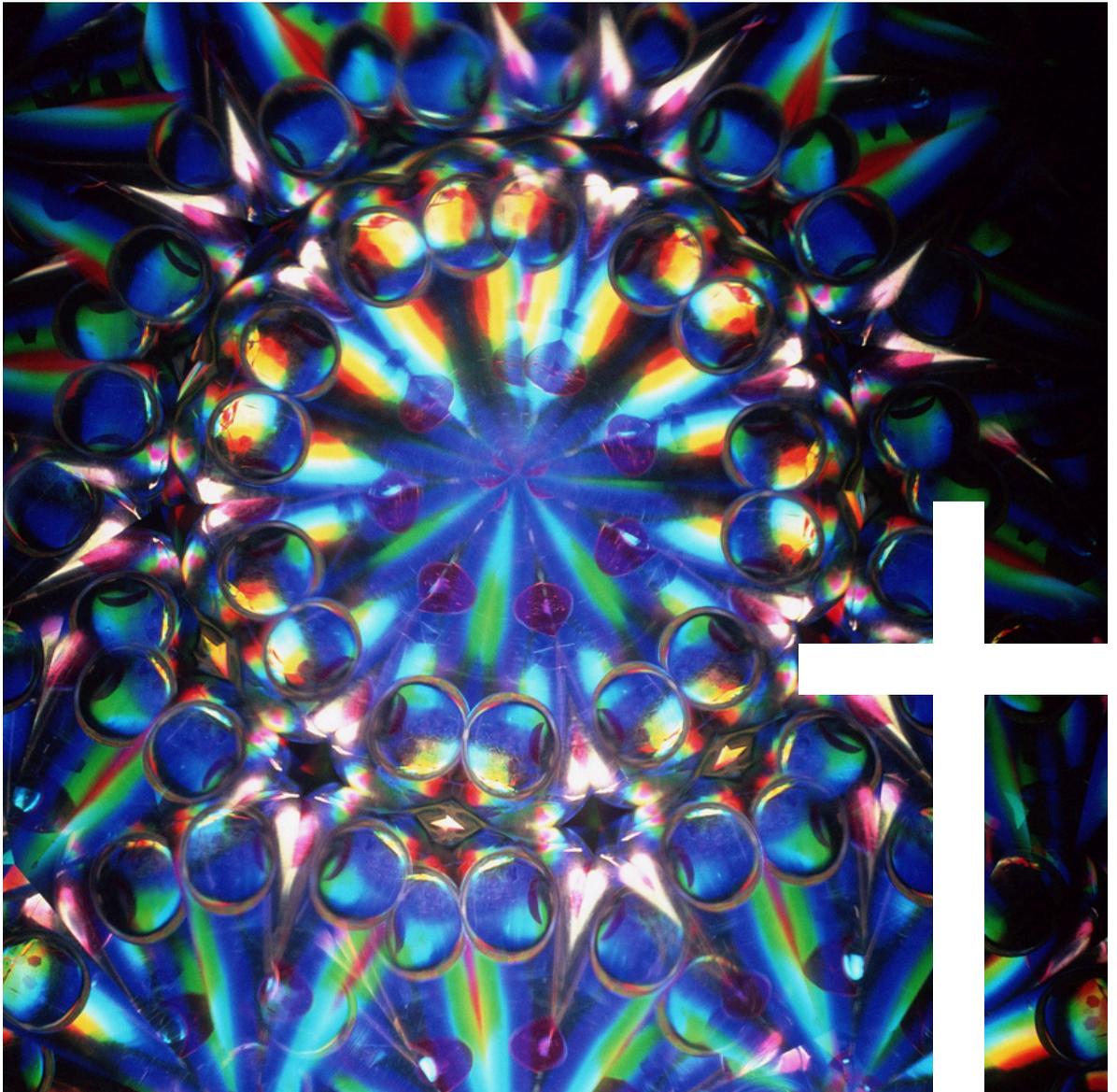


Welcome to Worship and Live Streaming @10:45am



The Fourth Sunday in Lent

10:45am

March 15, 2026

GATHERING

The people of God come together in the Lord's name.

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude--*O Saving Sacrifice*--Daniel Auber

Introit--*His Name Is Wonderful*

Combined Choirs

Call to Worship--

"I desire mercy, not sacrifice," says the Lord.

So we come not trusting in our own righteousness, but in God's great mercy.

Come, let us worship the One who cleanses, calls, and renews us.

We gather to praise the living God!

Opening Hymn398**--*Jesus Calls Us*

Invocation--

Gracious and merciful God, we gather in Your presence with grateful hearts. Through Jesus Christ, our great High Priest, You have opened the way for us to come before You. By the cross we are cleansed, our lives renewed, so that we might serve You, the living God. Pour out Your Holy Spirit upon this time of worship. Purify our hearts, open our ears to Your Word, and shape us into people who delight in Your will. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PROCLAMATION

The Word of God is read and proclaimed for all ages.

Scripture Reading--Hebrews 9:11-14

Gloria Patri--*Glory Be to the Father* (Hymnal p. 70)

Anthem--*Were You There*--H.T. Burleigh

Chancel Choir

God's Word for Young Disciples--(congregation sings "Jesus Loves Me" as the children come forward)

Scripture Reading**--Matthew 9:9-13

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon--*"The Wood Between the Worlds:*

Pastor Howard Pippin

The Sacrifice to End Sacrificing"

RESPONSE

The People respond to the Word

Hymn of Response294**--*Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed*

Prayer of Confession/Words of Assurance--

People: Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed. We judge others while forgetting our own need for mercy. Too often we trust in our own efforts rather than in the cleansing grace of Christ. Forgive us, Lord. Purify our consciences through the sacrifice of Jesus, our great High Priest. Give us humble hearts to receive Your mercy, and gladly follow when You call. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Leader: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Discipleship Moment

Offertory--*Scenes from Gethsemane*--Joseph Martin

Epworth Choir

Doxology**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Prayers of the People/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.

(continued)

SENDING FORTH

The people of God are sent forth to serve others and witness to their faith.

Closing Hymn435--O God of Every Nation**

Benediction--Let Us Share God's Love

Combined Choirs

Postlude--Lord Jesus Christ, Turn Thou to Us--Johann Gottfried Walther

The flowers on the altar this morning are dedicated to the glory of God.

Music--One License A-731491

***indicates please stand as you are able*

Clergy & Staff

Jon Priebe, Lead Minister

Howard Pippin, Associate Minister

Marvin Brown, Senior Minister Emeritus

Marie Willis-Guarneri, Director of Music & Worship

Eric Charnofsky, Organist & Accompanist

Donna Curfman, Director of Children's Ministries

Jennifer Brooks, Director of Weekday Christian Preschool

Office Staff: Christy Meyers-Receptionist, Nancy Yeager-Finance, Kim Kerr-Membership, Sarah Neri-Publishing

Contact Information

245 Portage Trail

Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221

330-923-5241

Office Hours: M-F 9am-3pm

infofumccf@gmail.com

www.firstchurchcf.com



HYMN LYRICS

OPENING HYMN

#398 Jesus Calls Us

1. Jesus calls us o'er the tumult
of our life's wild, restless sea;
day by day his sweet voice soundeth,
saying, "Christian, follow me!"

2. As of old the apostles heard it
by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred,
leaving all for Jesus' sake.

3. Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying, "Christian, love me more!"

4. In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures,
"Christian, love me more than these!"

5. Jesus calls us! By thy mercies,
Savior, may we hear thy call,
give our hearts to thine obedience,
serve and love thee best of all.

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father
and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.

HYMN OF RESPONSE

#294 Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed

1. Alas! and did my Savior bleed,
and did my Sovereign die!
Would he devote that sacred head
for sinners such as I?

2. Was it for crimes that I have done,
he groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity! Grace unknown!
And love beyond degree!

3. Well might the sun in darkness hide,
and shut its glories in,
when God, the mighty maker, died
for his own creature's sin.

4. Thus might I hide my blushing face
while his dear cross appears;
dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
and melt mine eyes to tears.

5. But drops of tears can ne'er repay
the debt of love I owe.
Here, Lord, I give myself away;
'tis all that I can do.

CLOSING HYMN

#435 O God of Every Nation

1. O God of every nation,
of every race and land,
redeem the whole creation
with your almighty hand;
where hate and fear divide us
and bitter debt is yours,
in love and mercy guide us,
and build your kingdom here.

2. Break down the wall that divides us,
the walls of race and creed,
the barriers of language
that keep us far from thee;
let love and understanding
unite our hearts as one,
that we may walk together
beneath the shining sun.

3. Lord, make us one in purpose,
in spirit and in heart,
that we may work together
and never walk apart;
the seeds of peace now sowing,
let truth and justice reign,
that all may see your glory
and praise your holy name.

4. Strengthen our faith, O Savior,
that we may overcome
the power of the darkness
and let thy kingdom come;
let freedom and justice
our constant guiding light,
that we may build a future
that's pleasing in thy sight.

CHURCH NOTES 3-15-26

Epworth in Concert TODAY: Epworth choir will perform their pre-tour concert this evening beginning @5:00pm. We hope you'll join us at Twin Falls UMC, 60 N. River Rd, Munroe Falls.

First Church Feeds: FCF is requesting donations of toothbrushes, toothpaste, and hand sanitizer for the month of March. Donations can be brought in to the boxes by the church Library. Thank you for supporting First Church Feeds!

Easter Baskets: Easter Sunday all children are encouraged to join us in Asbury Hall for Easter basket fun between worship services (approx. 10:15-10:45am).

Work Camp '26: Mark your calendars for Work Camp June 7-13 at the Henderson Settlement in Frakes, KY. Teens and adults who are willing to do service through hard work are encouraged to sign-up. Any questions can be directed to Jack Steele 330-697-8344.

Save the Date: We are excited to share that we are planning another Daughters In Christ Tea scheduled for May 9, 2026, from 2-4pm. Save the date!

Golfers Wanted: The church golf league is looking for new players and subs. The league plays Wednesdays at 4:30 at Fox Den Golf Course in Stow. If you have interest or questions, please contact Jim Boss 330-697-7446.

VBS & Chess Camp: VBS Planning is in full swing! Registration for the June 22-26 session opens April 6. We are starting to sign people up as volunteers—both teens and adults. Contact Donna Curfman if you have any questions or are eager to secure your spot. Chess Camp will be held July 6–10. Registration opens April 20. The camp is for both new and experienced players aged K and up.

Holy Week Events

Palm Sunday Worship	First UMC	8:30am & 10:45am
Maundy Thursday	St. Luke's (6 th St.)	Supper 6:30pm, Worship @7:00pm
Good Friday	First Christian	7:00pm
Easter Vigil	Church Square (outdoors)	6:00am, light breakfast in Asbury
Easter Worship	First UMC	9:00am & 11:00am

FODDER

The Sacrifice to End Sacrificing: Christians should follow Jesus by ending cycles of blame and retaliation.

From Altar to Table: The Transformation of Grace

Our passages today reveal how the work of Christ transforms our relationship with God and with one another.

Christ Fulfilled the Work of the Altar (Hebrews 9:11–14)

The altar has done its work. And when the sacrifice is complete, something new emerges: a table of fellowship.

Jesus Invites the Unlikely to the Table (Matthew 9:9–13)

Jesus introduces the table of mercy—where grace welcomes those who know they need it.

The Table Is Where Transformation Happens

The altar removes sin. The table restores community.

Mercy Becomes our Defining Posture

The church reflects Christ best when it resembles His table, not merely an altar of judgment.

Reflections Questions:

What transformations have you experienced around tables? What can you do more of this week to have a posture of mercy?

Memory Verse:

Matthew 9:13 Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners.”

Readings for next week:

1 Peter 3:18-20; Matthew 12:38-41

TODAY @TWIN FALLS UMC



EPWORTH CHOIR & EPWORTH RINGERS PRESENT
GOD'S LOVE
Around the world
 EPWORTH YOUTH CHOIRS
 March 15 @ 5PM
 Twin Falls UMC, Munroe Falls, Ohio

Marie Willis-Guarneri, Director
 Isaac Becker-Howell, Accompanist, Cello
 Phil Landry, Guest Organist

www.firstchurchof.com

All children are invited to build a basket Easter Sunday between services in Asbury hall (10:15-10:45).



TODAY IS THE DEADLINE FOR THE EARLY BIRD CREDIT



Register by March 15 for the Super Early Bird Savings!

Save \$50 on the registration fee for Summer Camp at Aldersgate, Asbury, or Wanake!

* Register by April 15 for the \$25 Early Bird Savings!

East Ohio Conference
 The United Methodist Church

EXPLORING GOD'S NATURE



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
EASTER SUNDAY
 April 5, 2026

Ecumenical Sunrise Service
 6:00AM
 @Outdoor Church Square
 Light breakfast following @FUMC

Worship Services
 9:00AM & 11:00AM
 @First United Methodist
 245 Portage Trail 44221



PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR:

In our community:
 We pray for our troops and leadership.

In our greater world:
 We pray for peace.

Our sympathy & Prayers:
 The family of member of Carl Koltas, who passed on 2/23.

From our Congregation:

Bob Ahonen	Kim Haftl
Joanne Ames	Kathleen Hess
Debbie Amundsen	Tom Jackson
Rick Amundsen	Vince Meeker
Dorothy Bates	Raquel Mehalik
Loretta Brinton	Robbie Robinson
Suzanne Callahan	Holly Ross
Melanie Chaney	Kathi Sawyer
Donna Curfman	Fritz Sterling
Ron Dickerhoof Jr.	Michael Taucher
Gabe & Rima Elissa	Kathy Walker
Dale Gilbert	Jim Ward Jr.
Mary Griest	Jim Yates
John Gullion	Peg Yeager
	Tim Zuchin