



# RELATIONSHIP ROAD:

A Journey Through Lent

Grumbling  
Church Folk

**March 30, 2025**

**4th 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 30, 2025

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### We Gather

Gathering Music

Welcome & Announcements

Threshold Moment

Introit

*"We are Marching in the Light of God (Siyahamba)"*

Celebration Choir

\*Call to Worship

Leader: Come, let us celebrate the forgiving, reconciling love of God.

People: **For once we were lost and felt so far away;  
now we have been found and welcomed home.**

Leader: Know that God's love is lavished upon you forever.

People: **We rejoice at the news of forgiveness and hope!**

Leader: Come, let us celebrate!

People: **Let us worship together and praise the God of Love!**

### We Praise God

Hymn #57

*"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"*

vs. 1-5 & 7

Children's Time

Pastor Lou

Prayer of Confession

**God, we admit that we are prone to try to hide our sins; to keep our mouths shut and hope we are not found out. But there is no place to hide from you. Our silence only makes us sick in body and spirit. But you delight in forgiving us and in covering our sin. You are glad when we confess our failings and our needs. Forgive us, Lord, where we fall short. Hide us, O God, from trouble; teach us the way we should go. Deliver us from our own stubbornness, and draw us near, to You we pray. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

Worship Song

*"Amazing Grace"  
(My Chains are Gone)*

Tomlin/Newton/Giglio

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

*"Jubilate, Sing Praise!"*

arr. Harris  
Celebration Choir

\*Doxology

\*Prayer of Dedication

**Gracious God, our refuge and restorer, we bring these gifts as a sign of our return to you. Like the prodigal, we long to feel your embrace and live in the light of your grace. As we observe this holy time of Lent, may our offerings reflect hearts that are turning back to you. Clear the clogs in our lives that separate us from you and one another and help us see the rainbow of your promise even in our struggles. Bless these gifts and our lives so that we may share your steadfast love with the world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

### **We Share the Word**

A Reading from the New Testament 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Anthem "The Prayer with Lead Us, Lord" arr. Fettke

A Reading from the Gospel Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Sermon "Relationship Road: Grumbling Church Folk" 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 #383 "This is a Day of New Beginnings" vs. 1 - 4

### **We are Sent Forth**

\*Benediction

\*Chimes/\*Parting Music

*\*Please stand as you are able*

**O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing**  
**Hymn #57 (vs. 1-5, 7)**

O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King,  
the triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God,  
assist me to proclaim,  
to spread through all the earth abroad  
the honors of thy name.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears,  
that bids our sorrows cease;  
'tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'tis life, and health, and peace.

He breaks the power of canceled sin,  
he sets the prisoner free;  
his blood can make the foulest clean;  
his blood availed for me.

He speaks, and listening to his voice,  
new life the dead receive;  
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,  
the humble poor believe.

In Christ, your head, you then shall know,  
shall feel your sins forgiven;  
anticipate your heaven below,  
and own that love is heaven.

## **Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)**

Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost but now I'm found  
Was blind but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed

My chains are gone I've been set free  
My God my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy rains  
Unending love amazing grace

The Lord has promised good to me  
His word my hope secures  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow  
The sun forbear to shine  
But God who called me here below  
Will be forever mine  
Will be forever mine  
You are forever mine

## **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.

## **2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way. <sup>17</sup> So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup> So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

## Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” <sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable:

<sup>11</sup> Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.’ So he divided his assets between them. <sup>13</sup> A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup> When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup> He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup> But when he came to his senses he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ <sup>20</sup> So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup> Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, <sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup> “Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup> He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.’ <sup>28</sup> Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and

began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' <sup>31</sup> Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' "





**This is a Day of New Beginnings**  
**Hymn # 383 vs. 1-4**

This is a day of new beginnings,  
time to remember and move on,  
time to believe what love is bringing,  
laying to rest the pain that's gone.

For by the life and death of Jesus,  
love's mighty Spirit, now as then,  
can make for us a world of difference,  
as faith and hope are born again.

Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,  
step from the past and leave behind  
our disappointment, guilt, and grieving,  
seeking new paths, and sure to find.

Christ is alive, and goes before us  
to show and share what love can do.  
This is a day of new beginnings;  
our God is making all things new.

## This Week's Calendar

### **SUNDAY      March 30, 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
- 3:00 PM    Book Club – Ryder Lounge

### **MONDAY      March 31, 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 – 5:30 PM    Piano Lessons – Sanctuary
- 5:30 PM    Chair Yoga – Social Hall

### **TUESDAY      April 1, 2025**

- 9:00 – 11:00 AM    Open Pickleball – Wiltse Center
- 9:00 – 11:00 AM    Pastor Lou's Office Hours
- 9:00 AM    Organ Lessons – Choir Loft
- 11:00 – 3:00 PM    Private Lessons – Wiltse Center
- 10:00 AM    Altar'd – Room 2
- 6:00 PM    UWF Board – Room 10
- 7:00 PM    Missions – Room 13/14
- 7:00 PM    Bells of Glory – Choir Loft

### **WEDNESDAY      April 2, 2025**

- 9:00 – 11:00 AM    Open Pickleball – Wiltse Center
- 5:15 PM    Wednesday Night Supper – Wiltse Center
- 5:45 PM    Meeting Jesus – Ryder Lounge
- 6:00 PM    Knit & Crochet – Conference Room
- 7:00 PM    Chancel Choir – Choir Loft

### **THURSDAY      April 3, 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
- 1:00 PM    Mary Circle – Ryder Lounge
- 3:00 – 7:00 PM    Piano Lessons – Sanctuary
- 6:00 – 9:00PM    DeColores Planning – Social Hall

### **FRIDAY      April 4, 2025 – Office Closed**

Church of the Dunes  
Information, Events, and Activities

*Events and activities are open to all.*

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

Today, the Sunday Afternoon Book Group will be discussing “The Small and the Mighty” by Sharon McMahon, at 3:00 p.m. in the Ryder Lounge (main floor).

**MARY CIRCLE SPECIAL GUEST – THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 1:00 PM**

Sarah Elliott, Grand Haven Area Public Schools’ homeless student liaison will be speaking in Mary Circle at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 3 in the Ryder Lounge (main floor).

**RESURRECTION DAY FLOWER ORDER FORMS AVAILABLE**

During Easter Sunday service, the sanctuary will be decorated with a Resurrection Garden of beautiful, flowering plants. After service, you are able to take the plants you ordered home with you. Flowers may be given in honor of a loved one. Order forms are available in the Welcome Center (main floor) and the church office and are due by Monday, April 7.

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

Acrylics Too is a free class meant to build on the basic acrylics skills learned in the Intro to Acrylics class, but all are welcome. No supplies are required. Classes meet at 6:00 p.m. in the social hall (lower level) on Tuesdays, for 4 weeks. Sign up on the Family Ministries board.

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

Craft Circle meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month. This month, Craft Circle will resume working on dresser scarves for Hope House. Participants are encouraged to bring a sewing machine or come as you are to help fold, turn, and clip edges of the quilt pieces. April’s meeting is on Thursday, April 10 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 2 (lower level).

**TRAVELOGUE PRESENTATION – SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2:00 PM**

Finishing Will Ministries will be hosting two travelogue presentations this spring. Each presentation will feature multiple individuals from the church on their travels to destinations such as Australia, the Netherlands, and Hawaii. The first presentation will be on Sunday, April 13 at 2:00 p.m. in the Ryder Lounge (main floor). Light snacks will be provided.

**EASTER CARE CARDS PROGRAM**

Each Easter, the Adult Ministries’ Care Cards program recognizes our college students and military personnel by sending Starbucks gift cards and a kind message. To add your loved one to the program’s list, please share a current address for them with Susan Thorpe.

**PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING**

Greeters, Welcome Center, and Coffee Hour volunteers are needed! Sign-up sheets and information about these opportunities are available at the Welcome Center desk (Greeters and Welcome Center hosts) and in the Wiltse Center (Coffee Hour hosts). Your help is so appreciated!

## 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.

## **HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE – BEGINS SUNDAY, APRIL 13**

As the Lenten season nears an end, we hope you will join us for the Holy Week worship opportunities, starting Sunday, April 13:

- Sunday, April 13: **Palm Sunday**, *Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.*
- Thursday, April 17: **Maundy Thursday**, *Worship with Communion at 7:00 p.m.*
- Friday, April 18: **Good Friday**, *Tenebrae Service at 7:00 p.m.*
- Sunday, April 20: **Easter Sunday**, *Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.*

## 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 ARE PRESENTED** by Gary and Karyn Gillan in honor of Tina Zellman's birthday.

## Birthdays

March 31	Maggie Cook
April 1	James Hartman
April 3	Robert Bergstrom, Darleen Houle
April 4	Paige Horist
April 5	Andrew Mihovich, Pam Suchecki
April 6	Caleb Kehl, Tina Zellman

## 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 23	\$14,596	\$9,492	\$8,830	106.6

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>
3-26	149	59	88.5	237.5

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

## **Next Week – April 6**

**Liturgist:** Jan Lipfert  
**Pastor:** Lou Grettenberger  
**Music:** Chancel Choir, Marna Jeffery  
**Technology:** Don Woodward  
**Greeter:** Mimi Dunne  
**Welcome Center:** Volunteer Needed  
**Ushers:** Sam Easterly, Heather Torrance, Neal Miller, Karyn & Gary Gillan  
**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.