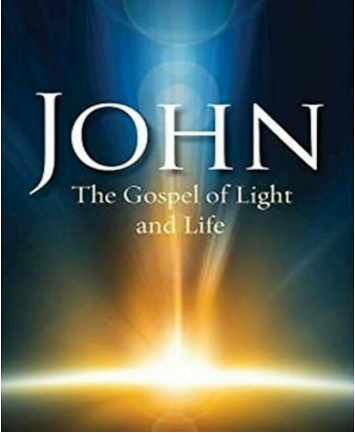


Gay Street UMC

Experiencing God through Worship, Spiritual Growth, Care, and Service



Sanctuary, March 9, 2025

In The Beginning

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.
-John 1:5

Welcome to Gay Street UMC!

Ways to stay connected; our website: www.gaystreetumc.org, Facebook, or by signing up for eDevos—our weekly newsletter with devotionals, prayer concerns, and events.

- **Office Hours:** Monday–Friday, 8am–3pm | **Phone:** 740-392-6626 | **Email:** office@gaystreetumc.org
- **Restrooms:** Located at the rear of the sanctuary or through the parlor.
- **Hearing Devices:** Available upon request from an usher.
- **Prayer Concerns:** Share on green cards in pews and place them in the offering plate or give to the pastor.

Sermon Notes:

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Altar Flowers today are given to the glory of God in celebration of Jo-Ann Odonkor’s birthday. We join Maltbie Babcock to say *This is my Father's world, The birds their carols raise, The morning light, the lily white, Declare their maker's praise. This is my Father's world, He shines in all that's fair; In the rustling grass I hear Him pass; He speaks to me everywhere.*

Upcoming dates to remember:

- March 10th, UWF at 1pm in the Kurella Room.
- March 13th–18th, Walk to Emmaus. See Pastor Christopher for more details.
- March 16th, Logan will be having the 2nd Youth Mission Trip meeting on the 3rd floor at 12:30pm.
- March 18th, Red Cross Blood Drive from 1pm-6pm in Fellowship Hall.
- March 21st, The Closet at 5pm (Taxable Night)
- March 30th, youth is taking a trip to Top Golf in Columbus after 10:45am service. See Logan for more details!

"The Chosen" Season 5 will be shown in three parts at Polaris Cinemark on consecutive Fridays leading up to Easter: Part I on March 28, Part II on April 4, and Part III on April 11, all starting at 6 pm. The season covers Passion week up to the crucifixion. If you need a ride or have extra seats, contact Mary Cochran at 740-392-7176. Tickets can be ordered online, and some may dine at Chick-fil-A beforehand. Join us inside the theater before 6 pm!

- **New Member’s Class:** Begins February 23rd, 12pm-1:15pm in the Kurella Room; runs every Sunday until March 16th. Contact the office to sign up.
- **Bible Study:** Led by Pastor Christopher on the Gospel of John, March 12th – April 16th, 6:15pm-7:30pm in the Varsity room. Book cost: \$14.50; contact the office to order.
- **Kingdom Kids Activities:** Choir from 9:30am-9:45am and Sunday School from 9:45am-10:30am every Sunday in the blue room.
- **Wednesday Fellowship:** Join us for food and fellowship at 5:30pm in Fellowship Hall.
- **Youth Bible Study:** Led by Logan on the 3rd floor, Wednesdays from 6:15pm-7:30pm.
- **Community Service Opportunities:** Available on our website under the service tab.
- **Worship Volunteer Needs:** Positions include Liturgist, Lay Readers, Ushers, Live Stream, and Sound Board teams. Contact the office to help.

Our Mission

To make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the World.

*The *asterisk is an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Christopher Liberati

PREPARATION

Prelude *Chorale Prelude*, by Douglas E. Wagner Janet Guetle

Opening Prayer–All Uniting Liturgist: Mary Kepple
Loving God, you know us better than we know ourselves. Our prayers are in your heart, even before they are on our lips. We come to proclaim our praise of you in worship and service. May our hearts’ desire be always, to praise and worship you. May our intentions be true and our desires reflective of your will. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

*Gathering Hymn *Jesus, Lover of My Soul* UM Hymnal 479

***CALL TO WORSHIP (congregation: please refer to the bold text)**

L: Open our ears, O God
C: that we might hear your Word speaking to us in this moment.

L: Open our ears, O God
C: that we might listen for your voice calling to us through scripture.

L: Open our ears, O God
C: that we might understand your promises.

L: Open our hearts, O God
C: that we might enter into the love you offer us.

Invitation to Children Rev. Christopher Liberati

Children’s Song-congregation *Where Children Belong*

Lyrics:

This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshipping throng. Water, God’s Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song: This is where children belong.

Children’s Message Logan Hines

INTO THE WORD

Genesis 3:8–13, 20 Lay Reader: Logan Hines

*John 1:1–14

*Response to the Word *Gloria Patri* UM Hymnal 71

Message In The Beginning Rev. Christopher Liberati

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Prayer Hymn *O Word of God Incarnate* UM Hymnal 598

Morning Prayer
Lord’s Prayer

Invitation and Dedication for the Giving of Our Lives, Tithes, Gifts, and Offerings:
When we bring an offering to God, it is a form of worship. Worshipping God with giving of our money reveals our hearts desire. We give sacrificially, generously, and continuously as a way of ascribing value to who God is in our lives. As we do so, our love for God and others grow.

Offertory *God so Loved the World*, by John Stainer Chancel Choir

***Doxology** *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* **UM Hymnal 95**
*Prayer of Dedication

SENDING FORTH

*Hymn of Parting *At the Name of Jesus* UM Hymnal 168

*Benediction

Postlude *Toccata*, by Douglas E. Wagner Janet Guetle

Serving in Worship:

Chancel Choir Director: Terry Dunnivant

Live Stream: Max Heindl & Patsy Hommon

Sound: Jassmine Bayless & Daniel Burson

Ushers: Donna Campbell, Shelley Coon, Carol Navin, Susan Snyder

Did you know?

One of our goals for this upcoming year is to become more intentional in our prayer life. Have a prayer request? Please fill out the green prayer cards located in the pews, place them in the offering plate, and they will be prayed over and shared with the pastors and/or congregation and/or care & connect team based on your request.

Consider lighting a candle at the kneeler at the beginning of this service while offering your prayers to God.

