

THE COMMUNICATOR
March 01, 2026

COMMUNITY IS A GREAT PLACE
TO BELONG DURING LENT.



March 1, 2026

Sunday, March 01, 2026
9:00 am Service - Holy Communion
Online worshippers have communion elements available.

Prelude – In the Cross of Christ I Glory - Dr. Holcomb
Acolytes: Chyler & Irelynd Welch

Welcome/Announcements
Morning Has Broken – UMH 145 vs. all
Greeting – Alice Chester

Call to Worship – Todd Smith

One: Let us worship God, who has done great things.

All: We rejoice in our God, who made a way through the desert of this world.

One: Let us worship God, who has caused streams of mercy to flow in the wasteland.

All: We are the people God has formed through Christ.

One: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

All: We worship with our presence, with our voices, with our confession and repentance and with grateful hearts. May God transform us.

Nehemiah 1: 1-11 – Todd Smith

Children’s Message – Teratia Welch

Cross of Christ Medley – Dr. Holcomb

Luke 18: 9-14 – Todd Smith

“Fasting” – Rev. Marie Smith
Pastoral Prayer & Lord’s Prayer
Sanctuary – FWS 2164

Holy Communion

Offering

Offertory: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross – Dr. Holcomb

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow – UMH 95

What a Friend We Have in Jesus – UMH 526 vs. all

Benediction

Postlude – In the Cross of Christ I Glory - Dr. Holcomb

A Great Place to Belong During Lent: Fasting

Rev Marie Smith

March 1, 2026

Please use these sermon notes as a jumping off point for your own spiritual journey. We know everyone is on their own pathway. We hope you will find this useful. Please see Pastor Marie if you have questions or if you want to take the next step in your faith journey.

Nehemiah 1:1-11; Luke 18: 9-14

Fasting is purposely giving up something in order to draw closer to Jesus, especially during Lent.

Fasting is often a response to crisis and hardship.

Judges 20: 26 “Then all the Israelites, the whole army, went back to Bethel and wept, sitting there before the LORD; they fasted that day until evening. Then they offered burnt offerings and sacrifices of well-being before the LORD.”

Fasting creates hollowness.

Jesus warns us to beware of fasting that is inauthentic.

Rhythms of fasting:

- Taking a day without social media
- Fasting from food for 12 hours
- Fasting from complaining

Fasting in the New Testament is connected to repentance and forgiveness.

Action Steps:

1. Try fasting and praying this week and experience Jesus in a different way.
2. Belonging takes us all - who are you helping belong to faith? Invite someone to sit next to you in church.
3. Join us next week as we examine Lectio Divina

**Sunday, March 01, 2026
10:30 am Service
Holy Communion
Welcome – Levi Graf**

***Graves Into Gardens
Mighty To Save
Desert Song***

Announcements

**Offering
Luke 18: 9-14
Nehemiah 1: 1-11**

“Fasting” – Rev. Marie Smith

Holy Communion

Lighting of Candles

***I Surrender*
Benediction**

Prayer List for Feb. 26, 2026

**Doug Sweazy
Melissa Matz
Jo Shappard
Larry Bond
Dale Cline**

**Ed Kottenstette
Emma
Eddie Aslinger
Carrie Purk
Debbie Shoemaker
Gene Grace**

**Ball Family – Passing of Jay Ball
Gabriel Family – Passing of Doug Gabriel
Minor Family – Passing of Jim Minor
White Family – Passing of Tina White**

Altar flowers are in celebration of Tom Tootle's 80th birthday from the Tootle Family.



Membership Class

Please join Pastor Marie for a **Membership Class on March 8th at 2pm** if you would like to know more about the United Methodist Church or our Church. We will be having people join the church Palm Sunday March 29th at both services. If you are interested in baptism or renewing your baptism please let Pastor Marie know.

Pizza with the Pastor

Also, if you would like to get to know more about the church or Pastor Marie, NOT a membership class, join Pastor Marie on **March 8th at 12:30 for 'Pizza with the Pastor'**. Children and families are welcome. This is a 30-60 minute informal get-to-know Pastor Marie and an overview of the church. We would love for you to stay after service and join us for this informal gathering.

Lenten Lunches

February 25- Community UMC
March 4- Trinity Lutheran Church
March 11- Good Shepherd UMC
March 18- St. Joseph's Catholic Church
March 25- Circleville Presbyterian Church

Join the Pickaway Ministerial Association
as we journey to the Cross of Jesus.

12:10 worship

12:35 lunch



This year the Lenten Luncheon donations will be given to Blessings In A Backpack. Here's information about this non-profit organization that helps supply food to children over the weekend when they aren't in school.



Blessings in a Backpack is a National 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that provides weekend food supplement support for kids all over the United States! Our program here in Pickaway -Amanda is almost five years old and currently serves over 400 children in six schools/organizations throughout the region.

We are excited to have you join us in serving our local kids!

Our program currently serves children in Circleville School District, Logan Elm School District, Amanda Clearcreek Primary, Pickaway County Headstart, PASS (Pathways for Alternative Student Success) and New Hope Christian School. This school year alone we will provide over 15000 hunger free weekends for local school children and teens.

For additional information or to get involved, please email pickawayblessings@gmail.com.



EVENTS SCHEDULE 2026

MARCH

- SUN 03/01**
SNOWTUBING AT BUBLY PARK
1230PM-830 PM
- SAT 03/15**
YOUTH GROUP 6PM-8PM
- FRI 03/27**
YOUTH LOCK IN AT YMCA/CHURCH 5PM
CHECK IN
- SAT 03/28**
YOUTH LOCK IN PARENT PICK UP AT 9AM