



OPEN
my
EYES
that
I may
SEE

PSALM 119:18

March 19, 2023
4th Sunday in Lent

United Methodist Church of the Dunes
717 Sheldon Road, Grand Haven, Michigan

Lou Grettenberger, Senior Pastor
616-842-7980 | www.umcdunes.org

We Gather

Gathering Music

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Prayer

Introit

"O Come Let Us Worship"

DeCesare
Chancel Choir, feat.
Casey Weeks & Dawn Scott

We Praise God

*Invitation to Worship

Leader: Welcome pilgrims on the way to the cross.

People: We are learning to follow Jesus.

Leader: On this Lenten Journey, where do we find God's presence among us?

People: God calls us to witness extraordinary love in ordinary moments.

Leader: On this Lenten Journey, how does God's presence work among us?

People: God uses the messy and mundane to heal and restore us to one another.

Leader: On this Lenten Journey, what does God's presence do in our midst?

People: God opens us to recognize presence, sustenance, and abundance where the world perceives isolation and lack.

Leader: Pilgrims on the way, come let us worship God!

People: We come to worship God! Let us sing together!

*Hymn #454

"Open My Eyes that I May See"

Children's Time

Worship Song

"Holy Spirit"

Torwalt/Torwalt

Prayer of Confession

Healing God, we have languished in our blindness. We have chosen to hide in darkness in order to avoid reaching out and risking acceptance. We are afraid of the light, and yet we crave it. In your light, there is healing and hope, restoration and transformation. Forgive our lack of faith and our fearfulness, O Lord. Give us courage to reach out to the light and accept its healing rays. May our lives be transformed by your mercy; we pray this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Ephesians 5:8-14

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

"Shine on Us"

arr. Harlan
Chancel Choir

*Doxology #94

Prayer of Dedication

Generous God, you tenderly care for each person you have created. You miraculously restore people to health and shine light into the lives of those who are discouraged. Guide us so that we will not regard others according to outward appearances but seek to find your love in their hearts. We dedicate our offerings and ourselves to contribute to the work of your kingdom on earth until Christ returns in glory. Amen.

We Share the Word

A Reading from the Gospel

John 9:1-23

Hymn #451

"Be Thou My Vision"

A Reading from the Gospel, continued

John 9:24-41

Sermon

"Open My Eyes"

Pastor Lou

Pastoral Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

Our loving God in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For all the power and glory are Yours, now and forever. Amen.

We Respond to the Word

*Final Hymn #2235

"We are Singing for the Lord is our Light"

We are Sent Forth

*Benediction

Loving God, we ask that You:

**Create breakthroughs,
Open doors,
Direct and inspire us**

**as we follow Jesus' way: receiving and offering abundant hope and love in our lives,
our church, our community and Your world. May Your will be done.**

*Chimes & Parting Music

**Please stand as you are able*

Open My Eyes that I May See
Hymn #454

Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.

Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.

Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.

Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Holy Spirit

There's nothing worth more that will ever come close
No thing can compare You're our living hope
Your Presence

I've tasted and seen of the sweetest of loves
Where my heart becomes free and my shame is undone
In Your Presence Lord

Holy Spirit You are welcome here
Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere
Your glory God is what our hearts long for
To be overcome by Your Presence Lord

Your Presence Lord
Your Presence Lord
Your Presence
Oh God how we love Your Presence Lord

Let us become more aware of Your Presence
Let us experience the glory of Your goodness (Lord)

Doxology **Hymn #94**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

John 9:1-23

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷ saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹ Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he."

¹⁰ But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹ He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹² They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰ His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

Be Thou My Vision
Hymn #451

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Great God of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

John 9:24-41

²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵ He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶ They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷ He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰ The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴ They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶ He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸ He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

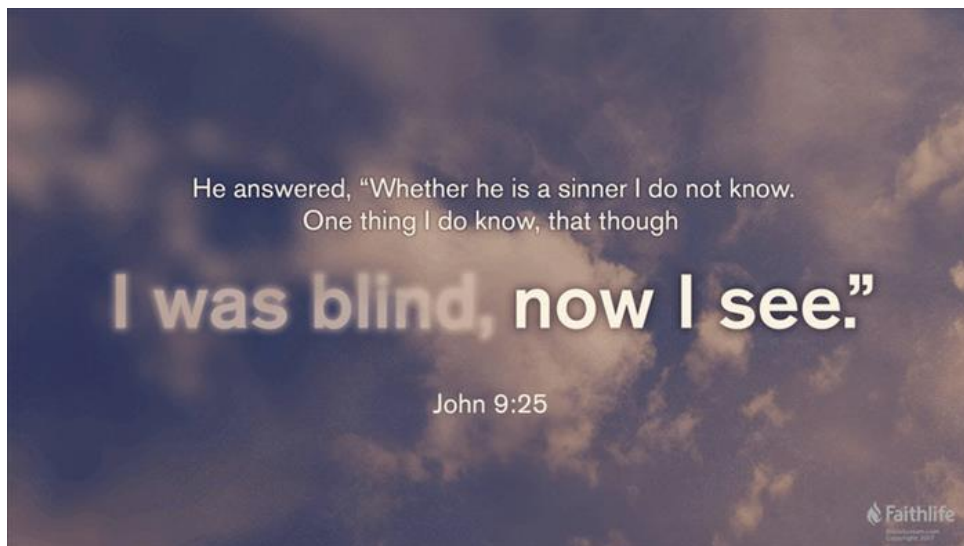
We are Singing for the Lord is Our Light
We are Marching in the Light of God
Hymns #2235 & #2235b

We are singing for the Lord is our light,
we are singing for the Lord is our light.
We are singing for the Lord is our light,
we are singing for the Lord is, is our light.

We are singing, singing,
we are singing, singing,
We are singing for the Lord is our light!

We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, marching
We are marching, marching
We are marching in the light of God!



This Week's Calendar

SUNDAY **March 19, 2023**

- 9:30 AM Worship – Sanctuary
- 9:45 AM Grow Kids & Students – Lower level classrooms
- 10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship – Wiltse Center
- 10:45 AM Faith Linked – Ryder Lounge
- 11:00 AM Sunday Family Funday – Wiltse Center

MONDAY **March 20, 2023**

- 10:00 AM Knitters – Panera
- 2:00 PM Piano Lessons – Sanctuary
- 5:30 PM Chair Yoga – Social Hall
- 7:00 PM Bell Choir – Choir Loft

TUESDAY **March 21, 2023**

- No Pastor's Office Hours today – resumes April 11
- 8:30 AM ROMEO's - Russ' Restaurant
- 9:00 -10:50 AM Pickleball Clinic– Wiltse Center
- 10:00 AM Three Week Lent Bible Study (Week 2) – Social Hall
- 11:00 AM Private Lessons – Wiltse Center
- 6:30 PM Quilt Board – Room 4

WEDNESDAY **March 22, 2023**

- 9:00 -10:50 AM Open Pickleball – Wiltse Center
- 11:00 AM Private Lessons – Wiltse Center
- 5:30 PM Soup Supper – Wiltse Center
- 6:00 PM Group Guitar Lessons – Sanctuary
- 6:00 PM Lenten Study – Ryder Lounge
- 6:15 PM Knitters – Conference Room
- 7:00 PM Chancel Choir – Choir Loft

THURSDAY **March 23, 2023**

- 9:00-10:50 AM Open Pickleball – Wiltse Center
- 11:00 AM Chair Yoga – Social Hall
- 11:00 AM Private Lessons – Wiltse Center
- 5:30 PM Gentle Yoga – Social Hall

FRIDAY **March 24, 2023**

Office Closed

SATURDAY **March 25, 2023**

No Scheduled Activities



EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORMS

Easter flower order forms are available at the Welcome Center and on the church website. The flowers will decorate the worship space on Easter morning and may be taken home afterwards. Flowers may be presented in honor or memory of someone.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY CONTINUES

All are invited to this Lenten Bible study which continues on Tuesday mornings March 21 and 28 at 10:00 a.m. in the Social Hall (lower level). No sign-up needed. If you have a Bible, please bring it along. Cathy Shick is the facilitator.

ROMEO MEN'S BREAKFAST AT RUSS' RESTAURANT – MARCH 21

ROMEOs (Retired Old Men Eating Out) meet for breakfast at Russ' Restaurant in Grand Haven on the third Tuesday of the month at 8:30 a.m. – March 21. All men, retired or not, are welcome.

FREE PICKLEBALL CLINICS – MARCH 21, MARCH 28

Two free pickleball clinics will be offered in the Wiltse Center fellowship area: Tuesday, March 21, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. and Tuesday, March 28, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Instructors are local advanced players Carlos Seise and Matt Horist. Donations will be accepted to purchase nets and balls for the church.

SING WITH THE CHOIR ON EASTER SUNDAY – REHEARSALS BEGIN MARCH 22

If you would like to join the choir to sing on Easter (April 9), please come to rehearsals Wednesdays March 22, March 29, and April 5 at 7:15 p.m. in the choir loft. Rehearsals last about an hour. Adult, high school, and middle school singers are welcome!

MISSION MOMENT – MARCH 26

On Sunday, March 26, Humanity for Prisoners will provide a short presentation during worship. If you would like to contribute to the work of this organization, please make checks payable to Church of the Dunes and note Mission Moment on the memo line.

NEW SPRING BIBLE STUDY - BOOKS AND SIGN-UP AVAILABLE MARCH 26

This seven-week Bible study will focus on the book *Jesus in the Shadows* by Eric Robinson. The book reveals Jesus in the "shadows" of Old Testament stories. Sign up for the Tuesday morning class, beginning April 11 at 10:00 a.m. or the Thursday morning class, beginning April 13 at 10:00 a.m. Books are \$10 and will be available after worship on March 26 and April 9. Cathy Shick is the facilitator. Additional classes will be offered in April – please watch for details.

UNDIE SUNDAYS IN MARCH

During the month of March, Church of the Dunes United Women in Faith are collecting new underwear (still wrapped in original packaging) for women, girls, boys, and men. The items will be donated to organizations that provide clothing for those in need. Donations baskets located near the church entrances.

Holy Week and Easter Worship

Maundy Thursday, April 6, 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, April 7, 7:00 p.m.

Easter, April 9, 9:30 a.m.

Sundays at Church of the Dunes

Worship – 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary

For a link to worship by recorded livestream, visit www.umcdunes.org/worship.

Nursery – available during 9:30 a.m. worship

It is located a short distance down the hall from the worship space.

Sunday School – lower level classrooms

The pastor will dismiss students to Sunday school from worship after the Children's Time. Sunday school leaders lead the students to the Wiltse Center fellowship area after worship.

Coffee and Refreshments – 10:30 a.m. Wiltse Center

Please stop by the Wiltse Center fellowship area after worship for coffee and refreshments.

Faith Linked Discussion Group for Adults

Faith Linked meets at 10:45 a.m. in the Ryder Lounge and explores a different topic each week from a faith-focused perspective. All adults are welcome.

Funday Sundays – 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Activities, games, open gym, arts and crafts, and more. Pizza lunch provided.
All are welcome.

Giving and Attendance

<u>Date/Week Of</u>	<u>Offerings Received</u>	<u>Weekly Average Year-to-Date</u>	<u>Weekly Budgeted</u>
March 12	\$7,916	\$8,774	\$8,885

To give by mail, please send offering to United Methodist Church of the Dunes, 717 Sheldon Road, Grand Haven, MI 49417. To give online, visit <https://umcdunes.org/give/>.

Worship attendance on March 12, 2023 was 106. As of March 14, the March 12 recorded livestream service had 51 views. One view may include more than one person viewing the service together.

All are Welcome

The United Methodist Church of the Dunes aspires to love as Jesus loved.

We open our hearts, minds, and doors to all.

This congregation invites persons of all races, sexual orientations and gender identities, ages, abilities, and socio-economic status to participate fully in all aspects of the Christian life.

Praises and Prayers

PLEASE JOIN US at coffee hour to celebrate Don & Vicki Reis' 60th wedding anniversary.

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:

March 20	Jackie Laughlin
March 21	Rodney Zellman
March 22	David Parsons
March 23	Ann Lumbert
March 25	Carol Bauer, Phoebe Booker,(96) Barb Collins
March 26	Kay Erickson, Val Marting

Notes from the Church Office

INCLEMENT WINTER WEATHER INFORMATION

When Grand Haven Area Public schools close due to inclement winter weather, Church of the Dunes closes and all activities are canceled. If Sunday worship will be canceled because of inclement winter weather, closing information is provided to WOOD TV8.

OFFICE HOURS AND PUBLICATION DEADLINES: The Church Office is open Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. or by appointment. The bulletin insert deadline is Tuesdays at noon. The Dunes Digest newsletter deadline is the 15th of the month.

PLEASE KEEP US UP TO DATE if you or a family member is hospitalized, going to be having surgery, or is homebound and would like a visit. Please let us know if you have experienced a death in your family. We would like to be supportive and we appreciate your help. Thank you.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Liturgist: Bron Kram
Music: Chancel Choir, Megan Horist, Marna Jeffery
Soloists: Casey Weeks, Dawn Scott
Technology: Don Woodward, Paige Horist
Greeters: Kate & Larry Cole
Welcome Center: Jodie Freeman
Ushers: Sam Easterly, Sally Liebertz, Neal Miller, Ron & Tim Kurburski
Coffee Hour: Sherry Baker, Vicki Reis

Next Week – March 26

Liturgist: Robert Mann
Music: Chancel Choir, Megan Horist, Marna Jeffery
Technology: Don Woodward, Paige Horist
Ushers: Sam Easterly, Sally Liebertz, Gail Merz, Rich Cole
Coffee Hour: Sherry Baker

Church of the Dunes is a family of faith which seeks to:

- grow in God's grace and love
- challenge and equip all members to be faithful disciples
- share the Good News
- demonstrate and reflect the love of God



Church office hours are Monday – Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
For pastoral emergencies, please call Pastor Lou directly on his cellphone at 231-883-9806.