

Banning United Methodist Church

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

GATHERING

Special Music and Fellowship Cathy Mauge

Welcoming Friends and Newcomers Myrle Petty

Announcements Myrle Petty

Centering Words Myrle Petty

“Listen, our shepherd is calling us by name.”

Passing of the Peace Pastor Ode

WORSHIP OF GOD

Prelude Cathy Mauge

Lighting of the Altar Candles

†Call to Worship Myrle Petty

L: Do you need a guide?

P: The Lord is our shepherd.

L: Do you need a path to new life?

P: The Lord is our gate.

L: Do you need rest?

P: The Lord restores our souls.

L: Come, let us worship. **Amen.**

†Opening Hymn “Close to Thee” UMH #407

†Opening Prayer Myrle Petty

Loving Shepherd, You call us as Your own. When danger is close at hand, You gather us to Yourself, that we might dwell secure. When evil surrounds us, You give us a home and a safe place to rest. When foes threaten our fellowship, You rescue us from peril. Restore our souls, Gentle Savior, and lead us in the paths of righteousness, that we may walk in the ways of goodness and mercy, all the days of our lives. Amen.

Old Testament Reading - Psalm 23 NRSV Myrle Petty

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name’s sake. 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. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. 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.

New Testament Reading - John 10:1-10 NRSV Pastor Ode

“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate

for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Hymn “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us ” UMH #381

Sermon “Abundant Life in Christ” 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

Mason Jar Ministry Myrle Petty

†**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

Good Shepherd, You lead us into life and provide all we need. As we bring these gifts, open our hearts to follow Your voice with trust. Use what we offer to bring hope, safety, and abundant life to others, just as You have given to us. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn “To God Be the Glory, Great Things He Hath Done!” UMH #98

Dismissal with Blessing

Benediction Pastor Ode

Carrying the Light of Christ out into the World

Postlude Cathy Mauge