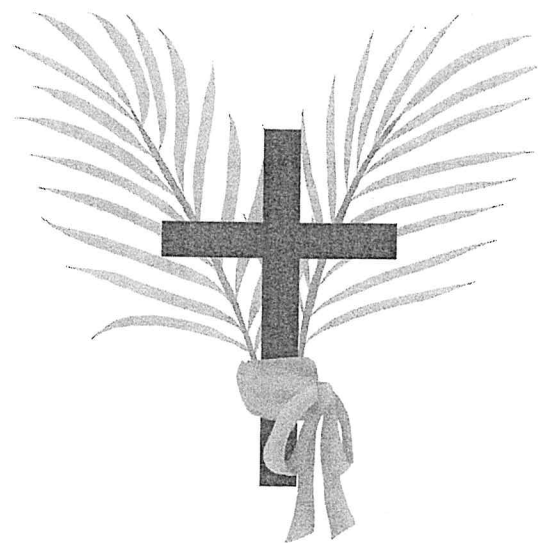


First Sunday in Lent
February 22, 2026
10:30 a.m.

OUR LORD'S

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

There's a Place for You Here



*As you view and participate in this worship please note that **bolded text** invites ALL to voice.*

Gathering Music "Jacob's Ladder"
"Go Down, Moses"

African-American Spiritual
African-American Spiritual

Graceful Engagement

Think on This for Today

We are surprised by God, not because God suddenly shows up, but because we finally take the time to notice and invite God into the conversation of our lives. We can trust in God's presence, rejoice in God's support, and sing in God's mercy, even in the wilderness.

GATHERING TOGETHER

Settling In

Prelude "Wade in the Water"

African-American Spiritual

One voice: Good morning, Church! I see you!

ALL voices: I am here!

*Call to Worship

Today, we follow Jesus into a wilderness full of isolation, fatigue, hunger, thirst, and temptation.

We follow, trusting in God's mercy.

We witness Jesus resist the siren calls of sensationalism, notoriety, and misuse of power for selfish gain.

cont.

We recognize God's mercy at work in the face of temptation.

We notice the angels who tend Jesus, messengers of care in a harsh and lonely place.

We pay attention to God's merciful presence that did not abandon Jesus and does not abandon us now.

We come to the wilderness together, clinging to the truth that we are not alone - God is with us.

We gather to worship God, whose unfailing mercy journeys with us into the wildernesses of our lives. Thanks be to God!

*Opening Hymn "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" vs. 1, 4, 5
UMH 269

*Opening Prayer

Holy God, by the grace of Jesus Christ, You know the tests and trials we face. Journey with us through this wilderness. Come to us with ministers of healing and visit us with messengers of hope, so that we may return to You in faith, believing the good news of the gospel; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

LEARNING TOGETHER

Children's Message

One: And Jesus said... **ALL: Let the children come!**

*Scripture Readings Psalm 32 MSG; Matthew 4:1-11 CEB

*Response to the Gospel

The word of God for ALL of us, God's people.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon "Space for the Journey"

RESPONDING TOGETHER

(please text prayers to 414-378-4012 and Pastor Kelly will receive them)

Response Chorus "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley" *all verses*
FWS 2112

Caring for Community Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Invitation to Giving Action

The peace of Christ be with you ALL!
And, also with you.

*Doxology

TUNE: REDHEAD, 77.77.77

**Praise the Source who gives us life.
Praise to Christ, who shares our strife.
Praise the Spirit, who sustains,
bearing us through grief and pain.
To the holy Trinity glory, praise, and honor be.**

*Blessing Prayer

Surprising God of Mercy, You meet us in wilderness places and walk beside us through trial and temptation. Even when we feel alone, Your grace is never far, Your presence never absent. In this moment of giving, we offer not just our resources, but our trust that You are already at work, shaping us through challenge, strengthening us through sacrifice, and surrounding us with unseen angels. Use these gifts to bring hope where there is hunger, healing where there is pain, and light where there is despair. May what we give reflect our desire to walk more closely with You, even in the hard places. In Christ's name we pray, let it be so.

*Responsive Sending Forth

Go, now, in the comfort and blessing of God's mercy.
We go trusting that wherever we go, God's steadfast love surrounds us, sustains us, and supports us for the journey ahead.

*Charge and Final Blessing

Respond "Yes!" after each blessing phrase and join in ALL together for the final phrase: "This day and in every day to come!"

*Closing Hymn "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" *all verses* UMH 140

*Postlude "What the World Needs Now is Love" by Burt Bacharach

Notes:

Need hearing assistance? Hearing assist devices are available. Visit our tech room and someone will help you.

Lectionary readings: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 *"Eating of the tree of knowledge"*; Psalm 32 *"Mercy embraces us"*; Romans 5:12-19 *"Death came, life comes"*; Matthew 4:1-11 *"The temptation of Jesus"*



Thank you for worshipping with us at Our Lord's!

Scan this QR code to contribute a gift to support our church and its ministries. Explore more of our website by clicking the "Our Lord's" header at the top of the page. There you'll find past worship services, information regarding our various ministries, and much more!

Highlighting, with gratitude, these servant leaders for today...

Wendi Haubert, Izzy Veit, Dave Smith, Rebecca Landgraf, Kathy Depies, Decker Henninger, the Veits, Sue Schulkers, Karen Haubert, Don Mains

CBA: Wendi Haubert/finance@ourlordsumc.org
Office Administrator: Tabitha Manning/office@ourlordsumc.org
Pastor: Kelly Liebenstein/pastorkelly@ourlordsumc.org

*Find us on Facebook and watch our live-streamed Sunday services at www.facebook.com/OurLordsUMC/

*Visit us on our website at www.ourlordsumc.org

Worship resource: **Ministry Matters**, <https://www.ministrymatters.com/>, **Discipleship Ministries**, <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/>, **Doxology from "Praising God"** by Ruth C. Duck/Patricia Wilson-Kastner

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Our Lord's United Methodist Church is located on the ancestral homelands of the Potawatomi, Sioux (Ochethi Sakowin), Kickapoo, Ho-Chunk, Myaamia, and Peoria people's.

"Love boldly, serve joyfully, lead courageously"