

Altar Flowers today are given to the Glory of God by The Winkle Family, in celebration of Martha's 60th birthday and the precious memories of her life with us. Psalm 25:1 "To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul."

Upcoming dates to remember:

- ~ February 2nd, Care Team at 11:30am.
- ~ February 4th Last day of Confirmation class.
- ~ February 4th, Youth Movie night, 3rd floor at 4pm.
- ~ February 5th, Piece Corps at 10am.
- ~ February 10th, Knox County Christians Men's Breakfast at 9am.
- ~ February 11th, Youth-Super bowl Subs-Pickup is same day, after both services. Youth will meet in Fellowship Hall at 8:30am.
- ~ February 12th, UWF at 1pm.
- ~ February 16th, The Closet 4:30pm.
- ~ February 19th-OFFICE CLOSED for Presidents' Day.

Every Wednesday night, Congregational Dinners in Fellowship Hall at 5:30pm

January 29th through February 11th we're collecting hand-held pencil sharpeners. These will be used in Student Kits distributed by Midwest Mission. Please deposit your pencil sharpeners in one of the blue, 5-gallon buckets located beside the chapel or in the red parlor. Thanks! (FYI: 12-inch rulers with metric will be next.) P.S. The bucket in the red parlor is next to the easel.

Ways to Serve:

- ~ Hot meals every Fri. @ 5:30pm in Fellowship Hall.
~ Worship Services Every Sunday we need volunteers for the following: Liturgist, Lay Readers, USHERS, Live Stream Team, and Sound Board. If you are interested, please call the office. We appreciate your help!

Our Mission

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

Gay Street UMC

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



Sanctuary, January 28, 2024

Focus on your Future

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

-Jeremiah 29:11

Welcome to all who are worshiping with us today!

Get connected and stay connected to the active life here at Gay Street UMC.

Ways to connect; www.gaystreetumc.org, follow us on Facebook, sign up for eDevos (a weekly newsletter offering a devotional, prayer concerns, upcoming events and other important announcements).

Church office hours are Monday-Friday, 8am-3pm, and our phone number is 740-392-6626.

Restroom locations: in the rear of the sanctuary or through the parlor.

Hearing amplification devices are available, please ask an usher for assistance.

Please share prayer concerns on bright green cards in pews, put in offering plate, or hand to pastor.

Sermon Notes:

[illegible]

4TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WELCOME

PREPARATION

Prelude *My Jesus, I Love Thee* arr. by Kevin McChesney Wesley Ringers

Opening Prayer Liturgist: Marge Winkle
Peace-giving God, we are your people, and we belong to you. While we are not of this world, we do live in this world with its challenges and obstacles. Often our fears and our anxieties overwhelm us. In our humanness we come before you, seeking the strength and courage that only you can provide. We come to grow in our confidence in you, so that our faith will overcome our fears. We come to relinquish our worries and be freed from our burdens, that we may fully experience your peace and joy through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Introit *Seek Ye First* Chancel Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The presence of the Lord is here among us;
P: Protecting us, loving us, encouraging us.
L: We come as a people of hope to witness God’s power;
P: Fixing our eyes on what is true and right and Holy.
L: We come seeking direction for our futures.
P: May our hearts and minds dwell in the peace and direction that only our Lord can provide. Amen.

*Gathering Hymn *O God Our Help in Ages Past* UM Hymnal 117

Invitation to Children

Children’s Song *Where Children Belong* TFWS 2233

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

Children’s Message Rev. Lauren Clawson

INTO THE WORD

Isaiah 55:6-11 Lay Reader: Jana Stewart

*Matthew 6:25-34

**Gloria Patri* UM Hymnal 71

Message Focus on your Future Rev. Christopher Liberati

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Prayer Hymn *Eagle’s Wings* UM Hymnal 143

Morning Prayer

Unison Prayer: I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will; put me to doing, put me to suffering; let me be employed for you or laid aside for you, exalted for you or brought low for you; let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing; I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to your pleasure and disposal. And now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours. So be it. And the covenant made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

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 grows.

Offertory *Twas in the Moon of Wintertime* arr. by Kevin McChesney Wesley Ringers

*Doxology *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* UM Hymnal 94
*Prayer of Dedication

SENDING FORTH

*Hymn of Parting *I Know Whom I Have Believed* UM Hymnal 714
*Benediction

Postlude *"Rise, My Soul, and Stretch Thy Wings"* arr. by Austin C. Lovelace
Dr. Rebecca Abbott



Serving in Worship:
Choir Director: Mary Kepple

Sound: Daniel Burson & Theo Miller

Live Stream: Carol Moore & Max Heindl

Ushers: Susan Snyder, Larry Yarman, Lee Rhoades, Marshall Winkle