

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Dr. Dale G. Caldwell, **Pastor**

Minister Bridget Charles, **Liturgist**

Fortunate Danje, **Seminary Intern**

Covenant United Methodist Church

631 East Front Street

Plainfield, New Jersey 07060-1413

Website: www.cumcp.com

Church Office: Phone (908) 756-2684

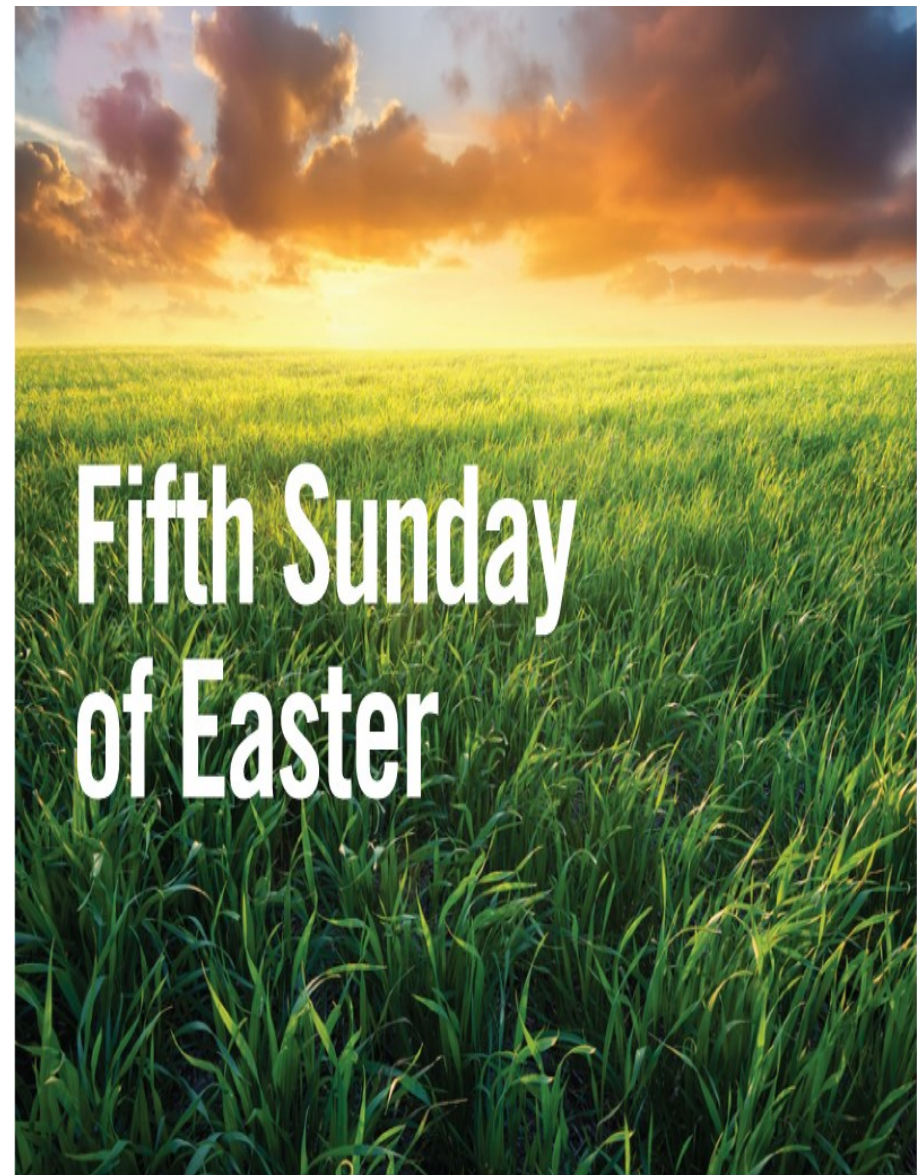
Office Hours: Tuesday and Friday, 10:00—3:30 pm

Email: covenantumcplfd@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/cumcplainfield

YouTube: www.youtube.com/channel/UCCO3VjImIW8Cb8ybyjUjq9w

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Fifth Sunday of Easter



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church®

Covenant United Methodist Church

“Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world by proclaiming the good news of God’s grace and living out Jesus’ command to love God and neighbor”

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 28, 2024 – 10:00am

(*indicates standing, as you are able)

PRELUDE

***OPENING HYMN** *We’ve Come This Far By Faith*
(AAHH 412)

WELCOME, PRAISE, TESTIMONY & PRAYER
Pastor Caldwell

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Please stand if you are able)*
Leader: ²“The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;
People: ³**my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation.**
Leader: He is my stronghold, my refuge and my savior...
People: ³²**For who is God besides the LORD?**
Leader: And who is the Rock except our God?
People: ⁴⁷**The LORD lives!**
Leader: Praise be to my Rock!
People: Exalted be my God, the Rock, my Savior!
Leader: ⁵⁰Therefore I will praise you, LORD, among the nations...
All: I will sing the praises of your name.”
[\(2 Samuel 22:2-3, 32, 47, 50\)](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(cont’d)*

Voter Registration

We will be conducting Voter Registration for the 2024 Elections on Saturdays (11:30—3:30 pm) and Sundays (11:30—2:00 pm) as follows::

Primary—April 29 through May 14

General—August 26 through October 14

Conference Reports

All committee forms for our Fall conference have been released this month on ARENA (GNJ-UMC portal). The due date schedules for all forms will be posted on the hallway bulletin board. A few reports are due on June 1st. Email notification concerning Lay Servant and Lay Minister report forms was sent out last week, If you have not received your email notification, please follow the link: arenasupport@gnjumc.org

2024 GNJ Annual Conference

Takes place at the Wildwood Convention Center, NJ on May 19-21. Nicole Ra-Amon is attending as our elected delegate.

Safe Sanctuaries Training

This workshop will take place on June 2, directly after our worship service. All members are encouraged to attend, especially those working with children and vulnerable adults. Light refreshments will be served.

***HYMN** *Every Time I Feel the Spirit* (AAHH 325)

BENEDICTION Pastor Caldwell

POSTLUDE

***OFFERTORY PRAYER** *(Standing and in unison)*

Gracious God, as we offer our gifts today, we reflect on the wisdom in the words from John's gospel. In this imagery, we recognize our role as branches, connected to you, the source of our strength and vitality. Help us stay rooted in your love, producing fruit that brings glory to your name. May these gifts signify our commitment to abide in your teachings and work joyfully in response to your love. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

[\(John 15:1-8\)](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(Please be seated)*

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Morning Bible Study with Pastor Caldwell

Wednesdays @ 7:00 am

(Via Zoom: ID: 908 756 2684; Passcode: 07060)

Evening Bible Study with Minister Bridget Charles

Wednesdays @ 7:00pm

(Via Zoom: ID: 908 756 2684; Passcode: 07060)

Native American Ministries Sunday

Thank you Covenant! We received donations in the amount of \$450 for this cause.

Free Meals Program

After an absence of 4 years due to COVID, we are happy to announce that our weekly Free Meals program reopens on Monday, May 6 (and every Monday) at 5:30 pm. We urgently need volunteers . There's a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

***OPENING PRAYER** *(Please stand as you are able)*

Glory be to God in the highest, thank you, Jesus, for the grace we have in you. We are gathered here today, you promised us that where two or three are gathered in your name, you are there with us. We have gathered to praise and worship you, come down oh Lord and fellowship with us. Let your presence be felt in our midst. Come with the abundance of your blessings and give us overflow. Thank you, Jesus, because you hear us always. Amen.

***HYMN** *They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love*
(TFWS 2223)

***PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION** *(Please stand as you are able)*

Gracious God, as we turn to your Word for us, may the Spirit of God rest upon us. Help us to be steadfast in our hearing, in our speaking, in our believing, and in our living. Amen

***THE LORD'S PRAYER** *(Please stand as you are able)*

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

FIRST NEW TESTAMENT LESSON *(Please be seated)*

Matthew 18:21-27

21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?” 22 Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. 23 “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. 24 As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. 25 Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. 26 “At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ 27 The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

***GLORIA PATRI** *(Please stand if you are able)* (UMH 71)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

***SECOND NEW TESTAMENT LESSON** *(Please stand as you are able)*

Matthew 18:28-35

28 “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded. 29 “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’ 30 “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.

***SECOND NEW TESTAMENT LESSON** *(cont’d)*

31 When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. 32 “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. 33 Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ 34 In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. 35 “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

SPECIAL SELECTION *Holy, Holy, Holy*

MESSAGE **490 Forgiveness** **Pastor Caldwell**

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Online donations are accepted via:

-Our website: www.CUMCP.com (visit the **About** page and click on the **Contribution Button**)

-Chase Zelle: covenantumcplfd@gmail.com

OFFERTORY MUSIC

***DOXOLOGY** *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*
(UMH 95)