



**FIFTH AVE. UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

323 South 5th Avenue
West Bend WI 53095

Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

November 19, 2023

Katie Glaser, Liturgist

Deanna Gibeau, Organist

Dave Bertelsen, Singer

Rev. Clarissa Martinelli, Senior Pastor

JOIN US IN PERSON OR ONLINE

Sundays, 9:30 A.M.

WELCOME TO FIFTH AVE. UMC

We Are Glad You Are Here! We are so thankful that you have joined us today for Worship. We would love to get to know you and help you get to know us. Join us following worship for Fellowship Hour. There will be yummy refreshments and coffee and lots of *friendly faces*.

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

~GATHERING GOD'S PEOPLE~

PRELUDE: Handbells

"The Ash Grove"

Kathy Schneider, Director

~WELCOME & CENTERING~

YOUTH MINISTRY

Kathy Schneider

GREETING:

Pastor. A church volunteer is a key component of any ministry. From members volunteering their time to make cookies, teach Sunday school, facilitate small groups discussion, church maintenance, support technology, leadership roles, to organizing church events, members sharing their talents and time help build a strong Beloved Community. As church volunteers can attest, sharing one's time, resources and talents leads to many intangible benefits. However, on this Volunteer Recognition Sunday, we are honored to acknowledge and thank those faithful volunteers who help make a difference in the church ministry and the community. Thank you!

Pastor Clarissa: 847-721-1826; Ms. Ellen Johnson: 262-339-7673;

Email -rev.cmartinelli6@gmail.com

CENTERING MUSIC:

“Ave Verum Corpus”

W.A. Mozart

***INVOCATION:**

Leader: Our hearts are hard, O God

All: Soften them with your love.

L: Our hands are clenched, O God

All: Open them with your grace.

L: Our burdens are too heavy, O God

All: Help us drop what we need to carry no longer.

L: Our lives are not our own, we know

All: Let us live and move and have our being in you, O God. Amen.

***CALL TO WORSHIP: Recognition of Volunteers: A Litany (Responsively)**

L: When there was a need, you came forward.

P: And so, we thank you.

L: In the nighttime or daytime, on weekends and even in the coldest, darkest part of the year, you helped.

P: And so, we thank you.

L: Elected and duly appointed or quietly, anonymously, and unbidden, you did what needed doing.

P: And so, we thank you.

L: Sometimes with the help of many hands, other times alone, you worked.

P: And so, we thank you.

L: You gave your time, talent and even your treasure for the life of the congregation.

P: And so, we thank you.

L: Your families and loved ones supported you in your efforts, worried for you when things piled up and perhaps grumbled at you for the extent of your commitment.

P: And so, we thank your families and loved ones.

L: For all things great and small you have given this congregation, this community, our global mission, we sincerely take time today to recognize, honor, and thank you for using your God-given talents; they are essential.

All: We see whatever we have as a gift from God. After all, we have nothing which God has not given to us (James 1:17). We see whatever we have been given as an opportunity to serve other Christians. We do not view anything which is "ours" as off-limits for use in serving other believers. Wisely using everything we have to serve each other is part of fulfilling our purpose as God's set-apart people. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (Unison)

Merciful God, You are the source of persistent love and surprising grace. Help us to be more like you. We are too fluent with jealousy and competition. We are too intimate with insecurity and fear. We are too confident in our sense of justice, and we are too attached to the idea that life is supposed to be fair. Speak to us the words we need to hear, O God. Remind us that your love is not first come, first serve, but an open table with unlimited seating. Whisper resurrection in our ears over and over again, until it becomes the standard by which we measure all our days....

(SILENT PRAYER)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS: (Unison)

L: Everlasting God, strengthen and sustain all those who volunteer in our churches; that with patience and understanding they may love and care for your people; and grant that together they may follow Jesus Christ, offering cheerfully and freely their gifts, talents, and treasure. In the name of our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN:** **“Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty”** **UMH 64**

~WE PROCLAIM~

***PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – 1 Peter 4:10-11 (The Message)**

L: If you are in Christ, you struggle in the most unique and difficult ways. This is the reality of following Jesus. In 1 Peter 4:10-11, we see that a common Christ and a common struggle causes us to embrace a common encouragement in all of its varied and wonderful forms.

All: Everything in the world is about to be wrapped up, so take nothing for granted. Stay wide-awake in prayer. Most of all, love each other as if your life depended on it. Love makes up for practically anything. Be quick to give a meal to the hungry, a bed to the homeless—cheerfully. Be generous with the different things God gave you, passing them around so all get in on it: if words, let it be God’s words; if help, let it be God’s hearty help. That way, God’s bright presence will be evident in everything through Jesus, and he’ll get all the credit as the One mighty in everything—encores to the end of time. Oh, yes!

L: The Word of God for the People of God. **P: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON: **“Volunteer Appreciation Sunday”** **Brett Barnett**

~HOLY EURICHRIST~

L: The Lord is here. **All: His Spirit is with us.**

L: Lift up your hearts. **All: We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **All: It is right to give thanks and praise.**

L: It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly King, Almighty and Eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

All: 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: Father of all, we give you thanks for every gift that comes from Heaven. To the darkness Jesus came as your Light. With signs of Faith and Words of Hope He touched untouchables with love and washed the guilty clean. This is His story.

All: This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

Pastor: The crowds came out to see your Son; yet at the end they turned on Him. On the night Jesus was betrayed He came to table with His friends to celebrate the freedom of your people. This is His story.

All: This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

Pastor: Jesus blessed you, Forgiving God, for the food; He took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said: This is my body, given for you all. Jesus then gave thanks for the wine; He took the cup, gave it and said: This is my blood, shed for you all for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me. This is our story.

All: This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

Pastor: Therefore, Loving God, with this bread and this cup we celebrate the cross on which Jesus died to set us free. Defying death Jesus rose again and is alive with you to beg forgiveness for us and all the world. This is our story.

All: This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

Pastor: Send your Spirit on us now; that by these gifts we may feed on Christ with opened eyes and hearts on fire. May we and all who share this food offer ourselves to live for you and be welcomed at your feast in heaven where all Creation worships you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:

All: Blessing and honor and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

Pastor: We speak the prayer our Savior, Jesus Christ taught:

All: 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Pastor: Great is the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pastor: Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which He gave for you, and His blood which Jesus shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that He died for you, and feed on Him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION: (Unison)

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, the privilege is ours to share in the loving, healing, reconciling mission of your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, in this age and wherever we are. Since without you we can do no good thing, may your Spirit make us wise; may your Spirit guide us; may your Spirit renew us; may your Spirit strengthen us; so that we will be strong in faith, discerning in purpose, courageous in witness, persistent in good deeds. This we ask through the name of the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

~RECOGNITION OF VOUNTEERS~

A Volunteer's Prayer

I thank thee, Lord, as a volunteer: for the chance to serve again this year; to give of myself in some small way to those not blessed as I each day. My thanks for health of mind and soul to aid me ever toward my goal; for eyes to see the good in all, a hand to extend before a fall. For legs to go where the

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

~SENDING FORTH/BENEDICTION~

Please join us for the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon.