

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

March 8, 2026

9:45 a.m.

Third 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 here to worship a remarkable God.

People: The love of God welcomes us, the grace of Christ awaits us, the joy of the Spirit enfolds us.

Leader: Don't come as slaves, come as the truly free. Don't come as petitioners, come as those who are already heard. Don't come as interlopers, come as invited guests. Don't come as the outsiders, come as much-wanted children.

People: The love of God emboldens us, the grace of Christ redeems us, the joy of the Spirit uplifts us

Leader: Come as the joyful, come as the eager, come as the thankful, come as the recipients of amazing grace.

People: The love of God overflows our hearts, the grace of Christ liberates our spirits, the joy of the Spirit sings in our minds.

By Bruce Prewer, and posted on Bruce Prewer's Home Page

***HYMN** *I Love to Tell the Story* (vs 1-3)

UMH 156

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 17:1-7

The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²So they quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the Lord to the test?" ³But the people were thirsty for

water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?" ⁴Then Moses cried out to the Lord, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵The Lord answered Moses, "Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the Lord saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

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**

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

UMH 881

***GLORIA PATRI**

UMH 71

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

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



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☞ ANNOUNCEMENTS ☞

MISSIONS TEAM – will meet today after the service

MARCH DINNER GET TOGETHER – Tomorrow at 4:00 p.m. at Dayton's on Snow Hill Rd. Let Jean know if you can attend.

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

WORSHIP COMMITTEE – Please let the Pastor know if you would like to volunteer.

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 as soon as possible so she can inform Pastor Vaughn.

EASTER SUNDAY – There will be a breakfast on Easter Sunday 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.

FIRST BAPTIST FOOD BANK – Requests include canned vegetables (potatoes, corn, green beans, carrots), canned meats, corn bread, and spaghetti sauce.

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.