

Union United Methodist Church

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Mercy on the
Wilderness Road

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Bulletin – February 22, 2026

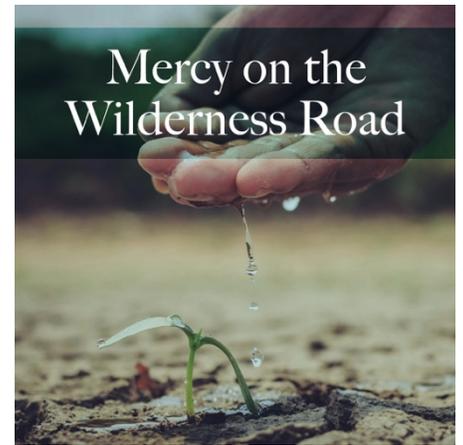
Mercy on the Wilderness Road

Renewed in Mercy Worship Series, Week 1

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship



**** P – Pastor **Bold – C: Congregation responds** ****

L: Today, we follow Jesus into a wilderness full of isolation, fatigue, hunger, thirst, and temptation.

C: We follow, trusting in God’s mercy.

L: We witness Jesus resist the siren calls of sensationalism, notoriety, and misuse of power for selfish gain.

C: We recognize God’s mercy at work in the face of temptation.

L: We notice the angels who tend Jesus, messengers of care in a harsh and lonely place.

C: We pay attention to God’s merciful presence that did not abandon Jesus and does not abandon us now.

L: We come to the wilderness together, clinging to the truth that we are not alone—God is with us.

C: We gather to worship God, whose unfailing mercy journeys with us into the wildernesses of our lives. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Our Statement of Faith – The Apostles Creed

p. 881 UMH

**** All to recite in unison ***

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead;

he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen. I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Gloria Patri

p. 70 UMH

*Glory be to the Father
and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen!*

Opening Hymn – Seek Ye First

p. 405 UMH x2

Sharing Our Praises & Prayers

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Offering – Ushers come forward

Doxology p. 95 UMH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;*

*Praise him above, ye heav'nly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen!*

Psalm Lesson – Psalm 32:1-5 (NIV)**

****L – Leader Bold – C: Congregation responds ****

L: ¹ Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.

**C: ² Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against
them and in whose spirit is no deceit.**

L: ³ When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my
groaning all day long.

**C: ⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was
sapped as in the heat of summer.**

L: ⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my
iniquity.

**C: I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.” And you
forgave the guilt of my sin.**

Hymn – Great Is Thy Faithfulness p. 140

Gospel Lesson – Matthew 4:1-11 (NIV)

¹ Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be
tempted by the devil. ² After fasting forty days and forty nights, he
was hungry. ³ The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son
of God, tell these stones to become bread.” ⁴ Jesus answered, “It is
written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that
comes from the mouth of God.’” ⁵ Then the devil took him to the
holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶ “If
you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is
written: “‘He will command his angels concerning you,

and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”⁷ Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.⁹ “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”¹⁰ Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Sermon – Mercy on the Wilderness Road

Closing Hymn: Amazing Grace, My Chains Are Gone p. 3104 WSM

**** Please refer to your bulletin or handout ****

Benediction & Commission

Go, now, in the comfort and blessing of God’s mercy, trusting that wherever you go, God’s steadfast love surrounds you, sustains you, and supports you for the journey ahead. Amen!

Readings for the week beginning Feb. 23, 2026

Genesis 12:1-4 | Psalm 121 | Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 | John 3:1-17

Announcements

- None

Prayer List

Church Family

Wayne Bumgardner

Frank Dalton

Sherry Doub

Wanda Needham

Barbara Perryman

Frances Sisk

Peggy Willard

Church Friend / Extended Family

Tommy Bost

Tammy Seats Boyd

Jimmy & Deborah Branch

Jane Bullin

Leisha Carpenter

Mack Edwards

Mary File

Garry Harbin

Kathy Harbin

Lynda Harper

Ronald Howell

David Joyner

Charles Kurfees

Kevin McBride

Kevin McDaniel

Mark Megela

Ronnie Mudd

Jay D. Prevette

Vivian Royal

Hal Seats

Phillip Seats

Mary Ellen Smith

Kim Triplette

Mark Wall

Ann Wallace

Robert and Susan Warren

Tracy Webb

Jeremy Wilson

Savannah Wooten

February Birthdays

Hunter Potts	1	Bob Faircloth	17
Johnlee Disher	9	Heather Perryman	18
Josh Doub	10	Tom Beroth	21
Lilly Cousins	12	Jessica Hunter Harmon	22

Wesley Covenant Prayer (Adapted from Rev. Jeremy Smith on HackingChristianity.net.)

I am not my own self-made, self-reliant human being. In truth, O God, I am Yours. Make me into what You will. Make me a neighbor with those whom You will. Guide me on the easy path for You. Guide me on the rocky road for You. Whether I am to step up for You or step aside for You; Whether I am to be lifted high for You or brought low for You; Whether I become full or empty, with all things or with nothing; I give all that I have and all that I am for You. So be it. And may I always remember that you, O God, and I belong to each other. Amen.

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

(♩ = 62-65)

E♭ Eb2 Eb Eb2

1. A -
2. 'Twas
3. The

5 Eb E♭sus Eb

maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound that
grace that taught my heart to fear; and
Lord has prom - ised good to me; his

7 Eb B♭/E♭ Eb E♭/G

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
grace my fears re - lieved. How pre - cious did that
word my hope se - cures. He will my shield and

10 A♭2 Eb Eb B♭/E♭ Eb

now am found; was blind, but now I see. 2. 'Twas
grace ap - pear the hour I first be -
por - tion be as long as life en -

WORDS: John Newton (sts.); refrain by Chris Tomlin and Louie Giglio
MUSIC: Traditional American melody; refrain and arr. by Chris Tomlin and Louis Giglio
Refrain and arr. © 2006 worshiptogether.com Songs/sixsteps Music (ASCAP), Vamos Publishing (ASCAP), admin. at EMICMGPublishing.com

MY CHAINS ARE GONE
Irr.

13 ^{2, 3}
Eb *Refrain* Ab Eb/G

lieved. My chains are gone, I've been set ___ free. My God, my
dures.

16 Ab Eb/G

Sav - ior, has ran - somed me. And like a

18 Ab Eb/G

flood his mer - cy reigns, un - end - ing

20 $\text{Bb}7\text{sus}$ ¹ Eb Eb2 Eb

love, a - maz - ing grace.

24 $\text{Eb}2$ ² Eb Eb2/G *D.S.* ³ Eb Ab/Eb

3. The grace. My chains are grace.