



FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

March 22, 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

Amanda McDonald

PRELUDE

Pac vobiscum (Peace be with you)
Music by Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

Xiao McCollum, organ

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather today as people who know both joy and sorrow.

People: We come with faith, even when the road feels uncertain.

Leader: Some of us feel like we are standing at a dead end.

People: Yet we trust that Christ meets us there.

Leader: Not only in the promise of the resurrection,

People: But in the waiting, the silence, and the in-between.

Unison: Come, let us worship the living God who is present in every moment.

*HYMN #250

In the Bulb There is a Flower
Words and Music by Natalie Sleeth

Glory to God

**In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

**There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

**In our end is our beginning, in our time, infinity;
in our doubt, there is believing, in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(seated, unison)*

David Clay

God of truth and mercy, we confess that we have not always been the people you have called us to be. We have preferred comfort over courage. We have chosen silence over speaking truth. We have avoided the pain of others rather than walking alongside them.

We confess that we have rushed to easy hope, skipping over suffering and ignoring the deep wounds in our world. Forgive us for the ways we have participated in systems that harm and exclude. Forgive us for the ways we have looked away when we should have paid attention.

Form us into a people who are not afraid of the hard places; who can sit in the uncomfortable, who can bear witness to suffering, who trust you even when the path is unclear. By your grace, lead us into deeper faithfulness. ... *(Silent Confession)* ... **Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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

***RESPONSE #286**

Breathe on Me, Breath of God
Words by Edwin Hatch; Music by Robert Jackson

Glory to God

**Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,
until with thee I will one will, to do and to endure.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am wholly thine,
until this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die,
But live with thee the perfect life of thine eternally.**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Youth

CHILDREN'S SONG #2233

Where Children Belong
Words and Music by James Richie

Sing the Faith

**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

Psalms 23
Words from various translations: Music by Carl Nygard, Jr.

Chancel Choir
SungKun Jung, piano

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want;
in verdant fields of grass He lets me lie.
Beside the quiet waters, He leads my weary soul;
in the restful stillness of the pool, He restores my strength.
The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not be in want.
In the paths of righteousness He leads for His own name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil for Thou art with me.
Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.
The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want;
You prepare me a table in the sight of my foes;
You anoint my head with oil and my cup overflows, my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all of the days of my life.
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. The Lord is my shepherd.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

John 11:20-27

²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

SERMON

Dead Ends

Amanda McDonald

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Blessed Assurance
Music by Phoebe P. Knapp; Arranged by Lari Goss

SungKun Jung, piano

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

RESPONSE #2275

Kyrie
Words: Traditional Greek; Music by Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904)

Sing the Faith

**Kyrie, Kyrie eleison. Kyrie, Kyrie eleison.
Christe, Christe eleison. Christe, Christe eleison.
Kyrie, Kyrie eleison. Kyrie, Kyrie eleison, eleison.**

Translation: Kyrie eleison=Lord, have mercy. Christe eleison=Christ, have mercy.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Adapted from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

Isaac Thomas

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted.

In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Isaac Thomas

God, in your grace.
You hear our prayers.

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

Amanda McDonald

***HYMN (sing twice)**

As We Go
Words and Music by Jeremy Johnson

Use bulletin or screens

As we go, — may Your Spir-it go be-fore — us. As we go, —
— may we fol - low where You lead. May we
live what we have learned, — share the
mes - sage we have heard, — and be a
light un - to the world — as we go. —

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), Jeffrey Kerst (bass)

Organist – Xiao McCollum

Pianist/Choral Accompanist – SungKun Jung

Membership Coordinator – Amy McCann

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