

February 4, 2024

# Believing Beyond Barriers

**5 Ways that Religion Can Bring  
People Together Today**



**11:00 AM**



*We exist to connect all people with Jesus Christ.  
We do this by welcoming enthusiastically, growing deeply and serving courageously.*

## 🌀 Welcome 🌀

*Children of all ages and their rustling are welcome in worship,  
with special activity packets available at all entrances for younger children.  
Nursery care and Children's Sunday School are located in Whittler Treehouse.*

**PRELUDE** "Grand Processional" (Dale Wood)

Craig Datz

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Pastors Daniel & Jewell

**+CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rick Hart

Are you listening? God is doing a new thing! Will you join in?

**Yes! We will follow!**

Listen! Did you miss it? God calls us again to build the kin-dom of heaven. Will you join in?

**Yes! We will be builders of the kin-dom.**

Wait, did you catch that? Again, God calls us to declare the good news to those in need. Will you join in?

**Yes! We will declare the good news with our voices and our lives.**

And still, God calls. God never quits calling us to live and to give abundant life. Will you join in?

**Yes! We will join with God in sharing the gracious gift of abundant life with the world. May we respond to God's loving and persistent call with a loving and persistent yes! A yes for us, a yes for our neighbors, and a yes for our world to be transformed by the good news that God's kin-dom has come near. Amen.**

**+OPENING HYMN UMH 140** "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

**+PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**Holy One, what a blessing and privilege we share here in this sacred space and among this loving community. But, like Jonah, we sometimes are jealous of what we share here. We know that others are longing and thirsting for what we know and experience. Forgive us our reluctance to open our doors, open our hearts to others; some like us, some not. We repent of our hesitations and unwillingness to witness to those we have considered strangers and even enemies for fear they just might become friends. Amen.**

The one who calls us to this place calls us to reconciliation through grace.

God will not deny a repentant heart or an open spirit.

Know that you are forgiven

**God will not deny a repentant heart or an open spirit.**

**Know that you are forgiven**

Know that you are forgiven and walk in the new way that is made known to you in God's love. Amen

**ANTHEM** “O Love” (Elaine Hagenberg)

Chancel Choir

## **TIME OF PRAYER**

### **THE LORD’S PRAYER UMH 895**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** “Let There Be Peace on Earth” (arr. Douglas Wagner) Wesleyan Ringers  
*To e-give, text “MOUMC” to 73256 or give online using the QR code below.*

### **+DOXOLOGY UMH 94**

### **+PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

### **SCRIPTURE READING** Jonah 4 (NRSVue)

Holy Spirit, as we have read this Scripture in our community,  
humbly interpreting through Reason, varied Experience and Tradition,  
bless our hearing and understanding.  
**May our listening be done with love.**

**MESSAGE** “Believing Beyond Barriers: Cultivating Compassion” Pastor Daniel

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION** Sung responses in TFWS 2257  
*The Great Thanksgiving - Our Preparation for Holy Communion*

### **+PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**+CLOSING HYMN UMH 381** “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

### **+INVITATION AND BENEDICTION**

**+POSTLUDE** “March” (Calvin Hampton)

Acknowledgements:

Call to Worship: Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, August 2023.

Invocation: Written by Rev. Madison Shockley, as part of a larger liturgy called Reluctant

Evangelists: Service Prayers for the Third Sunday after Epiphany

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Meet & Greet | Today @ 5 PM

Lorie Wilson is our new Director of Children's and Family Ministries. Please join her in Whittler tonight at 5 PM to say 'hello' and introduce yourself and your kids. There will be pizza, cookies and soda provided. You are welcome to bring something to share as well.

### Festival of Sharing | February

Student Dental Packs are approximately \$13 and include child soft toothbrushes, adult soft toothbrushes, dental floss, and fluoride toothpaste. Last year, we collected enough to provide 486 dental packs to children in need. The best way to help is to make a donation with "FOS" or "Dental pack" in the memo.

### Backpacks of Love | February

Our children and families are so enthusiastic about contributing to Backpacks of Love to help local children in need. This month we are collecting packs of children's socks. Consider taking your kids to pick out some socks at the store; have them bring the socks to to Whittler during Sunday school.

### MUMC Tabletop | Thursdays 6-8 PM

MUMC Tabletop returns! Young or old, experienced or new to board games, you are invited to drop in and have some intergenerational fun. We will bring a variety of new games, as always. Have a favorite? Feel free to bring one from home as well.

For this week's event calendar, visit [moumc.org/calendar](http://moumc.org/calendar).

Submit your connect card and share prayer concerns at [moumc.org/comm-card](http://moumc.org/comm-card).

## CONNECT WITH US!

204 S. Ninth St., Columbia, MO 65201  
(573) 443-3111 | [moumc.org](http://moumc.org)

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