

MINISTER: Every Member of This Church
PASTOR: Rev. Paul C. Reissmann IV
SECRETARY: Jackie Spagnuolo
ORGANIST: Marilyn Noffke
CUSTODIANS: Mike McCartney, Michael Helmic
LITURGIST: Kay Barcroft
AUDIO: Tony Barcroft
VISUAL: Shelly Reiser
GREETER/USHER: Tom Reiser

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- There is a Choir Call-Down during worship today. All are welcome to sing! All you need is your voice, a hymnal and a joyful spirit!
- April's Noisy Offering will be collected next Sunday for the benefit of Ionia Area Hospice. Ionia Area Hospice is an independent, local, nonprofit hospice providing the utmost in compassionate, meaningful end of life care. Prayerfully consider giving next Sunday, your change could change a life.

Upcoming Events

Tue 4/23	Belding Adult Education Class – JR/SR High Classroom	9 am – 12 pm
	Finance Committee – Lounge	7 pm
Wed 4/24	Belding Adult Education Class – JR/SR High Classroom	9 am – 12 pm
	Rev. Paul's Bible Class – Lounge	5:30 pm
	Honeybee Fitness Class – Fellowship Hall	6:30 pm
Thu 4/25	Community Respite/Support – Lounge	1-4 pm
	Community Dinner – Fellowship Hall	4-6 pm
Sun 2/28	Sunday School	9:30 am
	Worship – Noisy Offering	10:30 am



Welcome!


Central
CHURCH
 A UNITED METHODIST MINISTRY

Keeping Christ Central

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 Paul Reissmann



CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Worship Celebration – 10:30 am

4th Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Prayer

Holy and Gracious Christ, heartbeat of all creation, we search for you with each step we take in this creation you have created.

You are what has given rise to the waters and the skies, to the loamy soil and the plants that partake of its essence, to the crackle of flame and the soft footsteps of the deer in the woods.

You are our heartbeat too, Lord, that which sustains us with breath. We look for you in the catacombs of our souls as we look for you in your world.

Where are you absent, Lord? From the heights of heaven, you are there. In the depths of the pit, you are there.

You are stardust and blades of grass to us, Holy One. Your grace knows no bounds.

Take us beyond the limits into your mystery, into clouds of unknowing that envelope body and soul. Help us to find our home in you, Amen.

WORSHIP WITH PRAYER AND SONG

*Hymn *Morning Has Broken* Hymnal 145

Choir Call-Down *How Great Thou Art* vs 1-3 Hymnal 77

Receiving New Members

Sharing of Praises and Prayer Requests

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Hymn *All Creatures of Our God and King* vs 1 Hymnal 62

*Dedication of Tithes & Offerings Hymnal 95

WORSHIP WITH THE WRITTEN WORD

Reading of Scripture: John 1:1-18

Liturgist: Words from the past made new for us today!

People's Response: **Thanks be to God!**

The Message *The First Bible: Logos & Light*

*Hymn *Shine, Jesus, Shine* TFWS 2173

BECOMING THE BLESSING

Benediction

Postlude

*Please rise in spirit or in body

In John's first chapter, the Greek word _____ is translated to English as "the _____." This is referring to ancient Greek _____.

For the Greek, the _____ is like a _____ or a _____ for everything in the material world. This is a radically different _____ of who _____ is.

Theologians from the Franciscan order of _____ would use John 1 and other similar verses in the Bible to place a greater _____ of value on God's _____.

For Francis, the _____ and _____, the birds of the air, the wolves of the forest, and the rest of _____ were brothers and sisters to _____.

Thus, God's loving _____ could be found everywhere, even outside of _____. This is what helped define him as a Christian _____.

John _____, founder of the _____ movement, would find commonality with Francis by means of prevenient _____. For _____, God's _____ was free and abundant for all _____ everywhere. Our response to that _____ initiates our _____ journey.
