

Banning United Methodist Church  
First Sunday in Lent  
February 22, 2026

GATHERING

Special Music and Fellowship .....	Cathy Mauge
Welcoming Friends and Newcomers .....	Myrle Petty
Announcements .....	Myrle Petty
Centering Words .....	Myrle Petty
<i>“Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart”</i>	
Passing of the Peace .....	Pastor Ode

WORSHIP OF GOD

Prelude .....	Cathy Mauge
Lighting of the Altar Candles	

†Call to Worship .....	Myrle Petty
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L: Be glad in the Lord and rejoice.

P: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust the Lord.

L: When we confess our transgressions, Christ’s grace and forgiveness encompass us.

P: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust the Lord.

L: Open yourselves to the teachings and wisdom of the Spirit.

P: Steadfast love surrounds those who trust the Lord.

†Opening Hymn “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days” .....	UMH #269
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†Opening Prayer .....	Myrle Petty
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Gracious and Loving God, we seek the freedom found in the grace we receive through Christ Jesus. We seek to know more fully Your great love. Turn us from our temptations. Inspire us to open ourselves to the way of Christ, that as we examine our lives and live out these days, we may become examples of Your abundant love for all people.

May your Divine Spirit tend us as angels attended Jesus in the wilderness, and may we feel revived and sustained to follow Jesus. Amen.

Old Testament Reading - Genesis 3:1-7 NRSV.....	Myrle Petty
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Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Gospel Reading - Matthew 25:31-46 NRSV.....	Pastor Ode
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“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you

gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Hymn "It Is Well with My Soul" ..... UMH #377

Sermon "Seeing Christ Where We Least Expect Him" ..... 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

Mason Jar Ministry ..... 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

**We offer ourselves to You, Lord Jesus, emptying ourselves to become Your vessels of love and grace and hope to all we encounter. May the gift of our lives and the gifts of our service create God's kingdom on earth, as it is in heaven. Amen.**

#### SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn "God Will Take Care of You" ..... UMH #130

Dismissal with Blessing

Benediction ..... Pastor Ode

Carrying the Light of Christ out into the World

Postlude ..... Cathy Mauge