

Graduate SUNDAY



covenant
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

May 10, 2026 – 10am
Sixth Sunday of Easter
Senior Recognition Sunday

Covenant is an accepting, welcoming community sharing the glory of God's love with all.

PRELUDE

“Variations on How Firm a Foundation” arr. Linker

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: The One who knows our stories has called us together.

People: The One who provides living water, quenches our thirst.

Leader: There is room at this table for all the children of God.

People: God meets us at the well, strengthening us in truth and love.

Leader: Come let us worship the Lord.

*Please rise in body or spirit



*HYMN #462

“I Love to Tell the Story”

This text is drawn from the second part of a 50-stanza poem on the life of Christ written in 1866, during the author's recovery from a serious illness. The tune named for her first appeared three years later, and the composer was responsible for the creation of the refrain.

1 I love to tell the story
of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory,
of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story,
because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings
as nothing else could do.

2 I love to tell the story;
'tis pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it,
more wonderfully sweet!
I love to tell the story,
for some have never heard
the message of salvation
from God's own holy Word. (Refrain)

Refrain:
I love to tell the story;
'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.

3 I love to tell the story,
for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting
to hear it, like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory,
I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story
that I have loved so long. (Refrain)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, you know us better than we know ourselves.
You know the parts of us we boast about
and the parts of us we hope no one finds out.
We confess that we have fallen short in seeking you,
in loving our neighbor, and in caring for ourselves.
Forgive us O God.
Raise us up to new life,
that we may live into the sure and present hope of our risen Savior,
and no longer dwell in darkness.
Help us to see You and one another more clearly,
each day, forever and ever. Amen.**



(Silence for Personal Confession)

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

HYMN #750

“Goodness is Stronger Than Evil”



Recognizing that this text arose from the years of apartheid in South Africa adds depth and resonance to its already confident language. Yet these words can also be read as a summary of Christ's death and resurrection, the true basis of our hope that good will triumph over evil.

Goodness is stronger than evil;
love is stronger than hate;
light is stronger than darkness;
life is stronger than death.
Victory is ours; victory is ours,
through God who loves us.
Victory is ours, victory is ours,
through God who loves us.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord, be with you all. **And also with you.**

HYMN #188

“Jesus Loves Me”

TALK WITH CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION



THE FIRST READING

Psalm 42:1-5 (NRSVUE)



This is the good news we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved. **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL READING

John 4:5-42 (NRSVUE)

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

“Tell Us Your Story”

Rev. Taylor Barner

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER



Our Father who art in heaven... (Hymnal p. 35. We say "debts & debtors.")

SENIOR RECOGNITION

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING



OFFERTORY

"Quiet Faith" by Heather Sorenson

*DOXOLOGY #606

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**



*PRAYER OF DEDICATION



*HYMN #246

"Christ Is Alive!"



In 1968 Easter fell ten days after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., and this text was written to express an Easter hope while mindful of that terrible event. Buoyed by a triple-arched tune, it affirms the presence of a wounded, risen Christ with all who suffer.

1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

4 Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

2 Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.

5 Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

3 In every insult, rift, and war
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Reprise of "Christ is Alive!"

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Assisting in Worship Today:

Chris Stein – Liturgist

Matthew Phillips – Vocalist

Cherie Brooks – Director of Music

Katie Wynkoop – Organist/Pianist & Assistant Director of Music

Brian Biller – Media Production Specialist

Erin Wise – Director of Children's & Youth Ministries

Rev. Taylor Barner – Guest Preacher

CHANCEL FLOWERS



From Linda Van Aman and Family

Happy Mother's Day, on this the birthday of my mother, Chriss Yoeckel

THIS WEEK AT COVENANT

Bible Study - Wednesday at 1:00pm in the Lounge. Join Bible Study with the QR code.

Centering Prayer- Thursday at 8:30am in the Lounge

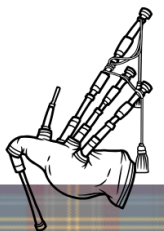


HERITAGE SUNDAY

May 17, 2026

Come hear the bagpipers and enjoy some shortbread cookies.

Remember to wear plaid or your tartan plaid.
Come celebrate after the 10:00 service with treats.



OUR GRADUATES



Charlie Cheng, son of Bo Cheng & Stephanie Webster-Cheng, Upper Arlington HS, attending The Ohio State University, majoring in Earth Sciences

Ethan Chung, son of Ed & Haiju Chung, Upper Arlington HS, attending Capital University, majoring in Criminology.

Katie Coakley, daughter of Lisa & Rob Coakley, Miami University, receiving BA in Psychology, minor in Spanish.

Sylvie Lederer, daughter of Pei An Chao & Jean-Etienne Lederer, Upper Arlington HS, attending Kenyon College, majoring in Biochemistry, minoring in History & Music.

Shelby Speas, daughter of Jenny & Dave Speas, Upper Arlington HS, attending the University of Cincinnati, majoring in Nursing.

Charlie Van Aman, son of Debbie & Scott Van Aman, Grandson of Linda Van Aman and Bernie & Sue Campbell, Miami University, receiving BS in Biology.

Natalie Wise, daughter of Erin & Michael Wise, Granddaughter of Pam & Rob Murphy, Miami University, BS Primary & Special Education.

CELEBRATING WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Tess Auseon-Zogby, granddaughter of Jeanie Auseon, Macarthur HS in Washington DC, attending NYU Tish School for the Arts.

Daniel R. Gajda, granddaughter of Patty Spare & Dick Lewis, Ohio University, with a degree in Finance & Marketing.

Mia Levensalor, granddaughter of Bob & Sandy Tullett, Maury HS in Norfolk, VA, attending the University of North Carolina Wilmington.

Elementary children on the playground
Sliding down the sliding board;
Swinging high and higher still
On the swing set: memories stored!

Middle school kids join the band,
Looking for an instrument to learn;
Trumpets, trombones, and we clarinets -squeaky to begin,
But quickly turn to music and praises earn!

Then came the brand new world of high school
So many interesting things to do;
Friendships carried on since childhood,
Cement themselves as lifetime true.

And now you've come to higher education,
One more step in your journey to complete!
Now it's time to start thinking of what your life holds
And what it will look like when you reach that peak!

Proudly step forward with both eyes ahead.
Reach for the stars that will light your way clear!
Learning is always a part of your life
So hang on tight and embrace all that's dear!

Sarah E Starr, Spring 2026

ALL are invited to a luncheon where guest and speaker Jean McCoard will be discussing and reading from her latest book, 'Backroads to Paradise'

May 13 11:30am

RSVP in person on Sunday mornings or call Estelle Scott



SHRED DAY

May 16th

9am-Noon

A suggested donation of \$5/per box or bag gladly accepted

VBS

JUNE 15-18, 9-11:30AM

PARTICIPATE

3 YRS - 5TH GRADE

<https://bit.ly/CPCVBS2026>



VOLUNTEER

RIISING 6TH GRADE & ABOVE

<https://bit.ly/CPC26VBSVOL>



Optional Dates:

Set up

June 13:

9 am-12 pm

Tear down

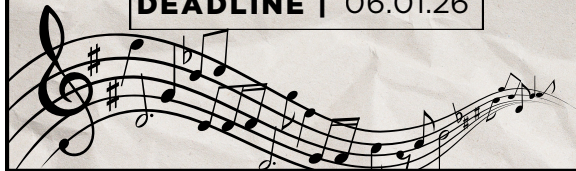
June 18: 11:30am

JEAN A. MORTLAND SCHLOARSHIP

Established in 2007 to honor her love of music, education, and faith, the Jean A. Mortland scholarship is awarded annually to support an individual pursuing degrees in music or theology who shows vocational excellence. Funded by her bequest and donations.

APPLY | BIT.LY/JAMAPP26

DEADLINE | 06.01.26



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