

WANDERING HEART

5th Sunday in Lent

March 17, 2024

GATHER

***Processional Hymn:** *Come Thou Fount*

Jordan & Jessa

Call to Worship

God of love, we come not by our initiative but by your invitation.

Together we worship, together we grow.

Loving Christ, in your grace you gather us into your Body.

Together we worship, together we grow.

Holy Spirit, you make us one with you, one with Christ,
and one in ministry to the world.

Together we worship, together we grow.

Together we praise you in harmony.

Opening Prayer

Teaching God, we want to learn your ways. We want to learn the ways of forgiveness. We want to learn the ways of grace. We want to learn your ways of love. That is part of why we return to your text week after week, because we are hungry to be more like you. So, as we prepare to listen to your good Word, calm the noise in our minds. Center our spirits to focus on you so that we might learn and hear what we have missed in this story before. God, we want to learn your ways. Meet us here. Speak your truth. Help us listen. Amen.

Hymn of Praise: *Thy Word Is a Lamp*

601

ENCOUNTER

Scripture: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Matthew 18:15-22; Psalm 119:9-16

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**

Kids Minute

Message: *Teach Me . . . the Math of Grace*

*Please stand in body or spirit.

Affirmation of Faith

We believe that questions are a building block of faith.

“How many times should I forgive?” “Jesus, where are you going?”

“What must I do to inherit eternal life?”

We believe that humble curiosity can open our eyes.

“Where does it hurt?” “What do you need?” “How can I help?”

We believe that God is a teacher.

“Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.” “Here I am.” “Send me.”

We believe that faith invites our whole being to engage,

with all our heart, with all our mind, with all our strength.

We believe. Help our unbelief.

In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.

TRANSFORM

Time of Prayer

Invitation to Pray: *Come and Find the Quiet Center* (v. 1)

2128

Prayer of Confession & Words of Assurance

The Lord’s Prayer

895

Time of Generosity

Offertory

***Doxology**

95

***Prayer of Dedication**

God of love and compassion, we dedicate our tithes and offerings to you today. Use them to make the work of reconciliation real in this world. Use them to heal the divisions in our lives, our community and our world. Make them a witness to the love and grace you extend to us and to our neighbors. This we pray in the redeemer’s holy name, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

BLESS

*Benediction

***Hymn of Joy:** *Bind Us Together*

2226

WORSHIP ENDS | SERVICE BEGINS

Announcements

Coming Up This Week

- ◆ **Mon, March 18:** Card Club, 12 pm (FLC), Horizons 1pm (FLC), Just for Kix, 4 pm
- ◆ **Tue, March 19:** Card Club, 12 pm (FLC); Bible Study, 1:30 pm
- ◆ **Wed, March 20:** Coffee Time, 3pm; JAM, 5:30 pm
- ◆ **Thurs, March 21:** AA, 7:30 pm
- ◆ **Sun, March 24:** Adult Sunday School, 8:45 am; PALM SUNDAY Worship & Brunch, 10 am; Boy Scouts, 6 pm

✝ **Lenten Mission – UMCOR Noisy Offering March 24**

This week, *count the shoes in or out of your closet!* We are the hands and feet of Jesus, and through UMCOR we have the opportunity to walk our talk! This is our last week of saving for our Lenten Mission—fill those Mission Cups! Bring your coins & your dollars to make a JOYFUL Noisy Offering!

- ✝ **Easter Celebrations:** Sign up to bring items for our Palm Sunday Brunch (March 24) OR Easter Fellowship & Easter Egg Hunt (March 31).

🌸 **Order your Easter Begonia or Hydrangea plants** to decorate our sanctuary for Easter—then take them home Easter morning! Please sign up by Wed, March 20. Include your payment made out to Willow Tree. Plants will be delivered to church. Thank you!

NOTE: Unless otherwise indicated, liturgy, artwork & poetry created by Sanctified Arts (sanctifiedarts.org) & Steven Garnaas-Holmes (unfoldinglight.net)



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Teach Me

Teach me about the ways of the wind,
about the ways of the world,
about the ways of the heart.

Teach me about the soft crook of my lover's arm,
and the way two souls can hold each other close.

Teach me about forgiveness, about the language of *I'm sorry*
and the softness of sincerity.

Teach me about abundance, about *seventy-times-seven*
and *all the days of my life*.

Teach me about joy, about its contagious weaving
and its soul-healing.

Teach me about mercy, about open hands and deep breaths.

Teach me about the dawn of time and the stars in the sky.

Teach me what matters most.

Teach me what is mine to do.

Teach this achingly curious heart

until I run out of questions

or I run out of days.

Teach me some melodious sonnet,

and I will have a life well-lived.

By Rev Sarah Speed

March 17, 2024

10:00 AM