



First United Methodist Church

Welcome! We're glad that you are here
To all who need comfort, all who need friendship.
All who are lonely and need companionship.
all who want sheltering love, all who sin
and need a Savior, and whosoever will

—We open wide our doors and say, "Come; let us worship together."

Palm Sunday in Lent, Year A

10:15

March 29, 2026

LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLE
MUSIC TO PREPARE OUR HEART

Kirk Hoffman
Vivian Eaton

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS (call/text Pastor 773-971-7208)
PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER
Sixth Word of the Cross
WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Sixth word from the Cross

John 19:30

Jesus said, "It is completed." Bowing his head, he gave up his life." We wonder if Jesus spoke these words in relief, disappointment, resignation, or exaltation. It was indeed the end of His life on earth and the end of the job He had come to do. Jesus constantly reminded the people that He had come to do the will of His Father in heaven: "Did you not know that I must be about my father's business ... My food is to do the will of Him who sent me and to accomplish His work ... My Father is working still, and I am working ... I must work the works of Him who sent me ... I have glorified Thee on earth; I have finished the work which Thou gave me to do." Jesus had preached the gospel, revealed God in action, spoken the truth in love, and had reconciled man to God. Jesus' work here on earth was done, and The glorious dawn of Easter morning was yet to come.

ALL: Today's symbol, the nails, reminds us that Jesus' love for us was so Great that He gave everything ... even His life's blood. We also place palm branches upon the cross today to symbolize the triumphant entry of Christ into our lives.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Sherry Cancelose

L: This is the day that the Lord has made!

P: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

L: Open wide the gates of your hearts.

P: Let the Savior enter!

L: Shout with joy, all you people.

P: The Savior has come forth, bringing peace. AMEN.

*HYMN UMH # 280 "ALL GLORY, LAUD AND HONOR."

OPENING PRAYER (In Unison)

Humble God, you have shown us the way to enter all the Jerusalems of this world. You showed us not to enter our lives with fear, but with humility and courage. As we worship this day, we draw upon your example of Jesus on that humble donkey, and we raise our palm branches in rejoicing! We raise our voices, shouting along with your people of every age, "Hosanna in the highest!" Come and save us this day, O Jesus of Jerusalem. Amen.

***THE APOSTLE'S CREED #881**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and buried. The third day, he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Children's Moment:

LaVonna Grissinger

Scripture Reading

Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29 NRSV

Sherry Cancelose

Matthew 21:1-11 NRSV

Pastor Fernando

The Word of God for the People of God

P: Thanks be to God

Song of Preparation: "He is Exalted"

CHOIR

Message: "This is the Day the Lord has Made."

Pastor Fernando

OFFERING OURSELVES

***DOXOLOGY #95**

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.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Humble Savior, you ride into our lives not with force, but with invitation—calling us to follow, to risk, and to trust. As we bring these gifts, we confess we don't always understand where the road leads. But like those who laid down cloaks

and waved palms, we offer what we have with hope in our hearts and praise on our lips. Use these offerings to proclaim your kingdom—where love confronts fear, and peace dares to speak in the shadow of power. Save us, Lord. Use us. Amen

HYMN UMH # 657 "THIS IS THE DAY"

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastor Fernando

* GOING FORTH TO THE WORLD

Vivian Eaton

IN OUR PRAYER

James Gonzalez, Bob Grissinger, Don Kramer, Curtis Pilgrim, Tinslee, Dan Zambon, Christa Jachino, Tim Cavanagh, Frank Norman, Grace, Jeff Doran, Pastor Narda, Richard (Pinky) Thompson, Hazi Coffee, Mike & Emily Medley, Matt, Barb Tracey, Kay Cavanagh's mom. Lt. Brian Robinson, Bill Haas, Sandy Jilderda, Jerry Cavanagh, Colleen Olsen, Kevin

Our shut-ins: Sylvia Reuterfors, Erik & Alice Riffe-Torrison, Joy Turner Steve Yenney, Brenda Hamm, Janice Wilt, Mary Ellen Dreger, Florence Bevins-Powell, Judy Law

Our country & government, Military Personnel & their families, the safety of Ukrainians & end of wars; Haiti; Syria; Israel and Iran, the Gaza Strip; peace In the Middle East, families, students, school administrators, and those grieving their loved ones.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

March 29 Susan White

CALENDAR

Monday, March 30

9:00 am to noon – Office open

1 to 3 pm – Sewing Ladies

Tuesday, March 31

9 am to 12 noon – Office open

Wednesday, April 1

9:00 am to noon – Office open

Thursday, April 2

9 am to 12 noon – Office open

6:30 pm- Maundy Thursday

Friday, April 3

9:00 am to noon - Office open

12:00 pm-Good Friday Service

Sunday, April 5,

7:00 am- EASTER Sunrise Service

8:00 am-Breakfast

9:00 am -Easter Egg Hunt

10:15 am – Main Service

WORSHIP HELPERS

	March 22	April 5
Acolyte	Tyson Speer	Joe Pasch
Liturgist	Sherry Cancelose	Deeann Kramer
Counter	Lori Miller	Molly Andersen
Verifier	Mary Irons	Pam Darrow
Coffee Hour	Don & Connie Kramer	Early Breakfast
Greeter	Bob & Sandy Froelich	Bob & LaVona Grissinger
Usher	Karen Hoffman, Kirk Hoffman, Christina Pasch, Joe Pasch	Linda Kim Tim

Last Week's Attendance: 69

ANNOUNCEMENTS

West Carroll Food Pantry

Thank you so much for your generosity!

The Blessing Basket – Thank you for all your donations! Please consider supplying dish soap, toilet paper, and paper towels.

New Member Class – will be given by Pastor Fernando. This will be 5 classes, **either in person or via Zoom**, if you are interested, let the office know.

Rice Meal Packing will be held on April 25th. Donations are accepted until April.

The Witness IS, TONIGHT 5:00 - 6:00pm Meal Served- Play following -- Presented by the Victory Center- Free will offering will be collected.

CPR- There will be training on April 12th. After Church: Please register With LaVona Gressinger.

Fireman's Breakfast 7 am -1 pm Today

CHURCH DIRECTORY—Forms in the Narthex- Please fill out and return.

-SAVANNA 2026 Interfaith

Lenten Services take place at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesdays at a variety of locations in Savanna. The goal is to encourage cooperation among several Christian denominations. All donations collected during the services will go to fund this year's Vacation Bible School, held each July at First United Methodist Church.

The Lenten schedule is as follows:

A special Good Friday service will be held at noon on April 3 at First United Methodist Church, 2100 Chicago Ave. The story of the arrest and crucifixion of Jesus will be told.

For more information, please call (815) 590-1792

2026- CHURCH DIRECTORY

It has been 11 years since our church last compiled a Directory. Since 2015, many things have changed: some have left, new friends have joined us, and some beloved members have moved away. You may wonder whether we truly need a new Directory. Below are few important reasons, supported by several ministry reports:

Why a Church Directory Matters

1. **Fosters Community and Connection**

A directory helps us recognize one another and strengthens the "Family-like" spirit we value so deeply.

2. **Connects Faces and Names**

It bridges the gap between knowing someone's name and recognizing their face, making fellowship more natural.

3. **Supports Pastoral Care & Ministry**

Directories are essential tools for staff and ministry leaders as they organize prayer chains, small groups, and care visits.

4. **Welcomes New Members**

New attendees can learn names and faces quickly, helping them feel at home and get involved sooner.

5. **Improves Communication**

Updated digital and printed directories ensure that contact information is accurate and communication remains strong.

How You Can Help

please take a moment to write down your name and the names of your loved ones so the team can schedule a day for your photo.

This invitation is for everyone who considers themselves part of this church family. Even if you or your relatives have not attended in recent months, you are warmly welcome to register and update your information.



First United Methodist Church Sunday, March 29, 2026 at 10:15 am

Vision Statement

“Reaching out to all people and inviting them to experience the Love of God through Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors.”

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TUNE RADIO TO STATION FM 88.9