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

March 15, 2026 9:45 a.m.
Fourth 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. See an usher.*

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

Leader: We are gathered here not because we have seen fit to choose Christ, but because he has looked upon us, and called us to be his own.

People: "O God, you have searched me and known me, you read my every thought from afar, there is not a word on my tongue that you do not know altogether."

Leader: The joy of those who hear the call of Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Written by Bruce Prewer, on Bruce Prewer's Homepage

HYMN** ***Open My Eyes **UMH 454**

SCRIPTURE READING **1 Samuel 16:1-13**

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul,
since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with
oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem.
I have chosen one of his sons to be king." [2]But Samuel said,
"How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me." The Lord
said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to
the Lord.' [3]Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what
to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate." [4]Samuel did
what the Lord said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of
the town trembled when they met him. They asked, "Do you
come in peace?" [5]Samuel replied, "Yes, in peace; I have come to

sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. [6]When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed stands here before the Lord." [7]But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." [8]Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The Lord has not chosen this one either." [9]Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, "Nor has the Lord chosen this one." [10]Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The Lord has not chosen these." [11]So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse answered. "He is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives." [12]So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; this is the one." [13]So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.

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/LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HYMN ***Great Is Thy Faithfulness*** **UMH 140**

SCRIPTURE **John 9: 1-41 Summary**

MESSAGE **"Redefined"**

HYMN** ***Turn Your Eyes **(sing twice)** **UMH 349**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BENEDICTION**

CHORAL BENEDICTION** ***He Is Lord **UMH 177**

EXTINGUISHING OF ALTAR CANDLES

POSTLUDE

Music Director: Mike Nelson
Videographer: Roger Vandegrift
Liturgist: Buddy Pennewell

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☙ ANNOUNCEMENTS ❧

WEEKEND FOOD BAGS –Will be packed on next Sunday.

"THE FAITH WE SING" hymnals – Please see Linda or Laverne if you would like to donate ($19 per copy).

BIBLE STUDY – Meets on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. There is still time to join. See the Pastor for a copy of the book.

OUTSIDE CHURCH SIGN – Please see Roger if you would like to donate and support the purchase of the new sign.

HOLY WEEK – Volunteer readers are needed. See the Pastor:

- Maundy Thursday at St. John's at 6:00 p.m.
- Good Friday at St. John's at 6:00 p.m.
- Good Friday at Trinity UMC at noon – This service will be the Seven Last Words and Pastor Vaughn would like to have readers from seven different churches. Email or text Pastor Shannon if you plan to attend/participate.

EASTER SUNDAY – Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. prior to the service. After the service, the children will enjoy an Easter Egg hunt and there will also be the regular fellowship hour.

EASTER EGGS – Empty Easter eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt are in the vestibule. If you can fill a dozen with candy (no chocolate please!) or other treats, please take a bag, return March 29.

FIRST BAPTIST FOOD BANK – Requests include canned vegetables (potatoes, corn, green beans, carrots), canned meats, corn bread, and spaghetti sauce. Please bring donations by the first Sunday of the month.

APRIL DINNER GET TOGETHER – Will be Monday, April 20 at 5:30 p.m. at Bob Evans. Let Jean know if you will attend.

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.

MISSIONS TEAM MEETING SUMMARY – MARCH 8, 2026

Our current checkbook balance, as of March 4, 2026, is $4,404.87; thank you, St. John's for your support.

Scheduled events:

- Missions Team will meet after the service on the on the 2nd Sunday each month as necessary
- Spring Food & Yard Sale – Saturday, June 6
- God's Kitchen –:late May/early June TBD (lunches packed and delivered by 11:30 am; personal care items may be included)
- National Night Out at Fruitland Recreational Park, - August 4, to distribute religious items and greet the public.

Lenten Coin Boxes –are available in the foyer; proceeds will go to the VIM/ZIM (Zimbabwe) Project.

It was agreed that Missions would help the Seventh-Day Adventist Church by providing food and basic necessities support to their needy members. We have set up a bin in the Fellowship Hall for donations and will ask the congregation to help by donating/bringing in requested items. A list will be provided. The Missions Team will supplement those donations as necessary.

The First Baptist Church-Fruitland has seen an increase in requests for assistance. In response, the team voted to increase our monthly donation to First Baptist from $100 to $150 as long as possible.

Because our current system of donating the entire amount of our "Third Sunday" collection to HALO is confusing, we decided to donate $100 four times a year instead. Therefore, on the first Sunday of March, June, September, and December, the Missions Team will donate $100 to HALO.