



**Central United Methodist Church at Oak Point – service at 10:00 a.m.**

**April 21, 2024**

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**Preaching: Susan Scott – Certified Lay Speaker**

**Liturgist: MJ Strickland      Musician: Kyle Akin**

***We are a family of faith that invites everyone to share our walk with Christ***

*Service on Facebook:*

<http://www.facebook.com/MiddleboroMethodists>

**Centering Music:**

**Kyle Akin**

**Welcome:**

**MJ**

**Opening Prayer/ Call to Worship:** (in unison)

Lord, we come to worship you today with a spirit of gratitude. Your goodness is beyond compare. Your power is awesome, and without equal. Lord, forgive us when we fail to appreciate your glory. Secure us in Your perfect love. We repent of all our sin, and we are thankful for your grace. You offer healing for our brokenness. You offer comfort in our grief and sorrow.

Glorious Father, strengthen our faith this morning, and give us the courage to face the demands of each day, so that through our righteous living we might testify to your power and your love for all mankind. We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

**Responsive Reading: Psalm 72 (MSG)**

*Leader (L) reads first. Congregation (P) reads the bold type.*

L: "We thank you, God, we give thanks;  
we call upon your name, we declare your wonderful deeds.

**P: You said, "I will choose the time;**

**I will judge fairly. Though the earth and all its inhabitants quake, I make steady its pillars."**

L: So I say to the boastful: "Do not boast!", to the wicked: "Do not raise your horns!

Do not raise your horns against heaven! Do not speak with a stiff neck!"

**P: For judgment comes not from east or from west, not from the wilderness or the mountains,  
But from God who decides, who brings some low and raises others high**

L: But I will rejoice forever; I will sing praise to the God of Jacob,

**P: [Who has said:] “I will cut off all the horns of the wicked,  
but the horns of the righteous will be exalted.”**

**Hymn: UMH #577 “ God of Grace & God of Glory” (v. 1, 2 & 3)**

1 God of grace and God of glory,  
on your people pour your power;  
crown your ancient Church’s story,  
bring its bud to glorious flower.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
for the facing of this hour,  
for the facing of this hour.

2 Lo, the hosts of evil round us  
scorn the Christ, assail his ways.  
From the fears that long have bound us  
free our hearts to faith and praise.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
for the living of these days,  
for the living of these days.

3 Cure your children’s warring madness;  
bend our pride to your control;  
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,  
rich in things and poor in soul.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage  
lest we miss your kingdom’s goal,  
lest we miss your kingdom’s goal.

**Children's Message: *Who Do You Know?***

**New Testament Reading: Acts 4:5-12** New American Bible

**Peter & John Before the Sanhedrin** [after healing the crippled man outside the temple gate]

<sup>5</sup> On the next day, their leaders, elders, and scribes were assembled in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup> with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly class. <sup>7</sup> They brought them into their presence and questioned them, “By what power or by what name have you done this?” <sup>8</sup> Then Peter, filled with the holy Spirit, answered them, “Leaders of the people and elders: <sup>9</sup> If we are being examined today about a good deed done to a cripple, namely, by what means he was saved, <sup>10</sup> then all of you and all the people of Israel should know that it was in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead; in his name this man stands before you healed. <sup>11</sup> He is ‘the stone rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone.’ <sup>12</sup> There is no salvation through anyone else, nor is there any other name under heaven given to the human race by which we are to be saved.”

**Apostle’s Creed:** *(in unison)*

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic**

**church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. AMEN**

**Hymn: UMH #620      One Bread, One Body**

***Refrain***

One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless.  
And we, though many, throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.

1. Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man no more.  
One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless.  
And we, though many, throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.
2. Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all.  
One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless.  
And we, though many, throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.
3. Grain for the fields, scattered and grown, gathered to one for all.  
One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless.  
And we, though many, throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.

**Sermon:                      “One Name”                                      Susan Scott, Certified Lay Speaker**

**Special Music: Kyle Akin**

**God Moments: Joys and Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer:**

**The Lord’s Prayer:**

**The Sacrament of Communion -**

Holy Communion Invitation:

**Leader:** Christ our Lord invites to His table all who love Him and seek to grow into His likeness.  
Let us draw near with faith, make our humble confession, and prepare to receive this Holy Sacrament.

Confession and Pardon

**All:** Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole hearts. We have failed to be obedient and have not done your will. We have rebelled against you and ignored the promptings of the Spirit. We do not presume to come to your table trusting in our own goodness, but in your unfailing mercy. We are not worthy that you should receive us, but give us your word and we shall be healed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**L:** Hear the good news – Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God’s love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**P:** In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

The Great Thanksgiving

**L:** The Lord be with you.

**P:** And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

**P: We lift them up to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

L: It is right and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**P: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

L: In his life, Jesus exemplified a life of love poured out in suffering and passion, even unto death, that others might live. He delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took the bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks, gave it to his disciples and said, "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." And so in remembrance we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**P: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

L: O Lord, pour out your holy spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to the world, until Christ comes in final victory.

**PARTAKING OF THE BREAD AND CUP:**

*A great feast is prepared for us— the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ.*

**PRAYER (after receiving Communion - in unison)**

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery, in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your spirit, sharing the abundance which we have been given, and telling others the good news of salvation through your life, death and resurrection.**

**Tithes and Offerings / Doxology (UMH #95):**

*Heavenly Father, please accept these tithes, gifts and offerings brought forth this morning for the good of Your kingdom and the continuance of Your soul-saving work.*

**Announcements:**

**Closing Hymn: UMH #154 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name (v.1,2,&4)**

1. All hail the power of Jesus' name, let angels prostrate fall.

Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all.

Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all.

2. Ye chosen seed of Israel's race, ye ransomed from the fall,  
Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all.  
Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all.

4. Let every kindred, every tribe on this terrestrial ball,  
to Him all majesty ascribe and crown him Lord of all;  
to Him all majesty ascribe and crown him Lord of all;

**Blessing and Dismissal:**

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*Birthday Wishes*

**April 18-** Dave Dextraze  
**April 28-** Nancy Emerson

**May 2-** Shirley Parker  
**May 10-** Sherri Vanston  
**May 18-** Jody Battistini

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>-** Ham and Bean Supper from 5:00-6:30pm Donations welcome, see Jody  
**Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup>-** Mother's Day  
**Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>-** Worship with our friends at Oak Point  
**Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>-** Memorial Day  
**Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup>-** UMW Meeting after worship service

**\*We are collecting for another Saver's run so bring in your household items, soft goods, and books. If you have any questions or need help, see Jody Battistini (508-947-8285).**

## LAY SERVANT SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Preaching</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Usher</u>	<u>Counter</u>
4/21/24	Susan Scott	MJ S	Bill G	Bill G	MJ S
4/28/24	Linda Merritt	Paul B	Olivia F	Susan R	Bob R
5/5/24	Sandy Sweet	Susan R	Donna T	Paul B	Susan R
5/12/24	Susan Scott	Paul B	Nancy E	MJ S	Paul B

**Thank you for worshipping with us at Central United Methodist Church.**

*Come as a stranger, leave as a friend.*

### Ministry Team

**Rev. Neil (Sandy) Sweet**, Coordinating Pastor, Elder [sandypadre@aol.com](mailto:sandypadre@aol.com)

**Ann Burnham**, Certified Lay Minister [Tedann84@verizon.net](mailto:Tedann84@verizon.net)

**Dave Dextraze**, Certified Lay Minister [Ddextraze1@comcast.net](mailto:Ddextraze1@comcast.net)

**Susan Scott**, Certified Lay Speaker [susiscott@aol.com](mailto:susiscott@aol.com)

**Paul Battistini**, Certified Lay Minister, Team Leader & Emergency Pastoral Care:  
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