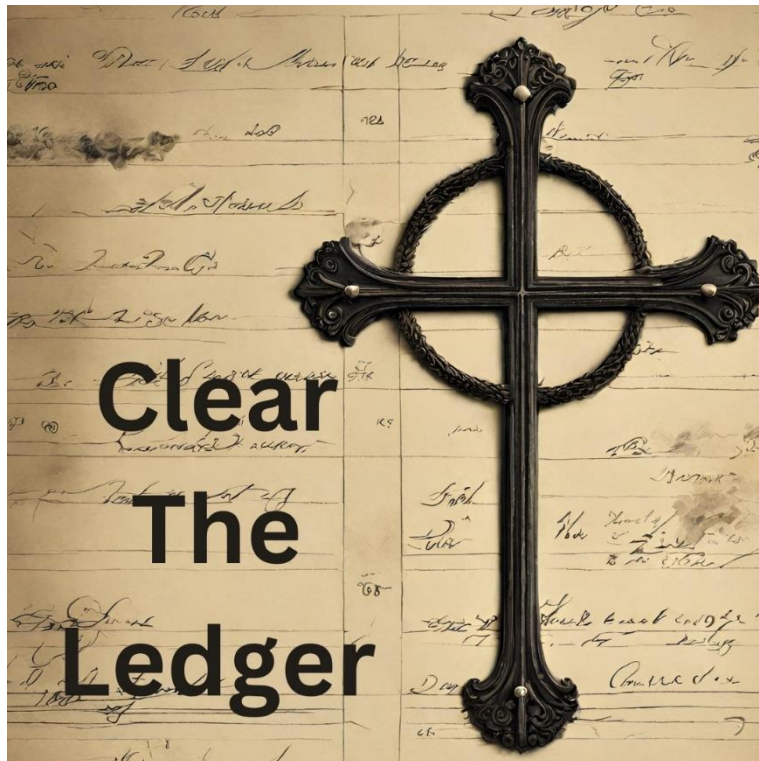


**CRESSKILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

March 17, 2024 10:00AM

Fifth Sunday in Lent



*Our Mission is to inspire seekers to follow Jesus
as we worship, learn and serve our community together.*

Rev. Dr. Kendall Moore, Pastor
Cheryl Woertz, Music Director
Julie Schmidt, Choir Director
Eileen Andriano, Office Manager

*Our worship service and music are produced, recorded, and streamed in accordance with:
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Welcome to Cresskill Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. We're very glad you've come to this service today and we pray our experience of worship here will renew and inspire you. If you are not familiar with our practices of worship, the following information may be helpful to you:

1. **Bold** print indicates that the congregation reads or sings aloud, in unison.
2. Please silence the ringers of your cell phone. Thanks!
3. Our hymnal is *The New Century Hymnal*, the black book in the pew rack.
4. If you are a guest with us, we invite you to fill out the Connection Card located with your Welcome Packet and place it in the offering plate in lieu of an offering.
5. Everyone is invited to join us after the service for an informal time of fellowship during our Coffee Hour.
6. If you have any questions about life at Cresskill Church or have needs of a personal nature, please speak to the pastor. We are happy to do what we can to help.

WELCOME

Praise God for this day and praise God for you! Thank you for joining us for worship at **your** Cresskill Congregational Church.

We pray that whether you are joining us in person or online, for the first time or 50th time, that you are welcome here with us as we seek the loving kindness of the Holy Spirit. After spending time with us here, we pray that you leave knowing you can breathe easy, because you are safe here. Keep your head up towards God because there's hope here, and that **God loves you just how you are, and there's nothing you can do about it!**

CALL TO WORSHIP *(read responsively)*

Reader: New life rises!

All: That which rises, must first fall and die.

Reader: Single grains merely remain as they are unless they are released to the ground.

All: The grains of the earth that fall will multiply and nourish.

Reader: Come, die to the self and live a life of service to the Living God.

All: And God will raise us up anew. Amen.

INVOCATION

God of grains and grace, we gather today seeking to follow in the way of Jesus. The path he chose for his disciples was one of service and it requires of us that we lay down

our desires, our ambitions, and serve you with our whole heart. May our worship this day inspire our dying and rising with you as we seek to love and serve like Jesus. May it be so. Amen.

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

God of love, we confess that our ego can all too often get in the way of our ability to serve you and others with our lives. Our false self is driven by our lack of trust in you to provide for our every need. We rely on our own strength. But, our true self can let go and be formed anew by your love. Forgive us our false ways and transform us and raise us to new life. Amen.

OPENING HYMN: "There Is a Balm in Gilead"

#553

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

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

OFFERING INVITATION

As yeast rises to create bread, so do the rising of our gifts multiply the love of God in the life of the world. Give of your treasure, whatever it may be, however large or small. And trust God will use it for the building of the kingdom of God that is emerging among us.

There are several ways by which the missions of the church can be supported:

- Offerings can be placed in the plate at the rear of the sanctuary at the end of service
- They can be mailed by check to the church address
- Or navigate to the church website at www.cresskillucc.org and Give via tithe.ly.

FOOD PANTRY DEDICATION *(read responsively)*

One: Join me now in our Food Pantry Dedication. Church family, we gather today to celebrate our faith and the love to which we share. For indeed, God has called us to be a people of love.

All: How do we do that?

One: By worshiping God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength and by loving our neighbor. Today we are reminded of those who are food insecure, whether in our communities or in places outside our reach. By sharing with those we can, through the Food Pantries, we participate in the larger generosity around our country and the world in our love for God.

We can be generous at other times; we can love others, especially those who won't or can't love us back. We can forgive freely, hold fewer grudges, affirm more willingly, and be an example of peace in our splintered, highly political and deeply divided lives. But there is more to what the Lord is telling us.

All: What more does the Lord require of us?

One: To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God.

All: Let us be as generous to them as God has been to us.

OFFERING OUR FOOD

One: Let us now bring our food offerings up and dedicate them to God, to our church and to one another. As you come forward to place your bags of food on the altar, we invite you to say these words,

All: "Lord, bless my offering."

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(read responsively)*

One: Please join me in our prayer of dedication.

All: We offer this food to you, O God, that those who receive it will be filled. We pray for those who are food insecure, who need such services to eat. Bless them with opportunities. Bless them with health. Bless them with care. Keep us mindful all day long of other ways we can help those who need more. Give us compassion, sympathy and a generous heart. Then, give us another opportunity to help. For we are an important way that you help others. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

CHORAL ANTHEM

A READING FROM SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 31: 31-34

SERMON: "Clear The Ledger"

Rev. Dr. Kendall Moore

CLOSING HYMN: "Alleluia"

Verse 1

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Verse 2:

He's my Savior...

Verse 3:

I Will Praise Him...

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

God's people, go out and nurture this world so that new life will rise. Let go of that which binds you to distraction and isolation. And look towards your days with the hope of a single grain multiplying into the abundance of God's joy and love. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

#780

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above you Heaven-ly host:
Creator Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Liturgy Adapted from **Single Grains: Service Prayers for the Fifth Sunday in Lent Year B**, written by The Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott, Conference Minister in the Indiana-Kentucky Conference.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This morning the lay leader is Glenn Woertz.

“Birthday” wishes this week Sally Bartlett- 18 and Patricia Dobish – 20.

Bible Study with Pastor Kendall continues this **Wednesday, March 20th** at 6:30pm.

Articles for the April newsletter are due to the office next **Monday, March 25th**.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Maundy Thursday Service and the Potluck Supper will begin at 6pm on **March 28th**.
The sign up sheet for the Potluck supper is in the social hall.

Our Annual **Easter Egg Hunt** will begin at 2pm on **Saturday March 30th**. Activities to follow include pictures with the Easter Bunny, face painting, crafting and more til 5pm.

The **Woman’s Book Club** is now reading “The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store” by James McBride. The group will meet on Tuesday, April 9th at 1pm in the social hall to discuss the book.



Did you know that the United Church of Christ has a program called 5 for 5? Here is what our denomination says about it:

“The success and sustainability of the United Church of Christ’s national ministries is relying on your church’s contributions to basic operating support and mission. Being 5 for 5 means that your church is a leader, providing support to Our Church’s Wider Mission and the Special Mission Offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen The Church, Neighbors In Need & The Christmas Fund.”

Our church includes Our Church’s Wider Mission in our yearly budget. Watch for information from the Board of Outreach on contributing to each of the four special mission offerings.

Strengthen The Church collection: coming up on May 15