

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER

+Indicates that all are invited to stand in body or spirit.
Congregation is invited to respond as indicated by **Bold Print**

PRELUDE *Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS -(PRACTICE TFWS #2182, V.1) *Pastor Doug*

BREAKTHROUGH SIGHTINGS

BREAKTHROUGH PRAYER (UNISON)
God, we do not know what to do, but You do. Open our hearts, eyes, and minds to You. Amen.

CENTERING TIME *Surely the Presence of the Lord*

+CALL TO WORSHIP *Joel T.*

Joel: Come, O people, and proclaim the good news:

All: "Christ is alive! He is risen and here among us!"

Joel: See with your eyes; reach out with your hands.

All: With faith, we declare: "Our Lord and our God!"

Joel: Blessed are those who believe Jesus is Messiah.

All: Blessed are those who have life in Christ's name!

+OPENING HYMN *Christ Is Alive* UMH # 318

+OPENING PRAYER (UNISON): *Joel T.*

God of Life, the whole of Creation rings out with praise and thanksgiving to you. By your wondrous powers, Christ is risen, death has been defeated, and your great kingdom is coming into being. Through your Son, Jesus, we experience your presence made real. We see for ourselves what it looks like to love with all our hearts, and we know, by your grace, that there is more to our stories. Yet, we do not always recognize this in our own lives. Our eyes are clouded by confusion, our hearts weighed down by despair, and we fail to see signs of your faithfulness, even right in front of us. Forgive us, O God! Remind us once again of the good news of resurrection. Renew in us an openness to the evidence of your being among us and of all that you are doing, here and now. Help us to believe, seen or unseen, the fulfillment of your promises, that we might be blessed to live the possibilities of your reality for all people. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

+SILENT PRAYER

+SHARING THE PEACE

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *Pastor Doug*

+GOSPEL READING John 20:19-31 *Joel T.*

¹⁹ It was still the first day of the week. That evening, while the disciples were behind closed doors because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you." ²² Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you don't forgive them, they aren't forgiven." ²⁴ Thomas, the one called Didymus, ^[a] one of the Twelve, wasn't with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ The other disciples told him, "We've seen the Lord!" But he replied, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails, and put my hand into his side, I won't believe." ²⁶ After eight days his disciples were again in a house and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus entered and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side. No more disbelief. Believe!" ²⁸ Thomas responded to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus replied, "Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don't see and yet believe." ³⁰ Then Jesus did many other miraculous signs in his disciples' presence, signs that aren't recorded in this scroll. ³¹ But these things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, God's Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name.

SERMON **"The Believer"** *Pastor Doug*

Being open to the signs of God present among us

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *A Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada* UMH # 883

HYMN *When God Restored Our Common Life* TFWS # 2182

COMMUNITY PRAYER *Joel T.*

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH # 94

Wesley United Methodist Church

Worship Sundays 9 AM

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APRIL 27, 2025

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Joel T.

Almighty God, you continually enter into the closed, locked-up spaces of our lives, offering freely all that we would ever need to restore our connection and to reach out in faith, hope, and love. Thus, with joy and thanksgiving, we return to you a portion of what we have received. May our gifts and offerings be signs of our gratitude and an embodiment of your presence for others. Amen.

If you do not feel comfortable speaking your joy or concern aloud, please complete a prayer card and pass it toward the center aisle. Pastor will collect the cards as we sing the following hymn:

PRAYER HYMN *Come Now, O Prince of Peace (V.1) (3X)* TFWS # 2232

JOYS & CONCERNS
APRIL BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS | BIRTHDAY SONG

THE LORD'S PRAYER UMH # 895

+CLOSING HYMN *At the Front We Start Our Journey* TFWS # 2114

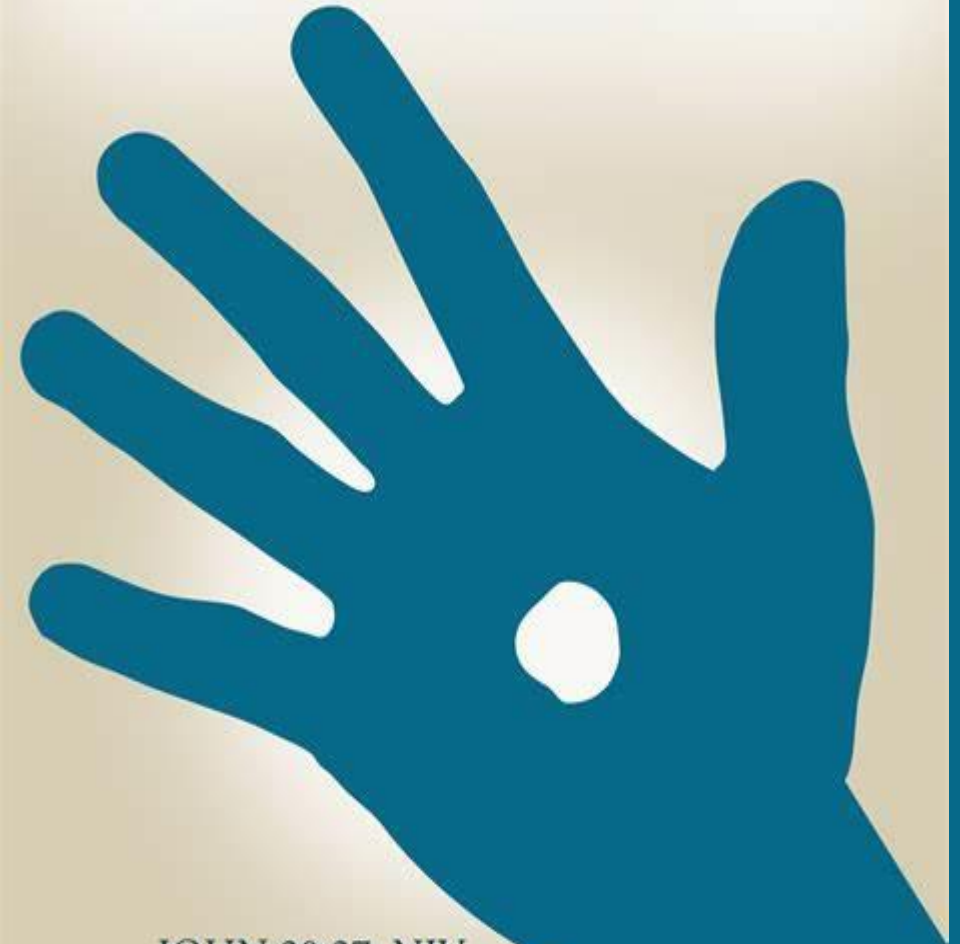
+BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Sent Forth by God's Blessing*

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

REACHING UP TO WORSHIP GOD | REACHING OUT TO SERVE OTHERS | REACHING IN TO GROW TOGETHER

“Stop doubting
and
BELIEVE.”



JOHN 20:27, NIV

ANNOUNCEMENTS



APRIL'S NOISY CAN

INGATHERING @ WISCONSIN ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025

Each year at Annual Conference, churches are asked to donate items and/or money to assist people in need (including those affected by war or disaster.)

Wisconsin Conference Mission Motivation Committee will be collecting specific items for *Personal Dignity Kits* and *Home Care Kits* on behalf of Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC). These kits will be distributed locally, nationally and internationally to those in need during time of crisis. All supplies are given free of charge regardless of gender, race or religion.

Our April Noisy Can collection will go to support this important outreach of our conference. The funds will be used by Midwest Mission to purchase specific supplies for the kits and to help fund shipping them to where they are most needed.

APRIL BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

- 03: LINDA P.
- 10: ARDIS A.
- 12: KELLY H.
- 14: ALEXA G.
- 15: STAN G.
- 15: KRISTINE L.
- 19: MARILYN S.-K.
- 19: KRISTIN V.
- 20: DOROTHY D.
- 22: PENNY M.
- 25: STEVEN R.
- 30: ROMELLE B.
- 30: MELISSA G.



This week's YouTube link for Sunday Worship Service

<https://www.youtube.com/live/sVzD92m7zyE>



Wesley's next opportunity to serve at SOS is **June 2nd through the 7th**. New volunteers are welcomed. Please see Jackie if you're able to volunteer!

LET'S PRAY THIS WEEK FOR OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS!

If you have a joy or concern let us know! wumcoffice@wesleyhopeconnection.org

JOYS: those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week (see announcement page). Share with us your joys so we may celebrate together and glorify our Lord for your blessings!

- For **Cheryl R.** who is home recovering from surgery.
- For **Jered** (son of Sharwin G.) who is recovering well from surgery.
- For **Allean F.** who continues to do better each day.
- For **Romelle B.'s** niece who gave birth to twins this past week.

CONCERNS:

- For **Craig J.** who is at home recovering from pneumonia.

For **HOMEBOUND:** Ruth S. Dorothy D. Shirley S. Ardis A.

OTHERS:

- For all those traveling this holiday season.
- For the **Roman Catholic Church** on the death of **Pope Francis**.

This week, we saw God "breaking through" ...

- ...in people speaking up for their neighbors.
- ...in the birth of new children and the gift of new life.