

# Banning United Methodist Church

Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026

## GATHERING

Special Music and Fellowship ..... Cathy Mauge

Welcoming Friends and Newcomers ..... Dan Mabey

Announcements ..... Dan Mabey

March Birthdays and Anniversaries

Centering Words ..... Dan Mabey

*“God calls us and blesses us, that we might share our blessings with others.”*

Reception of New Member (follow on monitors for congregational response)..... Pastor Ode

Passing of the Peace ..... Pastor Ode

## WORSHIP OF GOD

Prelude ..... Cathy Mauge

Lighting of the Altar Candles

†Call to Worship ..... Dan Mabey

L: God calls us to set out in faith.

**P: The love of God leads us home.**

L: Christ blesses us that we might bless others.

**P: The blessings of Christ heal our world.**

L: The Holy Spirit strengthens us for the journey.

**P: The power of the Spirit sustains and supports us.**

L: The One who made heaven and earth meets us here.

†Opening Hymn “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” ..... UMH #117

†Opening Prayer ..... Dan Mabey

**Lord of light and love, Your Spirit enlivens our spirits, even as Your Kingdom draws us to You. May we be born from above, that our souls might ascend to Your realm and taste the joy of eternal life in Your Name. For You sent Your Son into our world, not to condemn the world, but that all who enter into His light we might have life, and have it abundantly. Amen.**

Old Testament Reading - Psalm 121 NRSV ..... Dan Mabey

I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

Gospel Reading - John 3:1-17 NRSV ..... Pastor Ode

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?”

Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

The Word of God for the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon Hymn** “How Great Thou Art” ..... UMH #77

**Sermon** “Born Again: The Love That Gives New Life” ..... Pastor Ode

**Prayers** ..... Dan Mabey

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

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer ..... Pastor Ode

**Presentation of Tithes and Offerings** ..... Dan Mabey

**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** ..... Dan Mabey

**Gracious God, just as you blessed the saints of old when they ventured forth in faith, so now bless us in our living and in our giving. Transform our gifts and offerings into blessings for a weak and weary world, that all may touch Your great love. Amen.**

### SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

**Service of Word and Table II** ..... Hymnal Page 12

**Communion Hymn** “Let Us Break Bread Together” ..... UMH #618

### SENDING FORTH

**Closing Hymn** “To God Be the Glory” ..... UMH #98

### Dismissal with Blessing

Benediction ..... Pastor Ode

Carrying the Light of Christ out into the World

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