

Required Reading



Sunday, February 2, 2020
4th Sunday after Epiphany
Celebration of The Lord's Supper

Church Office: (330) 832-1891 / **Email:** richvilleucc@att.net
Website: richvilleucc.com / **Wi-Fi Password:** mudkm?=fg+ju

Adult Bible Groups @ 9:15 AM
 Updates in the Life & Work of the Church @ 10:30 AM
 Worship Service @ 10:30 AM
 Sunday School: Children Dismissed from Worship



Our accessible/family friendly restroom (equipped with changing table) is located at the back of the Fellowship Hall to the right of the kitchen.

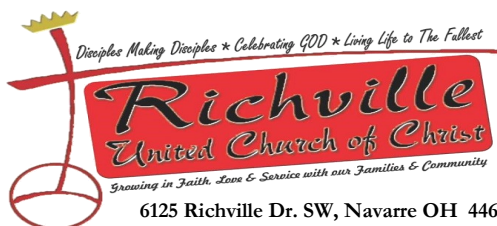
Will Stuart, Pastor
 (330) 704-2164
 pduhillspk@gmail.com
Bonnie Willis, Certified Lay-Minister
 (330) 495-4005
 bwillisrld@gmail.com

Custodian
 Tom Trotter

Gary Bickel, Director of Youth & Family
 (330) 880-6368
 gbickel@aol.com

Organist
 Michael Calabris

Secretary
 Jenny Lambert



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*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!*

4th Sunday after Epiphany
Celebration of The Lord's Supper

Something to Think and Pray About:

"For some reason, the most vocal Christians among us never mention the Beatitudes (Matthew 5). But, often with tears in their eyes, they demand that the Ten Commandments be posted in public buildings. And of course, that's Moses, not Jesus. I haven't heard one of them demand that the Sermon on the Mount, the Beatitudes, be posted anywhere. 'Blessed are the merciful' in a courtroom? 'Blessed are the peacemakers' in the Pentagon? Give me a break!" **-Kurt Vonnegut**

"HELPED are those whose every act is a prayer for peace; on them depends the future of the world." **-Alice Walker**

"Life is a long lesson in humility." **-J.M. Barrie**

"This is the big lie that the world tells us: "The world is connected by trade agreements, electronic banking, computer networks, shipping lanes, and the seeking of profit -nothing else". This is the truth of God: "Creation is a holy web of relationship, a gift meant for all; it vibrates with the pain of all its parts; its destiny is joy". **-Julie Polter**

GATHERING OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY

+ **Designates all who are able please stand.**

10:30 am - Updates in the Life and Work of the Church

10:30 am - Ringing of the Church Bell

Prelude **"Prelude in G minor"** attr. J.S. Bach, 1685 – 1750

WELCOME

+ Opening Hymn #460 [vs. 1,3,4] **"Be Thou My Vision"**

+ **Call To Worship** (with Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Pardon) *(responsive)*

[inspired by Micah 6:1-8; abbreviated]

Leader: Let us gather together to listen to what The LORD says.

PEOPLE: **We will rise and cry-out in our troubles. We will plead our case throughout Creation -knowing that GOD wants our voices to be heard.**

Leader: But even as we do, we must also confess that we have forgotten The Holy One's kindnesses towards us.

PEOPLE: **So forgive us, Gracious GOD, we pray. Remind us of all the ways across the ages that YOU have led YOUR people out of slavery.**

Leader: Wipe away any weariness in us, we ask, and restore us to the knowledge of YOUR Saving Acts.

PEOPLE: **Then, out of thanksgiving for YOUR Grace and Forgiveness, we will honestly wrestle with how best to respond.**

Leader: Should we show our repentance and gratitude through elaborate rituals, or think that we can repay YOU with enormous offerings and vain sacrifices which do nothing to promote Life?

PEOPLE: No, YOU have told us what is good. YOU have called us to admit our sin. To take stock of our mortality and human limitations.

Leader: YOU have been clear about what YOU really require from us. We, in turn, seek YOUR Blessing to live into YOUR Commands.

ALL: *May we be empowered to seek justice. May we love mercy. May we ever walk humbly with YOU; AMEN!*

+ Sung Response #9 **“Glory Be to the Father”** (Gloria Patri)

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.*

FEASTING ON THE LIVING WORD OF GOD

The Christian Scriptures (New Testament)

The Good News According to Matthew 5:1-12

Children’s Message

(Children up to grade 6 are dismissed for Sunday School. Confirmation age children and above are to stay in worship, unless they are requested to help in Sunday school.)

Communion Meditation: **“Required Reading and Humble Pie”**

+ Hymn of Response & Preparation #745 **“Here at Thy Table, Lord”**

Gathering at The Lord’s Table

Words of Institution and Prayer of Consecration

Invitation and Distribution of The Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord’s Prayer

(using “sins” and “those who sin against us”)

Responding to God’s Grace (Committing Ourselves and Our Gifts)

Prayers of The People (Joys and Concerns)

Prayer Response **“Hear Our Prayer, O Lord”**

*Hear our prayer, O Lord, hear our prayer, O Lord,
Incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace. Amen.*

Bringing our Gifts and Thanksgiving Before The LORD

Call to Offering

Offertory **“Improvisation on ‘Bread of the World, in Mercy Broken’”** Charles Callahan, b. 1951

+ Offertory Response #7 **“Doxology”**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creatures here below.
Praise him above, ye heav’nly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

+ Prayer of Dedication ^[informed by 1st Corinthians 1:18-31] *(responsive)*

Leader: As those who have been saved by the foolish wisdom of Christ's Cross, we come before YOU with these gifts of thanks.

PEOPLE: **As those who acknowledge that we rely on our own human skills too often, we commit ourselves and these offerings to YOUR Holy Discernment.**

Leader: Allow our living and giving to lead others to believe in The Crucified One. Take these tithes and use them in ways which meet the needs of different people according to their specific concerns -but always in such a manner as they come to see Jesus as YOUR Power and Wisdom made flesh.

PEOPLE: **So we want our contributions to celebrate how YOU called us when we weren't especially strong, or wise, noble or wealthy.**

Leader: Anoint these resources, then, we pray, to bless the weak, lift-up the lowly, grant dignity to the despised, and give birth to YOUR Kingdom which has not yet fully arrived.

ALL: ***And may we never be prideful about our own abilities or status. Rather, may all we share proclaim that YOU have given us Real Life through Christ-Jesus, who is our Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification, and Redemption. May our time, talents, and treasures serve to boast in YOU, alone, O LORD; AMEN!***

Proclaiming Emmanuel to the World

+ Charge and Benediction ^(Challenge & Blessing)

+ Sending Hymn #542 **"When the Church of Jesus"**

+ Carillon Postlude on Hymns of the Day ^{Michael Calabris}

WELCOME GUESTS:

If you are visiting us today, our prayer is that you would see and experience the whole-life transformation offered us in Jesus.

Large print bulletins are at the entry doors of the sanctuary.

Please visit our Welcome Center. Most any information you would want to know about our ministry and/or all sign up sheets are centrally located there. Also make sure to pick up your welcome gift!

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN:

Please remember to visit our Children's Area located to the right of the sanctuary doors. There you may sign your kids in, as well as grab a children's bulletin and a busy box.

Our education wing is located downstairs in the lower level. We have education classes for children (during worship) and also have a nursery.

COMING NEXT WEEK:

5th Week after Epiphany

Science/Technology
& Racial Justice Sunday

Theme/Message:
"Extreme Makeover"

Focus Text:
Isaiah 58:1-12
(with Matthew 5:13-20
and 1st Corinthians 2:1-16)

Please join us for our hospitality social after worship in our Fellowship Hall directly behind our sanctuary.