

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Austinburg, OH.
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

April 6, 2025

11 am

" Faith is the strength by which a shattered world shall emerge into the light" - Helen Keller-

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

LIGHTING CANDLES/ PRELUDE/ RINGING BELL
GREETINGS and ANNOUNCEMENTS
SONG OF PREPARATION Choir

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

L: Whether near, or far, we unite for the purpose of worship and praise.

P: May our mind be open to a God who is still speaking.

L: May our hearts be open to receive and share the grace of Jesus Christ.

P: May our spirits be open to the life-giving breath of the Holy One.

L: We unite , wherever we are, to embrace that which truly matters.

All: With gratitude: Let us offer our worship and praise.

***HYMN:** " *Rise Up O Saints Of God* " (insert)

***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

Gracious God, we confess that we spend much of our lives on that which does not satisfy. We get caught up in trivial concerns that produce worry and resentment. We are overwhelmed by information and grow callous to genuine human need. We find the whirlwind of daily politics to be too much to bear. Please forgive us. As we go deeper in our relationship with Christ, grant us wisdom to stay focused on what really matters and empower us to reach wider with your goodness and grace. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

*RESPONSE - (to the tune of : "Come O Font Of Every Blessing")

We are has-ty to judge o-thers, blind to proof of hu-man need; And our lack of under-stan-ding demon-strates our in-ner greed. We have wast-ed earth's resour-ces, want and suf-fering we've ignor-ed. Come and cleanse us, then re-store us. Make new hearts with-in us Lord.

* GOOD NEWS OF FORGIVENESS: - Pastor-
In Christ we are a new creation. Rejoice! For we have been reconciled to God, and to one another.

LIGHTING OF LENT CANDLES: Commitment

Introduction

Lighting of Candle

Prayer

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURES: Galatians 6: 8-10
Luke 13: 31-35

A MOMENT WITH THE CHILDREN

ANTHEM: Choir

MESSAGE: " The Gift Of Commitment" Rev. Bill Terry

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

A TIME FOR PRAYER:

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer/ Silent Prayer/ Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

Prayer Response

A TIME FOR SHARING:

Friendship Folders:

Mission Moment: One Great Hour of Sharing

A Reminder To Send Gifts, Tithes and Offerings to:

1* UCC Church, P.O. Box 253, Austinburg, OH. 44010

Unison Prayer of Dedication:

Lord, it takes many voices to praise your blessed name. It takes many hands to fulfill your vision. It takes the gifts of many people who are willing to devote time and energy to your kingdom. But, it only takes your love to change a life. Help us this day, O God, to be the children of your inheritance. May our lives be an offering which displays our devotion, and sacrifice, to wrestle with your love into this topsy, turvy, world. Amen.

A Doxology (NCH) #780

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Invitation:

L: Jesus said: I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst.

P: In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.

L: You are welcome to this holy feast.

ALL: Praise be to God!

COMMUNION HYMN: (NCH) # 332 (*remain seated*)

"As We Gather At Your Table" vs. 1&2 only

Responsive Prayer:

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give thanks and praise!

L: We thank you God, Father and Mother of us all.

From the beginning, you made the world and all its creatures; You made people to live for you and for each other.

P: We praise you God!

L: God created Adam and Eve and gave them a garden;
You showed Noah a rainbow; You gave strength to
Moses to free his people and taught Miriam to dance;
You gave courage to Esther, and loyalty to Ruth. You
helped David defeat the giant and gave him a harp with
which to sing.

P: We praise you God!

L: As one of us, Jesus came... at first a tender infant,
then a child, a youth, and then, an adult. He rejoiced
with those who rejoiced, and wept with those who wept.
To the despairing, he spoke a word of hope. To the
sick, he gave healing. To the rejected, he was a friend.
And yet, he was betrayed and nailed to a cross. He was
lifted from the grave and restored to life, that he might be
with us, and we with him. Alive for evermore!...

Therefore, with all the saints, and with angels in the
heavens, our hearts beat with happiness, and we say:

**ALL: Holy! Holy! Holy! One God Almighty! All
your works shall praise your name in earth and sky
and sea! Holy! Holy! Holy! Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is Christ who comes to set us free.**

Prayer of Consecration and Institution:

L: On the night before Jesus died he had supper with
his disciples. He took bread. He thanked you, as we
have thanked you. He broke the bread, giving it to his
friends saying;

**P: "Take this all of you. Eat it. This is my body giv-
en for you. Each time you do this, remember me."**

L: After supper, he took the wine. He thanked you for
it. Then, he passed a cup of wine to his friends saying;

L: God of love, send your Holy Spirit upon us and what we do here, that we, and these gifts, touched by your Spirit, may be signs of life and love to us, each other, and to all the world. Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

Thank you God, for renewing us at your table by the presence of Jesus Christ. Thank you for your eternal life, the Bread of Life, that sustains all of creation. Continue to love us, O God, in our faithful acts. Through your love, discourage us from acts which are unfaithful. Fill us with such joy, that we may rejoice as your servants to the world. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE:

L; May we be united in Christ!

P: Thanks to the love of God!

HYMN: "*I Love To Tell The Story*" (NCH/Black) # 522

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE:

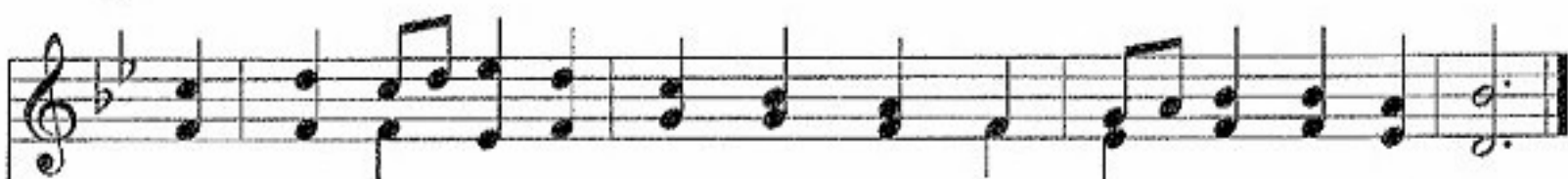
POSTLUDE

*** = All who are comfortable, are invited to stand**

Music printed by permission of CCLI License #



1. Rise up, O saints of God! Have done with less - er things;
2. Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom tar - ries long.
3. Rise up, O saints of God! The church for you doth wait,
4. Lift high the cross of Christ; tread where Christ's feet have trod;



give heart and soul and mind and strength to serve the King of kings.
 Bring in the day of righ-teous-ness, and end the night of wrong.
 with strength un-e-qual to the task; rise up and make it great.
 come sis-ters, broth-ers in the faith, rise up, O saints of God.



Rom. 8:26-27; Eph. 5:18-20

Ruth Duck, 1983

1 In sol - i - tude, in sol - i - tude, I come to God in prayer,
 2 When-e'er the world is troub-ling me, and stress is all a - round,
 3 In sea - sons of per - plex - i - ty, in times of deep de - spair,
 4 And when my heart is bur - dened down with cares for those I love,
 5 With psalms and hymns and songs of praise be - fore my God I'll come,

In si - lence and sim - plic - i - ty, my spir - it blos - soms there,
 I seek the pres - ence of my God, and heal - ing light is found.
 I light a can - dle in the night and turn to God in prayer,
 too deep for words, with groans and sighs, de - scends the ho - ly dove,
 till death it - self is past and gone, and I ar - rive at home.

Ruth Duck has commented that "these words were inspired by a pentatonic melody which came to me as I taught myself to play the mandolin." They are an expression of her "deep-rooted southern spirituality."

Tune: LAND OF REST CM
 Traditional United States melody
 Harm. Annabel Morris Buchanan, 1938

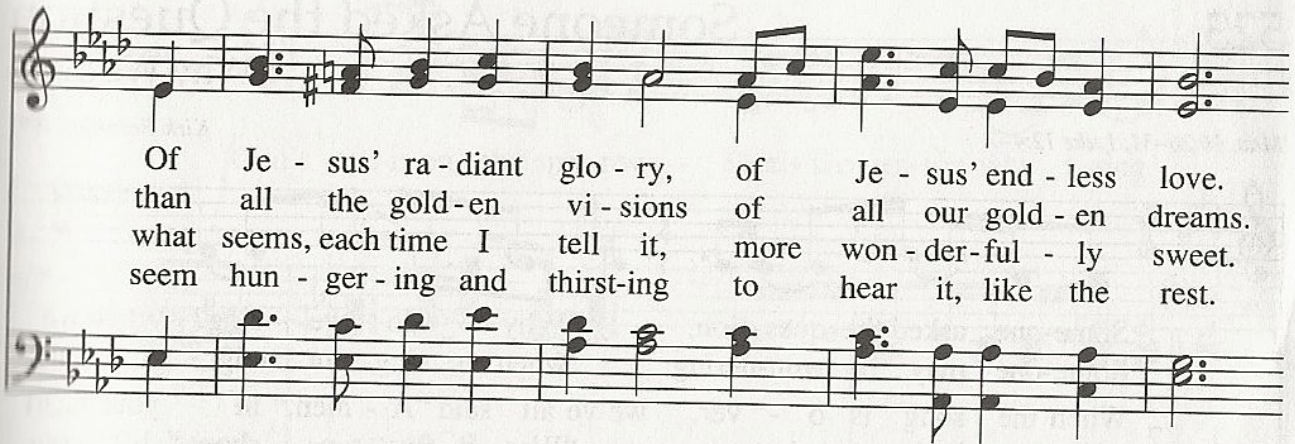
Words Copyright © 1985 by G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

Katherine Hankey, 1866, alt

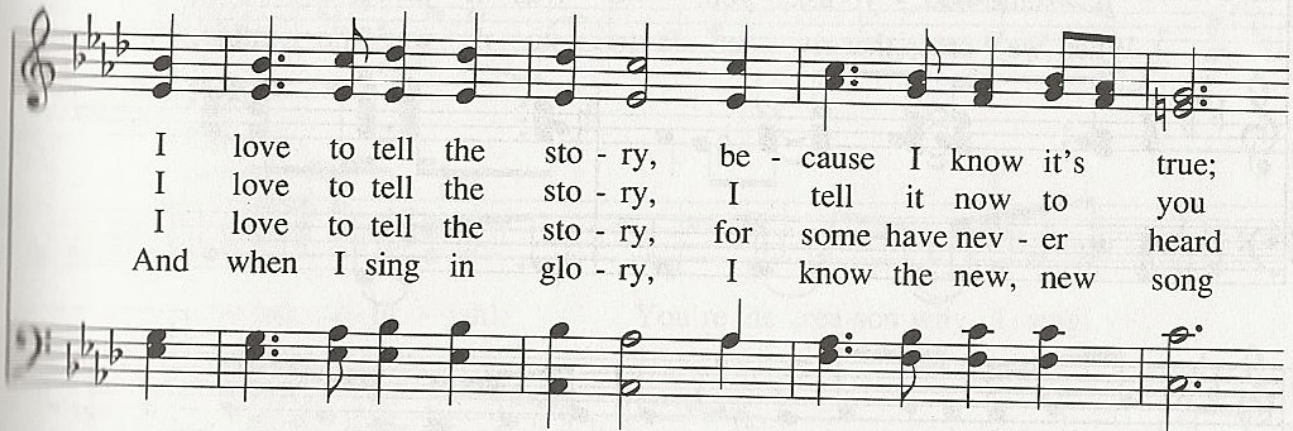
1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
 2 I love to tell the sto - ry; more won - der - ful it seems
 3 I love to tell the sto - ry; it's pleas - ant to re - peat
 4 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best

Born in Clapham, England, Katherine Hankey belonged to the Clapham Sect of Evangelicals and established a Bible class for girls in London's West End. This hymn is drawn from her

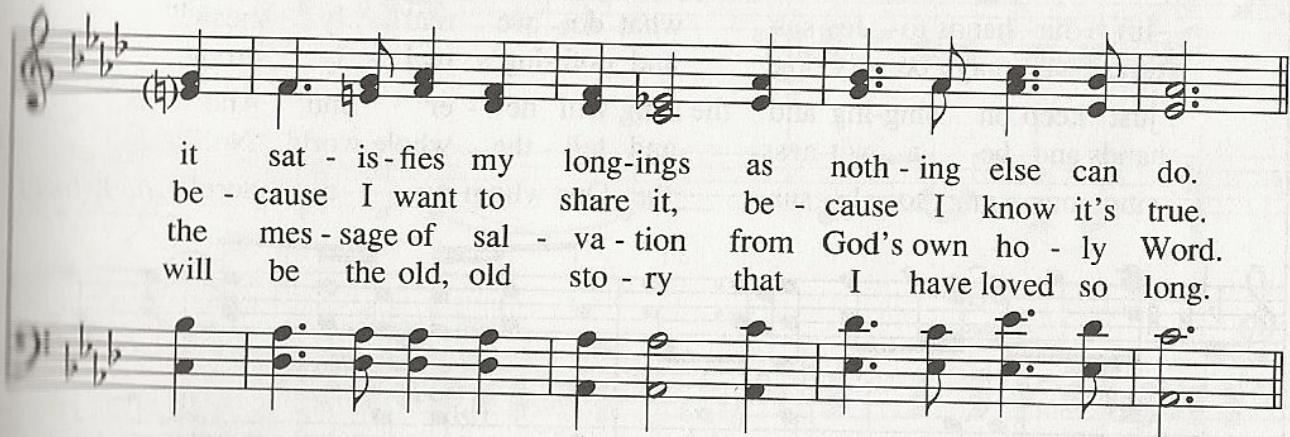
Tune: HANKEY 7.6.7.6.D, with reharmonization
 William G. Fischer, 1968



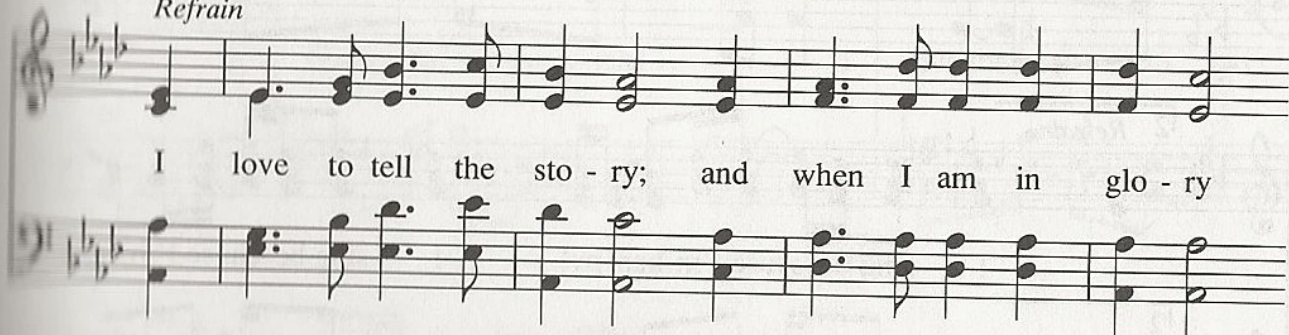
Of Je - sus' ra - dian glo - ry, of Je - sus' end - less love.
 than all the gold - en vi - sions of all our gold - en dreams.
 what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet.
 seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it, like the rest.



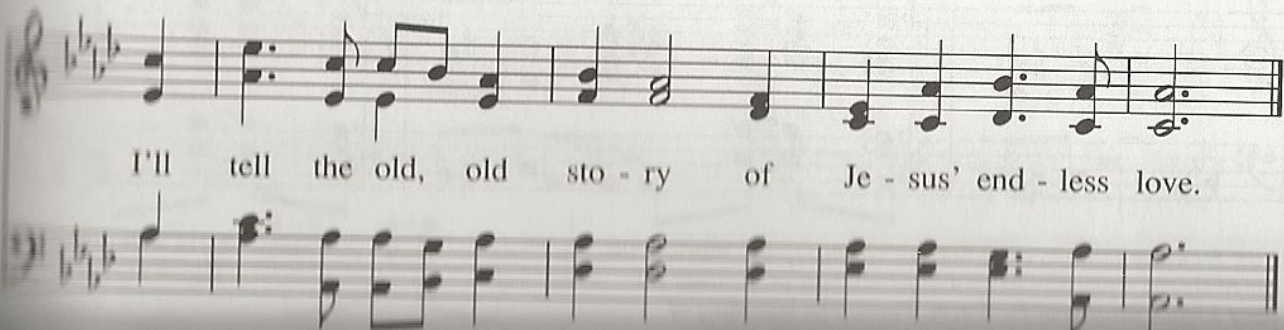
I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
 I love to tell the sto - ry, I tell it now to you
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
 And when I sing in glo - ry, I know the new, new song



it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else can do.
 be - cause I want to share it, be - cause I know it's true.
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly Word.
 will be the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain


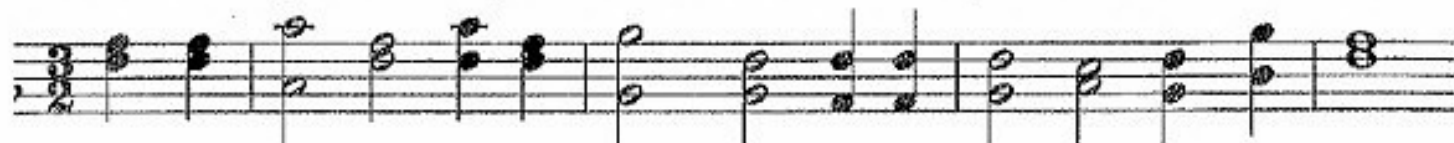
I love to tell the sto - ry; and when I am in glo - ry



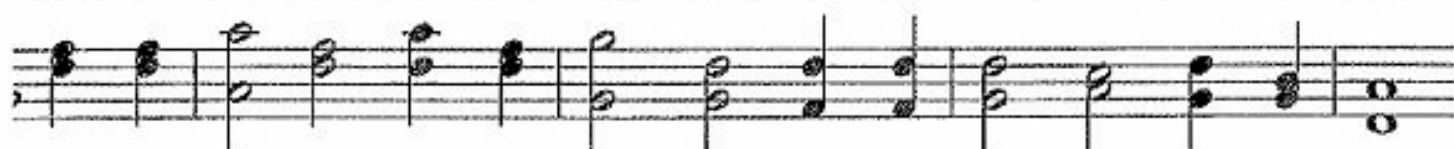
I'll tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus' end - less love.



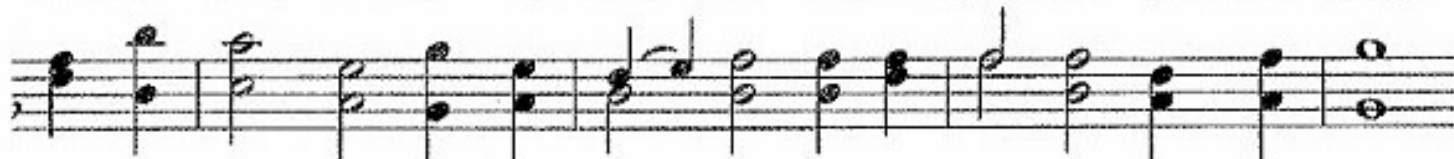
1 As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
 2 Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
 3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
 send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.
 where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.



Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
 Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;
 There no more will en - vy bind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.
 may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
 as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

In Our Prayers

Please remember in your prayers: Rev. Allison Milligan, Karen Taylor, Judy Williams, Maranda Rabenold, Randy Tackett, Sandy Fitzhugh Wagner, Rob Harrison, Zach Wilson, Jinny Young, Eileen Kusar, Tony Schommer, Pat Yarbrough, Kris Tetrick, Rev. Frank Walford, Clayton Warner, Kathy Kline, Rory Luoma. The Williams Family

Weekley Prayer: First Congregational UCC Andover

Please keep our service members in prayer: Robert "Nick" Grandy, and all our service

~~~~~ Calendar Notes ~~~~~

Sun. April 6th: 11 AM—Worship

**Tues. April 8th : 10 AM—Bible Study
5:30 PM—Yoga**

Wend. April 9th: 7 pm Game Night

**Thurs. April 10th: 5:30 PM—Yoga
7: 00 pm—Admin. Board Meeting**

Sat. April 12th : 9:30 AM—Yoga

Sun. April 13th: 11 AM—Worship

**First United Church of Christ
Austinburg, Ohio
April 6th, 2025**

**Rev. Bill Terry, Pastor Musician: Cindi Luoma
Choir Director: Bridget Sherman**

**Stewardship: Our financial needs for the Church remain.
Please mail in your offerings to P.O. Box 253, Austinburg OH
44010. You also can sign-up for online giving at
app.easytithes.com/App/Giving/austinburgucc or *sign up via
our website.***

**Please maintain your stewardship so we can continue to reach
out in Christ's name. Thank you!**

~ ~ ~

Previous Sunday's attendance: 32

Total Online Attendance for the March 16th service is 51

Rev. William Terry ~ (440) 335-4031 ~ gintex4@twc.com

Check out our church website at austinburgfirstucc.org

Visit our Facebook page at

facebook.com/AustinburgFirstUCC

or email austinburgucc@windstream.net

Office Hours:

Tuesday, Thurs, and Friday : 8 am—11 am

Announcements

Welcome to First UCC-Austinburg. No matter who you are, or where you are in life, you are welcome here. We welcome all ages, races, genders and orientations – because we welcome all who love the Lord with no exceptions. Please keep spreading the word we have something to share.

Prayers for the Church: Please submit any prayer requests directly to Pastor Bill. He will lift you in prayer each day and share with the Church Council and our Prayer Chain.

Counseling and Conversation: As always, you can call Pastor Bill directly at (440)335-4031.

Red Wagon Donations for the Geneva Food Pantry for March : We are collecting toilet paper

Donations for the Blessing Box can go directly into the Box by our back door. Personal toiletries and feminine Hygiene products are always needed.

Bible Study: We are studying the Book of John. Due to Construction, Bible Study will be in Fellowship Hall. Tuesdays at 10 am.

Yoga with Shanti Yoga Love: Yoga expert Leah from "Shanti Yoga Love" is now offering classes in the Upper Annex Classes are Tues.at 5:30 pm and 6 pm.

She will also be here on Saturday Mornings at 9 am. There is a nominal fee for each class. \$15 for a single session/ \$8 if one becomes a regular. .

Spring Clean-up Day April 12th—The Administration Board invites all available helpers to come Saturday April 12th to clean up the church and parsonage yards. Come dressed for the weather and the work beginning at 9 am.

Announcements

Volunteers Needed! - The Administration board is looking for some volunteers to cover for Dwaine from April 23rd to June 23rd while he is on leave recovering from surgery. Basic job duties can be shared between volunteers: vacuuming/sweeping, taking out trash. If interested please contact Bob Thayer at 440-391-7213

Confirmation Class— Classes will begin on Sunday April 6th . This will be after church and lunch in Fellowship Hall will be provided. Classes will generally meet twice a month with occasional scheduled events

Game Nights— Join us on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month (4/9,4/23,5/14,5/28) for Game Night. We will be playing Mexican Train a Dominos Game. Its Easy to learn and no experience needed.

Fellowship and Study for Lent: The Final Lenten Study will be April 9th at 6 pm in Jefferson at Jefferson UCC

Celebration of Life: On April 16th there will be a Celebration of Life Service for our dear friend Judy Williams. Visitation will be from 11 am to 12 pm. The Celebration of Life Service will start at 12 pm and a luncheon will follow in Fellowship Hall.

Spring Sing Celebration: Tuesday April 15th at 11:30 am join us at the Geneva Senior Center for a Spring Sing

** TODAY **

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Sunday April 6th



**One Great
HOUR
OF SHARING**

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a vital special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. It connects you to disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development efforts around the globe. When disasters strike, or when individuals are displaced due to violence or poverty, OGHS ensures immediate response and ongoing recovery.

Through your support, OGHS funds comprehensive development programs in areas such as healthcare, education, agriculture, food security, microfinancing, and women's empowerment. By partnering with Global Ministries and international response networks, OGHS maximizes its impact. Your contributions help meet urgent needs while addressing the root causes of vulnerability, ensuring long-term, sustainable solutions for affected communities. As always, clearly mark your special gift for OGHS. If Writing a check: Please make it out to First UCC Church, and clearly place OGHS on the Memo line, as well.



HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday:

April 13th - Worship with Palms
Ham at First U.C.C., Austinburg

Maunder Thursday:

April 17th, 7pm worship
"The Drama of Holy Week"
at First Congregational Church U.C.C in
Jefferson, Ohio

Good Friday:

April 18th, The Walk Of The Cross
through the town of Jefferson. Beginning
at 6 pm at the First Baptist Church on
West Jefferson St.



EASTER SUNDAY "Resurrection Day" *April 20th*

7 am - Sun-rise Service

In the park pavillion directly behind
First UCC Church in Austinburg
(weather permitting)

8 am - Breakfast

Austinburg UCC Fellowship Hall

Easter Celebrations:

9 am in Jefferson

First Congregational Church of Christ
41 E. Jefferson St.

11 am in Austinburg

First United Church of Christ, Austinburg
2870 Rt. 307

More information @

*www.Facebook.com/AustinburgFirstUCC
austinburgfirstucc.org * (440) 275-5125*