



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

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER **PENTECOST ~ JUNE 23, 2024**

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



Polly Bertelsen, Liturgist
Deanna Gibeau, Accompanist
Rev. Clarissa Martinelli, Senior Pastor

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 "Liturgist"

P: Denotes "People"

*: Please Stand If You Are Able

~ WELCOMING & GATHERING of GOD'S PEOPLE ~

PRELUDE: "A Song of Service" by Adrian Boyd

GREETING:

Pastor: One of the key questions of Ordinary Time is how do we live our faith day after day after day? Paul seems to address this question in his letter to the Corinthian Christians, but I would hazard a guess that the Corinthians found his answer as hard then as we do now. ***Open your heart.*** Please, Paul, anything but that!

Many of you might be sitting in the pew thinking the same thing. Please, Pastor Clarissa, anything but that! As Paul indicates, opening your heart means being open to all manner of censure, criticism, and persecution. Opening your heart means trusting God's grace and maintaining integrity in a world of distrust and division. That's some intimidating, scary stuff to us today as it was in the first century.

We invite you to receive the proclamation of the Word with receptive and willing hearts during this worship service. Sing along with the praise band the heart songs that have informed our faith for years and even generations. Come let us worship together.

~MEDITATION FOR GATHERING~

CENTERING MUSIC:	<u>"Welcome"</u>	W&S 3152
	<u>"Gentle Shepherd"</u>	W&S 3096
	<u>"I Will Call Upon The Lord"</u>	TFWS 2002

***CALL TO WORSHIP: (Responsively)**

L: Beloved, when sorrow and hardship abound and events across oceans, down the block and in faith communities shake our resolve and make us question what good the good news is even doing, God calls to us...

P: Open your heart.

L: When fear and misinformation infiltrate our relationships, and we don't know who to trust or how to do the next right thing, God calls to us...

P: Open your heart.

L: When joy overflows, and we witness the fruit of grace all around us, transforming our lives and our communities into places of connection and flourishing, God calls to us...

P: Open your heart.

L: May this time of worship be for each of us a time to listen to God's call to open our hearts and accept the divine invitation to say yes to the work of grace in us, among us, and all around us.

All: God, we open our hearts to receive your gift of grace, knowing you hold us securely in the palm of your hands that we might have the courage to live in vulnerable yet faithful community with You and one another. Amen.

***OPENING PRAYER:**

L: Holy God, we extol and honor you for who you are. We praise God for God's faithfulness and tender mercies that are renewed every morning. We exalt you, Sovereign One, for every blessing of yesterday, the gift of this day, and the promises of our tomorrows. Grant us an enduring faith as we strive against oppression and despair. Endow us with contagious joy that uplifts the downtrodden and inspires hope in God. Increase in us the faith and courage of the prophets, the love of Jesus, and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit. In God's majestic name we pray, Amen.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (Unison)**

P: Holy God, hear our prayer. There is pain and there is sorrow, there are broken relationships and broken hearts. Sometimes we are the cause of those things. We have caused pain. We have broken relationships. Sometimes we are simply a part of them – we are the ones who suffer, we are the ones who are broken. So, we ask for forgiveness, and we ask for healing. Beyond that, we ask for God’s help to us turn from our former selves to the persons God has created us to be - full of mercy, grace, and love. Through Christ, who is our example, we pray. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:**

L: Hear the good news: those who are in Christ are a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come. All this is from God to whom we have been reconciled through Christ. And so I declare to you, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

P: Thanks be to God! I am forgiven! Amen.

***OPENING HYMN: “My Life Is In You, Lord” TFWS 2032**

~WE PROCLAIM~

***PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – 2 Corinthians 6:1-3;11-13**

L: Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

All: As we work together with him, we entreat you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.” Look, now is the acceptable time; look, now is the day of salvation! We are putting

no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry. We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. There is no restriction in our affections but only in yours. In return—I speak as to children—open wide your hearts also.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

***HYMN**

“Because He Lives”

UMH 364

SERMON:

“OPEN WIDE YOUR HEARTS”

Pastor Clarissa

~ DEDICATION AND BLESSING ~

Thank you to everyone at Fifth Ave. United Methodist Church who contributed to these various building projects! Thank you for visioning how our church could transform our property to serve the neighborhood.

It is a testament to the many and varied gifts God has given the church, that there were so many people involved in these projects that it would be impossible to create an accurate list of all who contributed their time, talents and treasures.

We consecrate these gifts, Memorial and Honor Giving, Endowment Gifts, and especially Gift Planning, which were placed into service this past year and into the ministry of our church. We give praise and honor to God and thank the many heavenly saints and committed disciples for lives well lived and the selfless support for the ministry of FAUMC.

SEE THE NEW FACILITIES:

Self-guided tours of our new and renovated outdoor and indoor spaces are encouraged! Please feel free to walk around! Trustees are available throughout the building to answer questions and provide information.

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

***DOXOLOGY:** “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” UMH 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose
power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***OFFERTORY PRAYER:**

All: Gracious God, as we bring our offerings before you in this Pentecost season,
we acknowledge the gift of your grace, freely given and yet calling us to respond.
Help us not to accept your grace in vain, but to let it bear fruit in our lives and in
our communities. May our actions reflect the transforming power of your grace as
we open our hearts to love, to vulnerability, and to relationship, trusting in the
abundance of your grace to guide us. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN:** “The Trees of the Field” TFWS 2279

~SENDING FORTH/BENEDICTION~

*L: Go into the world showing a gentle attitude toward everyone. Be joyful and thankful!
Fill your mind with those things that are good and deserve praise: things true, noble,
right, pure, lovely, and honorable. Put into practice what you have heard here. And may
God who gives peace be with each of you.

All: We go in the peace of Christ to love and serve all creation. Amen.

*Pastor: Go from this place with joy, giving thanks to God, proclaiming God’s goodness,
celebrating God’s love, and worshipping God with your lives. For God is the Lord our
God, faithful to a thousand generations. And may the blessing of God Almighty, Father,
Son and Holy Spirit, be with you and among you in the days ahead.

***POSTLUDE:** “Pageant” by Jacques Offenbach

Please join us for Fellowship Hour in the Lounge.

**The bulletins are given by Tom & Kaonou Latham in celebration
of their son, Ethan’s Birthday, which was on June 21st**