

**LOL! Living Out Love:
The Heart of the Gospel**

February 16, 2025

*Please stand as you are comfortable
† UMH ~ United Methodist Hymnal (hard cover hymnal)
‡ FWS - The Faith We Sing (soft cover hymnal)

Announcements and greetings

*The assembly responds or joins in unison when our text is **bold**.*

Centering Words:

God has known us, loved us, and been with us since before we first drew breath. Sink into the arms of Love this day and trust the hand that holds you.

Prelude

“Praeludium ex F”

Scheidemann

Call to worship:

Come, let us gather in the presence of God whose love is patient and kind.

We come to worship God who loves us with an everlasting, unending love.

Open yourself to the one who knows you well.

God affirms us, even when we fail.

God's Word of love is ours to proclaim.

Let us worship the God of love and may that love fill our hearts and overflow into the world. Amen.

*Opening Hymn

What Wondrous Love is This

† UMH # 292

1.

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

**What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.**

2.

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

**What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of life
to lay aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,
to lay aside His crown for my soul.**

3.

**To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb, I will sing.**

**To God and to the Lamb who is the great "I AM,"
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme, I will sing.**

4.

**And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and through eternity I'll sing on.**

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 292
Words: USA folk hymn
Music: USA folk hymn;
harm. by Paul J. Christiansen, 1955
Harm. © 1955,
renewed 1983 Augsburg Publishing House
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Opening Prayer: In Unison

Wrap us in the arms of your love, Holy One, for we need to feel your healing touch. As we gather to worship you this day, humble our hearts, teach us patience, and touch us with kindness. Open our eyes, that we may see ourselves as you see us. Open our hearts to your Spirit of gentleness, that our words may be true, and our love may be pure. Bind us in a love that does not fail or fade, that we may bear all things, believe all things, and hope all things in your love, which never ends. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: **Lamentations 3:22-33**

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Psalter: **Psalm 85** Responsively with Sung Response

† UMH page 806

Musical Response

**The glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together.**

¹ Lord, you showed favor to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

² **You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you pardoned all their sin.**

³ You withdrew all your wrath;
you turned from your hot anger.

⁴ **Restore us again, O God of our salvation,
and put away your indignation toward us!**

⁵ Will you be angry with us forever?
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

⁶ Will you not revive us again,
that your people may rejoice in you?

⁷ **Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.**

Musical Response

⁸ Let me hear what God will speak,
for the Lord will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to the Lord in their hearts.

⁹ **Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear the Lord,
that glory may dwell in our land.**

¹⁰ Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

¹¹ **Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.**

¹² The Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.

¹³ **Righteousness will go before the Lord,
and make God's footsteps a way.**

Musical Response

Special Music

First Methodist Brass

New Testament Reading: **Colossians 3:13-17**

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Gospel Reading: **Luke 6:27-36**

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**

Hymn of Preparation

Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here

UMH # 579

1.

**Lord God, Your love has called us here, As we, by love, for love were made.
Your living likeness still we bear Tho' marred, dishonored, disobeyed.
We come, with all our heart and mind Your call to hear, Your love to find.**

2.

**We come with self-inflicted pains Of broken trust and chosen wrong,
Half free, half bound by inner chains, By social forces swept along,
By powers and systems close confined, Yet seeking hope for human kind.**

3.

**Lord God, in Christ You call our name, And then receive us as Your own,
Not thro' some merit, right, or claim, But by Your gracious love alone.
We strain to glimpse Your mercy seat, And find You kneeling at our feet.**

4.

**Then take the towel, and break the bread, And humble us, and call us friends.
Suffer and serve till all are fed And show how grandly love intends
To work till all creation sings, To fill all worlds, to crown all things.**

5.

**Lord God, in Christ You set us free Your life to live, Your joy to share.
Give us Your Spirit's liberty To turn from guilt and dull despair
And offer all that faith can do, While love is making all things new.**

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 579
Words: Brian Wren, 1973
Music: CAREY'S SURREY; Henry Carey, ca. 1723;
harm. from *The English Hymnal*, 1906
Words © 1977 Hope Publishing Co.
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Message



Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession: In unison

Source of truth and love, we come before You, confessing that we have not always lived out the love You call us to embody. Your Word teaches that love is patient and kind, yet we have been impatient and harsh. Your love is faithful and unfailing, yet we have withheld love from those who need it most. Forgive us, Lord, for the times we have spoken with eloquence but lacked love. Have mercy on us, O God. Wash us anew in Your love that never fails. Teach us to love as You love—patiently selflessly, and without condition. Renew our hearts so that we may be known by our love and reflect the grace of Christ in all we do. In the name of Jesus, who loves us with an everlasting love, we pray. Amen.

Let us pause for a moment of quiet confession.

Words of assurance:

Rejoice in the good news: God knows us and loves us as we are. God's love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, and endures all things.

Invitation to the Offering

Please submit your offering as you feel led by placing it in the plates on the altar railing, or text your gift to 833-756-0325, or on our website: www.elyriafirstumc.org.

Offertory

First Methodist Brass

Offertory Prayer: In Unison

Gracious and loving God, receive our gifts of self and substance. They have belonged to you since our very beginning. We give them freely, joyfully, and prayerfully. With them we praise you. With them we celebrate the great power that is love—a love that always abides, a love that radically transforms, a love that makes us whole. Amen.

*Closing Hymn

Lift Every Voice and Sing

♯ UMH # 519

1.

**Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on till victory is won.**

2.

**Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died; yet with a steady beat,
have not our weary feet come to the place for which our people sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered.
We have come, treading our path thru the blood of the slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the bright gleam of our bright star is cast.**

3.

**God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the way,
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light; keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand, true to our God, true to our native land.**

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 519

Words: James Weldon Johnson, 1921; Music: J. Rosamond Johnson, 1921
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Please be seated for closing announcements and the Benediction.

Benediction: Responsively

Go forth, celebrating faith, hope, and love.

We go forth to be the transformed people that God calls us to be.

Reach out with love that transforms the world.

Love is patient and kind. Love rejoices in all that is right.

Let the Scripture be fulfilled by your faithfulness.

God's Word will be in our mouths, and God's love will warm our spirits.

Go forth, strengthened by the Spirit, to live out the love of the Gospel.

We go with God.

Postlude

"Allein Gott in der Höh" sei Her

Pachelbel

Worship Participants

Preaching: Rev. Tennille Power

Liturgist: Kristen Jones

Media: David Wilm

Musicians: Kingsley Wood, Jack Roberts, and the Chancel Choir

Sound room: Neal Hubbard

Ushers and Greeters: Bill Buga, Roger and Janice McFrederick, and Mike Zahnke

Each week, this service is broadcast live on the radio station WEOL 930 AM/100.3 FM. Today's radio broadcast is sponsored with money given for our radio ministry. Thank you to those who donate which allows us to continue our radio ministry as we share God's love with the radio audience and the community.

The altar flowers are sponsored by Charlotte Carlson in loving memory of her husband Henry's February 14th heavenly birthday and mother Bessie Hutchinson's February 19th heavenly birthday.

If you are interested in joining our church family, please call the church office at 440.322.6622 or email our pastor at tennillep@elyriafirstumc.org.

If you have any pastoral needs or prayer concerns, please call the church office, 440.322.6622.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

312 Third Street, Elyria, Ohio 44035 440.322.6622

www.elyriafirstumc.org

An equal opportunity provider

Praeludium ex F by Heinrich Scheidemann. ***"Allein Gott in der Höh" sei Her*** by Johann Pachelbel. All songs are performed under license # 73591.

Third Street Review



February Mission focus:

February 16, 2025

First United Methodist Church

312 Third Street, Elyria, Ohio 44035

Phone: 440.322.6622

Email: church@elyriafirstumc.org

Save Our Children

The program provides on average 95 children in grades K-12 in Elyria with a safe place to go after school. Their mission is to enhance literacy, foster academic excellence, and nurture leadership skills among the vulnerable youth in our community. They have adopted areas of focus called the 5 Pillars. These include academic skill-building, social emotional learning, health and wellness awareness, community engagement, and college & career readiness.

You may give on-line via our website: elyriafirstumc.org or submit a check to: **Elyria First United Methodist Church**, indicate SOC on the memo line. Thank you for your generosity!

**"While I know myself
as a creation of God,
I am also obligated to realize
and remember that everyone else
and everything else
are also God's creation."**

~Dr. Maya Angelou

Free Hygiene Store

Our Free Hygiene Store, which is open to community residents, is a continuing success and our shelves need replenishing. We served an additional 3 families last month. We are grateful to be a helping hand to those in need! We are grateful for your continued support of this much needed ministry. Our needs for February include:

- **Cleaning Supplies** (glass, bathroom, and toilet bowl cleaners)
- **Paper towels & Toilet paper**
- **Kids Toothbrush and toothpaste**
- **Shampoo & Conditioner** (dry shampoo too)
- **Body Lotion**
- **Laundry & Dish Soap**
- **Women's and men's Body wash, Deodorant, and Razors**
- **Baby wash and lotion**

We thank those who generously give to this outreach arm of our church! Please place these items in the box located on the main level. Bless you! Join us next **Saturday, Saturday, February 22nd** from **10 am-12 pm** if you would like to volunteer.

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that."

~Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Community Breakfast

Each Sunday, our Community Breakfast outreach serves on average 125 people a week. We are grateful for our faithful volunteers and those who cheerfully give to this much needed ministry. We are always in need of plastic bags and cutlery that are used weekly. Please contact the church office if you are interested in helping us serve in this vital ministry. If you want to donate plastic bags and cutlery, please bring them, and drop them in the donation box located on the main level. Let's continue our work in 2025!

Fellowship at the Village

Join Pastor Tennille and residents at the Wesleyan Village for lunch in the Rose Room on **Tuesday February 25th** at **12 noon**. We gather once a month to have fellowship and chat about what's happening in our church, community and in our lives. Plan to join us!

Happy Tuesdays

Tuesdays are our time for fellowship, fun and lunch! Our traditional **Happy Hour** is on the **2nd and 4th Tuesdays** at **noon** in the **Fellowship Hall**. Here a meal will be prepared, and we welcome all to come and fellowship! On the **1st and 3rd Tuesdays**, we will gather as **BYOL-Bring Your Own Lunch** with fun and fellowship supplied!

Happy Hour ~ February 11th and 25th

BYOL ~ February 4th and 18th

***“The love of the family,
the love of one person can heal.
It heals the scars left by a larger society.”***

~Dr. Maya Angelou

Open Sponsorship Dates

Altar Flower dates:

March 2 and 9

Cost **\$22**

Radio Broadcast dates:

February 16 and 23

Cost **\$300.00 full, \$150.00 half**

Or you can contribute any amount to our Radio Fund!

Please call the church office at 440.322.6622 to reserve your special date!

Ash Wednesday Service

Mark your calendars and plan to join us for the Ash Wednesday service on **March 5th at 7:00 pm** in the **Chapel**.

Scripture readings for the week:

Sunday, February 16: **Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20;
Luke 6:17-26**

Monday, February 17: **Psalm 120; 2 Kings 24:18-25:21; 1 Corinthians 15:20-34**

Tuesday, February 18: **Psalm 120; Ezra 1:1-11; 2 Corinthians 1:12-19**

Wednesday, February 19: **Psalm 120; Jeremiah 22:11-17; Luke 11:37-52**

Thursday, February 20: **Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; Genesis 43:16-34; Romans 8:1-11**

Friday, February 21: **Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; Genesis 44:1-17; 1 John 2:12-17**

Saturday, February 22: **Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; Genesis 44:18-34; Luke 12:57-59**

Sunday, February 23: **Genesis 45:3-11, 15; Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40;
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50; Luke 6:27-38**