

Banning United Methodist Church

Third Sunday in Lent

March 8, 2026

GATHERING

Special Music and Fellowship Cathy Mauge

Welcoming Friends and Newcomers Marilyn Casey

Announcements Marilyn Casey

Centering Words Marilyn Casey

“As we gather, O God, bring our scattered thoughts into stillness, our restless spirits into peace, our wandering hearts back to You. Center us in Your Word, Your truth, Your steadfast love.”

Presentation Pastor Ode

Passing of the Peace Pastor Ode

WORSHIP OF GOD

Prelude Cathy Mauge

Lighting of the Altar Candles

†Call to Worship Marilyn Casey

L: Come, let us worship God!

P: Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

L: Come, let us worship our Shepherd!

P: We are the sheep of God’s pasture, and we follow where God leads us.

L: Come, let us open our hearts!

P: We receive God’s love poured into our hearts through the Spirit.

L: Come, let us worship God, the rock of our salvation!

P: Let us worship God, whose mercy guides and sustains us on the path of new life!

†Opening Hymn “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” UMH #349

†Opening Prayer Marilyn Casey

Loving and caring God, we come this morning in hope—hope that will sustain us in our trying times, our lonely times, our doubting times. Refresh us this morning with the living water of Your presence and love. Open us to the possibilities of friendship—the possibilities of encountering You in unexpected ways, the possibilities of seeing the miraculous in everyday life. Amen.

Old Testament Reading - Exodus 17:1-7 NRSV Marilyn Casey

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” The LORD said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with

which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

Gospel Reading - Romans 5:1-11 NRSV Pastor Ode
Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person— though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of God for the people of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Hymn “Spirit of the Living God” UMH #393

Sermon “Do Not Test the Lord Your 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

Life-giving God, we offer You ourselves and our resources. Use us and our gifts, that we may be water bearers to a world thirsty for love, for meaning, for justice, and for hope.

May all Your people encounter fullness of life through the love of Christ, which lives within us. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn “A Charge to Keep I Have” UMH #413

Dismissal with Blessing

Benediction Pastor Ode

Carrying the Light of Christ out into the World

Postlude Cathy Mauge