

Welcome to the
First Church in Oberlin,
United Church of Christ

Sunday Worship

10:00 AM

March 8, 2026

Third Sunday in Lent

David Hill, Pastor

Thomas Bandy, Director of Music & Organist

Kathleen Bradley, Liturgist

www.firstchurchoberlin.org

No matter who you are or where you are on
life's journey, you are welcome here.



Welcome to Worship!

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome in this United Church of Christ congregation. We invite you to become a part of our community of faith, to grow spiritually, to encounter God's inclusive and effusive grace in worship and fellowship, and to work and witness for greater justice and peace in our world.

- Large-print bulletins and hearing-assist devices are available, ask an usher.
- If you are moved to express gratitude or appreciation during the service, please respond by saying, "Amen!"
- Please remember to silence your cell phones as you enter worship.
- Our Wi-Fi network has the name "FC Guests" and the password is "CGFinney".

Children in Worship

We strive to welcome children - and their occasional restlessness - in worship. Materials are in the hallway outside the worship space for children who would like a quiet activity during worship. Nursery care is available for young children in the James Brand wing if parents would enjoy some quiet time. Please see an usher if you need directions or more information.

Children of kindergarten age or older are invited to join Storytime during the worship service. They will leave for Room 3 after the Front Row Moment.

Are you interested in receiving our electronic newsletter—"First Things First"? Please contact the church office and we will add you to our mailing list.

Miranda Schaum: office@firstchurchoberlin.org
David T. Hill: pastor@firstchurchoberlin.org

Building and Church Office Hours:

Monday - Friday: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, with additional appointments as needed.

Our staff will gladly make arrangements to meet with you at other times.

Please call (440) 775-1711 to schedule an appointment.

ORDER OF WORSHIP
March 8, 2026
Third Sunday in Lent



Opening Music

Soleil - Max Allard
Max Allard, banjo

Welcome

***Call to Worship**

One: With what shall I come before the Lord?
How shall I bow down before God the most High?
All: Shall I bring some sort of sacrifice? Would that please the Lord?
One: Shall I give up what I love most dearly in exchange
for the sins I have committed?
**All: The Lord has shown us mortals what is good
and what is required of us:**
One: To act justly. To love kindness. And to walk humbly with our God.
Let's worship God together.

***Congregational Song** *What Does the Lord Require of You?*
See page 10

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession (Unison)**

Compassionate God, we come before you to admit that we are not without blame, for we do not always do what is right. We do not always speak the truth as you desire for us to do. We can be unkind and hold grudges when you ask us to be kind and forgive. We can be ungenerous with our time and resources, when you ask us to share from our abundance. We can walk far from the path you desire for us to walk, and we can find it difficult to make our way back. Forgive us, O God, and dwell within our hearts, always. Amen.

***Words of Assurance**

Leader: None of us is without sin. None of us is without blame.
But the good news is that we have this promise from our God:
People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

**The asterisk invites all who are able to rise in body and/or spirit*

*The Peace

One: May peace be with you

All: **And also with you.**

Front Row Moment

The Word in Music

Create in Me (from Psalm 51) - John Purifoy
Finney Choir

Scripture Lesson: John 4:5-42

One: A Word of God that is still speaking,

People: **And we are still listening. Thanks be to God.**

Reflection

*Congregational Song #196

When, like the Woman at the Well

Prayers

Contemplation in E - Max Allard

Max Allard, banjo

During the musical offering you are invited to share joys and concerns via the prayer pad in your pew, FB chat, or email (prayers@firstchurchoberlin.org)

Lord's Prayer

You are invited to use whatever language for God best fits your understanding of God. Some options are provided in the prayer.

**Our Creator/Mother/Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy Kingdom/Kin-dom/Realm come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**For thine is the Kingdom/Kin-dom/Realm,
the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

Announcements

Offering

One: As we conclude our worship, what shall we offer in gratitude for God's love and care?

All: As followers of Jesus, we seek to minister to one another, our community, and the world. To this ministry we bring our time, talents, and other resources as we are able, asking God's blessing as we go out to love and serve.

***Congregational Song**

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
See page 11

***Blessing**

Closing Music

Limerenz - Max Allard
Max Allard, banjo

You are welcome to remain for the Closing Music or to leave quietly for fellowship on the patio (weather permitting) or in Fellowship Hall.

Adult Education on March 8th: Mr. Paul Baumgartner, Executive Director of the Lorain County Free Clinic, will give a presentation on the longstanding history and vital community services provided by the Free Clinic. The LCFC provides comprehensive patient-centered health services by a team of volunteer primary care and specialty physicians, nurses and local hospitals. First Church in Oberlin has been a continuous annual supporter of the Free Clinic for 30 years. The Outreach and Service Committee invites you to come and see what your support is doing in our community.

Adult Education on March 15th: Dr. David Grayson, M.D. will provide an insightful discussion on Substance Abuse, Overdose and Recovery that will include education on the use of Narcan and distribution of Narcan overdose reversal kits.

Join us for Wednesday Night Supper on March 18th at 5:45 PM for a delicious community meal.

We'll be serving up: hearty spaghetti (meatless and gluten-free options available!), salad & garlic bread, & a decadent spread of chocolate desserts.

To make the evening a success, we are looking for: 6 Dessert Bakers (bring your favorite chocolate treat that serves 10-12!) and 3 Cleanup Stars to help us clean up after the meal!

Register your attendance or volunteer via the link in the eNews or on the sign-up board in the Fellowship Hall hallway. ALL ARE WELCOME AND INVITED!!

Outgrow: Lenten Devotional

This Lent, shed what you've outgrown!

"There is perhaps nothing more futile than allowing people and circumstances we've outgrown to dictate our direction in the present," writes Kenneth L. Samuel in his introduction to Outgrow.

Lent begins with a divine demonstration of outgrown circumstances: the temptation of Jesus by the devil in Matthew 4. "When Jesus was being tested in the wilderness," Ken Samuel observes, "he had already grown deeper than the superficial sources [of greatness and glory]."

What about you? What temptations in your life have already been overcome by increased insight? What fears have been shed through the development of your faith?

The Stillspeaking Writers invite you into the discipline of Lent, a season in which life's trials do not relent but neither does our growth in the Spirit.

For those that didn't get a hard copy of the book, you are also able to purchase a PDF for \$3.00 using the link in the eNews. If purchasing the PDF version, please purchase one PDF per reader. Upon purchase, a link will be emailed to you for downloading the PDF.

One Great Hour of Sharing: is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries.

We can make a difference. We do make a difference. Your generosity makes all the difference. Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing provide immediate aid and long-term support to people experiencing hunger, thirst, disaster, or crisis around the world.

The 2026 offering will be collected on Easter, April 5th. It is possible to contribute in one of three ways:

1. By mailing a check made out to The First Church in Oberlin with "OGHS" in the memo line to the church office,
2. By using the offering envelopes on the Welcome Table and depositing your donation in the donation boxes in the Meeting House by the doors exiting the room,
3. Or, by going to our First Church website, scrolling down and clicking on "Donate Online" and then going to the "One Great Hour of Sharing" section. Alternatively, scan the QR code in your pew and it'll bring you to the page.

See the resources in the eNews and the bulletin (pages 8 & 9) for more information on this special offering. More information can also be found on the UCC website.

Let your gift help to put prayer into action. The need has never been greater. The opportunity is now. It's time to share.



Good Knights of Lorain County's mission is to provide complete, comfortable, and safe beds to children in need in Lorain County & Northeast Ohio. The organization's purpose is to empower families with children by delivering beds and other essential items to supplement the family's resources as they rise out of poverty and into self-sufficiency.

These beds are constructed through a two-step process.

1. 'Build days' are made possible through Good Knights sponsors/donors who provide the raw materials for the bed components.
2. 'Delivery days' engage the community to rally volunteers to assemble and deliver the beds to the families. If sufficient funding is available, recipients may also receive a pillow, sheet set and blankets when their bed is delivered.

Please help our church support Good Knights and their bed recipients by donating sheets, pillowcases, and blankets (sizes twin and twin xl) to our Lenten Linen Collection, February 22 – April 5.

<https://www.costco.com/>

<https://www.amazon.com/>

<https://www.walmart.com/>



“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion for God loves a cheerful giver”

- 2 Corinthians 9:7

YWCA of Palestine – Jalazone Kindergarten and Community Center

What better way to support a more sustainable and hopeful future than to support and educate future generations? The YWCA of Palestine, a United Church of Christ partner through Global Ministries and supported by One Great Hour of Sharing, has engaged local Palestinian communities since 1893.

Today, it offers programs of economic empowerment, women’s rights, youth leadership, and children’s education. An example of the latter is the YWCA’s nursery schools and kindergartens in refugee camps, schools the YWCA has run for decades. In addition to regular classes, the YWCA offers skill-based camps such as photography and sports, as well as other extra-curricular activities at its schools.

In the occupied Palestinian West Bank, roughly one-fourth of the 900,000 Palestinian refugees registered with the United Nations live in 19 refugee camps. The YWCA kindergarten in the Jalazone Refugee Camp near Ramallah is a sign of hope for a community that has endured over 75 years of displacement.

The school and connected community center address the needs of over 80 children and their families within the camp. In a place that is often subjected to raids and night-time patrols by the Israeli military, children are not immune from the trauma the residents of the camp experience. As a result, the YWCA has added awareness and counselling sessions to regular classes to help improve the psychological well-being of the children there.

The opportunities that the YWCA affords the community through the kindergarten benefit the children, their families, and the teachers as well, providing a safe space for play and employing techniques to cope with the stress of daily life living in sub-par circumstances of a refugee camp under military occupation.

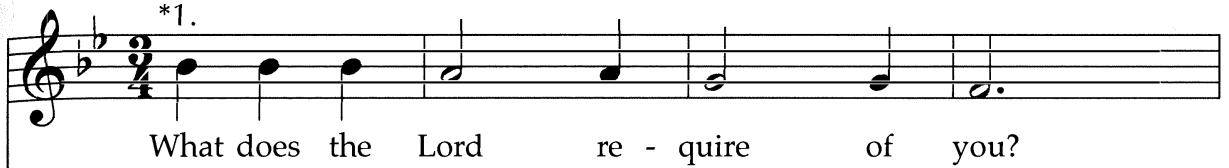
The pride the children have when they dress up for their graduation ceremony is palpable. They enjoy the celebration of their accomplishment, and anticipate their next stages of education and life better able and prepared for the challenges they will face.



What Does the Lord Require of You? 70

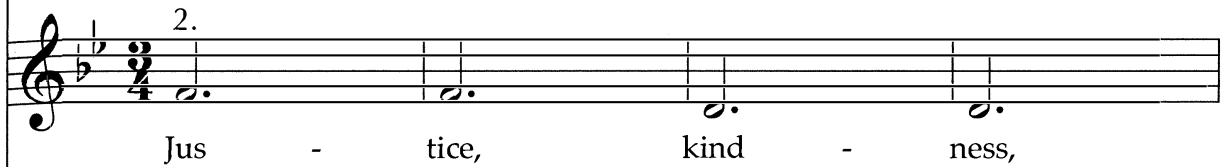
Capo 3: (G) (D) (Em) (Bm)
B \flat F Gm Dm

*1.



What does the Lord re - quire of you?

2.



Jus - tice, kind - ness,

3.

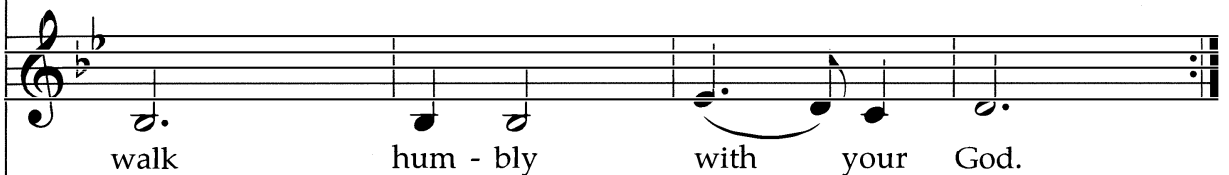


To seek jus - tice and love kind - ness

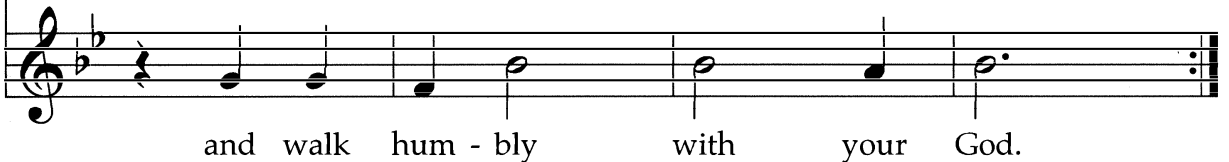
(C) (G) (Am) (D) (G)
E \flat B \flat Cm F B \flat *Repeat as desired*



What does the Lord re - quire of you?



walk hum - bly with your God.



and walk hum - bly with your God.

*The three melodic phrases may be sung consecutively, as a canon, or in any combination.



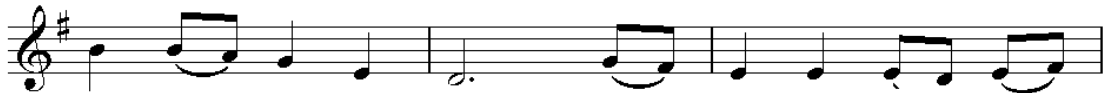
1. I ___ heard the voice of Je - sus say, 'Come un - to me ___ and
 2. I ___ heard the voice of Je - sus say, 'Be - hold, I free - ly
 3. I ___ heard the voice of Je - sus say, 'I ___ am this lost ___ world's



1. rest; lay ___ down, O wea - ry one, lay down your ___ head up -
 2. give the ___ liv - ing wa - ter; thirst - y one, draw ___ near and
 3. light; look ___ un - to me, your morn shall rise, and ___ all your



1. on ___ my breast'. I ___ came to Je - sus, as I was, wea -
 2. drink, and live'. I ___ came to Je - sus, and I drank of ___
 3. day ___ be bright'. I ___ looked to Je - sus, and I found my ___



1. ry and ___ worn and sad; and ___ there I found ___ a ___
 2. that life - giv - ing stream; my ___ thirst was quenched, my ___
 3. gui - ding ___ star, my sun; and ___ in that light ___ of ___



1. rest - ing place, where ___ Je - sus made ___ me glad.
 2. soul re - lived. and ___ now I am ___ re - deemed.
 3. life I'll go till ___ trav - 'ling days ___ are done.



Donate from your smart phone

The First Church in Oberlin now offers a mobile version of our online giving page to make it easy for you to give anytime from your smart phone. Simply scan the image you see here using your phone's QR code reader or go to www.firstchurchoberlin.org and click "Donate Online."

FIRST CHURCH EVENTS (March 8, 2026 - March 15, 2026)

Sun. (3/8)		Daylight Savings Time Starts - Spring Your Clocks Ahead!	
Sun. (3/8)	9:00 AM	Finney Choir Rehearsal	Meeting House
Sun. (3/8)	10:00 AM	Worship Service	Meeting House
Sun. (3/8)	After Worship	Adult Education	JFO Room
Mon. (3/9)	1:00 PM	Finance Committee	JFO Room
Mon. (3/9)	3:00 PM	Office Staff Meeting	Office
Tues. (3/10)	8:30 AM	AARP Tax Aides	JFO Room
Tues. (3/10)	10:00 AM	Kitchen Renovation Meeting	Reading Room
Tues. (3/10)	4:00 PM	Book Group	Zoom
Wed. (3/11)	8:30 AM	AARP Tax Aides	JFO Room
Wed. (3/11)	1:30 PM	Nominating Committee	Zoom
Thurs. (3/12)	6:00 PM	Line Dancing Class	Fellowship Hall
Thurs. (3/12)	6:45 PM	Finney Choir Rehearsal	Meeting House
Fri. (3/13)	7:00 PM	Friday Music Club	Meeting House
Sat. (3/14)	5:30 PM	SEPA Dinner	Fellowship Hall
Sun. (3/15)	9:00 AM	Finney Choir Rehearsal	Meeting House
Sun. (3/15)	10:00 AM	Worship Service	Meeting House
Sun. (3/15)	After Worship	Adult Education	JFO Room
