



Central United Methodist Church – at 10:00 am

With our friends at Oak Point

Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 19, 2023

Preaching: Dave Dextraze, Certified Lay Minister

Liturgist: Paul Battistini Musician: Kyle Akin

Streaming Coordinator: Rick Velez

*We are a family of faith that invites everyone to share our walk
with Christ.*

Centering Music: Kyle Akin

Welcome:

Hymn: TFWS 2172

“ We are Called”

*Come! Live in the light! Shine with the
joy and the love of the Lord! We are called to be
light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom of the
city of God!*

Refrain:

*We are called to act with
justice, we are called to love tenderly
we are called to serve one another to
walk humbly with God.*

*Come! Open your heart! Show your
mercy to all those in fear! We are called to be
hope for the helpless so all hatred and blindness will
be no more! Refrain*

*Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that
great day when all will be one! God will reign and we'll
walk with each other as sisters and brothers
united in love! Refrain*

Opening Prayer/ Call to Worship: (in unison)

**Discerner of hearts,
you look beneath our outward appearance
and see your image in each of us.
Banish in us the blindness
that prevents us from recognizing truth,
so we may see the world through your eyes
and with the compassion of Jesus Christ who redeems us. Amen.**

Responsive Reading: Psalm 23 L-Leader P-People

L: 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

P:23:2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

L:23:3 he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

**P:23:4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with
me; your rod and your staff-- they comfort me.**

L:23:5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my
head with oil; my cup overflows.

**P:23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall
dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.**

Hymn: UMH 620 “ One Bread, One Body”

Refrain

One bread, one body,

*one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many,
throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.*

*1. Gentile or Jew,
servant or free,
woman or man, no more.
Refrain*

*2. Many the gifts,
many the works,
one in the Lord of all.
Refrain*

*3. Grain for the fields,
scattered and grown,
gathered to one, for all.
Refrain*

Communion Liturgy: The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Leader: Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him and seek to grow into his likeness.

Let us draw near with faith, make our humble confession, and prepare to receive this Holy Sacrament.

All:

We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own goodness, but in your unfailing mercies. We are not worthy that you should receive us, but give your word and we shall be healed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that is proof of God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

TAKING THE BREAD AND CUP

(The bread and juice from the vine are prepared for the meal by uncovering them if they have been covered, and saying the following:)

Trusting in the presence and blessing of the Holy Spirit upon each of us, we hear anew the sacred story in the letter Paul wrote to the people of ancient Corinth: For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. (I Corinthians 11.23-26, NIV)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (All)

BREAKING THE BREAD

Leader: Because there is one loaf,
We, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf. The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.
The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.
The United Methodist Church has an Open Table Policy, everyone who believes in Jesus Christ is welcome to the table to receive holy communion.

(Please come forward and receive communion)

A great feast is prepared for us— the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ. God’s grace overflows for us— the cup of promise and blessing that we share in Christ the Lord. Come to the table. Come to the feast.

(after receiving Communion) Prayer: (All)

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.
Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen**

This morning's Old Testament Reading:

1 Samuel 16:1-13

16:1 The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons."

16:2 Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'

16:3 Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you."

16:4 Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?"

16:5 He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

16:6 When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the LORD."

16:7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."

16:8 Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one."

16:9 Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one."

16:10 Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these."

16:11 Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here."

16:12 He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one."

16:13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

This morning's Gospel Reading:

John 9:1-41

9:1 As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth.

9:2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

9:3 Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him.

9:4 We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work.

9:5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

9:6 When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes,

9:7 saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

9:8 The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?"

9:9 Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man."

9:10 But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?"

9:11 He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight."

9:12 They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

9:13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind.

9:14 Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes.

9:15 Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see."

9:16 Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided.

9:17 So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

9:18 The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight

9:19 and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"

9:20 His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind;

9:21 but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself."

9:22 His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue.

9:23 Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

9:24 So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner."

9:25 He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."

9:26 They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

9:27 He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?"

9:28 Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.

9:29 We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from."

9:30 The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes.

9:31 We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.

9:32 Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.

9:33 If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

9:34 They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

9:35 Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

9:36 He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him."

9:37 Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he."

9:38 He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him.

9:39 Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind."

9:40 Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?"

9:41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

Children's Message:

Linda Merritt

Hymn: UMH 378

"Amazing Grace"

(verses 1-4)

*Amazing grace! How Sweet the sound that
saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
now am found, was blind, but now I see.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
grace my fears relieved; how precious did that
grace appear the hour I first believed.*

*Through many dangers, toils and snares, I
have already come; tis grace hath brought me
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.*

*The Lord has promised good to me, his
word my hope secures; he will my shield and
portion be, as long as life endures.*



SOUP SUPPER

CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

14 School Street, Middleboro MA

SATURDAY, April 22nd, 2023

5PM TO 6:30 PM

\$9 adults

\$5 children 4-12

Free for children under 4

Includes beverage, bread/rolls and desert.

March 9th- Susan Ramsay

March 20th- Charlie Fisher

March 23rd- Olivia Fontes

April 13th- Shirley Parker

April 28th- Nancy Emerson



A huge thank you to all who donated to the Savers FUNDrive!! A huge thank you to the drivers who delivered nearly 3,000 lbs of goods. The Women's group earned \$351.25, because of the generosity of so many. Blessings to each of you.

Appreciatively, Jody Battistini.

Thank you for worshipping with us at Central United Methodist Church.

Come as a stranger, leave as a friend.

Ministry Team

Rev. Neil (Sandy) Sweet, Coordinating Pastor, Elder sandypadre@aol.com
Ann Burnham, Certified Lay Minister Tedann84@verizon.net
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

March 19th- Worship with our friends at Oak Point with Communion
March 26th - 6th set of videos on the future of the United Methodist Church, followed by a light lunch
April 2nd- Palm Sunday
April 9th- Easter Sunday, there will be no coffee hour after the service so we can spend time with our families.
April 22nd- Soup Supper, save the date. Sign-up with Donna Tibbetts.

LAY SERVANT SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Preaching</u>	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Greeter</u>	<u>Usher</u>	<u>Counter</u>
3/19/23	Dave Dextraze	Paul B	Bill G	Bill G	Paul B Oak Pt. /Communion
3/26/23	Paul Battistini	MJ S	Donna T	Linda M	MJ S
4/02/23	Ann Burnham	Susan R	Nancy E	Kevin O	Susan R
4/09/23	Paul Battistini	Linda M	Bev P	Susan R	Bob R