

First Congregational Messenger  
 First Congregational United Church of Christ  
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*Serving God with love and faith*



March 2026

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**One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)** is a Special Mission Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports partners worldwide with ministries that fund health, education, and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and both international and domestic disaster response.



**2026 Suggested Offering Date: March 15th**

## FELLOWSHIP



**DINNER**

In celebration of St. Patrick's Day, we will have a potluck dinner following worship on March 15. Bring your green and fellowship with us.



Pastor's  
Office Hours



Church Secretary

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### Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9-12

Afternoons by appointment

### Office Hours

Monday-Friday

8-12

May be gone to the doctor with Mom



## Brian' Beacon

As we enter March most of us are thinking about spring. That nice warm weather where we can get out and walk, bike and enjoy the sunshine from outside. More importantly, as we celebrate Lent, we need to look in the word of God and receive some inspiration on the Life of Christ.

New Testament words

Lutron, Lutroun, Apolutrosia which is "The Debt and its Payment"

We find in the New Testament a group of words that all have to do with the idea of ransom and redemption. It is these words that give us deliverance and freedom which was purchased at a price. Here one finds the work of atonement through Jesus Christ. In Greek the word focuses on the price of release.

The question is: What release can there be for the guilty from the wrath and defilement which follow shed blood? It is used of the purchase price paid or received for a slave. In I Cor.6:19-20, Paul says, we are not your own. Meaning we have been bought with a price. As servants of Christ, we have been redeemed or bought with Christ's blood. Thus, we have gained freedom because of Christ.

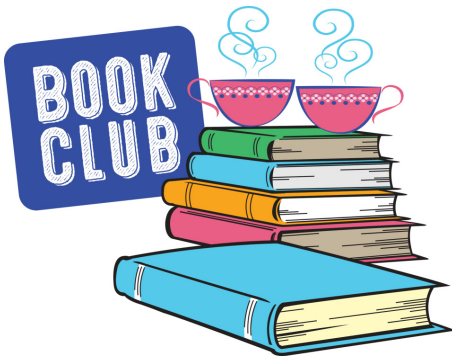
Jesus is our payment for our debt of sin. Wow what a great thing Christ has done for each one of us. We just need to accept it and live for Him. That is my question for you. Will you accept Christ's payment and live for Him during this season of Lent?

Pastor Brian High

# Bible Reading for the Month

## *March 2026*

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Deuteronomy 5-7	Deuteronomy 8-10	Deuteronomy 11-13	Deuteronomy 14-16	Deuteronomy 17-20	Deuteronomy 21-23	Deuteronomy 24-27
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Deuteronomy 28-29	Deuteronomy 30-31	Deuteronomy 32-34	Joshua 1-4	Joshua 5-8	Joshua 9-11	Joshua 12-15
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Joshua 16-18	Joshua 19-21	Joshua 22-24	Judges 1-2	Judges 3-5	Judges 6-7	Judges 8-9
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Judges 10-12	Judges 13-15	Judges 16-18	Judges 19-21	Ruth	1 Samuel 1-3	1 Samuel 4-8
29	30	31				
1 Samuel 9-12	1 Samuel 13-14	1 Samuel 15-17				



Book Club will be traveling the United States as we celebrate 250 years of being a nation. March celebrates the national parks. Books are available in Fellowship Hall and questions can be answered by Jane.

# JUST FOR KIDS



Easter egg hunt is scheduled for March 28. Please share this event with your friends and neighbors. We always enjoy seeing new faces!

Do you go grocery shopping? At Lou's? At HyVee? **We have an easy way to bump up your donation to the church budget--use a Lou's or HyVee gift card when you go shopping or get gas. You can buy them Sundays in Fellowship Hall. We currently get \$25, \$50 and \$100 gift cards.**

See you at the table in Fellowship Hall!  
Questions? Leave a message for Jane Uzzell at (402)640-6623.



## Birthdays

- 3rd Charlene Fosdick
- 4th Ron Barritt
- 5th Glenn Williams
- 18th Rita Woodard
- 28th Erik Gamerl



**March 1**

**Communion:** Scott and Lori Williams  
**Ushers:** Barb Koenig and Grace Uzzell  
**Greeters:** Stacie and Ben Uzzell  
**Reader:** Randy Neuharth  
**Leader:** Susan Allyn  
**Flowers:**

**March 8**

**Ushers:** Susan Surber and Bonnie Dewell  
**Greeters:** Lynn Bichlmeier and Rita Woodard  
**Reader:** Kay Neuharth  
**Flowers:** Korthals

**March 15**

**Ushers:** Gene and Darlene Korthals  
**Greeters:** Gene and Bonnie Kroeger  
**Reader:** Lori Williams  
**Flowers:** Rita Woodard

**March 22**

**Ushers:** Mike Synovec and Reese Uzzell  
**Greeters:** Randy and Kay Neuharth  
**Reader:** Tom McConnell  
**Flowers:** Ben and Stacie Uzzell

**March 29 Palm Sunday**

**Ushers:** Pat Jenny and Verletta Olson  
**Greeters:** Barb Koenig and Karen Allyn  
**Readers:** Jane Uzzell, Scott Williams and  
Andrea High  
**Flowers:** Palms

**April 2 Maundy Thursday**

**Ushers:** Rita Woodard and Evonne Burkink  
**Greeters:** Susan Surber and Mike Synovec  
**Reader:** Verletta Olson

**April 5 Easter**

**Communion:** Randy and Kay Neuharth  
**Ushers:** Andrea High and Jane Uzzell  
**Greeters:** Verletta Olson and Pat Jenny  
**Reader:** Reese Uzzell  
**Leader:** Ben Uzzell  
**Flowers:** Lilies

**April 12**

**Ushers:** Scott and Lori Williams  
**Greeters:** Jane Uzzell and Tom McConnell  
**Reader:** Ben Uzzell  
**Flowers:**

**April 19 Annual Meeting**

**Ushers:** Karen Allyn and Grace Uzzell  
**Greeters:** Andrea High and Reese Uzzell  
**Reader:** Randy Neuharth  
**Flowers:**

**April 26**

**Ushers:** Gene and Darlene Korthals  
**Greeters:** Scott and Lori Williams  
**Reader:** Kay Neuharth  
**Flowers:**

# February

From 2/1/26 through 2/28/26

## Checking account information

Beginning balance	\$ 13,363.60
<u>Weekly deposits</u>	<u>\$ 6,335.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 19,698.60
Salary	--\$ 6,672.97
Church Maintenance	—\$ 2,526.06
Office Expenses	—\$ 536.87
Funeral Expenses	—\$ 102.67
Faith Development	—\$ 37.06
Insurance	—\$ 812.57
Conference	—\$ 90.00
<u>Renner's</u>	<u>—\$ 500.00</u>
Final Balance	\$ 8,420.40



# ▶ March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship				Lenten Lunch		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Daylight Savings begins 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	Girl Scouts 5:30-7		10 Book club	Lenten Lunch		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship One Great Hour of Sharing Faith Development				Lenten Lunch		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Grace Uzzell Confirmation	Girl Scouts 5:30-7			Lenten Lunch		
29	30	31				
9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship						

# ▶ April 2026

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

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1                      2                      3                      4

Maundy  
Thursday  
service 5:30

OFFICE  
CLOSED

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5                      6                      7                      8                      9                      10                      11

10:15 Worship

10 Book club

1 PM  
Delphians

Easter

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12                      13                      14                      15                      16                      17                      18

9:00 Sunday  
School

Girl Scouts  
5:30-7

10:15 Worship

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19                      20                      21                      22                      23                      24                      25

9:00 Sunday  
School

10:15 Worship

Annual  
Meeting

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26                      27                      28                      29                      30

9:00 Sunday  
School

Girl Scouts  
5:30-7

10:15 Worship