

# First United Methodist Church

224 Broad Street ♦ PO Box 178

Mason, Texas 76856

(325) 347-5105 [www.fumcmason.org](http://www.fumcmason.org)

**March 17, 2024**

***The fifth Sunday in Lent***

**Welcome & Sharing the Life of the Church**

**Opening Prayer**

**Prelude / Light Altar Candles**

## **\* Invitation to Worship:**

Lenten travelers, how long have you traveled this road with your gaze pointed down at the dust and gravel and asphalt as you walk or limp or roll down the path?

**Sometimes it is easier to look at the road than at the people who share the journey with us.**

Lift up your heads! Look, listen, reach out a hand. Who are your neighbors on this road?

**We lift our heads and look to our Savior who journeys with us and helps us notice our neighbors all around us.**

This is the Lenten journey—to learn to love God and love our neighbors just as Jesus showed us.

**Our journey teaches us to lose our lives to God as we find and follow Christ in our service to others.**

Come, let us worship God who caravans with us on this road to the cross.

**Come, let us worship! Amen.**

## **\*Hymn of Praise: “Where Charity & Love Prevail” UMH #549**

<b>1.</b> Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found; brought here together by Christ’s love, by love are we thus bound.	<b>2.</b> With grateful joy and holy fear true charity we learn; let us with heart and mind and strength now love Christ in return.
<b>3.</b> Forgive we now each other’s faults as we our faults confess; and let us love each other well in Christian holiness.	<b>4.</b> Let strife among us be unknown, let all contention cease; be Christ the glory that we seek, be ours his holy peace.
<b>5.</b> Let us recall that in our midst dwells God’s begotten Son; as members of his body joined, we are in him made one.	<b>6.</b> Love can exclude no race or creed if honored be God’s name; our common life embraces all whose Maker is the same.

## **Prayer of the Congregation:**

**Love that knows no boundaries: we crowd our lives with so much activity that it is hard to find time for you. We become so focused on ourselves, we**



**can overlook those around us who are searching for hope. We fill our spiritual emptiness with junk, rather than feasting on your Word.**

**Abundant Mercy, forgive us. Open our eyes, that we may see your new covenant written in plain sight on our hearts. Open our hearts, that we may join you in serving the broken of the world. Open our love, so we may pour it out as abundantly and graciously as your love is given to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

### **Words of Assurance & Pardon:**

God has called us and blesses us when we live God's ways and not the world's. God's love embraces us even when we fall short of what God desires for our lives and actions. Know that the God of blessing loves and forgives us with a fierce tenderness. And in so knowing, may our lives and souls be transformed.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### **Concerns & Celebrations & Lord's Prayer**

#### **Young Disciples' Time**

**Tithes & Offerings/ Offertory/ *\*Doxology* UMH#95**

### **Written Word of the Lord**

#### **Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34**

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

#### **\*Gospel: John 12:20-33**

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

<sup>27</sup>"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." <sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the

judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup>He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. <sup>34</sup>The crowd answered him, “We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?” <sup>35</sup>Jesus said to them, “The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. <sup>36</sup>While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light.” After Jesus had said this, he departed and hid from them.

**Hymn of Preparation: “Come & Fill Our Hearts” FWS #2157**

<p><b>1.</b> Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord, are holy. Come and fill our hearts with your peace, Alleluia!</p>
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**Spoken Word**

**Rev. Jean Reardon**

**\*Hymn of Commitment: “Living for Jesus” FWS #2149**

<b>1.</b> Living for Jesus a life that is true, striving to please him in all that I do, yielding allegiance, glad-hearted and free, this is the pathway of blessing for me.	<b>Refrain</b> O Jesus, Lord and Savior, I give myself to thee; for thou, in thy atonement, didst give thyself for me; I own no other master, my heart shall be thy throne, my life I give, henceforth to live, O Christ, for thee alone.
<b>2.</b> Living for Jesus who died in my place, bearing on Calvary my sin and disgrace, such love constrains me to answer his call, follow his leading and give him my all. <b>Refrain</b>	<b>3.</b> Living for Jesus wherever I am, doing each duty in his holy name, willing to suffer affliction or loss, deeming each trial a part of my cross. <b>Refrain</b>
<b>4.</b> Living for Jesus through earth’s little while, my dearest treasure, the light of his smile, seeking the lost ones he died to redeem, bringing the weary to find rest in him. <b>Refrain</b>	

**\*Words of sending forth: Psalm 51:10-12**

**<sup>10</sup>Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.  
<sup>11</sup>Do not cast me away from your presence,  
and do not take your holy spirit from me.  
<sup>12</sup>Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

**Benediction**

**Pastor Jean**

*\*Please stand, as you are able (UMH=United Methodist Hymnal; FWS=The Faith We Sing)*



**Please pray for our members and loved ones who are homebound or residing in nursing homes. Also, please pray for:**

**The Families of.....** Bruce Fowler, Dave Rosberg, David Courtright, Collin Clay Bode son of Clay & Diane Bode, Jayson Mumme the

grandson of Steve & Jamie Epps

**..and for the following individuals:** Abel Alba, Sophia Ory, Tiani Tovar Finn, Carl Langley, Braden Kangos (5 yr old with Leukemia), Kelly McEachern (Tiffany's cousin in Rwanda,) Burley & Mary Polk, Kathy McKeown, Anne Chappell, Connar Reardon, Trenton & Azyy Merrit son and grandson of Bridget Langdale, Jess Irwin's sister Sylvia, Mary & Darrell Vines, Everett Andrews (3 year old child of Candice and Nathan Andrews), Linnda Graham, Doris Grote, Lorine Metz, Larry Kahan & Ryne and all the family, Kathy & Ted Kerr, Shirley Beth Lyles, Mark Lehmborg, Carlene Brollier, McKenna Brandenberger (missionary), Vernon & Kathy Fritze, Loy Williams, Terry Lange, Carol Jordan, the church, Steve and Debra Moore, Mark Grosse and Pat Reardon. All those effected by war.

**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

**USAF:** Matt Adam & Kaleb Owen

**US Navy:** Ferd T. Slocum III, James Vacek & Truman Coe

**MINISTERS—ALL MEMBERS OF FUMC  
STAFF—LISTED BELOW**

Rev. Peter Aguilar, Pastor  
Emily Sapien, Office Manager  
Deandra Palacio Family Ministries  
Terri Reardon, RN Wesley Nurse  
Rhett Vacek, A/V Tech  
Freddy Sapien Steady Steps Dir.  
Rev. Jean Reardon, Music Dir.

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*FUMC will be*

*participating*

**Giving and Attendance**

LAST WEEK'S GIVING.....	\$4,935.00
YEAR-TO-DATE GIVING.....	\$52,726.13
LAST YEAR TO DATE .....	\$62,631.10
LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE.....	48



*in the City-Wide Garage Sale at the end of April. If you would like to donate items, please start collecting them and we will get information to you soon about when you can drop them off! We will also be needing lots of help to get this organized and run, the day of the event, so be watching the bulletin and April newsletter for more detailed information! You can contact Deandra or Angela Holcombe if you have any questions!*

# Prayer Stations

*Throughout the season of Lent prayer stations will be available for your reflection. They are located in the Chapel, the Cross Room (hallway) and vestibule between the sanctuary and chapel. Come whenever you would like and stay as long as necessary.*

## Easter Sunrise Service

March 31

7am

Hilda UMC

(5450 Loeffler Lane @ RR 783)

Bring your lawn chairs and blankets!

Hilda UMC & Mason FUMC will be hosting.

Breakfast will be served after the service.

If you would like to contribute to the breakfast, contact **Deandra** to sign up!

## This week's Calendar

### Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> **St. Patrick's Day**

9:45 AM Sunday School for all ages.

11:00 AM Worship Service

### Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>

*Birthdays: Beth Reardon*

9:30 AM Prayer Shawl

4:30 AM Bible Study

### Tuesday, March 19<sup>h</sup>

**11:00-3:00 PM OAP (SH)**

### Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>

*Birthdays: Pug Lange*

**Noon-Lenten Luncheon here @ FUMC !**

**5:00 PM Foundation Meeting**

**5:30 Lenten Bread & Broth Devotional (SH)**

6:00-7:00 PM Boys Scouts

### Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup>

*Birthdays: Carrie Gonzales*

### Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>

**10:30 AM-11:30 AM Senior Exercise Group (SH)**

### Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>

*Birthdays: Gene Larrimore*

### Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> **Palm Sunday**

9:45 AM Sunday School for all ages.

11:00 AM Worship Service

**Assisting in Worship:**

**Lay Reader: Gerry Gamel**

**Organist/Pianist: Elizabeth McFarland**

**Music Leader: Jean Reardon**

**Ushers: Volunteers**