

## ICE-BREAKERS

1 Looking back, can you think of a time when God might have been at work in your life, but you didn't realize it until later? What changed your perspective?

2 In the passage, the disciples said their hearts were "burning within them" as Jesus spoke. Have you ever had a moment where something just clicked spiritually or felt especially meaningful? What was that like?"

## SERMON BASED

1 The disciples said, "We had hoped..." What are some expectations or hopes you've had about God that didn't turn out the way you expected? How did that impact your faith?

2 In the story, Jesus was walking with them, but they didn't recognize Him. What are some ways we might overlook God's presence in our everyday lives?

## BEYOND THE TEXT

1 Jesus revealed Himself through Scripture and the breaking of bread. How can you intentionally create space this week to encounter Jesus through His Word and through acts of service?

2 Where might we be expecting Jesus to show up in power, control, or visible success, when He is actually inviting us to follow Him in humility, service, and sacrifice instead?



## Stories That Matter



# April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026

## 10:30AM

*Pastor Christian Taylor*

Whatever your circumstances and no matter where you have been, you matter to God and to Us. **You Belong Here!** We pray your experience in our Worship today will be one that blesses you and uplifts your relationship with Jesus Christ.

Our Mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who **Love Boldly**, **Serve Joyfully**, and **Lead Courageously** in our local community and around the world.

# ORDER of WORSHIP

Luke 24:32

*They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?'*

PLEASE FILL OUT THE ATTENDANCE PAD AND PASS IT TO YOUR NEIGHBOR + THOSE WHO ARE ABLE, PLEASE RISE

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS** ..... Martin Burchfield

**PRELUDE** ..... *Elegy* | by Nicholas Bowden ..... Scott Turner

**+ CALL TO WORSHIP** ..... Martin Burchfield

Leader: Easter people, we gather today as people who spent the week inundated with news reports, social media posts, and reels that inundated us with information, worry, and stress.

People: Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we carry the weight of being overwhelmed and anxious, wondering who we can believe.

Leader: We gather as people who long for peace, for God to break through and bring us clarity and hope once again.

People: Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we don't always recognize when the Risen One comes alongside us, showing us the way where there seems to be no way.

Leader: We gather as people hoping to catch a glimmer of Resurrection, ready for our hearts to burn with the truth of the resurrected Christ.

People: Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we open our hearts to the possibility that God's Resurrection life is closer than we think.

Leader: Easter people, God knows the burdens we carry, and God is faithful to meet us where we are with good news.

People: May the good news of the Resurrection astound us today as we come to worship God! Amen.

**+ OPENING PRAYER** ..... Martin Burchfield

O risen Christ, on the road to Emmaus, you were the disciples' companion. Be at our side on the journey of faith along life's pathways, and at every encounter, engender our compassion so that we may welcome others and listen to their stories. Kindle anew the desire to proclaim your Word. May it illumine us, and may our hearts burn to bear witness to it. May your Holy Spirit teach us the art of explaining scripture and open our hearts to recognize you. Grant us the courage to become vulnerable so that our siblings may know you through us and that we may know you through them. Amen.

**HYMN #156** ..... *I Love to Tell the Story* | UMH ..... Scott Turner

**TIME OF GREETING**

**CHAT WITH THE CHILDREN** ..... Hannah Kraner

*Children are dismissed to AWE – Preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade*

**MISSION MOMENT** ..... *Haven of Hope Box City – July 17<sup>th</sup>* ..... Teresa Shaffer

**CHANCEL CHOIR ANTHEM** ..... *Abide With Me* | arr. Moses Hogan



*Astounded Us*

LUKE 24:13 – 35  
*Stories That Matter*

**+ SCRIPTURE SERIES MESSAGE** ..... Pastor Christian Taylor

**HYMN #322** ..... *Up From the Grave He Arose* | UMH ..... Scott Turner

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**  
**THE LORD'S PRAYER** ..... Pastor Christian Taylor

**OFFERTORY** ..... *Meditation* | by Alban Whitworth ..... Scott Turner

**+ DOXOLOGY #99** ..... *My Tribute* | UMH ..... Scott Turner

**+ SPOKEN BLESSING** ..... Pastor Christian Taylor

**POSTLUDE** ..... *Postlude in Classic Style* | by Gordon Young ..... Scott Turner

You are invited to be seated and enjoy the Postlude or leave quietly in peace. **Thank you for worshipping with us, and for your continued generosity and support.**

*Coming Soon...*

• **TONIGHT, April 19<sup>th</sup>** | 4pm – 6pm | **UNO Tournament** | First UMC | All Ages Welcome

• **Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>** | 4pm – 6:30pm | **Haven of Hope Pulled Pork Dinner Fundraiser** | Pickup @ 233 N. Market St. Van Wert | Tickets \$15 | Talk to Jamie Ramos

• **Month of April** | **Gently Used Shoe Drive** | Drop off outside Church Office | Proceeds from Drive benefit Missions Trip

• **Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>** | **Youth Flower Sale Pick Up** | VW County Fairgrounds | \* See Insert for Pickup Map

• **June 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>** | **Vacation Bible School** | Rainforest Falls – Exploring the Nature of God | Talk to Cristi Laukhuf

• **June 14<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>** | **Mission Trip to Woodbridge, Virginia** | Spots Still Available | Talk to Teresa Shaffer

