

May 4, 2025

CIRCLING TOWARD FOOD JUSTICE



WELCOME

PRELUDE *Praising the Almighty*
Broughton

CALL TO WORSHIP

God, you call us from the corners of the Earth.

**From the cities and the prairies, from the ghettos
and the tables of the wealthy.**

God, you sing to us from the corners of the universe.

**In the gentle ocean breeze, in the colors that
burst forth from our landscapes, in the faces of
children ravaged by war.**

God, you speak to us from the corners of the
Earth.

**To the east, to the west, to the north and to the
south, above us, below us, and within us, your
voice rings clear. Send your voice to sing in us,
we pray, as we worship this day.**

OPENING HYMN no. 400

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Creator God: Your Eden flowed with mountain-fed
rivers into lush valleys with orchards of pomegran-
ates, grapes, and honeybees. The rain fell at the
right time in the right amount. Even just a few
decades ago, summertime was the season of
shared community celebrations, weddings,
parades, picnics, and growing crops. That has
changed. This is not the Earth that Eden would
recognize. Creator God, forgive us for our
carelessness. Comfort those who suffer. We repent
of this destructive path. Turn the hearts of those
who would continue to do harm to this planet.
Let us believe as you have taught us, that all
things can be made new. Amen.**

SIGNS OF PEACE AND UNITY IN CHRIST

PASSING OF THE FRIENDSHIP FOLDERS

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

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

**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.**

SCRIPTURE Psalm 30

ANTHEM *Rejoice, the Lord is King* Stan Pethel
Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE John 21: 1-19

MESSAGE *Circling Toward Food Justice*

MISSION MOMENT *West Chester Food Cupboard*
Timmy Nelson

OFFERING

*You may give your offering by text- Text UMCWC
\$50 to 73256, by using the QR code on your
screen, at umcwc.org, through the mail,
by automated giving through Realm, or by
dropping it off at our office. Thank you for your
generosity.*

OFFERTORY *Verset in C* Boelmann/Wold

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*In the beginning, Breath poured forth, and goodness
was born, bringing light from darkness, life from
chaos, birth from the Womb of Creation.
Circling round the fire, from the beginning of
humanity, people gathered to tell their story and
to give thanks, for the gifts of the Creator: prom-
ise of seed, hope of new life, wholeness of heart,
sacredness of all that lives and breathes. And all
the creatures, in their own language, spoke their
gratitude:*

**The whole world is full of your goodness and
mercy. We give thanks today, tomorrow,
and always.**

In the fullness of time, goodness was once again born, and the world came to know our brother Jesus, born of woman, whole in heart and Spirit, dedicated to the way of God who invited all to the table of grace and continues to invite us now to this circle of healing and hope. As he gathered his disciples in his time, we come now to remember and seek to become the body of Christ in our own time. This bread, gift of earth, promise of seed, is prepared for all to share. Eat with thankful hearts and hope of life renewed.

This wine, gift of the Vine that connects us all, is offered with joy and celebration. Seed and fruit to feed our hunger and quench our thirst. These offerings bind us together in this eternal life-giving act.

Creator, Christ, Sacred Spirit, fill this meal and this circle with the gifts of life so we may be seed and fruit for one another and all creation, for the nourishment of all. With all creation, we continue to say:

The whole world is full of your goodness and mercy. We give thanks today, tomorrow, and always.

As Jesus remained true to the goodness and mercy planted within him, even till death, may we live lives that help to feed the hunger and quench the thirst of the world. May we also offer ourselves, as Jesus did, as gifts of healing through our words of love and acts of praise. O God, may we continue to welcome to the circle all who are in need and share in our awe and thanksgiving, saying:

The world is full of your goodness and mercy. We give thanks today, tomorrow, and always.

Let us pray together:

Our Creator, who dwells in heaven and earth, sacred are all your names. May your circle of mercy and care be present this day and Your will for all creation bring us into your light, even as we are held by your great love throughout time. Feed us today with the gifts of your goodness and bathe us in your mercy, as we offer acts of justice and love to all we meet. Help us to turn from all that leads us from your way and save us from all that destroys life. For this creation is yours, full of awe and beauty and mystery, today, tomorrow, and always, may it be so, Amen

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

COMMUNION HYMNS nos. 640, 393, 399

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty God, Creator of all things, God of sun and Earth, you created us with your breath. You are here with us. As we tilled the soil, you opened the seed. Your rain watered the ground; your sun drew jeweled corn and red tomatoes out of the rich soil. Your mercy showered blessing after blessing over the land, its humans, and living things. Creeks flowed into rivers; wetlands fed turtles and the water wolf. Healthy and fat bison, turkeys, elk, and alpaca graze under green and gold mountains. The potato grows fat; the cassava melts on the tongue; berries burst sweet juice in their clusters, Creator, Provider, we will care for this good Earth. In the name of Jesus who is the Christ, Amen.

CLOSING HYMN no. 344

Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Fughetta in A-Flat

Muffat

Bold text indicates congregational response.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Message: Rev. Cynthia Stouffer

Liturgists: Rev. Mercedes Case, Rev. Allen Keller

Reader: Lorraine Tsao

Message for Growing Christians: Kelly Lynn

Guest Chancel Choir Director: Mike Muzzo

Organist: Steve Campitelli

Live Stream Team: Tim Case, CC Clark, Jake Joslin, Heidi Krug, Brad Rush, Jacqueline Rush, Cory Smith

Notes and Spiritual Thoughts

Education and Growth Opportunities

Children's Sunday School Sundays at 10:00 AM (Rm 4-5)
Youth Sunday School Sundays at 10:00 AM (Youth Room)
Adult Sunday School Sundays at 10:00 AM
 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
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, Sept.- May
Junior Choir (3rd-5th grade) Wednesdays at 6:30 PM,
 Sept-May
Praise Team Wednesdays at 7:15 PM, Sept-May
Sunshine Memory Café Tuesdays at 1:00 PM
 *A welcoming place for persons with memory loss and their
 care partner*
Wednesday Night Out Dinner Wednesdays at 5:45 PM,
 Sept-May
Retired Men's Lunch Group 2nd Wednesday at 11:30 AM
United Women in Faith 1st Tuesday at 6:30 PM
 Circles meet at various times throughout the month

Service Opportunities

Act in faith Fundraiser "Chef's Best 2025" -May 8, 2025, 6-9 PM at Good Will Fire Company, 552 Union Street. Culinary creations by local chefs Place your vote for the "Best of Chef's Best". Tickets (\$100.00) per person can be purchased online at www.actinfaithwc.org.

Volunteer English Program in Chester County will sponsor a 3-session training workshop for those who wish to tutor English as a second language to an adult. The Workshop will be held via Zoom on May 13, 15, and 19 from 6:00-8:00 PM. For more information or to register call 610-918-8222.

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.

Act in Faith Amazon Wish List - Items purchased on this site will automatically be shipped to ACT in Faith. To see and purchase the needed items go to https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3AR0DYSYPSP4R?ref=wl_share or use the QR code. New items will be added as needed.



HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Today, May 4

10:00 AM - Sunday School for all ages
7:00 PM - Web Dance (Youth Room)

Monday, May 5

7:00 PM - Disciple 4 (Zoom)
7:00 PM - Narcotics Anonymous (Sanctuary)
7:30 PM - Boy Scouts (Fiesta Center)

Tuesday, May 6

1:00 PM - Sunshine Memory Café (Fiesta Center)
6:00 PM - United Women in Faith Celebration Dinner

Wednesday, May 6 7:30 AM - Men's Bible Study (Chapel)

9:30 AM - Women's Bible Study (Chapel)
5:45 PM - Wednesday Night Out Dinner (Fiesta Center)
6:30 PM - Prayer Journey Group (Conference Room)
6:30 PM - Practice for Children's Sunday (Sanctuary)
7:15 PM - Praise Band (Fiesta Center)

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

Please note the time change for several of these special services

May 18 - Children's Sunday

Continental Breakfast at 9 AM in the Fiesta Center
One Worship Service at 10:00 AM in the Sanctuary

June 1 - Graduation Sunday

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

June 8 - Pentecost/Confirmation Sunday

One Worship Service at 10:00 AM in the Sanctuary

UPCOMING EVENTS

Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser "Trivia Night" - Saturday, May 10, 7-9 PM. \$25. Contact Cory@umcwc.org for more info or to register.

Vacation Bible School - June 23-26, 6:00 - 8:30 PM, ages 4 yrs - grade 5. Optional FREE dinner each night at 5:15 PM. Children and volunteers can register at umcwc.org. Contact Kelly Lynn (Kelly@umcwc.org) for more information.

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 Rev Case (Mercedes@umcwc.org).

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).