

Columbiana First United Methodist
210 S Main St. • Columbiana, Ohio 44408
(330) 482-2382

March 23rd, 2025

Third Sunday in Lent

***Enter the Light of Christ**

Pastor's Welcome

Announcements:

- **Sunday School will resume in April 27th .**
- **Bible Study will also resume in April 23rd, @ 10 am.**
- **March 29th InStep Program is holding a Build Your Own Pasta Fund Raiser. We will be helping with this fund raiser by making desserts. Anyone interested in helping please let Pastor Cyndi know. Thank You.**
- **April 14th deadline to order Tulips, Hyacinths, and Lillies in memory of your loved ones for Easter. Place Order forms in offering plates or call 330 482-2382. The cost is \$9.00 each. Checks are to be made out to First United Methodist Church.**

Opening Prayer:

Open our eyes, our ears, our hearts and spirits this morning, Lord, that we may be healed of our faithlessness, freed from our fears and anxieties, and placed on the pathways that lead to peace and service to You. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

***Opening Hymn: "Are Ye Able" 1, 2, & 4 #530**

Call to Worship:

L: Children of God, what has God done for you?

P: God saves, provides, and holds us in God's steadfast love.

L: Consider and remember: in the joyful times and in the sorrowful times, what has God done for you?

P: God covers us and lifts us up, protecting and empowering us with steadfast love.

L: When you have been like the fig tree in Jesus' story that seems unable to produce and that everyone has given up on, what has God done for you?

P: God tends the soil and waters the ground, nurturing us into life with steadfast love.

L: Children of God, come, let us worship God who never gives up on us!

P: We come to worship and cling to God, for God's steadfast love never fails!

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Offertory:

***Doxology #95**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Loving God, our shelter and hope, as we walk through this holy season, we come to You with hearts open to Your grace. In our giving, may we reflect the love that sustains us, and may we lift one another up in times of need and vulnerability. Use these offerings to bring comfort to the weary and hope to the brokenhearted, just as You draw near to us in our struggles. Strengthen us to be a source of light and love in this world, reflecting Your compassion in all we do. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

***Hymn of Preparation: "The Old Rugged Cross" #504**

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 55:1-9

Gospel Reading: Luke 13:1-9

Gloria Patri #70

Message: "When Bad Things Happen" Pastor Cyndi

***Closing Hymn: "Victory in Jesus" #370**

***Benediction**

***Sending: "God Be With You"**

***Postlude**

**Indicates for the congregation to stand if you are able*

"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint" - Isaiah 40:31

Oh, Dear Heavenly Father,

We come to You this morning to praise and worship You as One Body, One Mind, and One Church.

It is in this time of Lent that we reflect on Your love for us. We remember the forgiveness that You have given to us and pray that we learn from that when we need to show forgiveness to those who have hurt us, rejected us, or offended us, especially because we have chosen to follow You.

You have sent to us Your Son, and His followers as examples to us of what pleases You, and what does not. Help us to learn, help us to be obedient to Your commandments, and help us to be Your instrument of examples for the generations to come.

In the Lent season, we are to search our hearts, our minds, and our souls for You. You are to reside in us, and we are the ones who are to open the door for You to enter. I ask You, Lord, have we truly done that? Have we let You in? Have we emptied our selfish ways and become selfless for You? Tug on our hearts when and where they need to be changed, edify our minds where they need to be renewed, remove from us the desires that keep us from being all in for You, and replace them with the things You desire for us. So that, all that we say and do will glorify You.

Just as the people in Jesus' time here on earth brought their loved ones, friends, or even themselves to the Great Physician to be healed, we also bring to You those that we have come to love to You for healing. First, we thank You for all the healing You have already brought to us. There are many of us here who have witnessed Your miracles in our lives and our loved ones' lives. We have witnessed Your hand of healing, especially when the doctors were scratching their heads and wondering what to do next. You have healed us from cancer, You have brought sight to those who were practically blind, You have allowed some to walk when they were told they would never walk again. You have rid us of anxiety that would usually paralyze us, or cause us to turn from doing what You have asked. The list can go on and on, and we praise Your name for all of this and so much more.

We come together to lift to You those that have been mentioned here today, Dixie, Charles Warren, Bobby, Brooke, Karen (not Karen Culp, but Lloyd Briggs sister-in-law)

And we bow before You and lift to You those that are on our hearts but have not been spoken. As You hear our cries whether they are spoken aloud, or silently whispered. We know You have a plan for each of these, and we pray that You intervene where intervention is needed. Give Your wisdom to those who are making decisions, whisper the words You are healed, or use Your people as Your instruments of healing. All so Your plan will fall into place for each of these. And Your name will be glorified.

I praise Your name for those in this community who are making it possible to become stronger warriors for You. I praise Your name for the unity in the churches that I have seen. I praise Your

name for Your movement that is opening up the ability to bring You to the children when the opportunities for them to come to You have been hindered by worldly things.

I ask You to come alongside us here and help us to hear Your call, see Your vision, and be the church that You want us to be. All this we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen