

Banning United Methodist Church

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2026

GATHERING

Special Music and Fellowship Cathy Mauge

Welcoming Friends and Newcomers Myrle Petty

Announcements Myrle Petty

Centering Words Myrle Petty

*“In the quiet, we wait for You, O God. We hope for Your transforming love.
In the darkness of despair, we trust that You are here.”*

Passing of the Peace Pastor Ode

WORSHIP OF GOD

Prelude Cathy Mauge

Lighting of the Altar Candles

†Call to Worship Myrle Petty

L: Everything seems dead.

P: There is no life anywhere.

L: Our hopes have perished.

P: We see no future.

L: Send the power of Your spirit upon us.

P: Breathe new life into us.

L: We wait for your transforming love.

P: We hope. We wait. We trust.

†Opening Hymn “Breathe on Me, Breath of God” UMH #420

†Opening Prayer Myrle Petty

Come, Spirit of God. We wait for Your presence. We trust in Your abiding promises. Breathe the breath of Your power into us this day, that we may experience the power of new life, the promise of forgiveness, and blessing of community. Amen.

Old Testament Reading - Ezekiel 37:1-14 NRSV Myrle Petty

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” Then he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.” So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from

the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’

Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.”

New Testament Reading - Romans 8:1-9 NRSV Pastor Ode

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Hymn “I Am Thine, O Lord” UMH #419

Sermon “Dry Bones Shall Live Again” Pastor Ode

Prayers Myrle Petty

Children in Prayer (After each slide: In Your mercy, Lord, hear our prayer)

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer Pastor Ode

The 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.**

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings Myrle Petty

Offertory..... Cathy Mauge

†**Doxology** “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” UMH #95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication Myrle Petty

Life-Giving Spirit, You breathe hope into our valleys of despair and call forth life where we saw only dry bones. We come today not out of habit, but out of longing to be part of Your work that restores, renews, and redeems. Take these gifts and use them to roll away the stones that keep Your people bound. Let them be signs of trust, symbols of resurrection, and tools of transformation in a weary world. May our offering, like our living, lean into Your Spirit and testify that life—abundant, eternal, and holy—is possible in You. In Christ, who calls us out of the grave and into Your grace, we pray. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn “God of Grace and God of Glory” UMH #577

Dismissal with Blessing

Benediction Pastor Ode

Carrying the Light of Christ out into the World

Postlude Cathy Mauge