FUMC First United Methodist Church

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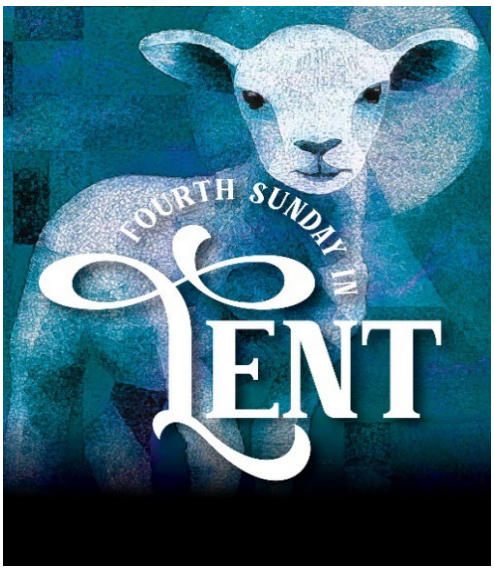

March 15th, 2026
4th Sunday of Lent

GATHERING/WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP — Jenny Tucker

God does not see as mortals see.
We look on the outward appearance; God looks on the heart.

Jesus, Light of the World,
Give us eyes to see as you see!

Once we lived in darkness, but now as children of light, we are called to what is good and right and true.
Jesus, Light of the World, give us eyes to see as you see!

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2025.

*SONG OF PRAISE — UMH#605

"Wash O God Your Sons and Daughters"

1. Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleansing waters flow. Number them among your people; bless as Christ blessed long ago. Weave them bright and sparkling garments; compass them with love and light. Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight.	2. We who bring them long for nurture; by your milk may we be fed. Let us join your feast, partaking cup of blessing, living bread. God, renew us, guide our footsteps, free from sin and all its snares, one with Christ in living, dying, by your Spirit, children, heirs.
3. O how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined, all your ways! To your name be glory, honor! With our lives we worship, praise! We your people stand before you, water-washed and Spirit-born. By your grace, our lives we offer. Recreate us; God, transform!	

Acolytes bring in the light of Christ acknowledging the Presence of God.

A YEAR WITH GOD: *We color Lent purple because it is the time we get ready to celebrate the great mystery of Easter.*

CENTERING PRAYER SONG: "O Lord, Hear My Prayer" **FWS#2200**

O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call, answer me.	O Lord, hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and listen to me.

CONFESSION: Gracious God, we are people who still love darkness rather than light. We keep shameful deeds secret but flaunt our occasional acts of virtue. We see ourselves as blameless but pass judgment on others. We do not stand firmly enough with those who are vulnerable, but step back, protecting ourselves. Forgive us, we pray. Bring us into your light that we may see ourselves rightly. Bring us into your light that we may know ourselves loved. Bring us into your light that we may live more fruitful lives. Keep raising us, we pray, from the deadness of sin, and shine upon us with your grace. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

All pray in silence.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENES: *Leader to people:* The psalmist assures us that God's goodness and mercy will follow us, even pursue us, all the days of our life. As God's forgiven people, receive this goodness and mercy, and live a new life in the grace of Jesus Christ.
Leader and people: We will live as children of the light for Christ shines on us.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

YOUNG DISCIPLES TIME

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: **Jenny Tucker**

Gracious God, illumine our hearts and minds as the Scriptures are read and proclaimed, so that by the power of your Holy Spirit we may see what is good and right and true. And seeing, help us to do what is pleasing to you, so that your glory becomes visible in our words and deeds. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE: John 9: 1-23 **Jenny Tucker**

9 As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. [2] His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man
or his parents, that he was born blind?" [3] Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was
born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. [4] We must work the works of him who sent me while
it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. [5] As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the
world." [6] When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on

the man's eyes, [7] saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. [8] The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" [9] Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." [10] But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" [11] He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." [12] They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." [13] They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. [14] Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. [15] Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." [16] Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. [17] So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." [18] The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight [19] and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" [20] His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, [21] but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." [22] His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. [23] Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

SONG OF PREPARATION: **UMH #349**

"Turn Your eyes Upon Jesus"

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in his wonderful face, (wonderful face,)	and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of his glory and grace.

SCRIPTURE: John 9: 24-41 **Pastor Laura**

[24] So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." [25] He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." [26] They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" [27] He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" [28] Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. [29] We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." [30] The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. [31] We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. [32] Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. [33] If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." [34] They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

[35] Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" [36] He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." [37] Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." [38] He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped

him. [39] Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.” [40] Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” [41] Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

SERMON: Lord, I Believe! **Pastor Laura**

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY: “ I want Jesus To walk with Me” **UMH # 521**

***SONG OF THANKS:** Doxology **UMH #95**

OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW AND SERVE

***SONG OF COMMITMENT: “**Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us” v. 1,2,3 **UMH #381**

1. Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need thy tender care; in thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use thy folds prepare. Blessed Jesus blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, thine we are.	2. We are thine, thou dost befriend us, be the guardian of our way; keep thy flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray. Blessed Jesus blessed Jesus! Hear, O hear us when we pray.
3. Thou hast promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be; thou hast mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse and power to free. Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! We will early turn to thee.	

SENDING FORTH – BLESSING

This service is live-streamed on Youtube.com/@fumcmason

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MH=United Methodist Hymnal; FWS=The Faith We Sing; W&S=Worship and Song

Assisting in Worship

Lay Reader: Jenny Tucker
Ushers: Winfred Bauer
Organist/Pianist: Chris Farmer Music Leader: Leslie Whitworth
Acolytes:

Questions for Reflection

Samuel is told that God does not look upon outward appearances, but looks upon the heart. Then God chooses David, the youngest son of Jesse, to be Israel's next king. We know that as he grew and as life became very challenging, King David's heart was not pure. He was a mixture of great courage and faithfulness—and great sin and failure. What do you suppose God saw and loved in David's heart? What do you think God loves when God looks upon your own heart?

Household Prayer: Morning

Good morning, Lord. The day has dawned with the gift of sunlight, and I awaken from sleep into the light and grace of Christ. Thank you for this new day. Stay with me, I pray, shepherding me through all that the day will hold. Lead me into pleasant places and give me the provisions I will need if I find myself in difficulty or danger. Whenever the cup of gladness overflows, help me to recognize that it is filled with your goodness and mercy. In praise and anticipation, I begin this day; in Jesus' name. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

With the night, Good Lord, comes rest, and a chance for my soul to be restored. You are with me in this and every darkness, so I will not be afraid. For all I have seen with my own eyes today, for all others have helped me to see, I give you thanks. For those things that I did not notice signs of beauty and kindness, evidences of your grace, I pray that you will improve the eyes of my faith so that I can see you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly tomorrow, and all my tomorrows. In the name of your Son, my Savior, I pray. Amen.

Please pray for our members and loved ones who are homebound or residing in nursing homes. Also, let's pray for: *the family of: Gene Zesch, Jay L Marek, Billy C Mikeska, Scott Balmos, Joe H Luna*.
The following individuals: *Barbara Young, Judy Cordes, Susan Coe, Frank Brown***,** *Mary Polk, Mary Freytag. George Eastes, renal/kidney issues), Anne Chappell, Lisa Polk, Bill Hart, Tammy Parrish, Shirley Beth Lyles, Marty Evans (son of Dennis & Kay Evans) Rick & Bonnie Woerner(Father & Stepmother of Tiffany K.), Dan Feather, Katherine Graham (friend of Nikki Watson diagnosed w/ cancer), LeiLei Vermulen (chemo treatments), Aubrey Burrow, Kash (Rodney Fleming's grandson)***,** *Connar Reardon***,** *Doris Grote, Lorine Metz, the church, the homeless, and all those affected by war and natural disasters*.
Please pray for our members and loved ones who are in the military. **U.S. Army:** *Joseph Alba, T.J. Schovajsa, Britney Schovajsa and Kalyn Bauer* **US Marine Corp:** *Hunter Goodwin, Kellen Sawyer*.
USAF: *Matt Adam* **US Navy:** *Ferd T. Slocum III & Truman Coe***.**

MINISTERS—ALL MEMBERS OF FUMC
STAFF—LISTED BELOW

Rev. Laura Hewett Becker	**pastorlaura@fumcmason.org**
Heilyn Gutierrez, Office Manager	**officemgr@fumcmason.org**
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Freddy Sapien Steady Steps Dir.	**steadysteps@fumcmason.org**
Leslie Whitworth Music Dir.	

Giving and Attendance
LAST WEEK'S GIVING (MARCH 08, 2026) .....$ 1,702.00
MARCH. MTD GIVING..... .....$15,226.68
MARCH. MTD EXPENSE.....$1,471.78
LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE (MARCH 08, 2026) 39

Virtual Eastertide Lily Parade 2026

During the season of Eastertide, I'd like to invite you to participate in a special offering to the work of the Risen Christ in our church. We will have a virtual lily parade in honor or in memory of loved ones and special life-affirming moments. A minimum gift of $15 will be appreciated for each 'Lily' that you would like to add to our parade.
You are welcome to bring or send a special Easter Offering to the church or give online. Please designate Lily Parade on your gift if you would like to join the parade. Also send an email or attach the name to be listed with your lily:

In honor of_____
In memory of _____
Life Affirming Moment _____

Church office: officemgr@fumcmason.org
The Virtual Lily Parade will run from Easter to Pentecost. A few lilies will be purchased for the sanctuary to enhance our worship space. Let us celebrate the 50 Days of Easter!

This week's Calendar

Sunday, March 15
9:45 AM Sunday School for all ages
11:00 AM Worship Service
4:00 – 5:00 pm Boy Scouts

Monday, March 16
9:30 AM Prayer Shawl
10:00 AM Chair Yoga

Tuesday, March 17
9:45 AM Steady Steps Chapel

Wednesday, March 18
Birthday: Beth Reardon
10:00 AM Chair Yoga
10:30 AM Mason Ministerial Alliance meeting
12 n Lenten Luncheon – Hilda @ FUMC Social Hall
06:00pm Choir Practice

Thursday, March 19

Friday, March 20
10:00 am. Chair Yoga

Saturday, March 21

Sunday, March 22
9:45 AM Sunday School for all ages
11:00 AM Worship Service
4:00 – 5:00 pm Boy Scouts