

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

March 3rd, 2024

Third Sunday in Lent

A Service of the Word and Holy Communion



Christ overturns the tables of the moneylenders / Oil painting / 1965

by Peter Koenig

St. Edward the Confessor's Parish Church, Kettering

The Catholic Diocese of Northampton, United Kingdom

Lo & Behold Bible Blog – "Christ clears the temple (John 2:13-17)"

<https://loandbeholdbible.com/2023/08/18/christ-clears-the-temple-john-213-17/>



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WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

"At its simplest, Lent is a season where you commit to a deeper holiness and more vibrant discipleship."
— George Sinclair---

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude – Adam Petrosino

***Call to Worship**

One: Into the house of God we are called to enter,

All: to worship and receive the gift of grace.

One: As we step towards this sacred space,

All: we acknowledge all that can distract or exploit.

One: God calls upon us to cleanse our houses of all that does not find its source in God's love.

All: Together we give ourselves in worship and right relations with our neighbor. Let us worship God.

***Gathering Prayer**

**O God of temples
and tables turned over,
we enter this sacred space
of worship
seeking your transformation
and healing.
Make us ready
for the kind of
turned upside down world
you are seeking
to build among us.
We have come
to this place of worship
to be changed,
so turn over our tables**

and make us whole.
In the name of Jesus
our Savior.
Amen.

*Gathering Hymn: NCH 195 - "On a Hill Far Away" ("The Old Rugged Cross")

Lenten Candle Liturgy Third Sunday in Lent

Meditation

Silent Time

One: As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain
of violence in the world and to the Earth.

(A candle is extinguished.)

Hymn: NCH 207 - Just As I Am vv. 1, 2, & 3

1 Just as I am, without one plea
but that your blood was shed for me,
and that you called inviting me,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

2 Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

3 Just as I am, you will receive,
will welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because your promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

Lenten Candle Prayer:

One: Let us pray:

Many: Draw us together in your love, O God. May our restless hearts not resist you, but continue
to search until they find their rest in you. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

A READING OF THE WORD

First Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

We continue during the season of Lent to turn to the covenants between God and the people in the selection from the Hebrew Scriptures. The reading in Exodus 20 focuses on the covenant at Sinai and the Decalogue, the Ten Commandments. The commandments teach that there is only one God, and the people are to worship no other gods. They are not to make idols, nor misuse God's name. God will show steadfast love "to the thousandth generation" for those who remain faithful, for God is the one who brought them out of their oppression in Egypt. Verses 8-9 teach that keeping the Sabbath is a way to honor God, and they are to remember it each week, for they were not allowed to rest when they were enslaved in Egypt. Verses 12-17 are about how to live in this new community: honor one's family, especially one's parents, and remain faithful in relationships. Don't lie, kill, steal—don't want what others have. This is the covenant: God will be their God, and to be God's people, they need to remember who they are, how to live with one another, and who they worship.

20 1 Then God spoke all these words, and said, 2 "I am YHWH who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

3 "Do not worship any gods except me!

4 "Do not make for yourselves any carved image or likeness of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters under the earth, 5 and do not bow down to them or serve them! For I, YHWH, am a jealous God, and for the parents' fault I punish the children, the grandchildren and the great-grandchildren of those who turn from me; 6 but I show kindness to the thousandth generation of those who love me and heed my commandments.

7 "Do not utter the Name of YHWH to misuse it, for YHWH will not acquit anyone who utters God's Name to misuse it!

8 "Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy! 9 For six days you will labor and do all your work, 10 but the seventh day is a Sabbath for YHWH. Do no work on that day, neither you nor your daughter nor your son, nor your workers—women or men—nor your animals, nor the foreigner who lives among you. 11 For in the six days YHWH made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that they hold but rested on the seventh day; this is why YHWH has blessed the Sabbath day and made it sacred.

12 "Honor your mother and your father, so that you may have a long life in the land that YHWH has given to you!

13 "No murdering!

14 "No adultery!

15 "No stealing!

16 "No giving false testimony against your neighbor!

17 “No desiring your neighbor’s house! No desiring your neighbor’s spouse, or worker—female or male—or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor!”

Psalm Response: Psalm 19 (Responsively)

Psalm 19 praises God for both God’s work in creation and in the law. Creation is orderly, and even the sun rises like a bridegroom ready for their wedding day. The sun was often associated with ancient deities and the psalmist links God to the sun, who lights and brings warmth, but also brings the law. As creation is orderly, so is God’s law. God’s teachings are more valuable than any worldly pleasure, and they are their own reward. But the psalmist knows they may stumble, they may have erred unknowingly, and they ask God to keep them safe from going astray. The psalmist concludes with the famous meditation of seeking God’s acceptance for their words and meditations.

19 1 The heavens herald your glory, O God,
and the skies display your handiwork.

**2 Day after day they tell their story,
and night after night they reveal
the depth of their understanding.**

3 Without speech, without words,
without even an audible voice,

**4 their cry echoes through all the world,
and their message reaches the ends of the earth.
For in the heavens the sun has pitched a tent.**

5 It comes forth with the grandeur of a wedding
procession,
with the eagerness of an athlete ready to race.

**6 It rises at one end of the sky
and travels to the other end,
and nothing escapes its warmth.**

7 Your law, O God, is perfect;
it refreshes the soul. Your rule is to be trusted;
it gives wisdom to the naive.

**8 Your purposes, O God, are right;
they gladden the heart. Your command is clear;
it gives light to the eyes.**

9 Holding you in awe, O God, is purifying;
it endures. Your decrees are steadfast,
and all of them just.

**10 They are more precious than gold,
than the purest of gold,
and sweeter than honey,
than honey fresh from the comb.**

11 In them your faithful people find instruction;
there is great reward in keeping them.

12 But who can detect one's own failings?

Forgive the misdeeds I don't even know about!

13 Keep your faithful one from presumption as well,
so that my faults never control me. Then I will be blameless
and innocent of a grave error.

**14 May the words of my mouth
and the thoughts of my heart**

**be pleasing in your sight, O God,
my rock and my redeemer!**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

This reading reveals that the power of God is revealed through the cross, according to Paul. The cross was the instrument of torture and death in the Roman Empire, but for those who believed in Jesus, it was also the symbol of eternal life, that the cross—that death itself—was not the end. The wisdom of God is not the world's wisdom. Paul declares that the "Jews call for signs"—in other words, their Jewish neighbors, in Paul's view, wanted proof that Jesus had resurrected, and "Greeks desire wisdom"—the Greek philosophers wanted to understand from a human point of view. Paul proclaims Christ crucified—which worldly wisdom cannot understand, but both Jewish and Greek believers could attain by faith in Christ. This might seem foolish to the world, but wiser than human wisdom to God.

1 18 For the message of the cross is complete absurdity to those who are headed for ruin, but to us who are experiencing salvation, it is the power of God. 19 Scripture says, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and thwart the learning of the learned." 20 Where are the wise? Where are the scholars? Where are the philosophers of this age? Has not God turned the wisdom of this world into folly? 21 If it was God's wisdom that the world in its wisdom would not know God, it was because God wanted to save those who have faith through the foolishness of the message we preach.

22 For while the Jews call for signs and the Greeks look for wisdom, 23 here we are preaching a Messiah nailed to a cross. To the Jews this is an obstacle they cannot get over, and to the Greeks it is madness—24 but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, Christ is the power and the wisdom of God. 25 For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Gospel Reading: John 2: 13-22

John's account of the Gospel differs greatly from the Synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) in that Jesus travels to Jerusalem early on in his ministry for the first time at Passover, enters the temple, and drives out the moneychangers with a whip of cords. In these verses of John 2, it appears that when Jesus calls the temple, "my Father's house," the other religious leaders present want a sign from Jesus. He tells them to destroy the temple and in three days he will raise it—a reference to his own death and resurrection, but those present refuse to believe the temple can be destroyed. This is

the temple that Herod had begun restoring, but was destroyed by the Roman Empire in the year 70 C.E. It is important for us to remember that while John's account purports to tell what happened in Jesus' day, John was most likely written around 90 C.E., well after the events of the destruction of the temple. John's account is trying to show how wrong the people were about Jesus, to prove his account of Jesus is the right one. It's interesting to note how many times in John's account the Jewish people demand signs, when it seems that the gospel account itself is all about proving who Jesus was, as if over-responding to that demand for a sign. It's important to look at these passages with a critical eye, in light of how John's account has been used to fuel antisemitism, and at the same time, recall the reforms Jesus brought to practice and religious life (and in all four accounts of the Gospels, Jesus did enter the temple and drive out the moneychangers).

2 13 Since it was almost the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

14 In the Temple, he found people selling cattle, sheep and pigeons, while moneychangers sat at their counters. 15 Making a whip out of cords, Jesus drove them all out of the Temple—even the cattle and sheep—and overturned the tables of the money changers, scattering their coins.

16 Then he faced the pigeon sellers: “Take all this out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a market!” 17 The disciples remembered the words of scripture: “Zeal for your house consumes me.”

18 The Temple authorities intervened and said, “What sign can you show us to justify what you’ve done?”

19 Jesus answered, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

20 They retorted, “It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple, and you’re going to raise it up in three days?” 21 But the temple he was speaking of was his body. 22 It was only after Jesus had been raised from the dead that the disciples remembered this statement and believed the scripture—and the words that Jesus had spoken.

Choir Hymn: NCH 202 – O God, How We Have Wandered

*Author: Kevin Nichols, 1980; Alt.
Tune: PASSION CHORALE (HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN)
Melody by Hans Leo Hassler, 1601
Harm. J.S. Bach, 1729
Choir: Bob Bucklew, Keith Konet, & Barbara Rossington
Accompanist: Adam Petrosino*

Reflection – “Jesus the Great Disruptor” - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

***Prayer of Response**

Creative Spirit, help us to think outside of the box the world has put us in.

Erase the lines that we have drawn. Draw the circle wider.
Color outside the lines. Pull back the veil that has us divided.
Remove the wall that creates binary thinking.
Open our hearts, our minds, our souls, to the inescapable love.
Help us always to be open to more and to shut out less,
for hate and fear keep us small, but love is always expanding us.
Amen.

***Hymn of Response: NCH 582 – “O God of Earth and Altar”**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

The richness of God’s love extends to all persons and in response to God’s abundant compassion, we are invited into a spirit of generosity so that God’s love may be known to the very ends of the earth. Let us give generously.

The Offertory – *Adam Petrosino*

***Presentation of Offerings – Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Blessing of the Gifts**

O God, whose richness is not found at the tables of those willing to exchange goods for the sake of acquiring earthly riches, but rather is found at the table of extravagant love for neighbor, we entrust these gifts to your care that they may abound in your steadfast love for all persons. Use them for the building of your beloved community here on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

***Call to Reconciliation**

At the center of the law is God's love - that divine nonsense shown in becoming human for our sake; that weakness for us which defeats the strongest powers. This love, this grace is of more value to us than all the stocks in our pension funds. Let us open ourselves to such love as we open our hearts to confess our sins to God.

***Prayer for Forgiveness**

You give us your commandments, Holy One, so we may have new life, but we continue to make the same old choices. Your love can anchor us when life threatens to overwhelm us, but we choose to cling to the slippery rocks of anger and bitterness. Your Word can strengthen us for every moment, but we listen to the foolish promises of the world.

Forgive us, Redeemer of our lives: may every word be shaped by your Word; may every thought be refined by your grace; may every deed be inspired by your Spirit, so we may tell everyone we meet of your work in us, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

-Silent Prayer-

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

One: When brokenhearted prayers replace piety, when we seek wholeness through the One broken for us, then we remember we are saved by God's powerful love.

**All: We are healed, to bring healing to our world;
we are strengthened in faith,
to become spent for others;
we are set free from our bondage to sin,
so we may become servants of Christ.
Thanks be to God. Amen**

**COMMUNION LITURGY
A CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Unison Invitation

**We remind one another:
Jesus welcomes everyone at this table.
No one is turned away.
If you seek God's presence, come and eat.
If you are hungry for this spiritual food, come and eat.
If you have questions and doubts, come and eat.
If you feel unworthy, come and eat.
This table is spread for all of us
that we each might experience
God's abundant and unconditional love.**

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The God of the Lenten journey be with you.

Unison: And also with you.

Leader: Open your hearts to God, heirs of the covenant.

Unison: We open them to the One who fills them with promise.

Leader: Let us lift glad songs to our exceedingly faithful God.

Unison: Our praise will resound among this congregation.

(Allow silence to speak for a few moments)

Leader:

“Walk before me “you whispered
to creation, God of the covenant,
and wonders beyond imagination sprang forth:
bees flitting from flower to hive,
planets spun from the gases of space,
elephants plodding through forests.
All this exceeding fruitfulness was offered
to those you shaped in your image,
that we might live in relationship with you,
but sin’s praises weakened our faith,
and we stood in awe of death.
Prophets came, calling us to set
our minds on all things divine,
but we turned a deaf ear
to their impassioned pleadings.
So you chose to send Jesus
to teach us your heart
by the way he lived and loved.

With those who find self-denial easy,
with those who find their cross too heavy,
we glorify you in these moments:

Unison:

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God who calls us by new names.
All creation praises your surpassing wonders.
Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who comes to us for our sake.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Leader:

As we remember Jesus’ ministry and death,
as we would seek to live for him,
we proclaim that mystery we know as faith:

Unison:

**Christ died, taking up his cross and following God;
Christ was raised, the covenant promise fulfilled;
Christ will come, declaring “God has done it!”**

***Table Prayer**

**Because our faith depends on your grace,
pour out your Spirit upon this feast
and those you welcome to the Table.**

As you nourish us with broken bread,
send us forth
to feed those who are poor until they are filled,
to clothe those who are naked until they are warm.
As you strengthen us
with the cup of grace,
we will take the hand of searchers
so, together, we may find you;
we will welcome those rebuked
by the world, so our hearts
might live forever.

And when you gather your great
congregation around the Lamb's Table,
we will join our voices in proclaiming,
"You have done it,
God in Community, Holy in One!" Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (*using "debts" and "debtors"*)

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 debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory,
forever.
Amen.

Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine

Leader: Gathered with his friends, Jesus took bread, broke it and said:
"This is my body, broken for you. Take and eat."

And pouring the wine:
"This is my blood, spilled out for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Call to the Feast

Leader:

This is the feast prepared for you.
Come and share for all is ready.

***Sharing of the Elements**

Leader:

Let us receive the gift of God, the Bread of Heaven.

Unison:

We are one in Christ in the bread we share.

Leader:

Let us receive the gift of God, the Cup of Blessing.

Unison:

We are one in Christ in the cup we share.

***Blessing**

May the most precious body and blood
of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
keep and preserve you
unto life everlasting and eternal.
May you go in peace
and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God!
Amen.

***Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Generous God,
at this table
we have tasted
your immeasurable grace.
As grains of wheat
are gathered into one bread,
now make us one loaf
to feed the world;
in the name of Jesus,
the Bread of life.
Amen.**

GOING FORTH

***Parting Hymn: “Christ Be With Us” (sung to the tune of NCH 506 – “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”**

“Christ Be With Us”

Author: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 1998.

Included in *Gifts of Love: New Hymns for Today's Worship* (Geneva Press, 2000)
and *Sing of the World Made New: Hymns of Justice, Peace, and Christian Responsibility*
(Hope Publishing Company and GIA Publications, 2014)

Tune: ERIE 8.7.8.7.D.

Composer: Charles C. Converse, 1868

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**1 Christ be with us, Christ behind us,
Christ before us — all around!
Christ in busy, noisy cities,
Christ where hardly rings a sound.
Jesus, you're our Lord and Savior;
On your love we can depend.
Help us see your presence clearly
In each stranger and each friend.**

**2 Christ in lines of people fleeing,
Praying that a war will cease;
Christ in battered women's shelters,
Looking for a place of peace.
Christ with people sick or dying,
Loved ones trying hard to cope
In this world of so much suffering,
Christ, you give your people hope.**

**3 Christ with children who must struggle,
Working hard for daily food;
Christ in classrooms, learning, growing,
Asking questions, seeking good;
Christ in diners, waiting tables;
Christ in homes where children play
In this world of people working,
Christ, you work through us today.**

**4 Christ with all who keep on struggling,
Helping others to be free;
Christ with churches working, searching
For a greater unity;
Christ, in bread and wine, be with us,
Giving strength for each new day**

**In this world of daily crosses,
Be our joyful, living Way.**

***Commissioning**

One: God speaks, and sends us forth.

All: We will go to proclaim God's grace and glory.

One: Jesus speaks, and lives are changed.

**All: We will go to set free those who are oppressed,
to be the voice for those never heard.**

One: The Spirit speaks, and the world is turned inside out.

**All: We will become as foolish as a trusting child,
as powerless as those overlooked by everyone around them.**

***Benediction**

**God has turned our world upside down and called us to a life of transformation.
Now, go forth changed, called anew, and turned towards a God who makes us whole.
Amen and Amen!**

Postlude - Adam Petrosino (please be seated for the Postlude)

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Invocation, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, the Blessing of the Gifts, and the Benediction are adapted from *Transactionalism: Service Prayers for the Third Sunday in Lent Year B*, written by The Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott, Conference Minister in the Indiana-Kentucky Conference. Permission given to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All rights reserved.
- (2) The Lenten Candle Liturgy is adapted from *Lenten Candle Liturgy - Third Sunday in Lent*, posted May 27, 2015, on the blog *Process & Faith*. <https://processandfaith.org/lenten-candle-liturgy>
- (3) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Worship Resources for March 3rd, 2024, 2nd Sunday of Lent*, written by the Rev Mindi Welton-Thomas, and posted February 23rd, 2024, on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://rev-o-lution.org/>.
- (4) The Unison Invitation for Communion is adapted from *Communion Liturgy for Epiphany: Cinnamon Stars*, by the Rev Amy Pitton 2016 posted on *Worship Well*, a ministry of the Vermont Conference United Church of Christ <https://worshipwell.church/2016/01/21/communion-liturgy-for-epiphany/>
- (5) Portions of the Communion Liturgy – Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Table Prayer - are adapted from *Liturgy w/communion for February 25th, 2024 (Lent 2-B)*, written by The Rev. Thom Shuman, and posted February 17, 2024 on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>
- (7) Portions of the Communion Liturgy - Breaking Bread and Pouring Wine and Call to the Feast - are adapted from *Liturgy w/communion for December 5, 2021 (Advent 2 - C)*, written by The Rev. Thom Shuman, and posted December 1, 2021 on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>
- (8) A portion of the Communion Liturgy - the Sharing of the Elements - is adapted from *Online Communion for Palm Sunday*, written by The Rev. Maren C. Tirabassi. ©2020 Maren Tirabassi, all publishing rights reserved. Permission for congregations to use in worship or educational settings, including streaming
- (9) The Blessing and the Prayer of Thanksgiving following Communion are adapted from *Blessing and Prayer After Communion – in the Service of Holy Communion, February 25th, 2024* at the Faith Lutheran Church, Bellingham, WA. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AqN080lhpe7i82u3X9uNo_fr17j9YRiB/view

- (10) The **Commissioning** is adapted from *Liturgy and Communion for March 3rd, 2024, The Third Sunday in Lent-B*, written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted February 25, 2024, on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*.
<http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>
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Ministers, All of Us
Scott Rosenstein, Pastor
Adam Petrosino, Music Director and Pianist
Keith Konet, Council President
Beverly Wurm, Administrative Assistant



NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

God is Still Speaking...

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you will find a spiritual home in this United Church of Christ congregation. WELCOME!

Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont is committed to reaching out to all people with the saving "Good News" of God's Love. To do this, we strive to attain a covenant relationship with people of all races, colors, ethnic origins, ages, sexual orientations and gender identity. We are also committed to grace-filled inclusivity in our worship, programs, membership, mission and social activities. We very strongly believe in outreach and community involvement, as well as ecumenical spiritual involvement within the surrounding community. We are committed to listening to history while joining with the future.

Tithes and Offerings - Checks and Money Orders can be made payable to: "Zion United Church of Christ" and placed in the offering basket or mailed to:

**Zion United Church of Christ
c/o Keith Konet
1039 Bridlewood Drive
Copley, OH 44321**

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

Adam D. Petrosino, Our Music Director/Pianist

We are so pleased to welcome Adam, and his partner, Kiel, to our community of faith here at Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont. We're grateful to you sharing your presence, faith, and your musical gifts with us. Adam can be reached by e-mail at A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com and by phone at 234-205-9397.

Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm

Beverly is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14th)/home. The days and hours are:

Winter Schedule:

Tuesday– 9am – 1pm

Wednesday – 10am-2 pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

Beverly can be reached at: zionchurchtremont@gmail.com or by phone at: 216-273-7561 (church) or 216-310-6810 (mobile)



Rest and Resilience Following the Way of Jesus through Lent

A daily devotional spanning Ash Wednesday through Easter guides readers through Lent with weekly themes of retreat, prayer, honest, compassion, creativity, and community

When Jesus was preparing for a new phase of his ministry — or experiencing the final week — he went to Bethany, his holy retreat. Following that tradition, The Bethany Fellowships, a ministry of support for young clergy and congregations, have cultivated an intentional rhythm of life and ministry that empowers community, creativity, prayer, and resilience. This

six-week-long Lenten daily devotional follows practices and relationships Jesus models for us throughout his ministry, bringing us to the biblical town of Bethany to encourage retreat, prayer, honesty, compassion, creativity, and community. The diverse contributor based is comprised of ordained ministers in a variety of denominations and ministry settings, many of whom are in their first few years of congregational leadership.



OWLS Cleveland (Older, Wiser, Livelier Seniors)

Cordially invites you to our March meeting. We will gather on **Wednesday, March 13th, 2024, 11:30AM – 1:30PM** at **Zion United Church of Christ, 2700 W. 14th Street, Cleveland** (on the campus of San Sofia Apartments).

Join us for lunch and meet our guest speaker, **Michael O'Malley, Cuyahoga County Prosecutor**. Then join in an art project with **local Tremont artist, Angelica Pozo**. Get acquainted with your neighbors, find out who the OWLS are, and hear about future activities. Door prizes and favors.



To help us make sure we are prepared, **please RSVP for the lunch and/or the art project by March 9, 2024**. Call Beverly to RSVP: 216.310.6810.

Masks optional.

Please Remember in Prayer

- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community.
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement.
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We also pray for our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
- Those who are refugees and immigrants.
- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.
- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption.
- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and – and for an end to violence and bloodshed particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, Israel and Gaza.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 61 mass shooting incidents occurred in the US in 2024 as of February 28th

Mass shooting incidents in the past 10 years in the US:

2023 – 656 (*While mass shooting incidents increased slightly since 2022, 2023 has shown an 8-10% overall DECREASE in deaths and injuries from gun violence. Some cities saw 20%+ decreases.*)

2022 - 646

2021 - 689

2020 - 610

2019 - 414

2018 - 335

2017 - 247

2016 - 383

2015 - 332

2014 - 272

While we pray for the families and friends of those whose lives have been taken in violent acts – and we pray for those injured in body, mind, soul, and spirit—and for their neighborhoods and communities across the United States – We know that our words and prayers are not enough. We must repent for our collective inaction and commit to tirelessly working toward meaningful gun violence prevention.

- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the various variant surges: for all those who are infected and/or sick, and those who are grieving, for all who are affected, all around the world, for essential workers and frontline workers...we pray for their comfort, for safety, for health, and for wholeness.
- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or treatments.
- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
- Those on our church prayer list:
 - Patti Augustine and family including Noah, Kate, Lucy, and Max along with Patti's brother Dave).
 - Robert O Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) is residing in Senior Living. Robert recently celebrated his 91st Birthday.
 - The family, loved ones, and friends of Betty Funk.
 - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob*)
 - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, and Nancy Moore's neighbor - also Ivory, Ken's downstairs neighbor.
 - Maddie (the young daughter of Scott's friend) prayers for her, her parents, Rachel and Ron, and her younger brother.
 - Keith Konet and family (including granddaughter, Jocelyn Paulette, and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui - and for Keith's brother -in-law Bob Naugle.
 - The family, loved ones, and friends of Elaine Lukacs.
 - Patricia Matheny Kellogg and family (*including prayers for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*). Also Patricia's friend, Sue Renovitz.

- Our Music Director & Pianist, Adam Petrosino, and his partner, Kiel.
- Our Pastor Scott Rosenstein
- Barbara Rossington and Barb's cousin, Robert
- Debbie Webb
- Beverly Wurm and family