

**Banning United Methodist Church**

Second Sunday of Easter

April 12, 2026

**GATHERING**

**Special Music and Fellowship** ..... Cathy Mauge

**Welcoming Friends and Newcomers** ..... Marilyn Casey

**Announcements** ..... Marilyn Casey

**Centering Words** ..... Marilyn Casey

“Break through our darkness and fears, Lord. Let the light of Your salvation and hope shine on us,  
in us, and through us, that healing and hope may abound in Your world.”

**Passing of the Peace** ..... Pastor Ode

**WORSHIP OF GOD**

**Prelude** ..... Cathy Mauge

Lighting of the Altar Candles

**†Call to Worship** ..... Marilyn Casey

L: Easter people, Christ is risen!

**P: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

L: Christ *is* risen indeed! Yet we, like Thomas, may find questions bubbling up: How do we know? What’s the proof? Is Resurrection real?

**P: Within our questioning, Christ appears.**

L: We may find ourselves like the other disciples, witnesses of Christ’s resurrection who struggle to understand the doubt of others.

**P: Within our certainty, Christ appears.**

L: Whether you come to worship full of certainty or doubt, you are welcome here, for we are all participants in the story of God’s salvific work in the world, a story still unfolding all around us.

**P: We gather to worship, believing that in certainty and doubt, the resurrected Christ dwells among us!**

**Amen.**

**†Opening Hymn** “The Head That Once Was Crowned” vs. 1, 3, 4 & 6 ..... UMH #326

**†Opening Prayer** ..... Marilyn Casey

**Gracious Lord, Easter was such a high point. We walked through the weeks of Lent and then boldly marched with Jesus into Jerusalem. Our steps hesitated and faltered during Holy Week when we ate with our Lord and then ran from his crucifixion. It was so hard for us to really believe in the miraculous event of Easter when our beloved Lord was raised from the dead. We, like Thomas, wonder if it was real or something made up from desperate longing. Help us to listen to Your words with our hearts and our ears. Remind us that the Lord brings His peace to us all. Amen.**

**Old Testament Reading - Psalm 16 NRSV** ..... Marilyn Casey

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the LORD, “You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.” As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble, in whom is all my delight. Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names upon my lips. The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. The boundary lines have fallen for me in

pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage. I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. I keep the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure. For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit. You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

**New Testament Reading** - 1 Peter 1:3-9 NRSV ..... Pastor Ode

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

The Word of God for the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon Hymn** “Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee” ..... UMH #175

**Sermon** “Keep Me Safe, My God” ..... Pastor Ode

**Prayers** ..... Marilyn Casey

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** ..... Marilyn Casey

**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** ..... Marilyn Casey

**Lord, we thank You for the many blessings which You have poured into our lives. Now we ask Your blessing on these gifts that they may be used to Your glory. Amen.**

## SENDING FORTH

**Closing Hymn** “He Lives” ..... UMH #310

**Dismissal with Blessing**

Benediction ..... Pastor Ode

Carrying the Light of Christ out into the World

**Postlude** ..... Cathy Mauge