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# Spring Creek United Church of Christ

5th Sunday of Easter  
April 28, 2024

*We are an Open and Affirming, God-is still-speaking Congregation.  
We embrace our diversity to make a divine difference together.  
Wherever you are on life's journey, there is a place of welcome for you here.*

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*Welcome to Spring Creek United Church of Christ!*

**5th Sunday of Easter, April 28, 2024**

*(Please stand as you are comfortable, at the places marked \*)*

Meditation: "All Glory Be to God, on High" -Walther

Musician

Welcome

Colleen McDonald

\*Hymn NCH 73, *Enter, Rejoice, and Come in*, verses 1, 2, 3, 5

\*Call to Worship (by Andrew Pakula)

**Worship Leader/People**

Left: COME INTO THIS CIRCLE OF COMMUNITY.

Right: Come into this sacred space.

Left: BE NOT TENTATIVE.

Right: Bring your whole self!

Left: BRING THE JOY THAT MAKES YOUR HEART SING.

Right: Bring your kindness and your compassion.

Left: BRING ALSO YOUR SORROW, YOUR PAIN.

Right: Bring your brokenness and your disappointments.

Left: SPIRIT OF LOVE AND MYSTERY:

Right: Help us to recognize the spark of the divine that resides within each of us.

ALL: MAY WE KNOW THE JOY OF WHOLENESS.

MAY WE KNOW THE JOY OF BEING TOGETHER.

Prelude "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"  
- Robinson/Wyeth

Musician

**\*Gathering Prayer**

(by the Revs. Susan A. Blain and Scott Ressman)

**Worship Leader/People**

**O Living God of past and future,  
we praise you  
for this present moment.**

**Fill us with your joy and empower us with your Holy Spirit,  
that our strength may be renewed  
to sing a new song of your glory  
in a world which longs for your justice and peace.  
All this we ask in the name of Jesus, in whom we become  
your new creation.**

**\*Confession**

**Worship Leader/People**

**O God, we confess that we are often overwhelmed by the pain and stress in our  
lives, and the suffering and strife in this world. Fear and anxiety, gloom and  
despair color our perceptions, making us overlook the blessings and the  
goodness which are the birthright of all your children.**

**Forgive us, Oh God. Help us remain watchful for the gifts that are always at hand.  
Remind us to discover, express, and spread joy, responding faithfully to your love  
for us and for all of creation.  
Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Colleen McDonald

**Lord's Prayer**

**Colleen McDonald/ People**

**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.**

\*Hymn NCH 524, *This Joy I Have*, verses 1, 2, 3, 5, 1 (repeated)

Readings:

Genesis 17:15 – 17; Genesis 18:1-2, 8-15; John 16:19–22    Worship Leader

Genesis 17: 15 - 17

Then God said to Abraham, "As for your wife, Sarah shall be her name. And I will bless her and also give you a son by her; then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall be from her."

Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, "Shall a child be born to a man who is one hundred years old? And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"

And Abraham said to God, "If only Ishmael might live under your blessing!"

Then God said, "Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac (meaning, "he laughs, he will laugh, one who laughs).

Genesis 21: 1-2; 6

Now the LORD was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what he had promised.

Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him.

Sarah said, "God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me."

John 16:19–22

Jesus saw that they wanted to ask him about this, so he said to them, "Are you asking one another what I meant when I said, 'In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me'? Very truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy. A woman giving birth to a child has pain because her time has come; but when her baby is born she forgets the anguish because of her joy that a child is born into the world. So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy.

Sermon "Did Jesus Laugh?"

Colleen McDonald

Today's loose offering will be credited to Church Operations.

- Offering "Blessed Assurance" -Crosby/Knapp

Musician

**\*Offertory Response**

**(tune of Old Hundredth)**

**Congregation**

**To God, all glorious heavenly Light,  
To Christ revealed in earthly night,  
To God the Spirit now we raise  
Our joyful songs of thankful praise.**

Prayer of Dedication	Colleen McDonald
Announcements	Worship Leader
Lighting Candles for Peace	Colleen McDonald
*Hymn NCH 82, <i>Go, My Children, With My Blessing</i> , Verses 1 and 2	
Benediction (by Steve J. Crump)	Colleen McDonald
Postlude "Oh Happy Day" -Doddridge/Rimbault/Hawkins	Musician

NCH – New Century Hymnal, *The Pilgrim Press*

**Guest Pastor: Colleen  
McDonald**

**Musician: Tom Stein**

**Worship Leader: Larry Hartzell**

**Hymn Leader: Deb Floor**

**Production: Bob Tissot & Josh  
Hill**

**Ushers: Mike Grace & Lynn  
Stadtmueller**

**Greeter: Lynn Stadtmueller**

### **Prayer Requests**

- We give thanks for **Larry Hartzell's sister, Connie**, who had a successful kidney transplant.
- We pray for **Amanda Janitzky**, who is recovering from abdominal infections. We pray for the success of upcoming procedures.
- We pray for **Loretta Reif**, long-time friend of Sue McPherson, who passed away on March 30.
- We give thanks for **Carol Gerrond** who had successful oral surgery.
- We give thanks for **Harriet Roll's** successful surgery.
- We pray for **Grace Petit's son, John**, who is confined to a wheelchair.
- We give thanks for **Barb Mugavero**, who has recovered from hip replacement surgery.
- We give thanks that **Mephisto** and family have found new housing.

- We pray for **Vicki and Jim Crone** as her health treatment and care continues. Vicki's April 9 procedure has been postponed to enable better communication between the Cardiology and Neurology staff
- We pray for **Roberta**, a member of our Senior Exercise class, who continues to recover after a recent hospitalization.
- We pray for **Liz Schultz's** friend, **Mary**, and her sister, **Kathy**, who has been battling cancer for years, and now appears to have no more treatment options. We pray for Kathy's husband, **George, and their family.**
- We pray for **Larry and Laurice Hartzell's** dear friend **Lynette**, who had brain surgery to remove a tumor.
- Prayers for **Liz & Brent Schultz's** friend & long-time neighbor, **Shawn**, who has been diagnosed with ALS, and for his wife and six kids and their families.
- We pray for **Phil Adkins**, who continues to suffer with cardiovascular problems.
- We pray for **Todd**, brother-in-law of Pastor David and Leslie, who continues cancer treatment.
- We pray for **Virginia**, Pastor David's sister, who has been suffering from complications of COPD and Covid.



**No Anniversaries**

**Birthday: Jacob Wyant – 5/4  
Pam Douglas – 5/4**

**Attendance**

4/7-41  
4/14-51  
4/21-49

**Pastor David's Office Hours** -- Wednesdays 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
or call the office for an appointment.

Emergency: 815/299-8263

**Church Office hours**

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
815/877-2576