

Celebrate

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 15, 2026

THE WAY



First
Church

Celebrate Service - March 15, 2026

We Gather

Preparing Together

Prelude

"Wayfaring Stranger"
Southern American Folk Hymn
Arranged by Phillip Keveren
Scott Hines, Scott Hines

Prayer for the Path

Our God who is our Home, be with us on The Way. At times we aren't sure about the relationship of the road we travel and the home we seek. Will we ever feel like we have arrived? We come hoping for the hearth of acceptance in the home that Jesus promises. And whether we are feeling lost or at home, may we know you are always with us. Amen.

Song

"He Leadeth Me"

Greeting Each Other

The Children Lead

We Proclaim

The Gospel Lesson

Luke 15: 11b-32 (The Voice)

Once there was this man who had two sons. One day the younger son came to his father and said, "Father, eventually I'm going to inherit my share of your estate. Rather than waiting until you die, I want you to give me my share now." And so the father liquidated assets and divided them. A few days passed and this younger son gathered all his wealth and set off on a journey to a distant land. Once there he wasted everything he owned on wild living. He was broke, a terrible famine struck that land, and he felt desperately hungry and in need. He got a job with one of the locals, who sent him into the fields to feed the pigs. The young man felt so miserably hungry that he wished he could eat the slop the pigs were eating. Nobody gave him anything. So he had this moment of self-reflection: "What am I doing here? Back home, my father's hired servants have plenty of food. Why am I here starving to death? I'll get up and return to my father, and I'll say, 'Father, I have done wrong—wrong against God and against you. I have forfeited any right to be treated like your son, but I'm wondering if you'd treat me as one of your hired servants?'" So he got up and returned to his father. The father looked off in the distance and saw the young man returning. He felt compassion for his son and ran out to him, enfolded him in an embrace, and kissed him. The son said, "Father, I have done a

terrible wrong in God’s sight and in your sight too. I have forfeited any right to be treated as your son.” But the father turned to his servants and said, “Quick! Bring the best robe we have and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. Go get the fattest calf and butcher it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate because my son was dead and is alive again. He was lost and has been found.” So they had this huge party. Now the man’s older son was still out in the fields working. He came home at the end of the day and heard music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. The servant said, “Your brother has returned, and your father has butchered the fattest calf to celebrate his safe return.” The older brother got really angry and refused to come inside, so his father came out and pleaded with him to join the celebration. But he argued back, “Listen, all these years I’ve worked hard for you. I’ve never disobeyed one of your orders. But how many times have you even given me a little goat to roast for a party with my friends? Not once! This is not fair! So this son of yours comes, this wasteful delinquent who has spent your hard-earned wealth on loose women, and what do you do? You butcher the fattest calf from our herd!” The father replied, “My son, you are always with me, and all I have is yours. Isn’t it right to join in the celebration and be happy? This is your brother we’re talking about. He was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found again!”

P: Thanks be to God.

The Message

Pastor Duane Carlisle

The Message in Music

"Goin' Home"

By Antonin Dvorak

Ellie Boyer, Flute

Scott Hines, Scott Hines

Prayers for Getting Out of Our Own Way

Pastor Kory Pritchett

Praying for Others Along the Way

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.

We Go Forth

Song

"O Love That Will Not Let Me Go"

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 love in ways you never thought possible, so that Home is anywhere you go. May it be so. Amen. "Buen Camino!"

Postlude

"Follow Him Medley"

Arr. Summer Decker Nelson

Scott Hines, Scott Hines

Prayers

Concerns Shared

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:

Sharon Wong

Soundboard:

Dustin Coolman

Liturgists

Liturgist:

Heidi Bagnall

Musicians

Piano:

Scott Hines

Pastors

Lead Pastor:

Duane Carlisle

Assistant Pastor:

Kory Pritchett

Song Leaders

Worship Leader:

John Jones

Quick Links



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128 He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought

1. He lead - eth me: O bless - ed thought! O
 2. Some - times mid scenes of deep - est gloom, some -
 3. Lord, I would place my hand in thine, nor
 4. And when my task on earth is done, when

words with heaven-ly com - fort fraught! What - e'er I do, wher -
 times where E - den's bow - ers bloom, by wa - ters still, o'er
 ev - er mur - mur nor re - pine; con - tent, what - ev - er
 by thy grace the vic - tory's won, e'en death's cold wave I

e'er I be, still 'tis God's hand that lead - eth me.
 trou - bled sea, still 'tis his hand that lead - eth me.
 lot I see, since 'tis my God that lead - eth me.
 will not flee, since God through Jor - dan lead - eth me.

Refrain

He lead - eth me, he lead - eth me, by

his own hand he lead - eth me; his faith - ful fol - lower

The first system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature. The lyrics are written below the upper staff.

I would be, for by his hand he lead - eth me.

The second system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature. The lyrics are written below the upper staff. The system concludes with a double bar line and a fermata over the final note.

WORDS: Joseph H. Gilmore, 1862 (Ps. 23)
MUSIC: William B. Bradbury, 1864

HE LEADETH ME
LM with Refrain

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go 480

1. O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my
 2. O Light that fol-lowest all my way, I yield my
 3. O Joy that seek-est me through pain, I can - not
 4. O Cross that lift - est up my head, I dare not

wea-ry soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that
 flick-ering torch to thee; my heart re-stores its bor-rowed ray, that
 close my heart to thee; I trace the rain-bow thru the rain, and
 ask to fly from thee; I lay in dust life's glo-ry dead, and

in thine o-cean depths its flow may rich - er, full - er be.
 in thy sun-shine's blaze its day may bright-er, fair - er be.
 feel the prom-ise is not vain, that morn shall tear - less be.
 from the ground there blos-soms red life that shall end - less be.

March 15, 2026



GET INVOLVED

Donate this month to food pantry

This 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. Please donate shelf-stable food such as canned or jarred fruit, vegetables, meat, soup, peanut butter and pasta sauce or boxed food such as cereal, pasta, rice or crackers. Put them in bins near FUMC's front doors. Mail checks to Tippecanoe County United Food Pantry, 3116 Sullivan St., West Lafayette, IN 47906.



Let's Sing

Our choir would love to have you join it. They sing for us at the 11 AM services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays, as well as Palm and Easter Sundays. Our singers rehearse weekly September through May from 7:15 to 8:15 PM. Contact Charis Vander Plaats, director of music and arts: cplaats@fumcwl.org



No Kings March 28

Concerned about our government's methods? Join the next No Kings rally Sat, March 28. People will gather at the Sonya Margerum Fountain next to Tapawingo Park in West Lafayette at 1 PM, walk over the pedestrian bridge and around the courthouse, and back to the park. Meanwhile, In the park, organizers will provide live music, speakers, community organizations, and food trucks.



Can you brew?

We need more volunteers to help with the hospitality area on Sundays. Volunteers choose between setup and/or cleanup shifts. Setup volunteers arrive at 8:15 AM to make coffee and set out cookies before the 9 AM service. Cleanup volunteers put away the cookies and supplies and wash up. This can be done as early at 11:15 AM or after the 11 AM service. Contact Jeanne Norberg to learn more: jnorberg@purdue.edu She'd be glad to show you how.

First Church

HOLY WEEK



Palm Sunday March 29th

9:00 AM *First Up Worship "The Other Way"*—Sanctuary

11:00 AM *Celebrate Worship "The Other Way"*—Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday, April 2nd

6:30 PM *Camino Open Table Meal*

"We've Been Expecting You"—Activity Center

Good Friday, April 3rd

7:00 PM *Holy Friday Worship "The Loving Way"*

Sanctuary

Easter Morning, April 5th

7:30 AM *Sunrise Service*— Outdoor Columbarium

9:30 AM *Easter Brunch & Easter Egg Hunt for Children*

Activity Center

11:00 AM *Easter Sunday Worship*

"Make Your Way"—Sanctuary