

Banning United Methodist Church
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 8, 2026

GATHERING

Special Music and Fellowship	Cathy Mauge
Welcoming Friends and Newcomers	Kathy Bainter
Announcements	Kathy Bainter
Centering Words	Kathy Bainter
"In the beginning God brought forth light out of the darkness. This light has shown throughout the centuries in the lives of prophets and teachers, young and old, and in the life of Christ. This light still shines today in you. Let your light shine!"	

Passing of the Peace	Pastor Ode
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WORSHIP OF GOD

Prelude	Cathy Mauge
Lighting of the Altar Candles	
†Call to Worship	Kathy Bainter
L: God calls us to a worship that transforms the world.	
P: We come to seek justice, to love mercy, and to walk in compassion.	
L: When we share bread with the hungry and welcome the vulnerable, God's light breaks forth.	
P: We long for that light to shine through us.	
L: Come, let us worship the One who renews, restores, and leads us.	
P: With open hearts, we answer God's call.	

†Opening Hymn	"Open My Eyes, That I May See"	UMH #545
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†Opening Prayer	Kathy Bainter
Amazing God, You have gathered us from many places to come together and praise You this day. For this we are grateful! As we worship today, may our minds be opened to learn Your wisdom. May our eyes be opened to places that need healing. May our hands be opened to do Your good work. May our hearts be opened to Your Holy Spirit, Who gifts us and guides us. In the Name of Christ, we pray. Amen.	

Old Testament Reading	Kathy Bainter
Isaiah 58:1-12 NRSV	
Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear	

guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Gospel Reading

James 2:14-26 NRSV

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder. Do you want to be shown, you senseless person, that faith apart from works is barren? Was not our ancestor Abraham justified by works when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was brought to completion by the works. Thus the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness," and he was called the friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. Likewise, was not Rahab the prostitute also justified by works when she welcomed the messengers and sent them out by another road? For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead.

The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Hymn

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

UMH #298

Sermon

"The Fast That Breaks Chains"

Pastor Ode

Prayers

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

Kathy Bainter

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

Kathy Bainter

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

Kathy Bainter

Abundant God, we are grateful for the ways You bless our lives and for the gifts You give us. May these gifts help heal and restore our community, so that all will flourish like a well-watered garden. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn

"Take My Life, and Let It Be"

UMH #399

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

†BENEDICTION

CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST OUT INTO THE WORLD

Pastor Ode

POSTLUDE

Cathy Mauge

454. Open My Eyes, That I May See

1. Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me; place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!
2. Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear; and while the wavenotes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!
3. Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere; open my heart and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

399. Take My Life, and Let It Be

1. Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee. Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise. Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love. Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.
2. Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King. Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee. Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold. Take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose.
3. Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine. Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne. Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure-store. Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

298. When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

1. When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.
2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.
3. See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down. Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?
4. Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small; love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.