

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN-CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

March 30, 2025

Fourth Sunday In Lent

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE UNITY CANDLE

PRELUDE Chorale: O Sacred Head Now Wounded

Bach-Schreiner

CHORAL INTROIT Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

GREETING L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

A new day has dawned, God's gift to us;
the fruits of the land are ours to enjoy.

**We are a new creation in Jesus Christ;
the old has passed away, the new has come.**

This is a day for forgiveness and reconciliation;
celebrate God's love for the lost who are found.

**The glad cries of deliverance surround us;
shouts of joy arise from our hearts.**

Let all who are faithful offer up prayers;
may all who are in Christ give thanks.

**We will be glad and join the dance of life;
with the upright of heart, we rejoice and sing.**

MORNING PRAYER (read by Lay Reader)

Welcoming God, we have gathered together so that you may teach us the way we should go. In our times of distress and need, you have provided. When we have stubbornly followed our own plans, you have curbed our impulses. From our days of confusion and aimless wandering, you have rescued us and restored us to our true identity. Meet us now as we worship together to shape us into a righteous, reconciling people. Amen.

***HYMN** Let All Things Now Living

#53

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

O God, we will not try to hide from you the wrong we have done or the good we have neglected. You know our transgressions. You have observed our pretensions. We have claimed too lightly the label "Christian," for often we cut ourselves off from you and from people we disdain. At times our rebellion leaves us hungry, alone, and friendless. O God, we are not worthy to be called your children. Grant

us, we pray, your forgiveness and pardon and a renewed sense of who you intend us to be and to become. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

We are assured that God forgives the guilt of our sin. Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Happy are those to whom God imputes no iniquity and in whose spirit there is no deceit Rejoice, for God has brought us back to life!

***GLORIA PATRI**

#805

SPECIAL MUSIC - *Becky Deters*

CHILDREN'S CHAT Rev. James Deters

***HYMN** The King of Love My Shepherd Is

On insert

SCRIPTURE Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 (p. 952), Joshua 5:13-15 (p. 195)

MESSAGE Rev. James Deters

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

On insert

PERIOD OF GUIDED PRAYER Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

OFFERINGS OF GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY A Spiritual Reflection

Gilbert Martin

Please sign the friendship pad at the end of the pew and pass it on.

***DOXOLOGY**

#809

***OFFERTORY PRAYER** (unison)

Thank you, God, for proclaiming our worth when we do not value ourselves. Thank you for welcoming us to a celebration of life with so many precious gifts. Thank you now for the privilege of sharing so others may be led to your joyous embrace. Help us to be generous in gratitude for your lavish provision for all our needs. Amen.

***HYMN** Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy (*sing verse, refrain; verse, refrain, etc.*) **#451**

***COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

Stay near to God during the week that lies ahead;

be faithful in your times of prayer.

God is our hiding place and present help;

we will speak to God and for God this week.

Live as ambassadors of Jesus Christ every day;

rejoice when a sister or brother returns home to God.

We will seek to love as we have been loved;

we will welcome, not judge, our brothers and sisters.

We have been reconciled to God through Jesus Christ;

God's love and compassion will be with us always.

We will be glad and rejoice in God's goodness;

we will share the joy of God's love. Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

***RESPONSE TO BENEDICTION** God Be With You *verse 1* **#840**

POSTLUDE Gigue *Christine Schulz*

*All those who are able, please stand.

A WORD ON THE OFFERING

For your convenience, offering plates are placed at each entrance. You are welcome to place your offering in the plate as you enter or during a hymn. The ushers will bring your offering forward later in the service.

Large print bulletins, children's bulletins, and aids for the hearing impaired are available. All people are welcome in the sanctuary; however, a playroom is available for kindergarten and younger children needing a place to invest their excitement. There is also a children's room for families who need a quiet space for babies and young children. Please ask an usher for assistance.

ORGANIST Nancy Dufek

CHOIR DIRECTOR Diana Mann

VMIX Rob Sanders STREAMING AUDIO Susan Sanders

SANCTUARY SOUND Deters

PRODUCTION Rob Sanders

TECH SUPPORT Ernie Bliss

LAY READER Betty Yankee

USHERS Tom and Connie Cogger

COFFEE HOSTS Betty Yankee and Anne-Marie Itzin

BAKERS Laurel Harnisch and Susan Sanders

PLAYROOM Pat Sheils

Church office hours Monday--Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Rev. James Deters, Pastor upccpastor@gmail.com

Laurel Harnisch, Director of Family Ministry upcc.familyministry@gmail.com

Susan Sanders, Administrative Assistant upcc.office214@gmail.com

Church office phone 715-682-3093

Lots of upcoming events. See the bulletin inserts.

Also look at the UPCC website: <https://upccchurch.org/>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/UnitedPresbyterianCongregationalChurch>

Join our Facebook group at UPCC Connection



United Presbyterian/Congregational Church

214 Vaughn Ave, Ashland, Wisconsin 54806

PASTOR: Reverend James Deters

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 am

Illustration by Ben Cogger



Calendar of Events

ACTIVITIES

- 4/2 Pastor Jim at nursing homes
 Noon: AA meeting in lower lounge
 5:00 pm Creation Care team meeting
 5:30 pm Middle School Youth Group: Escape Room
 7:00 pm Choir practice
- 4/6 9:15 am Sunday school (Pre-K -High school)
 9:15 am Adult Sunday school
 10:30 am Worship service

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Alice Evenson
- 2 TJay Jones
- 3 David Mahnke
- 4 Joanne Malmberg
- 5 Desmond Edwards & Hannah Deters

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Birthday Offering: Since 1922, Presbyterian women have supported the Birthday offering as thanks for all of God's blessings. This year funding will go to build a housing facility in Mississippi for volunteers sent with disaster relief and also for community members needing temporary quarters. Also receiving funds will be the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota, that will be used to build three dome homes to help with the housing crisis, as well as giving Lakota members construction experience. There are yellow envelopes in the pew racks for your consideration. Many thanks.

College Care Boxes: The Women's Association will be sending care packages to college students again this spring. We welcome donations of small items such as pre-packaged snacks, tissue packets, pencils, pens, highlighters, Chapstick, and gift cards from fast food outlets. A note of encouragement to our students will also be included as they end their school year. Items and monetary donations will be collected until April 6th with the mailing boxes to be packed on April 7th. Please leave donations in the church office. Thank you.



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MORE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Sunday 4/6 Jocelyn Langholz will be presenting her Master of Divinity Capstone project “**Responding to Christian Nationalism with Prophetic Preaching, Liberating Rituals, and a Dance Party**” Join us for soup and sandwiches at 5:30, with a presentation at 6:00. Presentation will include history that has led to the rise of Christian Nationalism in the US and identify key tenets that contradict the words and life of Christ. We will then talk about the call to both speak and live the embodied truth of Christ in our lives in the world. It is a response of meaning, community, and joy.

SOLAR REPORT

467 Kwh this week

19989 kwh

19.9 tons carbon reduction

\$2904 saved since the system was activated.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Christ suffered for sins once for all,
the righteous for the unrighteous,
in order to bring you to God.
He was put to death in the flesh,
but made alive in the spirit,
in which he also went and made a proclamation
to the spirits in prison,
who in former times did not obey,
when God waited patiently in the days of Noah,
during the building of the ark,
in which a few, that is, eight persons,
were saved through water.
And baptism, which this prefigured,
now saves you—
not as a removal of dirt from the body,
but as an appeal to God for a good conscience,
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
who has gone into heaven
and is at the right hand of God,
with angels, authorities, and powers
made subject to him.

1 Pet. 3:18, 21-22

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802 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

(Psalm 23)

1 The King of love my shep-herd is, whose good - ness
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow my ran - somed
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear

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 Lord, be - side me; thy rod and staff my

I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
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 gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
 com - fort still, thy cross be - fore to guide me.

- 5 Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
 thy unction grace bestoweth;
 and O what transport of delight
 from thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6 And so through all the length of days
 thy goodness faileth never;
 Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
 within thy house forever.

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United Presbyterian Congregational Church

Middle School
ESCAPE ROOM

MYSTERY MANOR ESCAPE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2ND

5:30-7:00PM

214 VAUGHN AVE ENTRANCE #5

**Grab your flashlight and join us in the Youth Room as we race to collect the inheritance hidden at "Mystery Manor" before the clock runs out!
Dinner and dessert provided.**

**FOR MORE INFO:
UPCC.FAMILYMINISTRY@GMAIL.COM
715-682-3093**

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WHEN YOU PASS THROUGH THE WATERS, I WILL BE WITH YOU.
ISAIAH 43:2

GOOD SHEPHERD, SARON, UPCC, AND
MESSIAH PRESENT:

VBS

VACTION BIBLE SCHOOL

"WATER IS LIFE"
JUNE 9-13, 2025

9:00AM-NOON
(LUNCH SERVED AT 12PM)
AGES: FINISHED 4K- FINISHED 6TH GRADE

HOSTED AT GOOD SHEPHERD ELCA
311 13TH STREET, ASHLAND WI

PROGRAM AT GOOD SHEPHERD ON JUNE 13TH AT
11:30 WITH POT LUCK TO FOLLOW
SIGN UP AT: WWW.GOODSHEPHERDASHLAND.COM

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“Water Is Life”

VBS Donations

Needed from our Congregations

150 sheets of white card stock

25 cans of shaving cream (dollar store cheapest-generic brand)

10 packs of liquid food coloring

50 gallon Ziploc bags

Embroidery Floss

100 popsicle sticks

100 clear plastic cups

10 one gallon ice cream buckets

10 rolls of tin foil

Please contact Kaari Enigl before you donate
at 608- 865- 0572 or kaa.ashland@gmail.com



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Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 (p. 952)

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he told them this parable: 'Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? Then Jesus said, 'There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; but no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate. 'Now his elder son was in the field, and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound." Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back,

who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.""

Joshua 5:13-15 (p.195)

Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?" "Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come." Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "What message does my Lord have for his servant?" The commander of the Lord's army replied, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.