

EMMANUEL (BAUST)
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Service of Word

March 30, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Pastor: Rev. Roger Wilmer, Jr.

L = Leader P = People

**For those who are able, please stand.*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Liturgist

***Call to Worship**

L: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation!

P: Thanks be to God for such great mercy.

L: Everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

P: Thanks be to God for new beginnings!

L: God has given us the ministry of reconciliation through Christ Jesus.

P: Together we will make a new beginning in Christ!

L: Let us worship God with joyful hearts, trusting God to renew us and all things.

P: We will lift our praises to God with hearts refreshed by grace.

Hymn

My Life Flows on in Endless Song

Black No. 476

***Prayer for Our Humanity**

L: God of Mystery and Mercy, we gather to worship in humility and hope because we trust You have the power to change the world for the better with Your love. We gather to worship You, trusting that no person or situation is beyond Your concern, or Your embrace. Inspire us with a vision of love that will change the world and our lives through the love and mercy we meet in Jesus Christ, Your Son and our Saviour.

P: God of love and mercy, when we pause for a moment in Your presence, the daily details of our lives press in on us. We recall things left undone, opportunities ignored. We remember careless words spoken, disappointments that trouble our souls.

***Words of Assurance**

Liturgist

***Song of Praise**

I Come to the Cross

Green No. 251

I come to the cross-seeking mercy and grace;

I come to the cross where you died in my place.

Out of my weakness and into your strength; humbly I come to the cross.

Your arms are open, you call me by name, you welcome this child that was lost.

You paid the price for my guilt and my shame; Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come,

Jesus, I come to the cross.

Anthem

Scripture

Joshua 5:9-12

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Liturgist

***Gospel**

Luke 22:31-34

Rev. Wilmer, Jr.

Sermon Hymn Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Green No.72

Sermon

Turtle Christians

Rev. Wilmer, Jr.

***Affirmation of Faith**

P: We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Prayers of the People

Rev. Wilmer, Jr.

Our Lord's Prayer (using debts)

Offertory

***Doxology** Doxology (with A-men)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

L: Please join me in the prayer of dedication.

P: We place these gifts into Your hands, O God. Bless them with Your transforming grace so that they may become seeds springing up with new life in the world You love. Fill our hearts with that same grace so we can bring hope to weary and worried lives in Jesus' name. Amen.

***Closing Hymn** Softly and Tenderly

Green No. 348

***Benediction**

Rev. Wilmer, Jr.

Postlude

March 30, 2025

**"Whoever you are and wherever you
are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!"**

We extend a warm welcome to each one in worship, whether a member, friend or guest with us today. If you are not currently on our church mailing list to receive the church newsletter and would like to be included, please let us know. Our church website is: ebucc.com. If you use email and would like to receive updated prayer concerns, Church information and announcements please send an email to: office@ebucc.com noting that we may include you in our electronic mailings which include our church newsletter.

Saturday Meet and Greet: Search Committee and Consistory invite you to a casual meet and greet on Saturday March 29, between 10 and 12, in the Parsonage, and in worship on Sunday March 30, when Reverend Wilmer will lead worship and preach. A congregational meeting will follow the service and will offer the opportunity for each church member to ask questions of the Search

Committee and to vote on the call for our new pastor. Light refreshments will be served.

EBUCC Offerings: Baust members, friends, and visitors may put regular offerings and special donations in the offering plates placed just inside the front and rear entrances to the sanctuary. During the offertory, these plates will be brought to the altar by our ushers.

Help Needed! Are you able to volunteer to be part of the audio-visual "Zoom" transmitting of our worship services? We're down to just three rotating volunteers now, and the burden would be more manageable if we had a few more folks in the rotation. The commitment would be for running the transmission and recording set-up in the Good Shepherd Room for about fifteen minutes before our worship services, monitoring the transmission during worship and closing it down when the service concludes. Our current "Techs, " Beth Raver, Ben Brandenburg and Kent Kallay, would train and help new volunteers. And we would all be grateful for your willingness to help. Please let Kent, Beth or Ben know if you'd consider joining the crew!

Let's Keep in Touch! If you learn of anyone in our Baust Church Family who needs a visit or phone calls, please let a Consistory member know. Sandy Stonesifer, Board of Elders Chair, will coordinate help from all of us Baust members and friends to be in contact with those who are home-bound and those under care in a hospital or nursing home. We want to be sure we're keeping in touch with all of our Baust Family, especially in times of illness and other personal needs.

Maundy Thursday Service: There will be no Maundy Thursday service on Thurs. April 17. Holy Communion will be administered on Easter Sunday during the 10:00 AM service. Members are urged to join neighboring churches which will be having Maundy Thursday service.

Easter Sunrise Service: Easter Sunrise Service will be held April 20, 2025 at the top of the hill. The service will start at 6:00 am. Morning worship with communion will begin at 10AM.

Altar Flowers: Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of Ruth Simmont, our Mother, Grandmother, Great-Grandmother and Friend, by Chuck Simmont and Family.

Choir Rehearsal: Choir will rehearse each Sunday in the sanctuary immediately following church. Also, the choir will warm up each Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. in the choir room.

Carroll Food Sunday: Baust Church has been asked to donate laundry detergent for the month March. Donations can be brought to the Good Shepherd Room or the porch in the parsonage. Donations can also be brought to Trinity Lutheran on Tuesday or Thursday mornings or left in the cabinet under the portico throughout the week.

Annual Reports Due: Reports for 2024 from all EBUCG organizations, missions and committees are due to the church office before March 31, 2025.

Consistory Meeting: Consistory will meet on Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at 6:30 pm in the parsonage.

Bible Study: Bible Studies will be on Thursday evenings at 6:00 in the parsonage and generally lasts about an hour. Everyone is welcome to join us as we learn more of God's word through study and discussion. Contact Betty Stonesifer if there are questions.

Baust Literary (March): The March book is, "*The Westerner*", by Carol Tonnesen; Based on the real lives of two Lebanon Ohio citizens this east meets west story is about the love between a girl from the east and a soldier stationed in the west. All are welcome; our next meeting will be March 25, 2025 at 6:00pm in the Parsonage.

Mission of the Lenten Season:

One Great Hour of Sharing(OGHS) is a vital special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. It connects you to disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development efforts around the globe. This year's theme is "**Be the Light**".

When you give to OGHS, you are the "**light**" for people in need. You offer "**light**" when disaster strikes, and when chronic conditions threaten families and communities. You are "**light**" not just in the immediate future, but also for the

long haul. When you give, you restore not only structures, but also transform lives. Your gift ensures that no matter how difficult the situation, "light" shines.

Mature Christian Luncheon: All are welcome! April 17, 2025 at 12:00 in the Parish Hall. If you would like to attend contact Joan Fisher @ 410-530-1188 or Bob Fisher @ 410-404-4354 so they can make sure they have enough for everyone.

Work Day: Work day is schedule for April 12, 2025, starting at 8:30 am. Please contact Joe Engel if you are available 410-812-3386. Let keep our property looking beautiful!

Liturgist Schedule:

April 6, 2025	Nancy Edwards		
April 13, 2025	Sandy Stonesifer	Palm Sunday	
April 20, 2025	Bob Miller	Easter Sunday	Communion
April 27, 2025	Lois Bickerton		
May 4, 2025	Kathy Cromwell		
May 11, 2025	Nancy Edwards	Mother's Day	
May 18, 2025	Sandy Stonesifer		
May 25, 2025	Bob Miller	Memorial Day	

Once again Thank You for your service to our Congregation and if everything works out right on the "Candidate Sunday 3/30" providing a steadying influence on our new Pastor.

2025 Fundraiser Dates:

August 23, 2025	Antique Car & Tractor Show
November 2025	Texas Roadhouse Gift Cards
November 8, 2025	Fall Soup & Sandwich Sale
December 13, 2025	Christmas Cookie Sale

First Sunday of the Month Luncheon:

Date: Today

Time: Noon

Place: Illiano's J&P Westminster

Address: 480 Meadow Creek Drive, Westminster MD

Website: www.illianojandp.com <http://www.rubescrabshack.com>

J&P's Phone: 410-857-0940

RSVP by noon April 5th to Kathy Cromwell at 443-331-3160 (H) or 410-456-7672 (C) or KathleenCromwell@comcast.net

April 6th Pastor:

April 6th Scriptures: Isaiah 43:16-21
Philippians 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8

April 6th Liturgist: Nancy Edwards

PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

Church Members

Nancy Edwards	Joan Wantz
Duane Rodkey	Linda Goodwin
Linda Dennis	Bick and Lois Bickerton
Betty Gross	Cris Hevner
Skeeter Dull	Brent Grove
Calvin Bloom	Bob Miller
Dan & Betty Heltibridle	

Friends

Eric Helm	Mimi DeLore
Libby Fuss	Chic and Sandy Warehime
Allen Robertson	Rev. Herb Ruby
Lainey Hood	Nancy Saari
Tom Hennin	Chris Johnson
Joann Stull	Carole Hill
Ken Morningstar	Ron Corbin
Randy Brodbeck	Sylvia Miller

IN GOD'S SERVICE

Pastor:	Rev. Wilmer Jr.
Secretary:	Jane Rodkey
Secretary's email:	office@ebucc.com
Accompanist:	Jen Sullivan Brown
Consistory President:	George Hardinger
Liturgist:	Bob Miller

SHINING THE LIGHT ON FOOD SECURITY.

Orfelina works with families in the northern regions of Honduras to help them understand how to transform their families and communities through agriculture. The list of things she does is mindboggling: Checking on local farmers' harvest. Monitoring water projects. Teaching the women in the community how to prepare more nutritious meals for their families. Chatting up community leaders for support. Running workshops for things like creating organic fertilizers and sprays.

But Orfelina doesn't just *work* with farmers and their families, she supports and encourages them. Visiting them in their homes. Bringing God's light to everyone she meets. And all of this is made possible through your giving to One Great Hour of Sharing. Because of your giving, projects like these and thousands more around the world are changing lives. Transforming communities. And spreading God's light. Be the Light. Give to One Great Hour of Sharing.

One Great
HOUR
OF SHARING



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—*shine!*

— Matthew 5:14-15

Dear members and friends of Emmanuel Baust United Church of Christ,

As members of the Search Committee, we want to express our gratitude for the trust you have placed in us. Over the last two years, we have prayerfully journeyed together through the process of reviewing profiles and interviewing candidates, ultimately arriving at our decision. We are pleased to recommend to you our candidate for the position of Pastor, to be considered by the congregation at a special meeting on Sunday, March 30, 2025, following worship. We invite you to a casual meet and greet on Saturday, March 29, between 10 am and 12 pm. We will have light refreshments.

We are grateful to our Conference Minister, Rev Sheresa Simpson-Rice, who worked closely with us during this process. We also remember our dear friend and first search committee chair, Mike Paxton, for all his efforts as we started this journey.

To review the steps that led us to this point of confidence:

1. Our church's profile was updated and refreshed, to be more current, reflective of our church, and appealing to candidates.
2. Our vacancy was listed in UCC Ministry Opportunities and in a publication for retired armed forces chaplains. We also utilized local networks and directed any interested candidates to the conference.
3. Persons authorized to complete a UCC Ministerial Profile submitted their profile through the conference office. These profiles had information about the candidates' sense of calling, formation for ministry, faith and leadership experience, references, and an ethical self-disclosure form, and a criminal background check.
4. We received profiles, invited several candidates to participate in interviews and three were asked to preach at a neutral pulpit.
5. Following each neutral pulpit, we sought God's guidance and prayerfully considered each candidate. We were glad when our top candidate responded enthusiastically to our invitation for a candidating weekend. In addition, the Search Committee prepared a formal call agreement.
6. Confidentiality has been essential to our process, and we now ask you to keep in close confidence the candidate's name until such a time as the congregational vote is affirmative and we have the candidate's consent to publish the news of their call ministry with us.
7. Our candidate is Reverend Roger W. Wilmer, Jr.

8. We invite you to a casual meet and greet on Saturday March 29, between 10 and 12, and in worship on Sunday March 30, when Reverend Wilmer will lead worship and preach. A congregational meeting will follow the service and will offer the opportunity for each church member to ask questions of the Search Committee and to vote on the call for our new pastor.

We have been grateful during this two-year search process for many people, including Reverend Herb Ruby, who served as our interim pastor, and our church members who ensured our pulpit was never empty. In addition, we thank Reverend Dan Summers, Reverend Jeffery Dull, and Reverend Andy Hood for the many Sundays they led us in worship.

Again, we encourage you to attend the informal meet and greet on Saturday the 29th and worship service on the 30th to hear more from the search committee as we present our candidate to you.

We are blessed with a supportive and active church community that has continued to grow in membership over these last two years. With hard work, patience, and God's guidance, we will be blessed with a wonderful pastor to guide us as we continue to minister together in the name of Jesus Christ.

In Christ's name,

The Search Committee

Reverend Roger W. Wilmer, Jr.

Reverend Roger W. Wilmer Jr. was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to Roger W. and Jacqueline W. Wilmer. He was educated in the Philadelphia public school system before earning a degree in Surgical Technology from the Institute for the Advancement of the Medical Sciences in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. He built a distinguished career in organ donation and transplantation, serving as a Transplant Coordinator—a field he once considered his greatest passion.

Yet even in his medical career, his faith remained central. Ultimately, he came to recognize that his greatest calling was serving the Lord. Reverend Wilmer accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior at an early age under the pastorship of his grandfather, the late Reverend Dr. T.R. Washington. Raised with a strong foundation in faith, he dedicated his life to God's work. He was spiritually mentored for many years by Reverend Luke J. Robinson, Pastor of Quinn Chapel A.M.E. Church in Frederick, Maryland. It was there that he answered God's call to ministry.

Reverend Wilmer was ordained an Itinerant Deacon in the African Methodist Episcopal Church in May 2003. In 2004, he earned a Master of Divinity from Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, and in 2005, he was ordained an Itinerant Elder. His pastoral journey began at Saint Peter's A.M.E. Church in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, followed by appointments at Bethel A.M.E. Church in Mercersburg and St. James A.M.E. Church in Chambersburg, where he and his wife, Reverend Cheryl Wilmer, served together in ministry. In addition to his pastoral leadership, Reverend Wilmer has served as a chaplain in multiple capacities—strengthening his ability to serve and attend to those facing some of life's hardest moments.

Reverend Wilmer and his wife, Reverend Cheryl Wilmer, have shared 38 wonderful years of marriage. Together, they have two daughters, Jacqueline and Lauren. Their family has grown with the addition of their son-in-law, Evan Atkinson, and three cherished grandchildren: Jordan, Jupiter, and Kinsley.

Grateful for God's guidance, Reverend Wilmer stands firmly on the words of Matthew 28:19-20:

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the

Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Reverend Wilmer remains deeply grateful for the path God has laid before him. With unwavering faith, he continues to serve, teach, and inspire others in their walk with Christ.