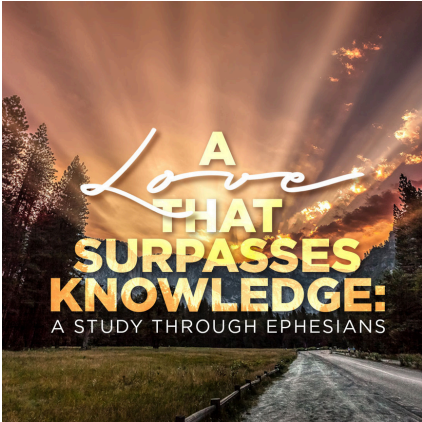


Gay Street UMC

Experiencing God through Worship, Spiritual Growth, Care, and Service



Sanctuary, February 23, 2025

An Army of Sacrificial Servants
and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.
- Ephesians 3:19

Welcome to Gay Street UMC!

Ways to stay connected; our website: www.gaystreetumc.org, Facebook, or by signing up for eDevos—our weekly newsletter with devotionals, prayer concerns, and events.

- **Office Hours:** Monday–Friday, 8am–3pm | **Phone:** 740-392-6626 | **Email:** office@gaystreetumc.org
- **Restrooms:** Located at the rear of the sanctuary or through the parlor.
- **Hearing Devices:** Available upon request from an usher.
- **Prayer Concerns:** Share on green cards in pews and place them in the offering plate or give to the pastor.

Sermon Notes:

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Altar Flowers today are given to the glory of God by by Montez Morey on behalf of the finance committee; 2 Corinthians 9:7 says, "For God loves a cheerful giver." In grateful recognition of your continued generosity and support, we THANK you.

Upcoming dates to remember:

TODAY–C.R.E.W. going to Scene75 in Columbus for laser tag. Leaving after 10:45am service!

**Hoping to be back around 4/5pm.*

–March 2nd, Pastor Dale is having a brief ‘Ushers Meeting’ in the back of the Sanctuary immediately following the 10:45 worship service.

–March 3rd, Piece Corps at 10am.

–March 4th, Church Council at 7pm.

–March 5th we will be having 2 Ash Wednesday Services; 1pm & 7pm.

–March 7th, Care Team at 11:30am.

THANK YOU:

Thanks for the many expressions of care and prayer since receiving my diagnosis. Your words of encouragement have been appreciated. We put each day in the Lord’s hands and do all we can to make the most of it. Treatment has begun and, so far, we are tolerating it without side effects. Praise God, **Pastor Mearle.**

I am so grateful for all of your kindness and support during my illness and recovery. Your cards, phone calls, texts, visits, and beautiful prayer shawl have meant the world to me, bringing me comfort and encouragement during a difficult time. Thankfully, I am improving each day and hope to be back worshipping in church soon. With heartfelt appreciation, **Tom Fish.**

Thank you church family for purchasing the much needed articles of clothing for the students at Pleasant Street School. They were very grateful for the donations that I dropped off last week. Yet another mission to reach out and help those in our community in need. In HIS Service, **Gayle James.**

- **New Member’s Class:** Begins February 23rd, 12pm-1:15pm in the Kurella Room; runs every Sunday until March 16th. Contact the office to sign up.
- **Bible Study:** Led by Pastor Christopher on the Gospel of John, March 12th – April 16th, 6:15pm-7:30pm in the Varsity room. Book cost: \$14.50; contact the office to order.
- **Kingdom Kids Activities:** Choir from 9:30am-9:45am and Sunday School from 9:45am-10:30am every Sunday in the blue room.
- **Wednesday Fellowship:** Join for food and fellowship at 5:30pm in Fellowship Hall.
- **Youth Bible Study:** Led by Logan on the 3rd floor, Wednesdays from 6:15pm-7:30pm.
- **Community Service Opportunities:** Available on the website under the service tab.
- **Worship Volunteer Needs:** Positions include Liturgist, Lay Readers, Ushers, Live Stream, and Sound Board teams. Contact the office to help.

Our Mission

To make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the World.

*The *asterisk is an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Christopher Liberati

PREPARATION

Prelude *Psalm 30*, by Jane McFadden Wesley Ringers

Opening Prayer–All Uniting Liturgist: Wayne Dunlop
In the beauty of this place, we have come to pray, to worship, to receive healing and hope. We come from the struggles and triumphs of the week, needing to feel the soothing presence of God. Lord, be with us this day. Calm and soothe our souls. Cause us to rejoice that you have provided a special place where we may gather to talk of your presence and love; to sing your praises; and to be empowered to go forth to serve you. AMEN.

*Gathering Hymn *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* UM Hymnal 526

***CALL TO WORSHIP (congregation: please refer to the bold text)**

L: How wonderful it is to be in a dwelling place for God!

C: The refreshing springs of God’s love cleans and restore us.

L: There is a place here for everyone. No one is turned away.

C: The least and the lost; the homeless and hopeless are always welcome in God’s house.

L: Praise to God who invites and shelters us all.

C: Praise to God who heals and sends us forth to serve. AMEN.

Invitation to Children Rev. Christopher Liberati

Children’s Song-congregation *Where Children Belong*

Lyrics:

This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshipping throng. Water, God’s Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song: This is where children belong.

Children’s Message Logan Hines

INTO THE WORD

2 Timothy 2:3–4 Lay Reader: Jana Stewart

Ephesians 6:10–20

*Response to the Word *Gloria Patri* UM Hymnal 71

Message An Army of Sacrificial Servants Rev. Christopher Liberati

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Prayer Hymn *Be Thou My Vision* UM Hymnal 451

Morning Prayer
Lord’s Prayer–UM Hymnal 895

Invitation and Dedication for the Giving of Our Lives, Tithes, Gifts, and Offerings:
When we bring an offering to God, it is a form of worship. Worshipping God with giving of our money reveals our hearts desire. We give sacrificially, generously, and continuously as a way of ascribing value to who God is in our lives. As we do so, our love for God and others grow.

Offertory *Battle Hymn of the Republic* Chancel Choir
by William Steffe, arr. by Peter Wilhousky

*Doxology *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* UM Hymnal 94
*Prayer of Dedication

SENDING FORTH

*Hymn of Parting *Onward, Christian Soldiers* UM Hymnal 575

*Benediction

Postlude *Plenty Good Room*, arr. by Hart Morris Wesley Ringers

Serving in Worship:

Wesley Ringers Director: Mary Kepple

Chancel Choir Director: Terry Dunnavant

Live Stream: Carol Moore & Max Heindl

Sound: Carol Moore & Jassmine Bayless

Ushers: Lee Rhoades, Carol Navin, Susan Snyder, John Stone

Today’s altar is graced with “Cover with Love” quilts created by our Piece Corps ladies. The quilts will be blessed and sent to Midwest Mission for distribution to areas of the world in need.

Did you know?

One of our goals for this upcoming year is to become more intentional in our prayer life. Have a prayer request? Please fill out the green prayer cards located in the pews, place them in the offering plate, and they will be prayed over and shared with the pastors and/or congregation and/or care & connect team based on your request.

Consider lighting a candle at the kneeler at the beginning of this service while offering your prayers to God.

