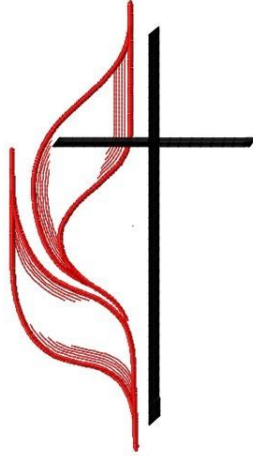


Elm Grove United Methodist Church



May 21, 2023

7th Sunday of Easter

Welcome

Prelude

Anita Chops

Gathering Words

Leader: Visions disturb us in the night, depicting a world where God breaks down the barriers that separate us and keep us apart— barriers that alienate us from one another and from ourselves. God's visions disturb our complacency. Thanks be to God.

*Call to Worship

Leader: The One who loves without distinction calls us here.

All: From the highest heavens to the deepest ravine, let all creation praise the LORD.

Leader: The One who loves us calls us into God's future.

All: From the rising sun to the waning moon, let all creation praise the LORD.

Leader: The One who loves us calls us still.

All: From the new heaven and new earth, let all creation praise the LORD.

*Hymn

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

UMH #103

*Opening Prayer

Gracious and loving God, you meet us where we are.

As we gather in this place, may our hearts be open to hear your voice, may our eyes be open to see your glory, and may our minds be open to perceive the word you have for each of us.

We gather together from many walks of life, but we are unified as one heart in the body of Christ.

Holy Spirit, speak to us, guide us, and fall gently upon us, we pray. Amen.

*Statement of Faith

UMH #883

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the church: to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Sharing Joys & Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

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.

Offering of Gifts, Prayers, & Tithes

Special Music

"To You, O LORD, Be the Glory"
Chancel Choir (11:00)

by L. Larson

Presentation of our Gifts

*Doxology

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

UMH #95

*Prayer of Dedication

God of mystery, you promise us a life of blessedness, if we learn to love one another as you have first loved us.

May the gifts we offer you today, be a sign of our commitment to see beyond our narrow perspective as we learn to love one another with your all embracing vision. Amen.

*Hymn

"God Is So Good"

TFWS #2056

Epistle Lesson

Acts 11:1-18

Message

"Plenty of Room"

Rev. Debra Dague

Prayer of Confession

Teach our hearts to love, O God, as you would have us love.

Teach our eyes to see, Holy One, as you would have us see.

For we are constantly drawing distinctions, that separate others into friends and foes, insiders and outsiders.

You would have us love without prejudice.

You would have us accept without judgment.

You would have us truly learn to love.

Make your home among us, that we might be made one and whole. Amen.

Words of Assurance

The One who made heaven and earth dwells among us to bring us love and life.

Let us Praise the LORD our God, for the One who loves us is faithful.

*Hymn

"I'll Fly Away"

TFWS #2282

*Sending Forth

As we leave this place, may we know that our worship is only beginning; may we love others as God has first loved us.

In all that we see, hear, and take into our hearts, may the love of Christ be with us, now and forever.
Amen.

*Postlude

Anita Chops

"The United Methodist Hymnal" © 1989

"The Abingdon Worship Annual 2013" © 2012

"The Abingdon Worship Annual 2016" © 2015

MISSION OF THE MONTH

The House of the Carpenter

**Peanut Butter
&
Jelly**

You may drop your donation at the church during regular office hours or Sunday mornings.
Monetary donations are always welcome,
just mark the memo line of your check "Mission Group".

Shepherding News!!

There will be a Shepherd Team meeting with Pastor Deb
on June 4th at 10:00am, in the back of the sanctuary.

If you are interested in the shepherding team, please join us!



VBS Coming
July 17-21
9:00am – 12:00pm
Grades K-5

Adult & Teen Help Needed!

1st meeting is May 23rd @ 6:00pm



**The United Methodist Men will meet the 1st Saturday of every month,
beginning June 3rd at 9:00am.**

**Meetings will be held in the Old Fellowship Hall,
coffee & donuts will be provided.**

**All men of the church are welcome to attend & participate.
For more info, contact Bill Daniel at 304-231-7545.**