

ST. JOHN'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
"Bringing People to Christ and Christ to People"

March 1, 2026

9:45 a.m.

Second Sunday in Lent

PRELUDE (*Please prepare your hearts and minds for worship.*)

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

WELCOME – *Hearing Assistance and Large Print materials are available. Please see an usher.*

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (**Please rise in body or spirit.*)

Leader: For God so loved the world;

People: The sparrows, the mountain lions, the fish and the people.

Leader: For God so loved the world;

People: In success and failure, in sickness and health, in mediocrity and extraordinary.

Leader: For God so loved the world;

People: Enough to become one of us, enough to suffer along with us, enough to offer new life for us.

Leader: For God so loved the world;

People: Let us worship God!

***HYMN** *To God Be the Glory*

UMH 98

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 1:1-4a

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. ³And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴God saw that the light was good...

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

WORSHIP WITH TITHES AND OFFERINGS

***DOXOLOGY**

UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***BLESSING THE OFFERING**

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

HYMN OF PREPARATION *Precious Lord, Take My...* UMH 474

SCRIPTURE

John 3:1-17

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ²He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him." ³Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again." ⁴"How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' ⁸The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." ⁹"How can this be?" Nicodemus asked. ¹⁰"You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? ¹¹Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹²I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him." ¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.



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☪ ANNOUNCEMENTS ☪

SOCIAL HOUR – Today after service. Hope you can stay.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME – Starts next Sunday, March 8.
Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour!

MARCH DINNER GET TOGETHER – Monday, March 9 at 4:00 p.m. at Dayton's on Snow Hill Rd. Please let Jean Powell know if you will attend.

"THE FAITH WE SING" – We are still in need of donations to cover the cost of 20 more copies of the hymnal "The Faith We Sing" (which will replace the Red Folders). If anyone would like to donate a copy, the cost is \$19 each with checks made payable to St. John's UMC and "hymnal" on the memo line. Please give your cash or check to Laverne or Linda – do not put it in the offering plate.

FIRST BAPTIST FOOD BANK – Requests include soups, syrup, pancake mix, canned vegetables (corn, green beans, mixed), and macaroni and cheese.

PRAYER CHAIN – Call or text Pat Kern at 443-783-6423

NEWSLETTER – Submit information to Paul Nelson at pnelson37@gmail.com

SOCIAL HOUR – See Buddy Pennewell or Cathy Grim to help.