

Banning United Methodist Church

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026

GATHERING

Special Music and Fellowship Cathy Mauge

Welcoming Friends and Newcomers Kathy Bainter

Announcements Kathy Bainter

Centering Words Kathy Bainter

*“Open the eyes of my heart, O God. Help us see more clearly,
think more openly, feel more deeply, and love more abundantly.”*

Dedication of Worship Banners..... Pastor Ode

Pastor: We present these banners to be consecrated to the glory of Almighty God and for service in this church in loving memory of Wendell S. & Jackie Bainter.

Acceptance: (in unison) We accept these memorial banners as a sacred trust and will guard and use them reverently in loving memory of Wendell S. & Jackie Bainter.

Pastor: In the Name of the Holy and triune God, we consecrate these banners to the glory of God and in memory of God’s servants Wendell S. & Jackie Bainter. The memory of the righteous is ever blessed.

Prayer: (in unison) Most loving God, without You no words or works of ours have meaning. Accept the gifts of our hands as symbols of our devotion. Grant us Your blessing, as we have consecrated these banners to Your glory, that they may be an enduring witness before all our people, and that our lives may be consecrated in Your service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Passing of the Peace Pastor Ode

WORSHIP OF GOD

Prelude Cathy Mauge

Lighting of the Altar Candles

†Call to Worship Kathy Bainter

L: Come into the light of God.

P: Christ’s brightness will guide our way.

L: Come into the wisdom of God.

P: The Spirit’s insight will reveal new truths.

L: Come into the praise of God,

P: Worship opens new doors in our hearts.

†Opening Hymn “God of Grace and God of Glory”..... UMH #577

†Opening Prayer Kathy Bainter

Shepherd of love, guide our steps, open the eyes of our hearts, and fling wide the doors of our minds to perceive as you perceive. Open our lives to love as You love. Open our world to become the world You envision for Your creation. In the light of Your love, we pray. Amen.

Old Testament Reading - 1 Samuel 16:1-13 NRSV Kathy Bainter

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD." But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

New Testament Reading - Ephesians 5:8-14 NRSV Pastor Ode

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Hymn "Spirit of the Living God" UMH #393

Sermon "The Man/Woman After God's Own Heart" Pastor Ode

Prayers Kathy Bainter

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 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

All-seeing God, You see the gifts we have given and the offering we are giving: our treasure and our time, our service and our lives. Help us perceive the value of Your gifts You, and the ways our generous sharing brings Your realm more closely to this earth. Bless our lives and our gifts, that they might become points of

light to bring all of creation closer to You and to Your love. Amen.

Sending Forth

Closing Hymn "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" UMH #206

Dismissal with Blessing

Benediction Pastor Ode

Carrying the Light of Christ out into the World

Postlude Cathy Mauge