

First Up

Third Sunday of Lent

March 1, 2026

THE WAY



First
Church

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We Gather

Preparing Together

Prayer for the Path

God of Grace, we know you are with us on The Way. But we need sustenance in order to make the journey. As we come seeking peace and a place at the table, we find that you have already prepared and were expecting us. Help us to set tables of abundance for all who travel this journey of life, just as Jesus did.

Amen.

Song

"Trust In You"

Greeting Each Other

The Children Lead

We Proclaim

The Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 55:1-9

Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your earnings for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. Now you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for God will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The Gospel Lesson

Luke 5:29-32

Then Levi gave a great banquet for him in his house, and there was a large crowd of tax collectors and others reclining at the table with them. The Pharisees and their scribes were complaining to his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" Jesus answered them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician but those who are sick; I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

L: The Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us:

P: Thanks be to God.

The Message

Lead Pastor

Prayers for Getting Out of Our Own Way

Assistant Pastor

O God,

You so love the world that you give and give and give: the generous gift of Life itself, freedom of choice, sunrise in the morning, sunset in the evening, and all those surprises in between.

Then you give us all the time there is—eternity.

I confess that my schedule often crowds out appreciation for these gifts and my numbness allows me to take them for granted. Everyday living requires such a serious investment of my energy that I easily neglect the grandeur all around me. Set me free to dance to the rhythms of your Spirit. Help me see that even times of sorrow and despair often enable me to discover strength I never knew I had. Make me strong at the broken places. Yet when the dark night of the soul approaches, if it is possible, let that cup pass from me, but if not...

Meet me in the stillness, Lord

Be the air I breathe

Meet me in the stillness, Lord

Free me to receive

Praying for Others Along the Way

We Go Forth

The Great Thanksgiving

L: Will you open yourselves to the grace of Jesus Christ that is always and already available here at this table? If so, say, “Open us to your grace, Lord.”

P: “Open us to your grace, Lord.”

L: Will you open yourselves once again to the call of Jesus Christ? If so, say, “Open us to your call, Lord.”

P: “Open us to your call, Lord.”

L: Will you open yourselves to the possibility of transformation through Jesus Christ? If so, say, “Transform us, O Lord.”

P: “Transform us, O Lord.”

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

L: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of all that was, and is, and is to come.

L: You formed us in your image, creating all in goodness, asking us to walk with You in love. When we held back from Your invitation, You sought us out, encouraging us on our way, time and again.

L: You led those who could not see by a road they did not know. You have turned nighttime before them into light. You have smoothed out the rough places and made them plain. You have released the prisoners from the dungeon. You have made all things new.

L: And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

P: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

L: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Your Spirit anointed him to walk with the poor, the captive, and the oppressed and to proclaim freedom and abundance in your name. On dusty paths and lakeside shores he encountered friends, strangers, and enemies, inviting them to journey with him and to eat with him. He offered newness of life and renewed covenants of love by water and the Spirit.

On the night that he gave himself up for the path of justice, he was at the table with his friends. He invited them... and he invites us, to pause in our quest for destinations and savor the company of each other and the ways in which he still is present in our gathering together.

He took the bread, he broke it and blessed it and shared it. "Do this in remembrance of me."

He took the cup, he poured into it, blessed it and shared it. "Do this in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

P: Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again!

L: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ's pilgrimage to the kingdom, walking together one with each other, working together in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

P: Amen!

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be 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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Song

"Hills And Valleys"
Communion Music
Jorge

Communion

Song

"Crowded Table"

Benediction

L: The Creator God filled you with breath,
inviting you to this journey called Life.

P: We will follow on The Way.

L: Jesus, our Guide, showed us what it means
to make a new way with Love.

P: We will follow on The Way.

L: The Spirit gives us strength to move forward
with Courage and Compassion for all we meet.

P: We will follow on The Way.

L: May this week be filled with opportunities to choose
to take the higher ways of the Holy,
offering friendship, grace, and sustenance to those you meet.
May it be so. Amen.

“Buen Camino!”

Trust In You

by Lauren Daigle and Michael Farren

Verse 1

Letting go of every single dream
I lay each one down at Your feet
Every moment of my wondering
Never changes what You see

Verse 2

I've tried to win this war I confess
My hands are weary I need Your rest
Mighty warrior King of the fight
No matter what I face You're by my side

Chorus 1

When You don't move the mountains
I'm needing You to move
When You don't part the waters
I wish I could walk through
When You don't give the answers
As I cry out to You

I will trust I will trust
I will trust in You

Verse 3

Truth is You know what tomorrow brings
There's not a day ahead You have not seen
So in all things be my life and breath
I want what You want Lord and nothing less

Bridge 1

You are my strength and comfort
You are my steady hand
You are my firm foundation
The Rock on which I stand
Your ways are always higher
Your plans are always good
There's not a place where I'll go
You've not already stood

Hills And Valleys

by Chuck Butler, Tauren Wells, and Jonathan Smith

Verse 1

I've walked among the shadows
You wiped my tears away
I've felt the pain of heartbreak
And I've seen the brighter days
And I've prayed prayers to heaven
From my lowest place
And I have held Your blessings
God You give and take away

Pre-Chorus 1

No matter what I have Your grace is enough
No matter where I am I'm standing in Your love

Chorus 1

On the mountains I will bow my life
To the one who set me there
In the valley I will lift my eyes
To the one who sees me there
When I'm standing on the mountain
I didn't get there on my own
When I'm walking through the valley
I know I am not alone

Chorus 2

You're God of the hills and valleys
Hills and valleys

God of the hills and valleys
And I am not alone

Verse 2

I've watched my dreams get broken
In You I hope again
No matter what I know
I'm safe inside Your hands

Bridge 1

Father You give and take away
Every joy and every pain
Through it all You will remain over it all
(REPEAT)

Interlude 1

On the mountains I will bow my life
In the valley I will lift my eyes
Oh

Tag 1

No I'm not alone
And I know I am not alone

Ending 1

God of the hills
The God of the valleys
God of the hills and valleys
And I am not alone Hills And Valleys -

Prayers

Concerns Shared

Chad McLaughlin, Diana Hoke's nephew
John Anderson

All in need of prayer

Those In Memory Care

Jack Gaunt

Pat Staver

Active Military

As we update our list of active military personnel, we invite First Church families to share the names of any immediate family members currently serving. Please contact Ronda at rkroeschen@fumcwl.org and include each military member's name and rank.

AWR1 Isaiah Hale

Alex Turco

James Beaty

Worship Team

Audio/Visual

Livestream:

Todd Pickard

Slides:

Charis Vander Plaats

Soundboard:

Dustin Coolman

Band

Acoustic Guitar:

Kory Pritchett

Bass Guitar:

Becca Pritchett

Drums:

Cade Quinn

Electric Guitar:

Nick Clinkenbeard

Keys:

Ryan Madden

Vocal:

Karen Hull

Amanda Hedden

Pastors

Lead Pastor:

Duane Carlisle

Assistant Pastor:

Kory Pritchett



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To be put on the weekly announcement emails, contact Ronda at 765-743-1285 or rkroeschen@fumcwl.org

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GET INVOLVED



Protecting Our Neighbors

Want to learn practical ways to support and protect our immigrant neighbors? Come to First Church 6:30-8 PM for a community conversation. The event is sponsored by Greater Lafayette Immigrant Allies and We All Belong Greater Lafayette. Refreshments and childcare will be provided.



Stay Informed

The League of Women Voters of Greater Lafayette will hold a Town Hall at First Church 2-4 PM March 7 to discuss local taxes. Property taxes were reduced last year, cutting funds to local schools, libraries, public safety and more. A bill pending before the Statehouse this year would create an income tax to offset the reduced property tax.



Euchre time!

Join us for euchre 5:45 PM to 8:30 PM on the second Wednesday of the month. Our next play date is this Wed., March 11. We usually have about five tables each month and lots of laughs. Get on the evite list by contacting Jeanne Norberg, jnorberg@purdue.edu.



Donate this month to food pantry

March is one of three months this year when FUMC has pledged to donate to the Tippecanoe United Food Pantry, 1314 Tippecanoe St. It is operated by Church Women United, a non-denominational group. Canned items: fruits & vegetables, tomatoes, beans, soup, pasta sauces. Boxed goods: cereal, macaroni & cheese, pasta, rice, crackers. Peanut butter is also always appreciated. Please donate shelf-stable food and plastic bags for the pantry. Mail checks to Mary Alice Bauman, Treasurer, Tippecanoe County United Food Pantry, 3116 Sullivan St., West Lafayette, IN 47906.

No Tech Experience Required

Want to be part of the magic that streams our services to the world? It's easy and all takes place upstairs in a tech booth. You would toggle between three cameras as our services unfold, select the online display and adjust audio levels.

Or how about changing the slides during the service? It's done in a booth next to the streaming team. The words are scripted and so very easy to follow.

Is there someone you know who would enjoy this opportunity? No tech experience required! Ideally, we would have two people running the boards at each service. For a training session, contact Assistant Pastor Kory Pritchett or contact-us/ or call 765-743-1285.

