



May 5, 2024  
Signs & Wonders

## GATHERING

Music for Gathering

Welcome

Hymn: *Here I Am, Lord* UMH 593

## SEARCHING

Scripture: Exodus 3:1-4

Praise Music

Message: Pay Attention to God

## RESPONSE

Communion (see insert)

Prayers of the People

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 each day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation and deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever, Amen.*

## SENDING

Hymn: *What Wondrous Love Is This*

UMH 292

Good Words

## SCRIPTURE

Exodus 3:1-4

*3 Moses was taking care of the flock for his father-in-law Jethro, Midian's priest. He led his flock out to the edge of the desert, and he came to God's mountain called Horeb. <sup>2</sup> The LORD's messenger appeared to him in a flame of fire in the middle of a bush. Moses saw that the bush was in flames, but it didn't burn up. <sup>3</sup> Then Moses said to himself, Let me check out this amazing sight and find out why the bush isn't burning up.*

*<sup>4</sup> When the LORD saw that he was coming to look, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!"*

*Moses said, "I'm here."*

*May God add a blessing to the reading, hearing and understanding of scripture.*

---

Notes:

The wilderness is where people create \_\_\_\_\_ for God.

Being \_\_\_\_\_ for God.

Welcome \_\_\_\_\_.

Be \_\_\_\_\_.

---

*This week I will lift prayers...*

For those raised by Countryside:

- Verna
- Nelda
- Phyllis
- Sue Patz
- Unnamed Request

For those raised by Shepherd:

- Elizabeth Domahidy
- Kimberley Hinz
- Carlos Baragas
- Kendall LaLone
- Elliot
- Ryan Noyes
- Tabber Bushy
- Sarah Ayris
- Knox Jack Anson
- Cora Johnson
- Darci Draper
- Howard Parkhurst and family
- Shane, Sarah Ayris's friend
- The family of Amber VanOrden

For those raised by Trinity:

- Beverly and family
- Sky
- Garrett
- Dominic
- Sapphire
- Al
- Emily
- Mark

For peace

For healthcare workers

For the LGBTQ+ community

For those we are missing

---

*This Week at SUMC*

Today, 5/5:

10am - Worship

Monday, 5/6:

10am - Food with Friends

Tuesday, 5/7:

7pm - Finance

Wednesday, 5/8:

10am - Food with Friends

10am - Bible Study

4:15pm - Generations @ *Countryside*

5pm - Soup Supper

Friday, 5/10:

10am - Food with Friends

Next Sunday, 5/12:

10am - Worship

---

*Looking Ahead*

Thursday, 5/16:

SPRC

Tuesday, 5/21:

Quilters

---

*May's Mission*

Water for Life Liberia

This project helps provide rural communities of post-war Liberia with clean and safe drinking water and sanitation by constructing wells and proper toilet facilities within communities and schools and sets up community structures and leadership that will supervise and coordinate the wells and toilets.



May 5, 2024

107 W Wright Ave  
Shepherd, MI 48883

Office: 989-828-5866

Pastor's Cell: 989-621-4992

---

[shepherdumcmi.org](http://shepherdumcmi.org)

You can sign up for our newsletter, check on events, and share your gifts. An electronic connection card can be found at [shepherdumcmi.org/connect](http://shepherdumcmi.org/connect).

[facebook.com/shepherdumcmi](https://facebook.com/shepherdumcmi)

Remember to like and subscribe to receive notifications!

[youtube.com/@SUMCmi](https://youtube.com/@SUMCmi)

Sunday worship is broadcast live and archived on our YouTube page!

## Holy Communion

<https://maryblashill.com/category/communion-liturgy/lenten-communion-liturgy/>

### Invitation

The sacrament of Communion is one of those “thin places,” where we might see and know God in a more intimate way. Jesus invited his disciples, just as we are invited in this moment, to “remember” through the sharing of the bread and cup: remember the love poured out for us, remember the sacrifice made for us, and remember the gift of the Spirit given to us. These elements are taken into our bodies, minds, and spirits so we might experience our Creator in new and transformative ways. Everyone is welcome to the table. Come and eat and feel the presence of God!

### Confession and Pardon

**On this Communion table, O God, I place all that I am. With humility, I acknowledge the me who is gentle and kind, slow to anger, and easy to please. With honesty, I admit to the me who is short-tempered and defensive, wanting my own way, and difficult to please. With true self-reflection, I recognize the me who was not Jesus for my neighbor, refused to be who You made me to be, and ignored Your call to act. For these things and in all the ways I fall short, I am truly sorry. Say the Word, Lord, and your grace and mercy will wash me clean. With Your help, I will choose to have the heart of Jesus and be his hands and feet in my family, my community, and in my world. Amen.**

Hear the Good News! Jesus, who knows you and loves you, forgives all your short-comings and embraces you.

**Hear the Good News! Jesus, who knows you and loves you, forgives all your short-comings and embraces you.**

### The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

In the beginning, God danced through the universe, bringing light to the darkness, form to the void, and separating the water into earth and sky. Divine life was breathed into the plants and creatures; Man and Woman received God's touch and love was born between the Holy One and humans.

The Garden held only joy and delight if the couple surrendered to God's will for them. But temptation slithered into their hearts and the freedom to choice became their undoing. Rejected from God's kingdom, a life of toil and sweat, pain and suffering for all of humankind was the cost of their decision.

And so cast out, but not abandoned by God, the couple became a family, and families became clans, and clans tribes;

People trying to survive amid turmoil, jealousy, and murderous rage.

Time and again humans turned from the way of God until God destroyed creation by the waters, save one family.

Noah, listening and obeying God's instructions, built an ark, a floating Eden, another chance to experience God's kingdom.

Humans are a stubborn lot, however, seeking the goal of their own happiness and pleasure, while ignoring the desires of God.

Despite all of God's attempts to save humanity from themselves, peace and harmony seemed out of reach for God's people.

Never giving up, God became human.

Born into humble beginnings, God, through Jesus, experienced the fullness of earthly life.

He knew the glory of a sunset, the relief of laughter, the deep sorrow of loss, and the frustration of being misunderstood.

He told stories of compassion, forgiveness, and justice; he loved his enemies, ate with sinners, healed minds, bodies, and souls, and gave completely of himself to all who believed in him.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**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.**

Fear and anger, however, once again stilled the voice of God.

Betrayal put in motion events that would end the life of this man of God.

Knowing what was ahead, Jesus gave his disciples, and all who followed, a gift: a celebration of remembrance, a way of experiencing Jesus in the here and now.

At that first table, Jesus took bread, the food that had feed so many during his ministry, and he broke it, just as his body would be broken, and he gave it to his friends, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, full of the sweet and sour juice of the vine, and made the ordinary into the extraordinary by saying, "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.”

At this meal, Jesus surrendered his heart.  
In the garden, Jesus surrendered his body.  
On the cross, Jesus surrendered his soul.

And now, we surrender ourselves  
as a holy and living sacrifice,  
in union with Christ,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

Through the mystery of faith,  
we eat this bread  
and drink this juice,  
keeping alive the spirit of Jesus  
within us,  
and remembering his love  
poured out for us.

With our Creator God,  
our friend, Jesus Christ,  
and our Comforter, the Holy Spirit,  
We honor the covenant to love  
those difficult to love,  
to forgive  
those difficult to forgive,  
and to act with kindness  
even when not inclined to do so.

May God's peace make a home in you  
now and forever.

**Amen.**