



Sunday February 16, 2025

UMC in Wayne

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Join us on Zoom: [Meeting ID: 823 9591 4126 Passcode: 092827](https://umcwayne.org/join)

PRELUDE

Called Me Higher

Parish Drive

WELCOME

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Blessed are those who trust - in God!

All: We come in trust, to be grounded in God's love.

Leader: Blessed are those who hope - in God!

All: We come in hope, trusting in the One who gives us life.

Leader: Blessed are those who delight - in God's Word!

All: We come to hear God speak, hoping for healing and joy.

HYMN

Come, We That Love the Lord

UMH #732

OPENING PRAYER *written by Ted Loder*

**Gentle me, Holy One, into an unclenched moment,
a deep breath, a letting go of heavy expectancies,
of shriveling anxieties, of dead certainties, that,
softened by the silence, surrounded by the light,
and open to the mystery,
I may be found by wholeness,
upheld by the unfathomable,
entranced by the simple,
and filled with the joy that is you.
Amen.**

THE BASKET

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess what we are afraid to face, Blessing God, that the seductions of this world gnaw away at our hearts. We have more and more to choose from at the market, and so we forget those whose only choice is hunger. Our sense that we are your favorites causes us to make fun of those we are convinced are not. We are so consumed with saving enough for the future, we overlook those who have so little this day.

Forgive us, Heartbroken God, for thinking we are the center of your world. Pour your living water into us, so we might send down roots deep into your heart, and so become those people who are blessings to others, as we have received the gift of new life from Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Silent reflection...

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Blessed are you: for God forgives you and restores you to new life. Rejoice in this day and dance for joy!

All: Thanks be to God! Our faith is true, and our hope is grounded in the promises of the One we can trust not only on this day, but in every day to come. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Luke 6:17-26

He came down with them and stood on a level place with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And everyone in the crowd was trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

“Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

“Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

“But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

“Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

MESSAGE

On Level Ground

SONG

Be Not Afraid

see insert

PRAYERS OF JOY AND CONCERN

The Lord's Prayer

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, forever. Amen.

WORSHIPING GOD THROUGH OUR GIVING

OFFERTORY

Give Thanks

***Give Thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son. X2***

***And now let the weak say "I am strong;" let the poor say, "I am rich"
Because of what the Lord has done for us. X2***

Doxology

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.***

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

You pour out your abundance on us, Loving God, as we can alleviate the sufferings of others, turn their woes into blessings, and their emptiness into overflowing grace and life. Take the gifts we offer and use them in the work of your new life which is in our midst. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Give thanks with a grateful heart. Give thanks.

*** CLOSING HYMN**

Trust and Obey

UMH #467

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

THE ECONOMY OF JESUS WEEK 5 – FILL MY FUTURE WITH VISION

When Jesus say's "Blessed are you who weep now," and "Woe to you who are laughing now," he is talking to each listener, each reader. Each person is being addressed in their own individual circumstance, each in their own moment in time. Poor – Rich, Hungry – Full, Weeping – Laughing.

Our lives are complicated, and most of us will fit into both of these categories — blessing and woe — in different respects. To the extent that we find ourselves in need, or in despair, or left out, Jesus brings us words of blessing and encouragement. To the extent that we find ourselves in prosperity, or satisfaction, or privilege, Jesus brings us words of challenge, exhorting us to share God's blessings with our neighbors, and with all of creation.

In what ways are you comforted by the blessings?

In what ways are you challenged by the woes?

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ANNOUNCEMENTS February 2025

CALENDAR OF EVENTS February 17th – 23rd

Monday February 17th

AA mtg @ 7:30pm in Fellowship Hall (Room 8)

Tuesday February 18th

Karate @ 5pm in the underground

Wednesday February 19th

Bible Study @ 12pm in Fellowship Hall BYO Lunch

Karate @ 5pm in the underground

Thursday February 20th

Karate @ 5pm in the underground

Christian Meditation in the French Chapel

Friday February 21st

Friday Morning Prayer @ 7pm on Facebook

Sunday February 23rd

Worship @ 10am

Jubilation Ringers @ 11:15

Reminder Jubilation Ringers Rehearsal today after service!



Lenten Soup Sale



Our annual soup sale during Lent begins on Sunday, March 9 and will continue until April 13. Sign-up sheets for soup makers are on the bulletin board in the narthex. Containers are provided.

As in the past, there will be delicious varieties of soups to purchase each week at a bargain price of \$5 per pint. All are welcome to support the sale by preparing or purchasing these savory soups! Questions? See Anita Dispenziere or Lyn Sentkowski



New Community Garden

As the temperatures are in the single digits, we start to hope for warmer weather.

Spring will be here before we know it!

A season of growth and new beginnings, and a new garden!

We would like to start a **community garden** on our church property! We are looking for folks interested in planning, building, planting and any other ideas you have to offer. We would like to call it “**The Garden of Eatin’**”

If you are ready, willing and able to help, please email Pastor Ninabeth at pastorninabeth@gmail.com.

The words and music in our liturgy, hymns, and songs are by:

Come, We That Love the Lord. CCLI Song # 4175854 Aaron Williams | Broughton Edwards |

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UMC in Wayne

Sermon Series for Lent

THE HARDEST PART

Hurt we carry & Hope we find

Joy and sorrow, big wins
and even bigger failures.

Lent is one of those rare seasons where we get to stop pretending things will suddenly get better, *instead*, we hold space for life's fragility - and let God meet us there, right in the middle of it all!