



# INTER-FAITH CHAPEL

*"A House of Prayer for All People"*

## HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY

April 14, 2024

### OPENING THOUGHT

*A merry heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones.*

- Proverbs 17:22

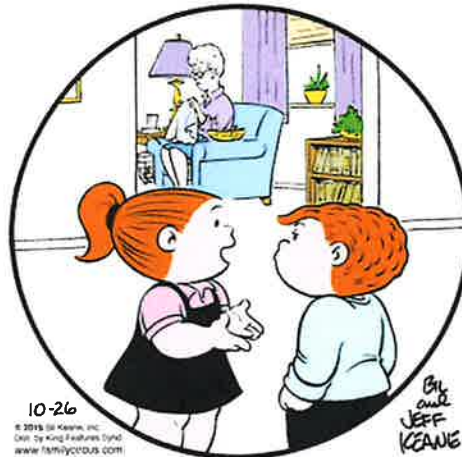
### PRELUDE

*I Danced in the Morning*  
Dr. Holly Oberle, Director of Music

Kerr

### WORDS OF WELCOME

Dr. Woodie Rea



10-26  
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By  
and  
JEFF  
KEANIE

"The two places we know we're  
always welcome are church  
and Grandma's house."

### LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE

### INTROIT

*Jesus Laughed Out Loud*  
Chancel Choir

Damon

### CALL TO JOYFUL WORSHIP

*Leader: This is a time to worship!*

**ALL: This is a time to rejoice!**

*Leader: This is a day to laugh!*

**ALL: What better time than now!**

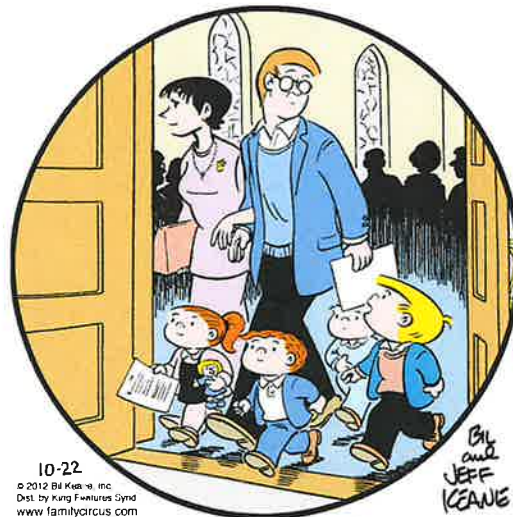
*Leader: Let us delight with pleasure before the Lord.*

**ALL: Let us worship the Lord with gladness.**

*Leader: What did the farmer pastor say to the people?*

**ALL: Lettuce pray!**

### INVOCATION



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Bill  
and  
JEFF  
KEANE

**“When we sing the hymns,  
I think it’s best for me  
to just be a listener.”**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea



11-13  
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and  
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KEANE

**“God knows all our sins ‘cause  
they’re stored in His cloud.”**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**UNISON**

God of Joy, what important people we believe we are. We confess that we often take ourselves too seriously. Thinking that we have to be constantly solemn, we miss out on much joy in your creation. Be patient with us when we don’t claim the happiness that is available to us in life. Forgive us, Heart of Joy, and make us open to the surprising and amusing ways in which you work. Fill us with Easter’s laughter. Fill us with your healing joy. Fill us with the love poured into us through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

✦ You are invited to stand as you are comfortable.

*Music used by permission, CCLI #1683224*

# Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee



1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;  
2. All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heaven re - flect Thy rays,  
3. Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,  
4. Mor - tals, join the hap - py cho - rus Which the morn - ing stars be - gan;



Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore Thee, Open - ing to the sun a - bove.  
Stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
Well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean depth of hap - py rest!  
Fa - ther love is reign - ing o'er us, Broth - er love binds man to man.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the dark of doubt a - way;  
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, Flow - ery mead - ow, flash - ing sea,  
Thou our Fa - ther Christ, our Broth - er— All who live in love are Thine;  
Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, Vic - tors in the midst of strife,



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day.  
Chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, Call us to re - joice in Thee.  
Teach us how to love each oth - er, Lift us to the joy di - vine.  
Joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun - ward In the tri - umph song of life. A - men.



✦ **AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We believe in an amazing God,  
Who places joy in our souls,  
And songs in our hearts;  
Who never gives up loving and working for our good.**

**We believe in Jesus,  
Who cheered the broken and dined with the outcasts;  
Who set an extra place at the party for us.  
We believe that Jesus wept – and that Jesus laughed.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
The Divine Presence of joy, hope, and possibility.  
We often experience a sense of Spirit with a sense of humor.**

**We believe that God is the Source of laughter.  
We believe that nothing can separate us from  
The joy, hope, and love, that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

✦ **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.**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

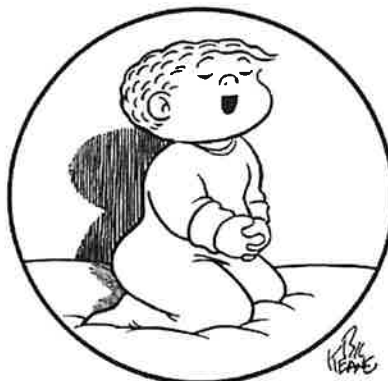
1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1: 3-9

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**UNISON**

**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 sins as we  
forgive those who sin 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.**



**"Our Father, who art in heaven,  
how did You know  
my name?"**

ANTHEM

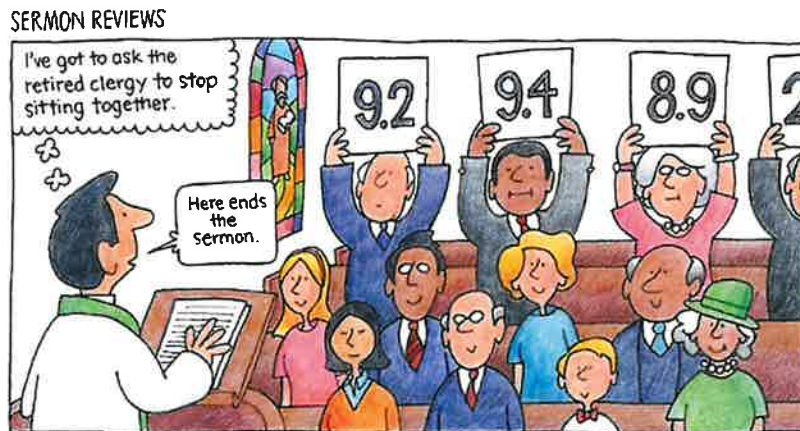
*Shine, Jesus Shine*  
Chancel Choir

Kendrick

SERMON

“We Need A Laugh”

Dr. Woodie Rea



INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

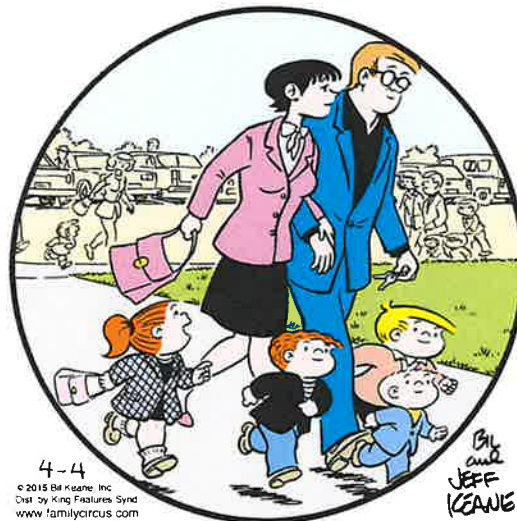
*Someone's Praying, Lord*  
Dr. Holly Oberle, Organist

Wagner

◆ GLORY TO GOD

Tune: Lasst Uns Erfreuen)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Alleluia! Alleluia!**  
**Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise Spirit, Holy Spirit!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**



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Bill  
and  
JEFF  
KEANE

“I like it when everyone in church  
sings about that Ollie Louya guy.”

◆ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

◆HYMN

*Joy to the World*

◆ BENEDICTION

*Leader: The God of Laughter called us together  
So we could share in the laughter of life.*

**ALL: The God of Joy sends us out,  
To carry the joy of life to the world.**

*Leader: May the God of surprises bring smiles and joys  
To the everyday and ordinary.*

**ALL: May the God of love be seen in all we do and say.  
Let us go forth to live, to love, to laugh,  
And may the Spirit of Hope and Joy be with us now and forever. Amen.**

◆ JOYFUL RESPONSE

**I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy  
Down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart,  
I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy  
Down in my heart, Down in my heart to stay.  
(Repeat)**

POSTLUDE

*Jesus Shall Reign*

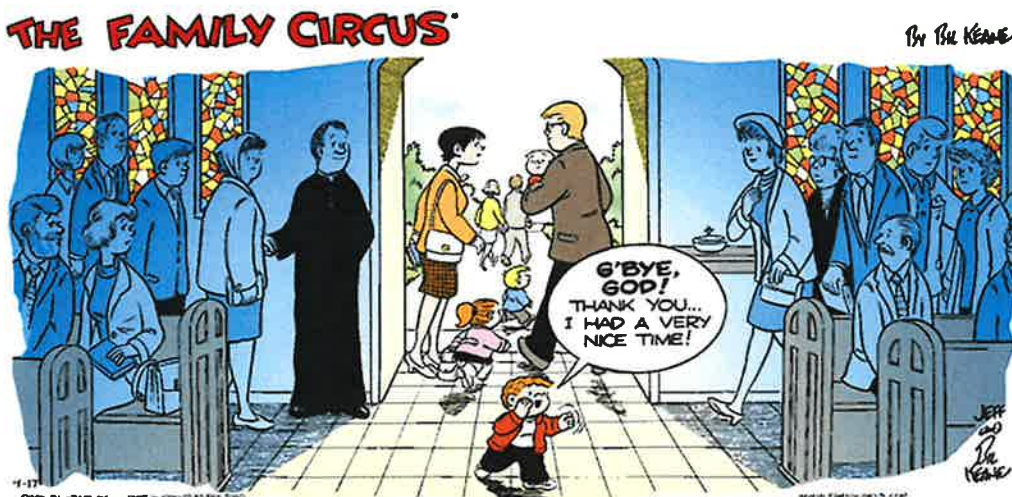
Johnson

Dr. Holly Oberle, Director of Music

PARTING THOUGHT

*As I stumble through this life, help me to create more laughter than tears, dispense more cheer than gloom, and spread more joy than despair. Never let me become so indifferent, that I will fail to see the wonders in the eyes of a child, or the twinkle in the eyes of the aged. Never let me forget that my total effort is to cheer people, make them happy, and forget momentarily, all the unpleasantness in their lives. And in my final moment, may I hear You whisper: "When you made my people smile, you made me smile."*

- A Clown's Prayer



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# Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
 2. Joy to the world, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
 3. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,  
 songs em - ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness,

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

And heaven and na - ture sing, and  
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -  
 And won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,  
 peat the sound - ing joy,  
 won - ders of his love,

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## WELCOME

We are delighted that you have chosen to worship with us today! We are a congregation that has its doors open to all as we seek to share the love of God and the joy of life through caring, outreach, and worship. If you are a visiting with us today, please consider signing our *Visitor Register* and be sure to pick up an Inter-Faith Chapel mug as our small gift.

## HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY

Designating a Sunday service to celebrate God's gift of laughter and joy may be a new concept for some. By doing so, we are in fact, participating in an ancient tradition. This celebration was rooted in the writings of early church theologians that the resurrection of Jesus was "God's joke played on death." Churches in 15<sup>th</sup> century would celebrate *Risus Paschalis* ('Easter laugh') as days of joy and laughter with festivities, funny stories, and food. Today, let's celebrate together!

## INTER-FAITH WOMEN

Join The Inter-Faith Women on **Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM** as Bertie Knisely presents a program about her recent journey to southwest Tanzania in east Africa. Her presentation will tell of how the Tanzanian based Mercy World Organization NPO is working to "Save The Dreams" of vulnerable children orphaned in that area. Come and learn and enjoy traditional food and art-work of Tanzania. All are welcome.

## GETTING YOUR LIFE IN ORDER

A workshop on end-of-life issues is being offered by The Inter-Faith Chapel on **Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9:30 AM – 12:00 Noon**. Come and hear presentations from professionals offering resources to help organize your legal, medical, and financial concerns. Topics will include financial planning, memorial/funeral service planning, health care instructions, and other important areas. A resource notebook is available for a \$17.00 donation. Register by calling the Chapel office by Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>.

## CENTERING PRAYER

You are invited to join with others on **Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM** in the Fellowship Hall to "*Be still and know God*" as we learn and participate about contemplative forms of prayer. Spiritual Director, Bertie Knisely facilitates this wonderful time of various prayer practices that are sure to deepen your personal spiritual life. Please register ahead of time by calling The Chapel office or emailing Bertie [bertiek@moravian.edu](mailto:bertiek@moravian.edu).

## PRAYER SEMINAR

We are pleased to announce that Rev. Dr. Tim Bonner will be teaching a class on "*The Essentials of Prayer*" on **Monday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM** in the Fellowship Hall. This seminar will examine the Biblical models and teachings on prayer from both the Old and New Testaments. To register for this seminar, please call The Chapel Office at 301-598-5312 by April 24<sup>th</sup>.