FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

695 E. Calvin Street, Fayetteville, AR 72703 ▪ (479) 442-4411 ▪ www.fupcfay.org

March 8, 2026 10:30 a.m.

GATHERING

(Please use this time to prepare reflectively for worship.)

RINGING OF THE BELL Bo Morton and Lindley Ramsey

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER Rev. Stewart Smith

PRELUDE *Part I: Symphony, Grave (*from *Messiah*) Xiao McCollum, organ
Music by George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Rev. Stewart Smith

Leader: On these days of Lenten journey,
People: Christ goes with us side by side.
Leader: While we gather here for worship,
People: May our lives be focused with praise and care.
Leader: As we sing, pray and listen,
People: May God's Spirit deep within us come alive.
Leader: And may this time of worship,
People: Be for us a constant guide.
Leader: Let us worship with joy and vigor,
People: As we learn how to serve Christ more fully.
Unison: Let us worship the living and loving God!

***HYMN #275** *A Mighty Fortress is Our God* Glory to God
Words and Music by Martin Luther, 1529

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing.
Our helper he, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe.
His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he.
Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same,
and he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him.
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure.
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth.
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also. The body they may kill;
God's truth abideth still. His kingdom is forever.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(seated, unison)* Frank Millett

Eternal God, from the beginning of time You have called Your children into communion with You. You have given us the law of Moses and the teachings of Jesus to guide us in our journey through life. But we confess that at times we fail to merge the teachings and stories from our past into our present, modern day lives. We think we know what is best. We think we are in control and we fail to place ourselves in Your story of salvation history. We want to plan and direct our journey on our own time table and at our own pace.

Forgive us, O God, when we allow our busy pace and our own crowded schedule to push Your guidance and direction from our lives. Help us to trust in Your Spirit which is our companion on our journey … *(Silent Confession)* … **Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

***RESPONSE #437** *You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy* Glory to God
Words: Traditional; Music: Appalachian Folk Melody

You are the Lord, giver of mercy.
You are the Christ, giver of mercy.
You are the Lord, giver of mercy.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you!
And also, with you.

TIME FOR CHILDREN Kristi Button

CHILDREN'S SONG #2233 *Where Children Belong* Sing the Faith
Words and Music by James Richie

This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshiping throng.
Water, God's word, bread and cup, prayer, and song: this is where children belong.

ANTHEM *Lamb of God, What Wondrous Love* Chancel Choir
Words by Russell A. Kane and Allan Robert Petker SungKun Jung, piano
Music by Gabriel Fauré (based on "Pavane"); Arranged by Allan Robert Petker

Lamb of God, what wondrous love, what wondrous love, O my soul.
Love, such love, that Thou shouldst die, that Thou shouldst die for me.
Lord of Grace, what matchless love, what matchless love, O my soul.
Son of God, Thou loving sacrifice, Thou loving sacrifice for me.
Here, O Lord, am I, fearful sinful man, guilty and condemned, Thy death is surely mine.
Cross of God, I would to turn away, yet love it bids me stay, O my soul.
Can it be the very death I fear is that which draws me near, Lord, to Thee?
Lamb of God, Thou died for me. Lamb of God, what wondrous love.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Rev. Stewart Smith

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE LESSON *Exodus 12:1-13*

1 The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, **2** "This month shall mark for you the beginning
of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. **3** Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on
the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. **4** If a
household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall
be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. **5** Your lamb shall be without blemish, a
year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. **6** You shall keep it until the fourteenth
day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. **7** They

shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. **8** They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. **9** Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. **10** You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn with fire. **11** This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand, and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the Passover of the Lord. **12** I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, from human to animal, and on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. **13** The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE LESSON 1 Peter 1:17-21

17 If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in
reverent fear during the time of your exile. 18 You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways
inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, 19 but with the precious
blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. 20 He was destined before the foundation
of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. 21 Through him you have come to
trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on
God.

SERMON *Merging Our Stories* Rev. Stewart Smith

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross* SungKun Jung, piano
Music by William H. Doane; Arranged by Mark Hayes

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *The Apostles' Creed* Amanda McDonald

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 Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on 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 Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Amanda McDonald

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

LIFE OF THE CHURCH Rev. Stewart Smith

***HYMN #748** *Go with Us, Lord* Glory to God
Words by Mary Jackson Cathey; Music by Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)

Go with us, Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day,
that in your Spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.

***BENEDICTION** Rev. Stewart Smith

The flowers in the chancel are given in celebration and memory of the life of Linda Jane Woods, the mother of Isaac Thomas.

PARTICIPANTS
Interim Senior Pastor – Rev. Stewart Smith
Minister of Music/Commissioned Ruling Elder – Isaac Thomas
Director of Christian Education – Kristi Button
Director of Youth and Young Adults Ministries – Amanda McDonald
Audio/Visual Team – Christopher Verdery, Connor Button, and Drew Parker
Choral Interns – Amelia Booker, Cole Jackson, Jeffrey Kerst, Verna Labitad, Aiden Thompson
Worship Band – Nina Andrews (drums), Rob Button (guitar), Dennis Brewer (guitar), Ella Ramsey (guitar), Jeffrey Kerst (bass)
Organist – Xiao McCollum
Pianist/Choral Accompanist – SungKun Jung
Membership Coordinator – Amy McCann

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