



Bad Axe First United Methodist Church
 Fifth Sunday of Easter
 April 28, 2024

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him, bless his name! For the Lord is good.
 Know that the Lord is God! It is he that made us and we are his.
We are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

***OPENING HYMN**

“Come, Thou Almighty King”

UMC Hymnal, 61

Come, thou almighty King, help us thy name to sing, help us to praise!
 Father all glorious, o'er all victorious, come and reign over us, Ancient of Days!

Come, thou incarnate Word, gird on thy mighty sword, our prayer attend!
 Come, and thy people bless, and give thy word success; Spirit of holiness, on us descend!

Come, holy Comforter, thy sacred witness bear in this glad hour.
 Thou who almighty art, now rule in every heart, and ne'er from us depart, Spirit of power!

To thee, great One in Three, eternal praises be, hence, evermore.
 Thy sovereign majesty may we in glory see, and to eternity love and adore!

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Apostles' Creed

UMC Hymnal, 881

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 sitteth 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.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM 10:00AM

“Where Love Is”

Choir

ANNOUNCEMENTS, please register your attendance using the clipboard nearest to you.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE 10:00AM Children are invited for the junior music program in the fellowship hall.

***HYMN**

“Where Charity and Love Prevail “

UMC Hymnal, 549

Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found;
 brought here together by Christ's love, by love are we thus bound.

With grateful joy and holy fear true charity we learn; let us with heart
 and mind and strength now love Christ in return.

Forgive we now each other's faults as we our faults confess;
and let us love each other well in Christian holiness.

Let strife among us be unknown, let all contention cease;
be Christ the glory that we seek, be ours his holy peace.

Let us recall that in our midst dwells God's begotten Son;
as members of his body joined, we are in him made one.

Love can exclude no race or creed, if honored be God's name;
our common life embraces all whose Maker is the same.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Acts 8:26-40

²⁶ Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south^[a] to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷ So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸ and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹ Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." ³⁰ So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" ³¹ He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³² Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. ³³ In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." ³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶ As they were going along the road, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?"^[b] ³⁸ He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip^[c] baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 22:25-31

UMC Hymnal, 753

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will pay before those who worship the Lord.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied;

Those who seek the Lord shall praise the Lord! May your hearts live forever!

All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;

and all the families of the nations shall worship before the Lord.

For dominion belongs to the Lord who rules over the nations.

All who sleep in the earth shall bow down to the Lord.

All who go down to the dust shall bow before the Lord, and I shall live for God.

Posterity shall serve the Lord;

each generation shall tell of the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn.

Surely the Lord has done it.

EPISTLE LESSON 1 John 4:7-21

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of

the world. ¹⁵ God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶ So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹ We love^[a] because he first loved us. ²⁰ Those who say, "I love God," and hate a brother or sister are liars, for those who do not love a brother or sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹ The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

***THE GOSPEL John 15:1-8**

¹⁵ "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes^[a] to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed^[b] by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become^[c] my disciples.

SERMON

Eternal Life is...Love that God Is

Rev. Tim Callow

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY** *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***CLOSING HYMN**

"Blessed be the Tie that Binds"

UMC Hymnal, 557

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

We share each other's woes, our mutual burdens bear;
and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.

When we asunder part, it gives us inward pain;
but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

***BENEDICTION**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost be with you all, (and everyone said:), Amen.

An asterisk (*) indicates to stand if you are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE INVITE you to participate in our services which are held at 8:00am and 10:00am at 216 East Woodworth in downtown Bad Axe. **WE INVITE ALL THOSE LISTENING** to go to our church website, www.badaxefumc.org for the Order of Worship which provides the hymns, scripture readings, and full announcements. The sermon text & audio as well as weekly reflections of Pastor Tim's study are also posted.

THE ACT OF GIVING, IN THE FORM OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS, can be mailed to 216 East Woodworth, Bad Axe 48413, leaving them at the church office, or going to GIVE at www.badaxefumc.org

UNITED METHODIST MINISTRY SHARES (APPORTIONMENTS): One of the great things about the United Methodist Church is its support for spreading the Gospel throughout our area and world through giving. Our share of this United Methodist cause in 2024 is \$17,500. Please consider dedicating an offering to this cause by marking your offering **Ministry Shares**.

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTER are to celebrate the birthdays of Natalie & Rachel Breault, Brian & Duane Cubitt, and the anniversary of Duane & Doralyn Cubitt.

ANNUAL CHURCH GARAGE SALE - Saturday, May 4 from 9:00am until 1:00pm. Clean up to follow. We need lots of helpers, especially on Friday afternoon to set up and on Saturday during the sale and afterwards to clean up. Donations can be left in the fellowship hall.

ANNUAL PUB TRIVIA BENEFIT The Bad Axe Library is involved with Imagination Library that provides free books every month to children to the age of 5yrs to encourage a lifelong habit of reading and learning. The trivia benefit will be held on Friday May 3rd at Verona Hills Golf Club. The cost is \$25 per person. Each team has eight people. Let Andy Sommers (sommersai@sbcglobal.net or 989-315-1155) know if you wish to participate and teams will be set up. It is a fun social activity for church friends and worthwhile event.

THURSDAY COFFEE HOUR at 9:00 am in the Church dining room. Completely informal, all are welcome and coffee is provided. Let's take this chance to gather informally and visit. No agenda, just friendly fellowship.

THE ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST will be on Sunday, May 12th with made to order omelets and Jack's homemade biscuits. We'll start serving at 8:30. Men, we'll need your help.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM There is a new sign-up sheet by the south entrance for helping Cat with the children's program in May. If you are Safe Gatherings certified, please consider signing up for a Sunday. You will be impressed by our kiddos and their love for Jesus and knowledge!

TAKE THE CHURCH TO THE BALL GAME Great Lakes Loons Game, Faith and Family Night, Friday July 12. Gates open at 6:00pm, game starts at 7:05pm. Tickets are discounted to \$12.50 for box seats and \$9 for lawn. \$2 hot dogs, \$1 chips, \$1 ice cream sandwiches, and \$1 sodas. We have reserved a block of seats for that night. **If you wish to attend, pay the church office by June 23.** Transportation is on your own but carpooling is encouraged. Questions should be directed to Andy Sommers.

CAMP SCHOLARSHIP BAFUMC supports young campers by offering members up to 50% of the camp fee (max \$125) in a scholarship to help with the cost of attending a summer camp. Bay Shore Camp, as well as other Christian camps, offer wonderful opportunities. Campers are also encouraged to apply for camperships at the camp of their choice. Contact the office for more information about camp scholarships.

2024 THELMA ALLEN SCHOLARSHIP We are accepting applications for the Thelma Allen Scholarship. The deadline for applicants is May 5. Applications are available at the entrances and on line. Applications can be emailed, mailed, or dropped off to the Church office. Any questions related to the scholarship application can be directed to the Church office.

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| ATTENDANCE | Jan-Mar Average: 69 | Last Sunday: 81 | Goal: 86 | |
| GIVING | Jan - Mar Actual \$45,153 | Jan-Mar 2024 Budget \$58,914 | March Giving \$10,408 | March Expense \$19,487 |

SERVING THE LORD TODAY: Worship Leader: Altar Guild: Margaret Dean **Sound Booth:** Justin Straight **Ushers:** Jeff Krohn and Brandon Krohn

Church Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9AM to 2PM office@badaxefumc.org 989-269-7671
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The remaining announcements do not need to be read as they are posted on the website and on the overheads at the beginning of service.

BABY PANTRY accepts donations of baby blankets, burp cloths, diapers, baby clothing, etc. Baby Pantry is located at the former Green Elementary School and is open the second and fourth Thursday of the month from 10:00-3:00pm.

A FAMILY CHILD CARE ROOM is located at the back of the church down the stairs. If you need assistance, please ask an usher. Ushers are seated by the entrances and will be happy to assist you.

HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES ARE AVAILABLE by asking the sound booth attendant in the back of the sanctuary or an usher. They are sanitized after every use.

ALL ANNOUNCEMENTS need to be given to the office on the Tuesday prior to the Sunday Service.
BAFUMC.Prayer.Request@gmail.com: Send a prayer request or join the prayer chain.

GrowingAndSharing@gmail.com: Use G&S email to sign up to receive Church news & announcements for events and services or to send news & announcements to the church family.

Ministers
Rev. Tim Callow
Dawn Cubitt
Cat Hilgers-Emard
Lynn Schmitt
Kevin Cook

All God's People
Pastor
Office Manager
Music Director
Organist
Pianist