

Holy Week and Easter

Easter Egg Hunt | Saturday | March 28 | 1-3pm | Register by March 22

We will have a churchwide egg hunt at the Altizer farm. All ages welcome! Registration is appreciated in the church office or on the Church Center app.

Palm Sunday | March 29 | 9am and 11am

Children's Choir will help lead our worship in the 9am service. We will have a Palm procession in both services.

Maundy Thursday | April 2 | 7pm | Sanctuary

On the night of the Last Supper, we will share Holy Communion. Then the Chancel area will be stripped of all paraments (worship cloths on pulpit, lectern, and pastor stoles) as well as other worship vessels to symbolize the dark and barren night of the crucifixion and Jesus' three days in the grave. Revelation Youth choir and Carillonneures will provide the music for the service.

Good Friday | April 3 | 7pm | Sanctuary

A Service of Tenebrae, or "Darkness," is an extended meditation on the passion of Christ. As the passion story is read, candles are extinguished and the lights in the sanctuary are dimmed. The Chancel Choir will be joined by a string orchestra and a guest soloist to present choral music by Bach, Brahms, Mozart and others.

Easter | April 5 | 9am and 11am

We will celebrate Jesus' Resurrection with a day of joyous worship. Brass and timpani will accompany worship at the 9am Traditional service.

EASTER LILIES

We are taking orders for Easter Lilies to celebrate Easter Sunday, April 5. You may purchase a lily *in honor of* or *in memory of* a loved one or as a gift. Cost is \$16 per plant. Mark your check with "Easter Lilies" and send it to the church office with the order form. Quantities are limited so place your order soon. You may also place your order by calling the church office or on the Church Center app. Orders placed by Tues., March 31, will be listed in the bulletin insert on April 5.

Given by _____

(check one) In Memory of In Honor of Gift

of plants _____ Amount enclosed _____



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GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

WORSHIP & HOSPITALITY OPPORTUNITIES ON CAMPUS

Glass Doors locked through the week

For the safety and security of our staff, church leadership has made the decision to keep the main church doors locked during regular office hours. If you need to visit the office, please use the buzzer located under the mailbox on the brick wall. We are grateful for your prayers and patience with this adjustment. Our commitment to being a welcoming and caring church to the community remains unchanged.

Graduate Sunday | April 28 | 10am | Grad Sunday Brunch | Gym

Join us as we celebrate our 2026 graduates with a churchwide brunch! RSVP on the Church Center App or in the church office by April 24 so we have plenty of food.



GROW TO BE LIKE JESUS

DISCIPLESHIP, TEACHING & SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

Camp Scholarships

The Holston Annual Conference has two beautiful camps in our area; Wesley Woods and Bays Mountain. Thanks to the generosity of church members, we have scholarships for children and youth who are planning to attend a Holston Conference Camp this summer. Contact Pastor Asa for more information.

Bradley Scholarship | upcoming college students | apply by May 1

Our church gives out scholarships to upcoming or present college students. Pick up an application in the church office or on the Church website under the Youth tab.

Tulip Festival | Joyful Hearts | Thursday | March 26 | Oakes Farms | Knoxville

\$20. Sign up in the church office.



GO TO SERVE THE WORLD

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES OFF-CAMPUS & CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Rummage Sale | Friday and Saturday | April 10 and 11

Drop off items Wednesday, April 8 from 5pm-7pm and 8am-5pm on Thursday, April 9. Contact the church office if you need a pickup by Wednesday, April 8.

Hands on Mission Kits | Drop-off by Sunday | May 3

In a 2-gallon Ziploc bag:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 hand towel | 2 bars of soap (at least 3.5 oz) |
| 1 washcloth | 1 bottle of lotion (18 oz or less) |
| 2 toothbrushes | 1 roll-on deodorant (4oz or less) |
| 2 tubes toothpaste (6.4 oz or less) | include \$5 for shipping |
| Optional \$5 for virtual Zimbabwe kit | |

Pack in Sandwich-size Ziploc bag:

- 1 tube antibacterial ointment (1oz)
- 1 bottle Tylenol/Acetaminophen 500 mg (24 ct)

Rise Against Hunger | Saturday | May 2 | 10am | Cumberland Place

This will be an exciting, hands-on volunteer opportunity for all ages to package meals for global hunger relief. Children are "runners," youth and adults package the dehydrated food, and adults who prefer a sit down job weigh each bag. The completed bags contain 6 meals each. They are boxed and loaded on a truck. 60-80 volunteers are needed. Sign up to volunteer on the Church Center app or in the church office.

WELCOME TO First United Methodist Church

-est. 1852-

March 22, 2026

Making disciples as we gather, grow, and go.



WELCOME to First **U**nited **M**ethodist **C**hurch (FUMC). We would love to have you fill out your name and any information you feel comfortable sharing on the red attendance pad. If you need help with anything today, please contact one of our ushers, pastors, or security team members. We hope you will join us again as we *Gather, Grow, and Go* at FUMC.



GATHER



GROW



GO



Subscribe to our weekly eNews!

1. OPEN THE CAMERA ON YOUR PHONE
2. AIM IT AT THE QR CODE
3. TAP THE BANNER THAT APPEARS
4. ENTER YOUR NAME & EMAIL TO SUBSCRIBE

WORSHIP

5th Sunday in Lent

Liturgical Color: Purple

March 22, 2026

9:00am

Please remember to silence cell phones.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS and devices for the hearing impaired are available for this morning's service. Please see an usher.

(* Please stand as you are able.)

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Welcome to the weary and the worn.

Welcome to the wiggly and the eager.

Welcome to the skeptical and the seeking.

Welcome to the early risers and those still trying to wake up.

Welcome to the rule followers and the rule breakers.

Welcome to those hungry for justice and those desperate for mercy.

Welcome to the sinners and the saints.

This is God's house.

You can make yourself at home here.

Let us worship our just, merciful, and faithful God!

Prelude *Intrada* Dale Wood

Choral Introit *Seek the Lord* Hal Hopson

***Hymn** UMH 185 *When Morning Gilds the Skies* LAUDES DOMINI

***Affirmation of Faith** UMH 885 Wendy McGowan
A Modern Affirmation

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true church, apostolic and universal, whose holy faith let us now declare:

We believe in God the Father, infinite in wisdom, power, and love, whose mercy is over all his works, and whose will is ever directed to his children's good. We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of man, the gift of the Father's unfailing grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death. We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives, whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ, and find strength and help in time of need. We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of love as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord, to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. Amen.

***Gloria Patri** UMH 70 *Glory Be to the Father* MEINEKE

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.

***Passing of the Peace**

Celebrations and Concerns

Morning Prayer Ben Stapleton

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.

Anthem *Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts* Marianne Forman
Chancel Choir

*Jesus, Thou joy of loving hearts,
Thou fount of life, Thou light of men,
from the best bliss that earth imparts,
we turn unfilled to Thee again.*

*Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood;
Thou savest those that on Thee call;
to them that seek Thee, Thou art good,
to them that find Thee all in all.*

*We taste Thee, O Thou living Bread,
and long to feast upon Thee still;
we drink of Thee, the Fountain-head,
and thirst our souls from Thee to fill.*

*O Jesus, ever with us stay,
make all our moments calm and bright;
chase the dark night of sin away;
shed o'er the world Thy holy light.*

*Jesus, thou joy of loving hearts.
We turn unfilled to Thee again.*

***Prayer of Illumination** Wendy McGowan

Holy One, when you speak, we don't want to miss it. When you bend down and write in the dirt, when you move through the trees, when you tug on our heart, or whisper into our dreams, we don't want to miss it. So today we pray, clear out the cobwebs in our ears. Quiet the steady stream of thoughts marching through our minds. Open up space in our hearts so that we can receive your word for us today. With hope we pray. Amen.

***Gospel Lesson** John 8:2-11
The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

***Hymn** UMH 480 *O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go* ST. MARGARET

***Gospel Lesson** Matthew 23:23
The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Pastor Asa
The Good News Is...Rooted in Justice, Mercy, and Faithfulness

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we love to live our lives by the rules. We love clear answers. We love right and wrong. We love swift justice. We love to pick up stones, but you show us another way. You prioritize mercy over legality. You prioritize people over tradition. You prioritize love over everything. Forgive us for losing sight of what truly matters. Forgive us for clinging tighter to laws than to each other or to you. Forgive us. Soften our

hearts. Root us in mercy, justice, and love. With hope for a better tomorrow, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Church family, Jesus saw a crowd ready to throw stones and invited them to choose another way. Jesus offered them grace, mercy, and compassion, and the same can be said for us. So, hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

Our God is a God of mercy. Our God is a God of compassion. Our God is a God of grace. We are forgiven, loved, and invited to choose another way. Thanks be to God for yet another second chance. Amen.

Worship of God by Giving Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* J S Bach

***Doxology** UMH 95 OLD 100TH
Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
**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.**

*Prayer of Dedication

***Hymn** UMH 378 AMAZING GRACE
Amazing Grace
(verse 3- women only; verse 4- men only)

*Benediction

***Choral Benediction** *Amen* Mozart

***Postlude** *Improvisation*
(Please remain standing and silent as the organ concludes our worship.)

ALTAR FLOWERS last week were given by Gary Bean in memory of Dr. Clyde and Margaret Watkins.

ALTAR FLOWERS today are given by Bettie, Mike, Courtney, & Matthew Crowell in memory of Floyd B. Crowell, Jr.

ACOLYTE GraceAnne Hoffmeister
CRUCIFER James Hotel

MARCH USHERS Randy Corlew, captain; Jeff Davis, John Fielder, Dan Fisher, John Hodge, & Tommy Sanders

MUSIC NOTES

Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts

Words: Bernard of Clairvaux, translation by Ray Palmer

Music: Marianne Forman

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