

Prelude "Adagio" by Haydn Barb Johnson

Welcome/Announcements

***Call to Worship** Judy Mack

L: Beloved, we are called to love one another, because love is from God.

P: God's love is poured in us from our birth.

L: We are called to extend the love of God to all people.

P: God's loved is taught to us through the witness of God's faithful people.

L: We are called to proclaim God's love in all that we say and do.

P: In all creation, in all our relationships, may God's love be made known.

***Opening Hymn** "To God Be the Glory" 98 UMH

***Prayer of Confession** Judy Mack

Easter is such a wonderful season, Lord. Hope springs anew in our hearts. As the earth is being refreshed by the warmth of spring, so we have been refreshed and made new by the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. And we want to stay in this euphoria forever. But you have called us to go into the valley, to those who need to hear of your love and to feel your caring presence. In his words of hope, Jesus prepared his disciples to be witnesses. We don't quite believe that we are capable of actually living our whole lives in your love. So, we act in ways that are often neglectful and hurtful of others. We take more time pampering ourselves than we do helping other people. Stop us in our tracks, O Lord. Turn us around. Help us to face our weakness and your forgiving grace. Heal us of our ways, and place us again on the paths of peace. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Words of Assurance Pastor Barbara Cooper

The commandment that we have from Christ Jesus is that we love one another, treating each other as beloved brothers and sisters. Abide in God's eternal love. Let its power and joy penetrate your hearts and spirits, preparing you for new growth in the Spirit. Amen.

Children's Message Terry Martin

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn "Spirit of the Living God" 393 UMH

Scripture Reading John 15:9-17 Judy Mack

Joys & Concerns Judy Mack
Morning Prayer Cathy Leininger

Thanking God with Our Offerings
Offertory "Softly and Tenderly" arr. By Wagner Barb Johnson
*Doxology, Offertory Prayer

Sermon Pastor Barbara Cooper

Love Feast Pastor Barbara Cooper

The Lord be with you.

And also with you. Join me in this prayer:

Be present at our table, Lord: Be here and everywhere adored; Thy creatures bless and grant that we May feast in paradise with Thee.

One: God is the one who has loved each of us from before the world began.

All: Even now we are all being held in the security of loving arms.

One: Christ has shown us the path of love and obedience that leads to new life.

All: We are reminded of Jesus' example of love and his command to love one another.

One: The Spirit draws us together and strengthens us to greater obedience.

All: May we be attentive to the needs around us, so the world might feast on grace and mercy through our lives.

1 John 4:9-15, 21, The Message

This is how God showed his love for us: God sent his only Son into the world so we might live through him. This is the kind of love we are talking about—not that we once upon a time loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins and the damage they've done to our relationship with God. My dear, dear friends, if God loved us like this, we certainly ought to love each other. No one has seen God, ever. But if we love one another, God dwells deeply within us, and his love becomes complete in us—perfect love! This is how we know we're living steadily and deeply in him, and he in us: He's given us life from his life, from his very own Spirit. Also, we've seen for ourselves and continue to state openly that the Father sent his Son as Savior of the world. Everyone who confesses that Jesus is God's Son participates continuously in an intimate relationship with God... The command we have from Christ is blunt: Loving God includes loving people. You've got to love both."

Let us pray together:

Bless, O Lord, this food to the nourishment of our bodies and our bodies to your service. Keep us ever mindful of the needs of others and the precious love of our Lord. Amen.

Dear friends, since love comes from God, let us continue to love God and each other as we celebrate that love by sharing the bread and the cup.

Receive the elements by coming forward.

***Closing Hymn** "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love" 2223 TFWS

***Benediction**

Postlude "Postlude in G Minor" by Bach Barb Johnson

*Indicates standing. If you have difficulty standing, please feel free to remain seated.

Participating in Worship Today:

Pastor	Pastor Barbara Cooper
Organist	Barb Johnson
Liturgist	Judy Mack
Children's Message	Terry Martin

Vanco Online Giving:



Join us after worship today for our Fellowship Lunch downstairs. It's a Mexican theme, although there are plenty of other options too. We'd love for you to join us!



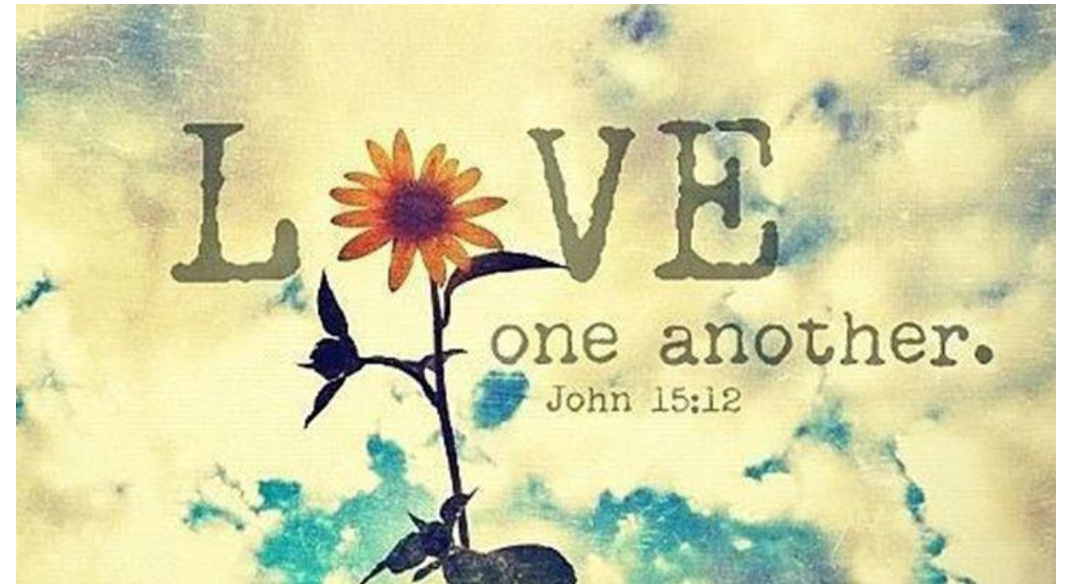
There will be a Celebration of Life service for former member, Nancy Hendrickson, at OUMC Friday, May 10 at 11am.



OAKWOOD

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

May 5, 2024 10:30am Worship



Worship with Us
online or in person
every Sunday at 10:30 am.
www.oakwoodumcdayton.org
206 Hadley Avenue

Thoughts From Your Lay Leader

The Accessibility Improvement Project has made great progress in the last few weeks. First, an informational meeting was held after church services on March 17th, led by Natasha Mitchner, Jim Enloe and Jay Messaros, to explain to interested congregants the two options being considered for improving church accessibility. Recommendations and suggestions were collected from the participants at this meeting. Then, based on this feedback, our Lead Team approved the selection of Option 2, the Hadley Road entry option, at our Lead Team meeting on April 16th. In addition, two of the Accessibility Team members (Jim Enloe and Linda Scoglietti) travelled to Cincinnati to check out two of the chairlift equipment manufacturers and try them out. They recommended selecting one of the manufacturers, Bruno, based on comfort, sturdiness and safety features.

Your trustee Chair, Jay Messaros, has met with the City of Kettering regarding permits, and has been working with an Architect to supply Code Compliant drawings of the ramp system required to obtain these permits. Jay has also developed an approximate cost for the Phase 2 Option, and is estimated to be between \$80,000 and \$100,000 to complete the project.

Although we currently have a small Grant (\$7000), thanks to Natasha Mitchner, to start this project, we will need additional funding to complete it, and the Lead Team is in the process of initiating a Capital Campaign to provide the necessary funds. The exact nature of this campaign hasn't yet been defined, but we will ultimately be requesting pledges from you, the congregation, over a time period yet to be determined.

Please be thinking about how you may be able to help financially in achieving this sorely needed accessibility improvement capability. Pray about it, keeping in mind that improving accessibility helps attract those who would like to come but can't attend because of the limited accessibility we now have. More information is forthcoming, so stay tuned.

Blessings, Phil Gliebe

Capital Campaign Organizational Meeting!



Wednesday, May 15 at 5:30pm.
We would like to invite anyone interested in helping plan our Accessibility Project funding to come to this meeting.



Our next Lakewoods Meal will be on Saturday, May 18. We will be preparing pork carnitas and may need some help slow cooking all of that meat. See Tedd Shimp if you can help cook or serve that day.



Appreciation Celebration and Card Shower for Amy Smith! After church, May 19. Join us as we lovingly say "farewell" and enjoy cake and ice cream, fruit and punch. (She's not leaving until July, but we wanted to celebrate before summer vacations start).

Job Opening coming soon!

As you know, the Office Administrator position will be available in July. Anyone interested in the position, please give your resume to Pastor Rick, Tedd Shimp or Drew Lewis in the next couple of weeks.

DID YOU KNOW

The symbolism of the acolytes lighting the candles on the altar?

The light is carried into the worship service as a symbol of Jesus' coming into the presence of the worshipping community. Many congregations use two candles on the altar to point out that Jesus was both a human being and God. At the end of the service, the light is carried out into the world to show that Jesus Christ is for all people everywhere; The acolyte leaves the worship service, carrying out the lighted candlelighter. This symbolizes the light of Jesus Christ going out into the world where believers are to serve.