



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

April 28, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Preaching: Linda Merritt, Certified Lay Servant

Liturgist: Paul Battistini Musician: Kyle Akin

Streaming Coordinator: Rick Velez

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 Aiken

Ringing of the Bell:

Welcome:

Paul Battistini

Opening Prayer:

All

We gather today, Lord, to worship you and thank you for all our blessings. We especially thank you for Jesus--the vine who welcomes us all as , branches who work together to share your love with all the world. Help us to be fruitful branches to bring glory to your name. AMEN

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 22: 25-31

UMH #753

Hymn:

"O Worship the King" (vs 1,3 &4)

UMH #73

New Testament Reading:

1 John 4: 7-21

God's Love and Ours

⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

¹³ This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. ¹⁷ This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹ And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

Gospel Reading: *John 15: 1-8* (*Please stand if you are able*)

The Vine and the Branches

¹⁵ "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes^[a] so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

Youth Ministry Message: "*Do You Have a Connection*"

Linda

Hymn: "Fairest Lord Jesus" **UMH #189**

Sermon: "A Tale of Three Vines"

Passing of the The Peace:

Special Music: **Kyle Akin**

God Moments: (Joys & Concerns) **Paul Battistini**

Pastoral Prayer: **Linda Merritt**

The Lord's Prayer: **All**

Sharing Our Gifts: (*Our Tithes and Offerings*)

Doxology: **# 95 UMH**

Unison Prayer: God, we have been made in your image. So, in your generosity, make us generous. In your faithfulness, make us faithful. Gracious God, use this money and all that we have for the building up of your work in this church and the wider world, for your glory. Amen.

Announcements: **Paul Battistini**

Closing Hymn: "Sent Forth by God's Blessing" **UMH #664**

Benediction: **Linda Merritt**



Birthday Wishes

April 18- Dave Dextraze
April 28- Nancy Emerson

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

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
Ann Burnham, Certified Lay Minister Tedann84@verizon.net
Dave Dextraze, Certified Lay Minister Ddextraze1@comcast.net
Susan Scott, Certified Lay Speaker susiscott@aol.com
Paul Battistini, Certified Lay Minister, Team Leader & Emergency Pastoral
Care: cell: (774) 766-2390 paul_batt@hotmail.com

OFFICE:

14 School Street, Middleboro, Ma 02346
Email: middleboromethodists@verizon.net
Website: middleboroumc.com Church
FB page: www.facebook.com/MiddleboroMethodists

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Saturday, May 4th- Ham and Bean Supper from 5:00-6:30pm
Sunday, May 12th- Mother's Day
Sunday, May 19th- Worship with our friends at Oak Point
Monday, May 27th- Memorial Day

****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

Date	Preaching	Liturgist	Greeter	Usher	Counter
4/28/24	Linda Merritt	Paul B	Olivia F	Susan R	Bob R
5/5/24	Paul Battistini	Susan R	Donna T	Paul B	Susan R
5/12/24	Susan Scott	Paul B	Nancy E	MJ S	Paul B
5/19/24	Dave Dextraze	MJ S	Bill G	Bill G	MJ S