



THE UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH OF CHAGRIN FALLS

## Dear UMC of CF congregation,

We, your pastors, will offer you an opportunity to partake in Holy Communion remotely on Maundy Thursday. Bishop Malone shared in an email communication that “The United Methodist Church’s official teaching about Holy Communion encourages the extension of the communion table to all who are ‘unwillingly absent’ from in-person worship.” Certainly this applies to all of us right now. Therefore, Bishop Malone has granted permission to East Ohio clergy to gather the body of Christ online for Communion “in extremis.” The ability to share in Communion is an acknowledgement that even during this time of physical separation we are not spiritually isolated, God’s grace comes to us wherever we are and the Holy Spirit unites us with Christ and with one another. And so, you are invited to prepare yourself to partake in Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday evening by doing the following:

1. Have a piece of bread and a small glass of grape juice or wine ready for Thursday evening at 7:30pm. (Because the elements will be in your own home and not at the church you may substitute what is typically grape juice with wine).
2. You will receive an email from the church about 7:30pm. Click on the video to access the live-streaming of a Maundy Thursday worship experience. The service will include a message and Communion.
3. Holy Communion is meant to be done and experienced together, as the Body of Christ, so unlike Sunday morning recorded services which some of you experience live and others watch the recording at a later time, this service and experience of Holy Communion is meant to be experienced only at 7:30.
4. When you eat the bread and drink the grape juice/wine, please consume all that you have set out.

During Holy Week, it is especially appropriate that we remember our Lord’s gathering with his disciples in an upper room to share a meal together. By doing so, we remember his willing sacrifice on a cross where his body was broken and his blood poured out for us. As your pastors, we are glad to share with you in this sacramental experience of Christ’s loving and saving presence.

May the Spirit of Jesus Christ lead us through and unite us during this Holy Week of unusual isolation!

*Rev. Joyce and Pastor Nick*

