

Welcome to Elizabethtown United Methodist Church



Sunday, May 5, 2024

3471 Wayne Ave, North Bend, OH 45052
513-253-4510 pastoretown@gmail.com e-townumc.org

Prelude

Greeting and Announcements

Centering Words

***Call to Worship² (Leader part, Congregation part)**

*Adapted from Blessing Spilling Over by Anna Blaedel
from Enfleshed*

Together, we move in fierce and tender rhythms of care, of solidarity of joyful alliance. We need each other and have each other.

We are from each other; may we be for each other.

Naomi Murakawa asks, ‘Why be a star when you can make a constellation? Alone, dazzling—one can burn so bright. But, beloveds, finding each other, dancing together, we pattern new possibilities.

Possibilities beyond pain, beyond fear, beyond aloneness. Possibilities born of laughter and dream, of refusal and resistance and recreation.

Possibilities that point us towards sweetness and salve. We, surrendering into the sacred patterns that heal and hold us.

We, of stardust and spirit and breath. We, of soil and seeds are spells. We, of queer and radical rootedness.

Breathing together, we conspire together.

We, of movement and lineage and aliveness that stretches beyond ages. We, of elder wisdom and generations yet to come.

We, aligning and realigning into constellations – ancient and emerging – bending our collective life toward freedom.

Toward the liberating life force of love. Toward transformation. Toward together.

Until all of us are free,

Until we, we, we are free.

We join together in that transforming, liberating love as we worship, together, God who IS love. We give thanks for progress in our denominational polity, and we pray that the decisions of this general conference initiate a tsunami of acceptance, love, and transformation as we work to reflect the divine love of our Creator.

Opening Prayer¹

***Opening Hymn**

UMH #62

All Creatures of Our God and King

Prayer of Lamentation and Celebration (Unison)²

Disaffiliation has traumatized and retraumatized us: the people we love, the congregations where our lives unfold, and the denomination within which we strive for justice. Our wounds are still open. Our grief is still fresh.

A tsunami of anti-trans and anti-LGBTQ+ legislation crashes on the shores of schools, cities, states, and this nation. A disturbing reticence and lethargy sweep the nation. How long, o Lord, how long?

And yet, God knows this. And God delights in us – in our pursuit of the kin-dom. God delights in our

experiences of community. God delights when our systems lean, even topple, into justice. God delights in our learning, our growth, and our advocacy.

Accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist and to reconcile where any of God's beloveds is disregarded, disempowered, or dehumanized. Accept your holy call to individual and collective transformation.

May the decisions of this General Conference be just the start of a more inclusive, more expansive, and more faithful Church.

For everyone born, a place at the table. For everyone born, a system that's fair. For everyone, justice. For everyone, joy. Amen.

Words of Assurance

A Time of Thanksgiving and Prayer

Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

***Hymn of Preparation**

UMH #560

Help Us Accept Each Other

Scripture:

1 John 5:1-6

Message

Love is Not a Burden

Offertory

Doxology

UMH #95

Offertory Prayer¹

***Closing Hymn**

UMH #154

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

Benediction and Dismissal²

***Hymn of Sending Forth**

UMH# 665

Go Now in Peace

Postlude

¹ From *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2024*. Copyright ©2023 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

² From *Liturgy for a New Day* by Reconciling Ministries Network

Announcements

- Board Meeting
 - Today, right after worship
- Free PuttPutt Golf & Ice Cream
 - May 18th, times TBA
 - General Custer's Last Ice Cream Stand
- EWOWS (yarn group)
 - Saturday, May **25**, 10am-noon
- Do you have an idea, or need, for a small group?
Let us know
- Do you have anything to add?

Upcoming Birthdays & Anniversaries

- May 4th
 - Denise's Birthday
- May 9th
 - Everett's Birthday
- May 18th
 - Abbey's Birthday
- Let us know if we missed your special day