



Welcome to Worship!

Sunday, March 8, 2026

Third Sunday in Lent

2026-27 Worship Theme: Building Community

Lenten Theme: *The Work of Imagination*

***Please stand as you are able.**

PRELUDE

Wondrous Love arr. by David N. Johnson

WELCOME

Pastor Karen Evenson

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come into God's presence, you who imagine and you who seek, you who disrupt and you who repair.

All: By the Spirit, we gather in hope.

One: Come into God's abundance, you of great faith, and you who grasp at crumbs; you who resist, and you who persist.

All: In Christ, we gather and are transformed.

One: Come into God's presence, singing for joy and for justice; bringing prayer and worship, your most faithful acts of resistance.

All: To God be the glory! We gather to praise!

OPENING PRAYER

Compassionate God, you listen to the cries of all your children and are quick to respond with mercy. As Jesus' heart was opened by the pleading of a neighbor in need, open our hearts to the sighs and longings of our world. Teach us to be courageous in faith, speaking up for justice and persisting in hope that makes all things new. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

*HYMN

Come, Be Baptized (TFWS 2252)

BAPTISM AND JOINING OF NEW MEMBERS

*HYMN

Tell Me the Stories of Jesus (UMH 277 v 1)

KIDS MESSAGE

(Kids of all ages are invited to join the pastor up front during the Hymn)

SPECIAL MUSIC

Goodness of God by Ed Cash and Jason Ingram
Kelvin Paye, UMCA Praise Team

A MOMENT TO SHARE THE STORY

PASTORAL PRAYER

As we prepare to pray together, begin to notice your breath, which is a sign of God's life-giving Spirit within you. We will hold silence for a moment. As you continue to focus on your breath, you are invited to ponder the following words of prayer:

God grant me courage, to speak out in faith.

Pray these words internally in rhythm with your breathing:

On your inhale, the words, "God grant me courage..."

On your exhale, the words, "...to speak out in faith."

Let us pray...

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*HYMN

Lord, Throughout These Forty Days (UMH 269, v 1, 3, 5)

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 15:21-28 (NRSVUE)

MESSAGE

"Holy Confrontation"

Pastor Karen Evenson

OFFERING

Shout to the Lord by Darlene Joyce Zschech
Kelvin Paye, UMCA Praise Team

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, Throughout These Forty Days (tune of **UMH 95**)

"Praise God throughout these forty days, / Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise; / And praise the Spirit who imparts / God's love in Christ into our hearts. Amen."

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN

Jesus, Joy of Our Desiring (UMH 644)

*PASSING PEACE TO ALL OF GOD'S PEOPLE

From one to another, "May God's peace be with you (and also with you)."

*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

Beloved children of God, as you return to the wild wilderness of everyday life, may you treat every person you encounter with compassion and dignity. And may you see the image of God all around you. Go out into the world reflecting God's glory as you serve our neighbors with joy and gladness. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Make A Joyful Noise by Franklin Ritter

Liturgy throughout the season of Lent is being used by permission as part of the series "The Work of Imagination" produced by 2026 Illustrated Ministry, LLC.

March 15, 2026
Fourth Sunday in Lent
John 10:1-18
Message: *"A Good Shepherd"*

WORSHIP NOTES:

Worship Hospitality Team

Building Opener and Closer ~ Pastor Karen Evenson and Sue Buckland
Choral Conductor ~ George Chu
Coffee/Donut Steward ~ Margaret Ekstrum and Michelle Schweich
Congregational Care Coordinator ~ Sue Buckland
Greeters ~ Lisa and Will Hamilton
Liturgist ~ Lisa Hamilton
Music Ensembles/Bell Choir ~ *To be prayerfully determined*
Nursery Coordinator and Volunteer ~ Amanda Harris and Sarah Dhein
Organist ~ Marilyn Tice
Pastor ~ Rev. Karen Evenson
Praise Team Coordinator ~ Kelvin Paye
Scripture Reader ~ Will Hamilton
Snow Removal and Salting ~ Ian Wallin
Sunday School Teacher and Assistant ~ Heidi Moen and Ian Wallin
Ushers ~ David Blincow, Deb Allen, Gail Sanstad, Ian Wallin,
Joyce Buffington, Roxy Crane, and Mark Worst
Welcome Center ~ Bev and Dean Summerbell
Worship Tech ~ Dallas Berry

WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

UMCA Office Hours: 9:00am - 3:00pm ~ Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
Or by appointment, please contact us at:
Phone: 763-421-2378 | Email: umcanoka@gmail.com

Tuesday, March 10, 2026	7:00pm Praise Team Rehearsal
Wednesday, March 11, 2026	10:30am New Testament Study - Rev. Stephen Perry 5:30pm Community Dinner 6:15pm Lenten Wednesday Service 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, March 12, 2026	8:00am Thursday Book Group at Bakers Square 9:30am Bring Your Bible ~ In-Person & Zoom
Sunday, March 15, 2026	SUNDAY SERVICE 9:30am Worship (In-Person & Online) 9:45am Sunday School 12:30pm Confirmation

MARCH Ministry Highlight



Vacation Bible School (VBS)



Compassion Camp VBS 2026 is ready for you to "heart" VBS for this July! As a United for the Community event, VBS brings children from the community together in a positive and safe space for an affirming and uplifting spiritual experience.

YOU make a big impact on how engaging *Compassion Camp VBS* will be for the children! By generous *donations* to United for the Community, events like VBS provide children with a rich faith experience that will include arts and crafts, set designs, music, activities and take-home materials.

By *volunteering* during VBS, you provide cheerfulness, positive energy and the loving spirit of Christ for children and families to encounter.

Be a part of *Compassion Camp VBS* this summer.
Donate now! Plan to volunteer! **And thank you!!!**