



April 12, 2026
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Sunday Morning Humor

“A gloomy Christian is a contradiction in terms.”

Charles Spurgeon

Welcome

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

April 12, 2026

Joint Service

Greenfield 10:00am

2nd Sunday of Easter / Laugh and Lounge Sunday (Holy Humor)

Holy Humor Sunday reminds us that God gets the last laugh—not in mockery, but in joy—because love is stronger than death.

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

** Call to Worship*

Come, people of God, with your whole selves—
your joy and your sorrow, your laughter and your longing.

We come as we are, ready to be surprised by grace.

God meets us not only in silence and stillness,
but in delight, in wonder, and even in laughter.

**Our mouths will be filled with laughter,
and our tongues with shouts of joy!**

Let us worship the God who turns mourning into dancing,
and sorrow into joy.

All: Let us worship God!

** Invocation*

Holy and Joyful God, You are the source of laughter, the giver of joy, the one who surprises us with grace when we least expect it.

Be present with us in this time of worship. Open our hearts to delight in you, soften our spirits to receive your truth, and remind us that your joy is deeper than circumstance and stronger than fear.

May our worship be filled not only with reverence, but with the freedom to rejoice in you. In your holy name we pray, Amen.

** Opening Hymn*

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

CH #90

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Holy God, too often we take ourselves too seriously. We hold tightly to our assumptions, our fears, our need to be right. We confess that we do not always recognize the ways you are at work among us - sometimes because we are too distracted, sometimes because we are too certain. Forgive us when we miss your presence. Forgive us when we fail to trust your goodness. Turn our hearts again toward you. Help us to release what we cling to and receive the joy you offer. Renew us, transform us, and lead us into new life - a life marked by grace, humility, and joy. Amen.

Words of Grace

Hear the good news: God meets us not in our perfection, but in our humanity - in our questions, our misunderstandings, and even in our laughter. In Christ, our sorrow is turned to joy, our fear is met with peace, and our lives are made new. Friends, believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

Psalm Reading

Psalm 126 NRSV

A Harvest of Joy

- ¹ When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.
- ² Then our mouth was filled with laughter
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.”
- ³ The Lord has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.
- ⁴ Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses in the Negeb.
- ⁵ May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.
- ⁶ Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-25 MSG

¹⁸⁻²¹ The Message that points to Christ on the Cross seems like sheer silliness to those hellbent on destruction, but for those on the way of salvation it makes perfect sense. This is the way God works, and most powerfully as it turns out. It's written,

I'll turn conventional wisdom on its head,
I'll expose so-called experts as shams.

So where can you find someone truly wise, truly educated, truly intelligent in this day and age? Hasn't God exposed it all as pretentious nonsense? Since the world in all its fancy wisdom never had a clue when it came to knowing God, God in his wisdom took delight in using what the world considered stupid—*preaching*, of all things!—to bring those who trust him into the way of salvation.

²²⁻²⁵ While Jews clamor for miraculous demonstrations and Greeks go in for philosophical wisdom, we go right on proclaiming Christ, the Crucified. Jews treat this like an *anti*-miracle—and Greeks pass it off as absurd. But to us who are personally called by God himself—both Jews and Greeks—Christ is God's ultimate miracle and wisdom all wrapped up in one. Human wisdom is so cheap, so impotent, next to the seeming absurdity of God. Human strength can't begin to compete with God's "weakness."

* The Gospel Reading

John 16:19-24 MSG

Gloria Tibi (Glory be to Thee, O Lord.)

TH #497

¹⁹⁻²⁰ Jesus knew they were dying to ask him what he meant, so he said, "Are you trying to figure out among yourselves what I meant when I said, 'In a day or so you're not going to see me, but then in another day or so you will see me'?" Then fix this firmly in your minds: You're going to be in deep mourning while the godless world throws a party. You'll be sad, very sad, but your sadness will develop into gladness.

²¹⁻²³ "When a woman gives birth, she has a hard time, there's no getting around it. But when the baby is born, there is joy in the birth. This new life in the world wipes out memory of the pain. The sadness you have right now is similar to that pain, but the

coming joy is also similar. When I see you again, you'll be full of joy, and it will be a joy no one can rob from you. You'll no longer be so full of questions.

23-24 "This is what I want you to do: Ask the Father for whatever is in keeping with the things I've revealed to you. Ask in my name, according to my will, and he'll most certainly give it to you. Your joy will be a river overflowing its banks!

** Gloria Patri*

Children's Message / Congregation Conversation

** Celebration Hymn* *"I Will Celebrate"* CH #66 (x3)

Today's Message

** Meditation Hymn* *"He Is Exalted"* CH #36(x2)

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hades; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic/Christian church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

