



# RELATIONSHIP ROAD:

*A Little More  
Grace*

**March 23, 2025**

**3rd Sunday in Lent**

**United Methodist Church of the Dunes**

717 Sheldon Road, Grand Haven, Michigan

**Lou Grettenberger, Pastor**

616-842-7980 | [www.umcdunes.org](http://www.umcdunes.org)

March 23, 2025

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## We Gather

Gathering Music

Welcome & Announcements

Threshold Moment

\*Call to Worship

Leader: Come to the water, all you who thirst -

**People: come drink deeply from the river of life.**

Leader: Come to the water, all you who are weary -

**People: come rest in the quiet pools of God's love.**

Leader: Come to the water, all you who long for justice -

**People: come be renewed in God's ever-flowing stream.**

Leader: For God is here among us, washing away the dust and grime of our lives,

**People: and pouring out the Spirit on all who thirst. Let's worship God together.**

## We Praise God

Hymn #733

*"Marching to Zion"*

Children's Time

Pastor Lou

Mission Moment

Humanity for Prisoners

Mark Hartman

Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, we confess that we have not always brought forth good fruit. In the midst of chaos and frenzy, we have often lost our way. Our feet have strayed from the place where we met you. Our egos have kept us from noticing our missteps; Yet, with you, we know there's another chance for change. There is another opportunity to bear good fruit. In a world full of spoiled and rotten produce and systems designed to harm, we are called to be the change that sustains generations. Forgive us for where we have fallen short and let us lean on You for a chance for real transformation. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Hymn #365

*"Grace Greater Than Our Sin"*

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

*"Grace Greater Than Our Sin"*

arr. Smith/Hustad  
Dianne Prieditis, Marna Jeffery

\*Doxology

\*Prayer of Dedication

**Faithful God, our guide and sustainer, as we offer these gifts, may they bear fruit for your kingdom. In this solemn season of Lent, we remember your call to repentance and renewal. Help us tend the soil of our hearts so that we may grow in faith and bear witness to your grace. Use these offerings to bring hope to those in need and light to those in darkness. May we live as your fruitful servants, trusting in your abundant mercy. In the name of Christ who calls us to new life, we pray. Amen.**

### **We Share the Word**

A Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

Isaiah 55:1-9

Worship Song

*"Hungry"*

Scott

A Reading from the Gospel

Luke 13:1-9

Sermon

*"Relationship Road: A Little More Grace"*

Pastor Lou

### **We Respond to the Word**

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Creator in heaven, holy is 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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and forever. Amen.**

\*Final Hymn #438

*"Forth in Thy Name, O Lord"*

### **We are Sent Forth**

\*Benediction

\*Chimes

\*Parting Music

*\*Please stand as you are able*

## **Marching to Zion**

### **Hymn #733**

Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;  
join in a song with sweet accord,  
join in a song with sweet accord  
and thus surround the throne, and thus surround the throne.

Refrain:

We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion;  
we're marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.

Let those refuse to sing who never knew our God;  
but children of the heavenly King,  
but children of the heavenly King  
may speak their joys abroad, may speak their joys abroad.  
(Refrain)

The hill of Zion yields a thousand sacred sweets  
before we reach the heavenly fields,  
before we reach the heavenly fields,  
or walk the golden streets, or walk the golden streets.  
(Refrain)

Then let our songs abound, and every tear be dry;  
we're marching through Emmanuel's ground,  
we're marching through Emmanuel's ground,  
to fairer worlds on high, to fairer worlds on high.  
(Refrain)

**Greater Grace Than Our Sin**  
**Hymn #365**

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,  
grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt!  
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured,  
there where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.

{Refrain:} Grace, grace, God's grace,  
grace that will pardon and cleanse within;  
grace, grace, God's grace,  
grace that is greater than all our sin!

Sin and despair, like the sea waves cold,  
threaten the soul with infinite loss;  
grace that is greater, yes, grace untold,  
points to the refuge, the mighty cross. (Refrain)

Dark is the stain that we cannot hide.  
What can avail to wash it away?  
Look! There is flowing a crimson tide,  
brighter than snow you may be today. (Refrain)

Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace,  
freely bestowed on all who believe!  
You that are longing to see his face,  
will you this moment his grace receive? (Refrain)

**Doxology for Lent**

Praise God throughout these forty days.  
Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.  
And praise the Spirit who imparts  
God's love in Christ into our hearts. Amen.

## Isaiah 55:1-9

Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters;  
and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

<sup>2</sup> Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread  
and your earnings for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.

<sup>3</sup> Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.  
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.

<sup>4</sup> See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.

<sup>5</sup> Now you shall call nations that you do not know,  
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.

<sup>6</sup> Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is  
near;

<sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake their way and the unrighteous their  
thoughts;

let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

<sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

<sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways  
higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

## Hungry

Hungry I come to You, for I know You satisfy.  
I am empty, but I know Your love does not run dry.

So I wait for You  
So I wait for You

I'm falling on my knees.  
offering all of me.  
Jesus, You're all this heart is living for.

Broken, I run to You, for Your arms are open wide.  
I am weary, but I know Your touch restores my life.



## **Luke 13:1-9**

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup> He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? <sup>3</sup> No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the other people living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish just as they did.”

<sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup> So he said to the man working the vineyard, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ <sup>8</sup> He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.’ ”



**Forth in Thy Name, O Lord**  
**Hymn # 438**

Forth in thy name, O Lord, I go,  
my daily labor to pursue;  
thee, only thee, resolved to know  
in all I think or speak or do.

The task thy wisdom hath assigned,  
O let me cheerfully fulfill;  
in all my works thy presence find,  
and prove thy good and perfect will.

Thee may I set at my right hand,  
whose eyes mine inmost substance see,  
and labor on at thy command,  
and offer all my works to thee.

For thee delightfully employ  
what e'er thy bounteous grace hath given;  
and run my course with even joy,  
and closely walk with thee to heaven.

## This Week's Calendar

### **SUNDAY**      **March 23, 2025**

- 9:30 AM    Worship – Sanctuary
- 9:45 AM    “Be Bold” Sunday School - Room 8
- 10:30 AM    Coffee Fellowship - Wiltse Center fellowship area
- 10:45 AM    Faith Linked – Ryder Lounge
- 10:45 AM    Bible in 52 weeks for men – Rooms 13/14 downstairs

### **MONDAY**      **March 24, 2025**

- 9:30 AM    Prayer Shawl Group – Panera Bread, Grand Haven
- 11:00 AM    Reading the Bible – Ryder Lounge
- 11:00 – 3:00 PM    Private Lessons – Wiltse Center
- 1:30 PM    Book Club – Panera
- 1:30 – 5:30 PM    Piano Lessons – Sanctuary
- 5:30 PM    Chair Yoga – Social Hall

### **TUESDAY**      **March 25, 2025**

- 9:00 – 11:00 AM    Open Pickleball – Wiltse Center
- 9:00 – 11:00 AM    Pastor Lou's Office Hours
- 11:00 – 3:00 PM    Private Lessons – Wiltse Center
- 10:00 AM    Altar'd – Room 2
- 11:00 AM    Staff Meeting – Ryder Lounge
- 6:00 – 7:00 PM    Intro to Acrylics – Social Hall
- 7:00 PM    Bells of Glory – Choir Loft

### **WEDNESDAY**      **March 26, 2025**

- 9:00 – 11:00 AM    Open Pickleball – Wiltse Center
- 9:30 AM    Organ Lesson - Sanctuary
- 10:30 AM    Heart of Christianity Bible Study –
- 11:00 – 3:00 PM    Private Lessons - Wiltse Center
- 5:15 PM    Wednesday Night Supper – Wiltse Center
- 5:45 PM    Meeting Jesus – Ryder Lounge
- 6:00 PM    Knit & Crochet – Conference Room
- 6:00 PM    Guitars - Sanctuary
- 7:00 PM    Chancel Choir – Choir Loft

### **THURSDAY**      **March 27, 2025**

- 9:00 - 11:00 AM    Open Pickleball – Wiltse Center
- 10:30 AM    Community Choir – Choir Room
- 11:00-3:00 PM    Private lessons – Wiltse Center
- 11:30 AM    Chair Yoga – Social Hall
- 3:00 – 7:00 PM    Piano Lessons – Sanctuary
- 6:00 – 9:00PM    DeColores Planning – Room 2

### **FRIDAY**      **March 28, 2025 – Office Closed**

Church of the Dunes  
Information, Events, and Activities

*Events and activities are open to all.*

**MISSION MOMENT: HUMANITY FOR PRISONERS – TODAY**

For today's in-worship Mission Moment, a representative from Humanity for Prisoners will be speaking on the organization's work of providing compassion and problem-solving services to those in prison. If you would like to contribute and plan to do so by check, please make it payable to Church of the Dunes and note Mission Moment on the memo line.

**WEEKLY SUNDAY ADULT CLASSES – SUNDAYS, 10:45 AM**

Church of the Dunes offers two weekly Sunday school groups, which are great opportunities for continuous fellowship and learning. At 10:45 a.m. every Sunday, join "The Bible in 52 Weeks" group in Room 13/14 (lower level) or Faith Linked in the Ryder Lounge (main floor).

**FOURTH MONDAY READING GROUP – MARCH 24, 1:30 PM, PANERA BREAD**

The Fourth Monday Reading Group will meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month at 1:30 p.m. at Panera Bread in Grand Haven. This month's book is "Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murders" by Jesse Q. Sutanto. To participate in the group, get a copy of the book, read it, and join the discussion.

**CELEBRATION CHOIR REHEARSAL – WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 7:30 PM**

If you would like to join the Fifth Sunday Choir on March 30, please come to rehearsal on Wednesday, March 26. Rehearsal will take place in the choir loft from 7:30 – 8:15 p.m. If you did not attend the rehearsal on March 19, please contact Megan Horist prior to this rehearsal. All singers of any ability, eighth grade and up, are welcome!

**SUNDAY AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP – SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 3:00 PM**

The Sunday Afternoon Book Group will be discussing "The Small and the Mighty" by Sharon McMahon. This group will meet at 3:00 p.m. in the Ryder Lounge (main floor) on Sunday, March 30. All are welcome. Participants should get their own copy of the book and read it prior to the group meeting.

**RESURRECTION DAY FLOWER ORDER FORMS AVAILABLE**

The Resurrection Garden will be decorated with beautiful, flowering plants on Easter Morning. As is church tradition, flowers may be given in honor of a loved one. Order forms are available in today's bulletin. Orders are due by Monday, April 7.

**FAMILY PROMISE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Church of the Dunes will be hosting for Family Promise April 6 – April 12, and volunteers are needed. Sign up on the Family Promise board near the communications office.

**ACRYLICS TOO CLASS – BEGINS TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 6:00 PM**

This class is a continuation of the basic skills learned in the Intro to Acrylics class, but all are welcome. This is a free class and no supplies are required. Classes will take place on Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. in the social hall (lower level) beginning April 8. Sign up on the Family Ministries board or contact Jodie Freeman for more information.

**CRAFT CIRCLE MEETING – THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 10:00 AM**

This month, Craft Circle will resume working on dresser scarves for Hope House. Bring your sewing machine or come as you are to help fold, turn, and clip edges of the quilt pieces. The meeting will take place on Thursday, April 10 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 2 (lower level).

## 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.

## Sundays at Church of the Dunes

### **Worship - 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary**

For a link to the recorded livestream, visit [www.umcdunes.org/worship](http://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 for Children - Hosanna classroom (Room 8), lower level**

The pastor will dismiss students to Sunday School from worship after the Children's Time.

### **Coffee Fellowship - 10:30 a.m. - Wiltse Center fellowship area**

Please stop by for fresh coffee and delicious refreshments.

## Notes from the Church Office

### **Church Office Hours**

Monday -Thursday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. or by appointment.

**The bulletin deadline** is noon on Tuesdays, and earlier on holiday weeks. Bulletin space is limited and often fills up well before the deadline. Early submissions are recommended.

**Church of the Dunes would like to stay connected with you** and to be supportive of you and your loved ones. If your contact information has changed, please let the church office know. 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. Let us know, as well, if you have experienced a death in your family.

## Praises and Prayers

**FLOWERS IN SANCTUARY** are from Karen and Dave Hoffman in celebration of their 61<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary.

**FLOWERS ARE ALSO FROM** Terry and Nancy Minor in celebration of their 69<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

**THANKS TO EVERYONE** for cards, well-wishes, and calls during my recent recovery from a broken foot. Your concern was greatly appreciated. *Char Grevel*

### **MEMBERS AND FRIENDS CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK:**

March 25	Carol Bauer, Barbara Collins, Leo Luebke (10)
March 26	Kay Erickson, Val Martin
March 28	Royce McCastle
March 29	Janet Weber

## Giving

<u>Date/Week Of</u>	<u>Offerings Received</u>	<u>Weekly Average Year-to-Date</u>	<u>Weekly Budgeted</u>	<u>Percent of Budget</u>
March 16	\$7,715	\$9,028	\$8,830	101.4

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/>.

## Attendance

<u>Date</u>	<u>In-Person</u>	<u>Online</u>	<u>x 1.5</u>	<u>Total</u>
3-09	150	50	75	225

*Since one view may include more than one person viewing together, the Michigan Conference of the UMC recommends multiplying the number of views by 1.5 to estimate total online attendance.*

### **SERVICE PARTICIPANTS**

**Liturgist:** Don Woodward  
**Pastor:** Lou Grettenberger  
**Music:** Marna Jeffery, Dianne Prieditis  
**Technology:** Blair Miller, Trevor Larkins  
**Greeter:** Darlene Graska  
**Welcome Center:** Elizabeth Dales  
**Ushers:** Sam Easterly, Dale Zurakowski, Betty & Rob Roberts, Eric Weber  
**Coffee Hour:** Doug & Susan Thorpe

### **Next Week – March 30**

**Liturgist:** Jan Stuart  
**Pastor:** Lou Grettenberger  
**Music:** Celebration Choir, Marna Jeffery  
**Technology:** Don Woodward, ArSarNi Grettenberger  
**Greeters:** Carole Woolf  
**Welcome Center:** Carol Sue Scherpenisse  
**Ushers:** Sam Easterly, Neal Miller, Eric Weber, Pam & Dale Zurakowski  
**Coffee Hour:** Doug & Susan Thorpe

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.