



**CENTRAL WESTSIDE
UNITED CHURCH**

MAY 3, 2026

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF
EASTER**

“PATHWAYS”

PHYLLIS FLEMING

MUSICIAN: JUDY PRINGLE

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Welcome!

‘Come as you are to share in our friendliness, laughter, and tears, and be spiritually refreshed.’

WE GATHER IN THIS PLACE....

Organ Prelude: *I Know that My Redeemer Liveth* Judy Pringle

Welcome and Life & Work of the Church: Ann Otterbein

Lighting of the Christ Candle & Fellowship Candles: Ann Otterbein

The Christ candle is a sign to us that Jesus Christ has come into this world as the Eternal Light. The Fellowship candles remind us that Jesus' people are called to be the people of Light in this world.

As we light the Christ candle, let us hear the voice of Jesus saying, "I am the Light of the world" and as we light the Fellowship candles, let us also hear the voice of Jesus saying, "You are the light of the world."

Land Acknowledgement: Ann Otterbein

Long before those of us who are settlers and those who are descendants of settlers came to this land to live, there were people here. We acknowledge that many Nations of Indigenous people have lived in this beautiful place we all now call home. We give thanks to this land and the first peoples who cared for it. May we honour them by committing to the stewardship and respect of this land and the harmony of its people.

Introit: *This is the Day That God Has Made* VU#175 Refrain

....APPROACHING GOD....

Call to Worship: (Responsive – stand as able) Phyllis Fleming

I turn to the left.

And a path lies before me.

I turn to the right.

And a path lies before me.

I turn forward and behind.

More paths!

Which should I take?

Don't worry about the path!

Find the Guide!

Find the one who is showing you the Way.

But which path should I take?

It could be any of them.

It could be none.

You might even need to travel off the path.

Seek the one who is showing you the Way.

With open spirits, open hearts, and open minds,

let us worship the one who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life!

Opening Prayer: (Responsive - seated)

Jesus, we know that you are the Way.

Help us to journey with you with open minds and hearts.

We know that you are the Truth.

Help us to proclaim you with joy and with humility.

We know that you are the Life.

Help us to live in you, as you live in us.

We ask this in your name

and in the power of the Holy Spirit, working within us. Amen.

Opening Hymn:

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

VU# 220

A Time for All Ages: Wuppets

...TO HEAR GOD'S WORD...

Scripture: (*New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition*)

Scripture Reader

God offers us through prophets' and apostles' words of life which in faith become the living Word. From birth to rebirth we are offered new beginnings. Let us receive and envision new meaning from the Word in these readings.

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16:

VU #758 - Parts One and Three

Epistle: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Gospel: John 14:1-14

Response to God's Holy Word:

God never stops speaking! May we always be listening and wondering.

Thanks be to God!

Music Interlude:

Come Down, O Love Divine

Judy Pringle

Sermon:

"Pathways"

Phyllis Fleming

Sermon Response Hymn:

Come to My Heart

VU# 661

....AND RESPOND TO GOD'S CALL....

Invitation to Offering:

Phyllis Fleming

Because God always has a place for us, we come in thanksgiving. We celebrate the abundance of God's grace and welcome by sharing our gifts, that others may experience that welcome.

Offering Response:
(Offering brought forward)

We Give You But Your Own

VU# 542

Dedication of Our Offerings: (Unison)

Generous God, in abundance we gather before you. We open our spirits to you. You invite us to be generous in your name to all. Help us to share your many blessings through our own generous gifts, in our community and around the world through Mission and Service. Amen.

Prayers of the Community:

Phyllis Fleming

The Lord's Prayer: (spoken)

On Screen

Closing Hymn:
(stand as able)

God of Grace and God of Glory

VU# 686, tune VU #651

Sending Forth and Blessing:

Phyllis Fleming

Postlude:

All Glory, Laud, and Honour

Judy Pringle

Acknowledgements

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- Call to Worship: written by Richard Bott, Gathering: Lent/Easter 2026, page 42, alt.
- Opening Prayer: written by Kate Crawford, Gathering: Lent/Easter 2026, page 43.
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