



FIFTH AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
323 South 5th Avenue, West Bend WI 53095

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SECOND SUNDAY AFTER **PENTECOST** ~ JUNE 2, 2024

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**JOIN US IN-PERSON or ONLINE ~ Sundays @ 9:30 AM**

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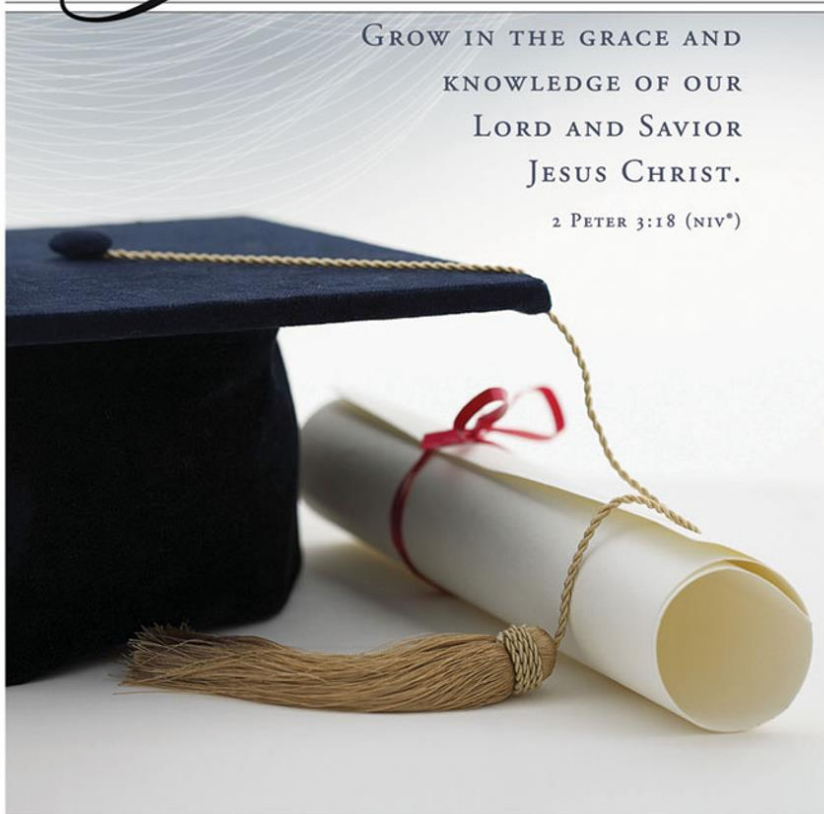
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# HONORING OUR *Graduates*

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GROW IN THE GRACE AND  
KNOWLEDGE OF OUR  
LORD AND SAVIOR  
JESUS CHRIST.

2 PETER 3:18 (NIV®)



## WELCOME TO FIFTH AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

How wonderful to have you in worship with us today! We are a church family that welcomes you. Join us following worship for Fellowship Hour. There will be yummy refreshments, coffee, and lots of *friendly faces*.

**\*Note: L - denotes worship "Leader"; P - denotes "People"**

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### ~GATHERING GOD'S PEOPLE~

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**PRELUDE:** "Aria" by Charles Sergisson

#### **GREETING:**

Pastor: Welcome to Graduation/Youth Sunday! Congratulations to all our Graduates. In just a few short days, you'll step onto a stage and receive your diploma, and while doing that two big things will be happening for you - *you'll be making a significant accomplishment on committed years of work and dedication, and you'll be closing one chapter of your life and opening a whole new one.*

To our Youth, we're celebrating all the contributions you make to your family, church, and community. You are so very important to life of the church, and we want to make sure you feel that way. You are loved by God and your friends and family members who have come to celebrate with us today.

High School is a big step that you've just completed. But that's all it is, a step in your life. The next step may be college. It may be going out to work. It may be both. But the next step for you, whatever that may be, comes after the last.

We hope this worship experience is an opportunity for all of us to reconnect with who we are at our core: beloved children of God. Come let us worship God together. So, let's get started!

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### ~MEDITATION FOR GATHERING~

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**CENTERING MUSIC:** "At Home" by Edward Grieg

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:** Aleah Latham

Leader: People of God, enter this place with thanksgiving and praise,

**People: for the Lord is good.**

Leader: Come and rejoice, sing glory to God,

**People: for the Lord is good.**

Leader: Remember, the steadfast love of God endures forever,

**People: for the Lord is good.**

**\*A PRAYER FOR EACH OTHER:** Aleah Latham

L: We look to the future and pray for everyone here, especially for the Graduates, Youth and all those who will be experiencing life transitions.

**P: Lord in your faithfulness, hear our prayer.**

L: We pray for our families, teachers and friends who supported us, especially when we were struggling or just getting by.

**P: Lord in your faithfulness, hear our prayer.**

L: We pray for all those who are anxious about what lies ahead. Give us peace of mind and of heart.

**P: Lord in your faithfulness, hear our prayer.**

L: We pray for anyone that we have hurt or let down this year.

**P: Lord in your faithfulness, hear our prayer.**

L: We pray that we may continually recognize all our gifts and talents as we prepare for the new challenges ahead. May we always give thanks to you and trust that you will be guiding us. **P: Lord in your faithfulness, hear our prayer.**

*L: We pray now in silence.....*

L: Lord, we give you thanks for your faithfulness. Help us to never stop bringing our concerns, burdens, and struggles to you.

**P: Standing firm in our faith, covered by the saving grace of God and ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN:**

**“Hymn of Promise”**

**UMH 707**

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**~WE PROCLAIM~**

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**\*PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – 2 Peter 3:14-18**

**Emma Louk**

Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from your mouth. Make us hungry for this heavenly food, that it may nourish us today in the ways of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, the Bread of Heaven. **Amen.**

So, my dear friends, since this is what you have to look forward to, do your very best to be found living at your best, in purity and peace. Interpret our Master’s patient restraint for what it is: salvation. Our good brother Paul, who was given much wisdom in these matters, refers to this in all his letters, and has written you essentially the same thing. Some things Paul writes are difficult to understand. Irresponsible people who don’t know what they are talking about twist them every which way. They do it to the rest of the Scriptures, too, destroying themselves as they do it.

But you, friends, are well-warned. Be on guard lest you lose your footing and get swept off your feet by these lawless and loose-talking teachers. Grow in grace and understanding of our Master and Savior, Jesus Christ. Glory to the Master, now and forever!

L: The Word of God for the People of God.

**P: Thanks be to God.**

**CHANCEL CHOIR “Sing & Shout Together, Children” by Mary McDonald**

**Dave Bertelsen, Director & Brookelynn Bodden, Bass**

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**~THE GREAT THANKSGIVING~**

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**Communion Liturgists and Stewards – Brookelynn Bodden & Kherington Bodden**

**L:** The Lord be with you.

**P:** And also, with you.

**L:** Lift up your hearts.

**P:** We lift them up to the Lord.

**L:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**P:** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**L:** And so, with your people on Earth and all the company of Heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**P:** Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and Earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Pastor: Holy are You, and blessed is Your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of His suffering, death, and resurrection, You gave birth to Your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which He gave Himself up for us, Jesus took the bread, gave thanks to You, broke the bread, gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over Jesus took the cup, gave thanks to You, gave it to the disciples and said: “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**P: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pastor: All honor and glory are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

*Invitation to the Table*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:**

**Brookelynn Bodden & Kherington Bodden**

As we end one journey and begin another, let us go forth into the world as people of faith, hope and vision. Hold fast that which is good and render to no one any harm. Strengthen the faint hearted, support the weak and vulnerable. Help the afflicted, give dignity and respect to all. Love and serve the Lord Jesus rejoicing in the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit. We ask this through Jesus Christ Our Lord. **Amen.**

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## ~LITURGY OF CELEBRATION & BLESSING FOR OUR GRADUATES~

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Pastor: God of truth and knowledge, by your wisdom we are taught the way and the truth. Bless our graduates as they now finish this course of study.

**All: We thank you for those who taught and worked beside them, and all who supported them along the way.**

Pastor: Walk with the graduates as they leave and move forward in life. Take away their anxiety and confusion of purpose.

**All: Strengthen their many talents and skills, instill in them a confidence in the future you plan, where energies may be gathered up and used for the good of all people.**

Pastor: For the graduates, this truly is a day of new beginnings, a time to remember and move on, and a time to believe what love is bringing.

**All: May they always know that Christ is alive and goes before us, to show and share what love can do. This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new.**

Pastor: Before you were even formed, God knew you. While in your mother's womb, God named you. At your birth, God's breath filled you with life. Today we celebrate what you have become at this moment in time. And so, we pray:

God of our beginnings, we thank you for the gifts of these graduates; their excitement, their awesome wonder and curiosity, their open speech and encouraging words. Their contributions have blessed and challenged us, and we have become a richer and more diverse community because of them.

As they step forward into the world that awaits, comfort their fears with the full knowledge of your divine presence. Strengthen their resolve to walk in the footsteps of Jesus as modern-day disciples in a world that needs their spirit. Guide their feet as they move through life, protecting them from the pitfalls of darkness while they help to lead future generations into the warmth and promise of your light. We ask this blessing upon each of them, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

And now with the confidence of beloved and forgiven children of God, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**All: The Lord's Prayer (words on screen)**

### ***Presentation of Senior Gifts***

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~INVITATION TO SHARING OUR GIFTS, TITHES, & OFFERINGS~

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**\*DOXOLOGY:** “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” (on screen)    UMH 94

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER:**

Emma Louk

All: Gracious God, in awe of your omniscience, we offer our gifts today. Just as you intimately know us, help us understand and trust in your vastness. As we reflect on our beliefs, may our stewardship reflect our trust in your guiding hand. Guide us to embody our creed, living as a community of faith in love, service, and action. Though your essence surpasses our comprehension, we find comfort in our relationship with you. As we declare our faith, may it ignite our actions, echoing your love and care for all creation. Bless these offerings as a symbol of our commitment to live out our beliefs. Amen.

**\*CLOSING HYMN:**

“The Summons”

TFWS 2130

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**\*~SENDING FORTH/BENEDICTION~**

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Aleah Latham

L: Christ sent the Holy Spirit from the Father,

P: to fill us with God’s presence.

L: The Spirit reminds us that we are not alone, that we are the children of God;

P: and sends us forth to share God’s love and bring hope to the world! Amen.

Pastor: Christ has brought us together: together in faith, together in hope, together in love. People of God, we have gathered on this Graduation/Youth Sunday to be sent out again; sent out with the welcome message of God’s abundant love! May you have wisdom in heart and mind; success in every challenge you find; courage to seek life’s purpose for you; belief in yourself to make it come true; strength to do your best and endure; and the guiding light of faith to ensure that wherever you go, whatever you do, God’s love will always see you through. We go forth together, to be living testimonies of Christ’s love!

**\*POSTLUDE:**

“Ceremonial March”

by Muriel Dillon

**Please join us for Fellowship Hour in the Lounge**

**Please help welcome our new Pastor, Rev. Dr. Hae-Jeong Yoon beginning on July 1, 2024. Cards can be dropped off at the Church Office and we will forward them on to her during the month of June.**