


In an effort to share the Gospel far and wide, Bath Church records its services and events for broadcast on the internet. Your attendance at a service or event constitutes your consent to be included in any filming, photographing, audio recording, or broadcast and for any other use in whole or in part, including publicity and promotion. If you prefer to avoid being filmed or photographed, please sit in the balcony.

LOOKING AHEAD AT THE BATH CHURCH

- TODAY – Welcome New Members @9am with reception after worship
TODAY – Hunger Walk @3pm Begins at Unitarian Universalist Church of Akron
TODAY – Dessert Auction & Talent Show @5pm
May 9 – Women of Faith Meet at church @9:15am Boyerts/The Farmers Table Outing
May 11 – Spring Clean Up @9am
May 17 – Music at Bath Concert Series - Wit's Folly @7pm
May 19 – Pentecost & Confirmation Sunday @9am – reception after worship
May 19 – Music at Bath Concert Series – Singers Company @4pm
May 25 – Worship on the Lawn (weather permitting) @10am
(Our 10am summer worship time begins.)
May 27 – Church Offices Closed – Memorial Day
June 2 – Annual Meeting immediately after 10am worship
June 8 – Bath Community Garage Sale – Spaces on church campus available
June 15 – 21 - Youth Work Camp – Frederick, Maryland
June 23 – Music at Bath Concert Series –
Julie Anna Gulenko - Broadway on the Lawn @5pm

**No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!** 



The Bath Church, United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming and Stephen Ministry Congregation
3980 W. Bath Rd. Akron, OH 44333
330.666.3520 bathucc@bathucc.org

Your generosity supports the mission and ministry of The Bath Church. Thank you!

The Bath Church **May 5, 2024** **Ascension Sunday**



The Bath Church, United Church of Christ, is an open and affirming congregation. We welcome and affirm YOU and all people of every sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, physical or cognitive ability, race, age, ethnicity, family circumstance, and social and economic status to the full life and ministry of our church. We strive to be a safe place, free from the fear of judgment, where wounds can heal, and differences and inclusivity are celebrated. We declare this in the everlasting grace of the Still-Speaking God.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS AND AUDIO AIDS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE USHERS

** You are invited to stand in body or spirit*

Welcome to The Bath Church!

The Rev. Dr. Cindy Parker

One: Where we believe no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,
All: **you are welcome here!**

Reaching Out & Building Beloved Community

A Message from our Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Eric Hankins

A Message from our Scout Troop #385

Eric Matheny

Prelude

I Come With Joy, based on Southern Harmony Dove of Peace

arr. Sondra K. Tucker

Bath Belles and Beaus Handbell Ensemble

Call to Worship (responsively)

One: A new day has begun.
All: **Hope wins!**
One: A fresh start is granted.
All: **Faith wins!**
One: Today you have the opportunity to do something new.
All: **Hope wins!**
One: Christ is entering your life in a new way.
All: **Faith wins!**
One: Come, let us worship God, who is inviting us into life in a new way, a way that transcends death, a way of hope and faith.
All: **Love wins! It is time to worship Christ, who overcame death to give us new life!**

Opening Prayer (*together-inspired by Acts 1: 6-11*)

Almighty God, as we prepare to worship today, we ask that you will stretch our imaginations to sense the majesty and mystery of your ascension. Help us perceive how Jesus' presence in heaven can give us confidence in our praying and hope for the future. Through Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

***Opening Hymn #342** *Rejoice, the Lord is King* vss. 1, 2

Welcoming New Members

Gary Rouse

We joyfully welcome Ron Bechtel, Eric Hankins, Lisa and James McClellan into our church family!!

Questions of Faith

Pastor: Together we affirm our faith as we receive these new members into our church family.

Church family: We believe in God who has created and is creating.

Pastor: God has come to us in Jesus Christ to reconcile and make us new. God works in us and others by the Holy Spirit.

Church family: We trust God. God calls us to be the church.

Pastor: (*To the new members*) Will you promise to support this church family with your time, talents, and resources, participating regularly in the worship and work of The Bath Church, United Church of Christ and contributing to our life and ministry in Akron and beyond?

New Members: We do promise. With you, we will celebrate God's presence, love and serve others, care for creation, seek justice and resist evil.

Pastor: With your love, God will love. With your hands, God will touch our neighbors. With your lives, God will bring justice and compassion to the world.

Church family: We promise our love, support and care.

ALL: Together we will strive to love as Jesus loves us. In life and death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God!

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory *O Day Full of Grace*, setting by Wayne Wold
Jeff Sonoda, organ

***Doxology #684** *For the Life That You Have Given*

***Prayer of Thanksgiving** (*together*)

Risen and ascended Lord Jesus, when we are numbed by the suffering of the world, take us back to the deep truth of your power and glory, of your invincible Kingdom, of your promise of reconciliation. In the knowledge of this truth, help us to bring our gaze to earth and find the strength to go into the

world, to do your will on earth as in heaven. To build the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.

Gospel Story "The Ascension of Jesus" Acts 1:1-11

Message for all God's Children

God is Still Speaking "Final Instructions" The Rev. Dr. Cindy Parker

Prayer of Confession (*together*)

We come, O Lord, on this day of glory to confess our lack of trust. While we sing of your lordship over all creation, we have too often acted as though you are powerless in the face of today's events. Help us to live with confidence in your presence today and in hope for life with you forever.

Words of Grace

Celebration at the Lord's Table (*ALL are welcome at God's Table! The elements will be served to you today. Please hold the bread until all are served so we can eat together as the Body of Christ. Please drink the cup as you receive it.*)

Invitation

Come to the table. It's an open feast. Christ invites us all—
the rich and the poor, the outcast and the honored.
Come to the gathering of sinners and saints.
Come to this blessed table where Christ reigns.
Come and taste the kingdom of God, where all are welcome.

Prayer

Sharing the Story

Sharing at the Table

***Sending Hymn #317** *Crown Him With Many Crowns* vss. 1, 2

***Invitation to join us next week**

***Blessing**

***Blessing Response** (*together*)

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you, each hour of every day.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

Postlude *Variations sur "Christus Vincit"*, Denis Bédard
Jeff Sonoda, organ