

UNION CENTER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
Corner of CR 11 & 50, 70535 CR 11  
Nappanee, IN 46550

*"Connecting People With Jesus"*

**Silent Prayer of Discernment:** Gracious God, help us to know you are present among us. Creative God, open our minds to new ideas and understanding. Loving God, fill our hearts with compassion. May we use this time together to seek Your will, do Your work, and experience Your love. Amen. Sunday, May 9, 2021

**THE CHURCH COMES TOGETHER**

Gathering Music - Worship Team  
Welcome  
Responsive Call to Worship  
Invocation  
A Song of Praise and Worship

**LISTENING TO THE WORD**

Scripture Reading – Psalm 98  
Special Music –  
*"Lay Down Your Weary Tune"*  
Message - "Sing Praises to the Lord" – Pastor Frank  
A Song of Praise and Worship

**THE CHURCH OFFERS ITS PRAISE**

A Time of Offering  
Offertory Prayer  
Announcements, Joys & Concerns  
Music & Worship Commission Recognitions  
Morning Prayer

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

Responsive Benediction  
Postlude



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**Ministers:** The People of Union Center  
**Pastor:** Frank Ramirez **Worship Leader:** Mark Riege  
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**Sunday, May 2, 2021**  
Morning Worship – 66

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**NEXT SUNDAY:** Scripture: Acts 10:44-48 & Ephesians 1:15-23;  
Message: "Open the Eyes of My Heart." Pastor Frank will be preaching.

ACTIVITY BAGS are available in the narthex for pre-school through Kdg. age children. Please return the bag to the basket at the end of the service.

THE WEEKLY CONNECTION is in your mailbox. Extra copies are available on the Welcome Table.

DEACONS ON CALL for the month of May: Kevin & Cheryl Ramer, Marlene Bontrager, Donna Lantis.

Lead Pastor Frank Ramirez: Cell Phone: 574-214-8969  
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Office Hours: Tues. & Thur. 1-3pm.  
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Office Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri. 10am.-12pm.

PRAYER CONCERNS MENTIONED TODAY:  
(Prayer Cards are available on the table in the narthex. If you have a prayer concern you would like in the Weekly Connection next week, please write it down on the Prayer Card and put it in Peg Wisler's mailbox or on her desk.)

## Find Your Song

I am a percussionist. I love to add beats and swishes that accentuate and praise our Creator. I believe what I do adds joyfulness. My tinkling finger cymbals, offbeat clave clinks, wind chime flourishes, and cymbal hits augment the musical lyric.

I believe I am giving back to our Sustainer and Friend. When I assemble my percussion instruments in my staging area and then break forth into joyous song, I don't open my mouth. But I believe I am *singing* praises from the depths of my being. These musical embellishments are my way of making joyful sound.

Instruments come in many types. The lyre mentioned in today's text likely had a body hollowed from a turtle shell with two raised arms that were sometimes hollow. When I think of this instrument, fashioned to play music, I am reminded of our spiritual journey.

As followers of Christ, we seek to be people who have been formed and shaped by community, prayer, scripture reading, and listening for the Holy Spirit. We live offering kindness, giving of our skills and talents, and sharing the joy of Christ.

When I gaze upon the women featured on today's bulletin cover, I glimpse the joy of Christ radiating from their eyes. Eyes are a window to the soul. By witnessing their exuberance, we can visualize ways they are trusting God's plan and living out their praise.

As mentors, parents, and grandparents, we edify by how we live. We all have a plethora of instruments (percussion or not) before us – books, art supplies, garden tools, and spatulas. I wonder what it might look like to live lyrically, as though hollowed out – cut and shaped daily to offer praise to our gracious God.

May we all seek further ways to discover our authentic voice, our joyous song, and our Spirit-filled praise.

-Yvonne Riege  
Wakarusa, Indiana