

Silent Prayer and Meditation

Joshua 1:9

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

After a time of silence, music will begin, at this time you are invited to bring your prayers to the altar and to light a candle as an outward expression of your prayer intention. If you are unable to stand or kneel, we invite you to ask another sitting near you to light a candle for you.

Giving- *During this time of prayer you are also welcome to bring your gifts to the boxes at the ends of the prayer rails.*

Prayer Response *Take, O Take Me As I Am* W&S 3119 *GREEN HYMNAL*

Pastoral Prayer

+ **SENDING FORTH HYMN** *Sweet By and By* *SEE INSERT*

+ **BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *This is Our Creator’s World* arr. Brian Chung

Thank you to today’s worship leaders!

Speaker - Susan Harrison
Liturgist - Bruce McLeod
Song Leader - Gunnar Carlson
Projection & Visuals - Steve Neubauer/Carol Taylor, John Morse
Altar Design - Worship Team
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TEMPLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday, May 4, 2025 3rd Sunday of Easter

Native American Ministries Sunday

Each person is a beloved child of God. Temple United Methodist Church welcomes, affirms and invites everyone into the full life and ministry of our congregation regardless of race, culture, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, family or socioeconomic status, physical or mental ability, or faith history. Join us as we gather as one community, grow our faith, give our diverse gifts, and go into the world to advance the Reign of God.

INFORMAL TIME OF SINGING 9:30 a.m.

All are invited to join as we sing through and teach this Sunday’s service music.

“+” is an invitation to stand in body or in spirit, as each is able.

PRELUDE *Sweet By and By*

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We offer the following acknowledgment of the communities of Indigenous People who first lived in the land we call home. These are the tribes with whom we are walking together within the borders of West Michigan: Odawa (Ottawa), Ojibwe (Chippewa), and Pottawatomie.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Four Sacred Medicines of Turtle Island (North America)



Tobacco



Sage



Cedar



Sweet Grass

BLESSING OF OUR GATHERING

* SEE INSERT FOR AN EXPLINATION OF A SMUGE CERAMONY

One: Creator, Grandfather, we offer the burning of sage as a purification, a reminder for those gathered here to cleanse our thoughts and hearts that we may hear and be guided by your word and direction. Empower each of us through the bringer of Peace, Jesus Christ to seek and make change for a better life for all people and all creation.

Great Spirit, Creator, behold us! You have placed a great power in the direction from which many generations have come forth and have returned.

All: The generation that is here today wishes to cleanse and purify itself, that we may life anew. May the lingering fragrance of the sage purify our feet and hands, that we may walk forward upon the sacred earth, raising our faces to the Creator. Your spirit, my spirit, may they unite to make one spirit in healing. A-Ho and Amen.

Adapted from Eastern Cherokee prayer tradition by Z. Susanne Aikman (Eastern Cherokee) ©

+ CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We are your children.

All: We have heard you in the winds, seen you in the sunrise; we have felt your kindness in the seasons.

One: Great Spirit, we know you! We hear you speak!

All: We know this very moment you are near to us as the air surrounds us and fills our lungs with life!

One: Be with us, Great Spirit. Show us the way you would have us go.

From *Family Prayer* by Sister Kevin Marie Flynn.

+ OPENING HYMN

UMH 92 vs 1-4, 6 *RED HYMNAL*

For the Beauty of the Earth

+ PASSING THE PEACE

handout

UMH 89 vs 1 *RED HYMNAL*

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Please return to your pew when the music begins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Great Spirit, look at our brokenness.

All: We know that in all creation the human family has strayed from the Sacred way— the way of love, respect, gratitude and reverence for all life. We know that we are the ones who are divided. We are the ones who must come back together to walk the Sacred Way— the way of love, respect, gratitude and reverence for all life. Sacred One, teach us love, compassion, and honor, that we may heal the earth and heal each other.

A-Ho and Amen.

based on an Ojibway prayer

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

One: As surely as the rain comes forth to water the earth, God’s mercy comes to us as a gift, abundant and freely given. The same God who created the cosmos and raised Jesus from death to life brings healing and forgiveness to the world today. You are loved; you are restored. In Christ, you are made new.

All: A-Ho and Amen.

HEBREW TESTAMENT READING

Deuteronomy 19:14 *NRSV*

GOSPEL READING

John 4: 5-14 *NRSV*

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

I See You

Susan Harrison

+ HYMN OF RESPONSE

Blest Be the Tie UMH 557 vs 1, 3, 4 *RED HYMNAL*

TIME OF PRAYER, REFLECTION, AND GIVING

You are invited to speak the first names of those in your heart.

SMUDGING - PKWENEZIGE PIGITINIGEWIN

Smudging (also called Pkwenezige Pigitinigewin) is a purifying ceremony commonly used throughout Native American communities. It is often used to cleanse and purify the mind, body and spirit. It can also be used to purify a place or an object. It is most common to place the sacred medicines (herbs and tobacco) into an abalone shell, light the medicines with a match or lighter to ignite a small fire. Once the medicines begin to smoke, smudge the smoke around a person, place or item with the likes of an eagle or hawk feather. Often individuals pray during their smudging process, thanking the Creator.

Herba and medicine used in the smudging ceremony:

Tobacco (traditionally called Asema) is considered the “first medicine,” a gift of the Earth, often given back to the Earth as a blessing. Traditionally tobacco was given to us by the Creator to help us communicate with him our thoughts and feelings as we pray for our loved ones and Creation. Tobacco can be sprinkled on the ground as you say your daily prayers; it can be smoked in a sacred pipe. It can be sprinkled on the waters with your prayers or included in a smudging ceremony.

Cedar (often called Giizhik) is known for its purification properties, often used for sweat lodge ceremonies. Cedar is also used as a protection medicine when people travel. Many dancers place fresh cedar in moccasins or shoes when they travel to a pow wow or ceremony. This is believed to keep their energy pure.

Sage (also called Mashkodewashk) is used in dried form. Its smoke is used for releasing what is troubling the mind, removing negative energy and preparing a person for ceremonies and teachings. The burning of sage in your home can bring you a sense of peace from negative emotions. Sage has other medicinal uses depending on the instructions from your tribe or elder.

Sweetgrass (also called Wiingashk) is often called the hair of Mother Earth and is associated with the north direction. It is said that when we burn sweetgrass, the grandfathers and grandmothers in the spirit world are as stars, and they see us and come close to hear our prayers. It has a sweet aroma that reminds people of their gentleness, love, and kindness.

(Source: Little River Band of Ottawa Indians)

GIVING



There are multiple ways to give- in person, mail, online- www.templeumcmuskegon.com or scan the code with your phone’s camera and click the link VANCO ©



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Today Guest Speaker: Susan Harrison (Temple Lay Leader)
Native American Ministries Awareness Sunday
11:00-Snack and Chat in the church parlor.
- May 5 Cinco de Mayo
10:00-Temple Golf at Westwind Golf Course
- May 11 Mother’s Day
- May 12 10:00-Temple Golf at Westwind Golf Course
- May 13 10:00-Pride Parade organizational mtg
- May 15 1:00-SPRC mtg.

Hand2Hand will continue to collect individual cups of macaroni and cheese and/or ramen noodles through the month of May. With your help, we hope to send extra food home with our 80 kids when school gets out for the summer in early June. Our next day of packing will be on May 21 — the last one of the school year!

Temple Pride Float-volunteers and donated materials needed. We will begin working on the float in May. If you would like to help assemble the float or donate materials for the build, contact pastor Jeff.

Church Parsonage: Fill the hole challenge

The Leadership Team decided to replace the old furnace and air conditioner before a significant price increase in 2025. This required using available funds that were not initially intended for this expense, creating a financial shortfall of \$9,000. The aim is to cover this amount by the end of the year through collective efforts. We invite you to help fill the hole so together we can reach our goal. Thank you!

Fundraiser: Mission for Area People

June 13-Mission for Area People 5th Annual 4-Persons Scramble Golf Outing. For more information see flyers on the bulletin board or online www.missionforareapeople.org

LOVE WINS! -Temple United Methodist T-shirts

Temple will participate in the Muskegon Pride Parade on June 7th with a sponsored float. For Pride Month 2025, we are ordering Temple "Love Wins" T-Shirts. Check out the sample shirt and sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the church parlor. Shirts are \$20 each, and orders will be placed in early May. Show your support by ordering today! **#templestrong**