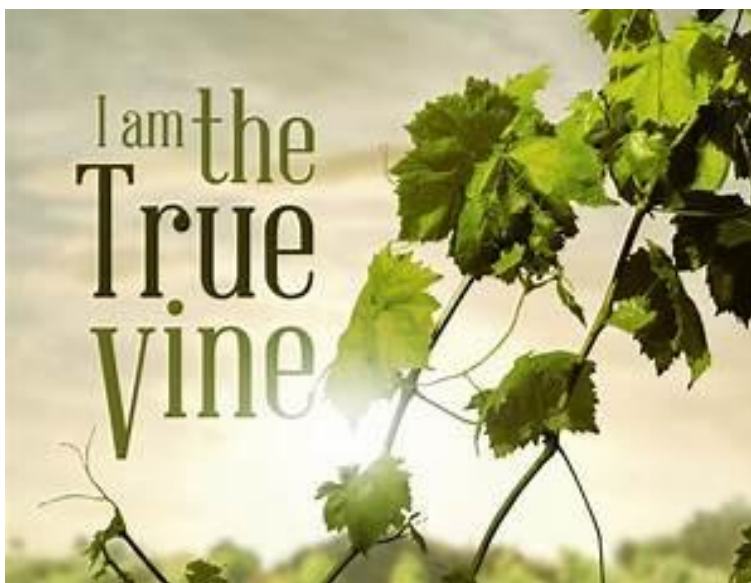


**HAMDEN PLAINS  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
15 Church Street, Hamden, CT 06514  
203- 248-4654



***“The mission of the Hamden Plains United Methodist Church is sharing God’s love by creating a safe and welcoming community, connecting people’s needs with God’s power, and reconciling divisions through Christ.”***

**-Mission Statement**

**5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER  
2024**

**April 28,**

**ENTRANCE AND PRAISE**

+ Those able please stand

**PRELUDE**

**+OPENING HYMN**

“Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”

**UMH #731**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Easter people, we have been saved by the Risen Christ, the life-giving Vine.

**We abide in Love, the life-giving Vine.**

We are branches of the Vine—sustained, nurtured, and pruned by Love.

**We have no life apart from Love, the life-giving Vine.**

When we make our home in the Vine, and the Vine makes a home in us, we bear the fruit of Love.

**We produce the fruit of Love, the life-giving Vine.**

Easter people, how shall we bear the fruit of Love, the life-giving Vine?

**We will love and learn to love as we rest, play, work, and build community with God and one another. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE**

Acts 8:26-40

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

For all the blessings of this life, we give thanks to You, Creator God. For families, friends, colleagues, neighbors, and strangers, who nurture us that the love of God may grow within. That Your love, your Word, like a seed, may grow to produce in us, good fruit.

**May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.**

For the leaders of various nations and cities, that they may lead with strong hearts and gentle hands and generous spirits, with compassion and mercy, with wisdom and grace. May they reflect your will guiding all their actions and decisions.

**May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.**

For those who serve in harm's way, those who live in dangerous places, those who live in areas of war and strife, those who live in fear, those who worry about employment, bills, food, and struggle just to find dignity in life. May your grace bring peace and safety to all people, one to another.

**May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.**

For those who suffer from any illness or dis-ease—of mind, body, or spirit. Restore these, and all those we carry in our hearts, to fullness of health—health as only you, O God, can bring. May your mercy shower each of us with healing mercy and love.

**May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong.**

For those who are dying, and for those who have died. Send forth your comforting love. Give solace to those who mourn. Console those who grieve. May your grace surround us like a mantle upon our heads, a shawl upon our shoulders, a hand, to hold our hand.

**May your love be like a seed, taking root and growing strong. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful One, you know when we are afraid to love; you know when we are too cowardly to show mercy. Remind us again that perfect love casts out such fears. Surround us and strengthen us with your perfect love, even in the face of our imperfections. Imbue us with a love so strong, with such growth toward perfection, that we may cast aside our pride and embrace the power of love.

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Christ is the vine. We are simply branches. If we abide in Christ, Christ's words will abide in us. Ask for whatever you wish in Christ's name and it will be granted. In the name of Christ, you who seek forgiveness are forgiven!

**In the name of Christ, you who seek forgiveness are forgiven!**

## PSALTER

Psalm 22:25-31

UMH #752

## JOYS & CONCERNS

*The Lord's Prayer*

UMH #895

***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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.***

## THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

### OFFERING

#### INVITATION TO OFFERING

**2 Corinthians 9:6-7**

<sup>6</sup>Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. <sup>7</sup>Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

*Please mail or drop off your tithes and offerings to:  
15 Church Street, Hamden, CT 06514.*

*Noisy Offering (coins given for missions) may be dropped off at the church.*

**+RESPONSE**

"The Doxology"

UMH #95

## **+OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Gracious God, as we offer our gifts today, we reflect on the wisdom in the words from John's gospel. In this imagery, we recognize our role as branches, connected to you, the source of our strength and vitality. Help us stay rooted in your love, producing fruit that brings glory to your name. May these gifts signify our commitment to abide in your teachings and work joyfully in response to your love. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

## **PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

### **1 John 4:7-21**

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. <sup>13</sup>By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup>And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup>God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup>So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup>Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup>There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup>We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup>Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup>The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: ***Thanks be to God.***

## **ANTHEM**

"Do, Lord, Remember Me"

**UMH #527**

### **+ John 15:1-8**

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord. People: ***Praise to you, Lord Christ***

## **SERMON**

**Rev. Jeremiah Paul**

## **GOING FORTH**

### **+CLOSING HYMN**

"I'm Goin'a Sing When the Spirit Says Sing"

**UMH #333**

## **BENEDICTION**

Branches of the Vine, go from this place blessed by Love to work in love with your family, your friends, your neighbors, and strangers who will become friends, bearing the fruit of the life-giving Vine as you cultivate abundant life wherever you go. Amen.

## **RECESSIONAL**

"Sanctuary"

**TFWS #2164**

## **The Postlude**

**THE WORSHIP IS ENDED: THE SERVICE BEGINS.**

**NEXT WEEK: 6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER** Scriptures: Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98 (UMH818); 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17.

**YOUR CONTINUED FINANCIAL SUPPORT MEANS MUCH!**

to HPUMC, 15 Church Street, Hamden, CT 06514 or drop office hours, Tues - Fri., 9:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. For Venmo, scan QR code or go to [www.venmo.com/HamdenPlains-UMC](http://www.venmo.com/HamdenPlains-UMC).



Please mail gifts them off during



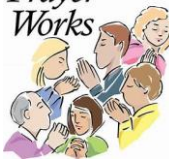
**CONNECTIONAL BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP: Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.** We will be meeting IN PERSON in the prayer room. All are invited. Contact Pastor J for more information at 475.331.1122.

**CHOIR REHEARSAL: WEDNESDAYS 7:00 p.m.** If you would like more information about joining choir or being a song leader, please contact Pastor J (475.331.1122 [pastorj.hpumc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorj.hpumc@gmail.com)) or Dunn Pearson ([dunnpearson@gmail.com](mailto:dunnpearson@gmail.com)) for more information. EVERYONE IS WELCOME.



All are invited to *Dinner for a Dollar* each Saturday, 6 – 7 p.m. take-out only through the Church Street doors.

*Prayer Works*



**SPECIFIC PRAYER REQUESTS** should be called or e-mailed to Nancy Estes at 203.248.4654 or [secretary.hpumc@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.hpumc@gmail.com) or Holly O'Brien (203) 288-4252/ [hollyobrien@snet.net](mailto:hollyobrien@snet.net)

**THIS WEEKS PRAYER REQUESTS**

*Pray without ceasing; give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.* 1 Thessalonians 5:17-19

Lynn: Healing—her brother Bob, congestive heart failure  
Lois Hartsoe, heart issues  
Holly Wesman, partner of Karen Sroka, cancer

**Home Bound/ Rehab**

Mary Bales, 33 Woodruff Street, #113, Hamden, 06518  
Lois Hartsoe, 7310 Ashlar Village, Wallingford, 06492  
Pat Leno, 850 Mix Avenue, Hamden, 06514  
Claudette and Jimmy Morrison, 112 East Gate Lane, Hamden, 06514  
Carmine Raccio, 15 Sunrise Cove Road, Branford, 06405  
Marianne Reynolds, 520 Pool Rd. Apt. 424, North Haven, 06473  
Rosemary Shaw, 345 Fountain Street, Apt. 202, New Haven, 06515  
Frank Teodosio, 330 Amity Rd., Woodbridge, 06525



**BIRTHDAYS:** Rev. Dr. Brian Bodt 5/1/24

**WAYS TO BE IN MINISTRY AND MISSION:**

- Host Fellowship Hour
- Bring your “Cans for the Congo” during office hours or on Sundays.
- Drop off food for the Hamden Food Bank.
- Cook and/or serve for “Dinner for a Dollar” (take-out only). To sign up, contact Marty Hartog at 203.506.9788 or [hartogm1@southernct.edu](mailto:hartogm1@southernct.edu)
- Check in by phone or send a note to someone home-bound or elderly.
- Continue to mail in your tithes and offerings.
- Donate used books to our Little Free Library
- Donate used printer ink cartridges
- Stay abreast of developments by reading your e-mail or checking the website.
- Read the upcoming Sunday scriptures as an act of spiritual formation
- Become a reporter for *The Messenger*

For information about these ministries, contact Nancy Estes at 203.248.4654/ [secretary.hpumc@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.hpumc@gmail.com) or Holly O'Brien (203) 288-4252/ [hollyobrien@snet.net](mailto:hollyobrien@snet.net)

**Worship Assistants**

	<b>TODAY April 28, 2024</b>	<b>Next Week, May 5, 2024</b>
<b>Liturgist</b>	Holly O'Brien	James Outlaw
<b>Ushers</b>	Derrick Pommills	Randi Harrell
<b>Fellowship Time</b>	Joseph Family	
<b>Counters</b>	Marty Hartog Kirby Stafford	Lynn Brantley Perjah Delgado

**April 14: ATTENDANCE:** In-person: 40 OFFERING: \$2,620

**April 21: ATTENDANCE:** In-person: 45 OFFERING: \$966

<b>CALENDAR FOR WEEK OF April 28, 2024</b>			
Sunday	April 28	Worship	10:15 am
		Fellowship Time	Following worship
Tuesday	April 30	Connectional Bible Study	6:30 pm
		IN PERSON	
Wednesday	May 1	Choir Rehearsal	6:30 pm
Thursday	May 2	Worship Team	6:30 pm
		SPRC	7:30 pm
Saturday	May 4	Dinner for a Dollar	6:00 pm
Sunday	May 5	Worship	10:15 am
		Fellowship Time	Following worship

[www.hamdenplainsumc.com](http://www.hamdenplainsumc.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/HamdenPlainsUMC/>

**The YouTube channel address:**

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxwHc1E3\\_YK4W1nHICT5iAA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxwHc1E3_YK4W1nHICT5iAA)  
 or <https://tinyurl.com/t9q8gw6>

**Worship at 10:15 a.m. Sundays**

**Minister: All Congregation Members**

Rev. Jeremiah J. Paul, Pastor, [pastorjj.hpumc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjj.hpumc@gmail.com)

Dunn Pearson, Musician Ministry, [dunnpearson@gmail.com](mailto:dunnpearson@gmail.com)

Nancy Estes, Parish Secretary, [secretary.hpumc@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.hpumc@gmail.com)

Derrick Pommills, Property Manager, [pommillsfacilityservices@gmail.com](mailto:pommillsfacilityservices@gmail.com)

**PASTOR OFFICE HOURS:** Pastor J is available on Wednesday and Thursday's by appointment only. If you would like to meet with Pastor J, please call the office at 203.248.4654 to schedule an appointment.