

**FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**Sunday, April 20, 2025**

**Easter Worship Service 11:00 a.m.**

*Pastor: Rev. Gerald Gammon (234) 424-3444*

*Director of Music: Karen Fumerola*

*Organist: Barbara Edwards*

(\*Please stand, if you are able, at each asterisk.)

**Welcome to our Sunday service. Please use the time during the Prelude to prepare yourself for worship in quiet reflection and prayer and allow others to do the same. We also ask that you refrain from conversation during our service. Please silence cell phones during the service.**

Prelude "Christ Arose" *Robert Lowry*  
(Lighting of the Candles) (Organ/Piano)

Greeting  
Pastor: "The peace of Christ be with you." Rev. Gerald Gammon  
People: **"And also with you."**

Welcome and Announcements

Let us begin our worship today:

Choral Introit "Worship Christ, the Risen King" *Henry Smart*

\*Call to Worship: *Sheryl Cozad*

Leader: Lord Jesus, our Risen Lord! We celebrate Your defeat over death!

People: **Glory to You, Lord Jesus!**

Leader: God incarnate, we rejoice in Your promise of Eternal Life!

People: **Glory to You, Lord Jesus!**

Leader: Glorious Savior, we are washed clean of our sin through Your holy blood!

People: **Glory to You, Jesus! Redeemer, Savior, we worship and praise You with God the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever. Amen.**

\*Hymn #367 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

\*Unison Invocation:

**Blessed are we to receive pardon from the Lord! Christ has died and risen for us! Glory to God in the highest! For His people are free from the debt of sin, and we forever glorify the Lord! Praise and honor to the Triune God. In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

\*Gloria Patri #813 "Glory Be to the Father"

Baptisms (See Insert) Phil, Nicole, and Phillip Graham  
Anthem "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" *Becki Mayo*

Joys and Concerns/Time of Silent Prayer/The Lord's Prayer (debt and debtors)  
Prayer Response "Three-fold Amen"

Offering Prayer/Giving of our Tithes and Offerings  
Offertory (choir) "Easter Anthem" *Lyra Davidica/Anne Herring*  
\*Doxology #815 "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Hymn #45 "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

Scripture **Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24** (pg. 565-566 O.T.) *Sheryl Cozad*  
Scripture **1 Corinthians 15:19-26** (pg. 176-177 N.T.)  
Gospel **John 20:1-18** (pg. 114-115 N.T.)  
All Sing (After Gospel is announced) "Celtic Alleluia" *Fintan O'Carroll & Christopher Walker*

Pastor: "This is the Word of our Lord"  
All: **"Thanks be to God."**

Sermon "Blessed Are We That Believe" *Rev. Gerald Gammon*  
Communion in unison

\*Hymn #368 "He Lives"

\*Benediction/Final Blessing

Choral Response "He Is Risen" *Henry Smart*

Postlude "Christ Arose" (refrain)  
(organ/piano)

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NOTE: Scripture readings are from NRSV Bible

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Easter 4/20/2025

Please call the church office or fill out a prayer card if you would like to put someone on the prayer chain or prayer list.

**Thought for the week: : I have been saved by the Lord. How do I show my appreciation?**

**Next week:** Liturgist/Lay Reader: Sharon Longworth

**Breakfast:** Thank you to Sharon Longworth and all that helped provide us with our breakfast fellowship today!

**Easter Lily:** Please remember to take home your Easter lilies after the service today!

**Ladies Luncheon:** Ladies are invited to attend the monthly luncheon held at Eat-N-Park. This month's luncheon will take place on April 22nd at 12:30. Please come join in the fun and fellowship!

**Congregation Appreciation Service and Banquet:** Remember that next Sunday we will hold a very special Sunday service to honor our congregation, to be followed by a banquet meal at DiVestes!

**Today!** Please welcome Phil Graham, Nicole Graham, and (Lil) Phil Graham as they have come to us to be baptized into the family of our Lord!

**Floating Five Balance:** \$2,698.55

	4/6/25	4/13/25	4/20/25	4/27/25
<b>Attendance</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>24</b>		
Benevolence				
Building Fund	\$ 50.00			
Current Expenses	\$ 930.00	\$180.00		
Floating Five	\$ 75.00	\$160.00		
Lilies	\$ 10.00	\$ 20.00		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,065.00</b>	<b>\$360.00</b>		

<b>March Income</b>	<b>March Expenditures</b>	<b>March Net</b>
<b>\$1,854.00</b>	<b>\$7,331.56</b>	<b>-\$5,447.56</b>

**Prayer List**

**Shut-in**

Ken Armstrong	Erika Gammon	Donna Beavers
Joanne Bode	Phil Graham	Ruth Gilbert
Terry Caddell	Marilyn Kolar	Dick Leiby
Becky Callahan	Denise Long	Marilyn Leiby
Jerry Currie	Peggy Marshall	Glenn Mark
Rodger Davis	Larry Mattison	Norma Patchin
Steve Doracin	Ted Paxson	
Arleen Duda	Joe Vugrincic	
Shirley Fabian	Layes Wood	
Phil Fletcher	Hailee	
Those affected by the conflicts throughout the world		

**IMPORTANT DATES**

Sunday, 4/20/25	Breakfast/Easter Service with baptisms & communion
Tuesday, 4/22/25	Ladies Luncheon @ Eat-n-Park 12:30
Wednesday, 4/23/25	Choir Rehearsal 12:30 p.m.
Sunday, 4/27/25	Congregation Appreciation Service/Luncheon
Wednesday, 4/30/25	Choir Rehearsal 12:30 p.m.

**ALL: I will, with God's help.**

Pastor: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

**ALL: I will, with God's help.**

Pastor: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

**ALL: I will, with God's help.**

Pastor: Let us now pray for Congregants to be baptized who are to receive the Sacrament of new birth who have renewed their commitment to Christ

Pastor: Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

**ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Open their hearts to your grace and truth.

**ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

**ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy church.

**ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.

**ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Baptism: I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor: Let us open our hearts and welcome Philip Todd Graham, Nicole Adelle Graham, and Philip Michael Graham into the Christian church by way of their baptism, vows and renewed state.

**ALL: Applause**

Prayer: All praise and thanks to you, most merciful Father, for adopting us as your children, for incorporating us into your holy Church, and making us worthy to share in the inheritance of the saints in light; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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**Thanks to those who ordered lilies. Please remember to take your lily home after worship today:**

- ◆ Dave, Tammy Boyle & Riley Davis in memory of Nicole Boyle, Riley's mother.
- ◆ Joanne Bode in memory of her parents, Herman & Pauline Bode; sister Kathryn Vugrincic; friend Mary Sabol, Aunt Esther and Aunt Dorothy
- ◆ Keith & Melanie Burger in memory of our parents
- ◆ Cheryl Copeland in memory of Nathaniel & Marguerite Parries
- ◆ Judy Fabian in memory of her father & sister
- ◆ Junior & Karen Fumerola in memory of son, Kurt; and our parents
- ◆ Pastor Gerry & Marian Gammon in memory of our loved ones
- ◆ Phil & Diana Graham in memory of our parents
- ◆ Virginia Neff in memory of her parents, Carl & Mary Ellen Ward; Chris, son and Gary, husband
- ◆ Wimer family
- ◆ In honor of Barb Edward, Junior & Karen Fumerola, Pastor Gerry, Nancy Hamrick, and Bob Lemasters

Pastor: Do you promise to follow and obey Him as your Lord?

**Congregants to be baptized: I do.**

Pastor: To congregation: Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these congregants to be baptized in their life in Christ?

**People: We will.**

Pastor: To Congregation: Let us join with Congregants to be baptized who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

Pastor: Do you believe in God the Father?

**ALL: *I believe in God, the Father Almighty. Creator of heaven and earth.***

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**ALL: *I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty; from thence he will come to judge the quick and the dead.***

Pastor: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**ALL: *I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.***

Pastor: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

**ALL: I will, with God's help.**

Pastor: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

**THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER.**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

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

**ALL: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

(Blessing of the water)

**CONSECRATION OF THE CHRISM**

**PRESENTATION OF PHIL, NICOLE, AND PHIL GRAHAM**

Pastor: Phil, Nicole, and Phil, is it your desire to be baptized?

**Congregants to be baptized: It is.**

Pastor: Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

**Congregants to be baptized: I renounce them.**

Pastor: Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

**Congregants to be baptized: I renounce them.**

Pastor: Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

**Congregants to be baptized: I renounce them.**

Pastor: Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Savior?

**Congregants to be baptized: I do.**

Pastor: Do you put your whole trust in His grace and love?

**Congregants to be baptized: I do.**