 8:45 AND 11:00 AM**

We will receive new members into our church family.

**GRADUATION/YOUTH SUNDAY - MAY 31**

**ONE WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:00 AM**

If you have a child graduating from high school, please start gathering pictures to send to Cory for the slide show.

**PLANNING AHEAD - SUMMER WORSHIP TIME**

Beginning on May 31 and continuing through the summer we will be having one worship service only at 10:00 AM in the sanctuary.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND NEWS

**Donations needed**—This summer Pastor Cyndi will be traveling with a group that will be doing mission work in Honduras. In preparation, they are collecting the following children's school supplies: glue sticks, pencils, erasers, scissors, and small notebooks. Please place items at the designated space in the Gathering area by May 21. Thank you for your help  
**Church Clean-up Day** - Saturday, May 16 from 9 am -12 pm. Everyone is invited come and help us do some spring cleaning around the church.  
**\*Please remember** - The parking lot at the back of the church is for handicapped parking only on Sunday mornings.

**Vacation Bible School** - June 22-25, 6:00 - 8:30 PM, ages 4 yrs - grade 5. Optional FREE dinner each night at 5:15 PM. Registration is now open for children and volunteers at umcwc.org. Contact Kelly Lynn (Kelly@umcwc.org) for more information.  
**Pop Tabs** - We are collecting pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House. These tabs are recycled to generate funds for local chapters, helping to pay for essential services and operating costs for families staying there. Pop tabs can be placed in the receptacle in the Gathering Area.

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**(United Methodist Church of West Chester)  
and on Instagram (@umcwestchester)**