



To share faith, hope & love with all
First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
36363 Center Ridge Rd., North Ridgeville, OH 44039
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May 18, 2025

**No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.**

If you would like to know more about our church, please contact us at info@fccalive.org

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Liturgy inspiration this week has come from the *UCC's Worship Ways*.

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## **SERVICE of WORSHIP AND PRAISE**

### **Fifth Sunday of Easter**

***\*Indicates "All who are comfortable, please rise in body or spirit"***

#### ***WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE***

**Prelude** "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" arr. Douglas E. Wagner

"Handbell Choir

**Ringling of the Bell**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Choral Introit** "I Know That My Redeemer Lives"

## **Handbell & Chancel Choir Recognition**

### **\*Call to Worship**

One: Transformative Creator, you envelop us with examples of community.

**All: We are witness to Jesus' up close and personal attempts to learn about and be with the people.**

One: You want us to know that what happens outside of our church building matters to God's people.

**All: Continue to work in and through us to build towards collective flourishing.**

One: Call us into living.

**All: Call us into being curious, approachable, and loving towards all Your creation.**

**\*Opening Hymn** #362 vs. 1 & 2 "Morning Has Broken"

### **\*Passing of the Peace**

### **\*Prayer of Transformation and New Life** (*in unison*)

Holy One, when we experience tension, give us the courage to feel into that tension. Give us courage to invite in feelings of love and kindness and grace, the way that Your Son showed us time and time again. Be with us in this and all the hard moments still to come. Amen.

### **\*Words of Grace** (*in unison*)

Beloved, let us go forth today and all the days with the courageous belief that we can truly recognize the Holy One in other and then act accordingly. By grace, our Creator moves us towards a transformation where acts of love, humility, curiosity, faith, abundance, and hope are on display for all to witness. Thanks be to God!

**Ministry of Music** "Rain Down" – Jamie Cortez, arr. J. Carter

## ***WE HEAR GOD'S WORD***

**Scripture Reading** Isaiah 6:8

Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

One: The Word that is a lamp to our feet and a light unto our path.

**All: Thanks be to God who is still speaking.**

### **\*Gloria Patri**

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.

**Sermon**

"Here I Am; Send Me"

Carla Valles

**\*Hymn of the Day** #62 vs. 1 & 3 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

## ***WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING***

### **Prayers of the People & Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lord's Prayer**    *You are invited to pray in the language & tradition of your choice.*  
*Our Father/Creator, 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 debts/trespasses.*  
*As we forgive our debtors/those who trespass against us,*  
*and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil,*  
*for Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.*

**Prayer Response**    "Surely the Presence"

### **Words of Offering**

We've heard God's call to us – to be abundant with our gifts of grace, love, forgiveness and time. And so let us be abundant in our giving so that the work of the church can be carried out beyond this building. Let us give joyfully and generously.

**Offertory**    "Jesus Loves Me" – Wm. Bradbury, arr. Anna Laura Page    Handbell Choir

### **\*Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host:  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### **\*Prayer of Dedication**    *(in unison)*

Creator, we thank you for the gifts of the people – from our ancestors to our elders to those who have still yet to come, we share what we have so that all can flourish and follow you. Amen.

## ***WE GO TO SERVE***

**\*Sending Hymn**    #739 vs. 1 & 2 "Pass It On"

### **\*Taking the Light into the World**

### **\*Benediction**

Blessed people, go forth this week knowing that we are in this world together and that collective flourishing is possible. It begins with listening and paying attention to all that is around you and then inviting others to come alongside – so do just that, slow down and marvel at God's creation.

**Choral Benediction**    "I Know That My Redeemer Lives"

**Postlude**    "Olympic Fanfare and Theme" – John Williams, Commissioned: 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee

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Announcements

Fellowship time: We need people to sign up to oversee fellowship time after the worship services. There are sign-up sheets on the table in the front of the sanctuary, in the narthex, and on the bulletin board in fellowship hall.

Bathroom “shower”: To make our church more welcoming to all the diverse groups that use this space, we’re having a “shower” to collect personal hygiene and toiletry supplies to keep in our restrooms. Think: pads, tampons, disposable changing pads/puppy pads, deodorant spray, Tide to Go sticks, smell good soaps, facial cleansing wipes, unscented lotion, hand sanitizer, diapers, baby wipes. Donations will be collected at the church on June 1.

Dining to Donate: The Outreach Committee is sponsoring a Dine to Donate event on Thursday, June 5 at the Avon Applebee’s to help fund our youth mission trip to Lotts Creek. Flyers to present at the restaurant will be made available soon.

Women’s Book Club: All gatherings are at the church at 7 p.m. unless noted otherwise.

May 19: Then She Was Gone by Lisa Jewell

June 16: Mad Honey by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan

July 21: Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman

Pride Parade: Join us in representing our church in the Pride in the CLE Parade on June 7 in downtown Cleveland. We will meet at 10 am downtown in Public Square. The march steps off at 11 am. We recommend using public transportation to get downtown. The Living Water Association is coordinating with the Cleveland LGBT Center to ensure all UCC folks can march together as one delegation.

FCC has Pride shirts! FCC now has an online store where you can buy shirts for Pride 2025! We have a selection of t-shirt options that you can purchase and they will be sent directly to your home. If you want your shirt to arrive in time for Cleveland Pride, you should order by May 18th! Copy and paste this link in your web browser: <https://www.bonfire.com/store/fcc-north-ridgeville/>

Spring Clean Up: If you’re not able to walk in the Pride parade, join us on Saturday, June 7 beginning at 9 am for our annual church spring clean-up. We will be cleaning up the flower beds, planting flowers, and laying mulch. Bring your favorite gardening tools with you. If you don’t want to work outside, there are opportunities to clean up inside the church. Contact Roy Dreger or Jack Fitts for more information.

If you are in need of assistance while Pastor Kearstin is out of town at the UCC preaching camp in New England, please contact the church office or a member of the Board of Deacons.

Pastor

Rev. Kearstin Bailey

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Christian Ed Director

Mary Karlovec

www.fccalive.org

Music Director

Barb Habecker

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This Week's Events

Today	Worship service, 10:30 am (Carla Valles guest speaker)
May 17-23	Pastor Kearstin out of town
May 19	Women's book club, 7 pm
May 21	Choir practice, 7:30 pm
May 25	Worship service, 10:30 am
	Deacons meeting, after worship service



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