

Union United Methodist Church

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Rev. Randy Perdue

Norma Jean Harbin, Organist

Bulletin – March 30, 2025

Steadfast Love

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Prayer

Call to Worship



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

P: When we struggle to live as you teach us, and we fail to answer your call...

C: God, your steadfast loves surrounds us.

P: When the truth clogs up in our throat, and we fear what will happen if we speak and if we keep silent...

C: God, your steadfast love surrounds us.

P: When we open our hearts and let the truth of our sorrows, our sin, our joys, and our doubts flow freely...

C: God, your steadfast love surrounds us.

P: When our stubborn hearts encounter the grace that teaches and us into a life of trust and joyful obedience...

C: God, your steadfast love surrounds us today and every day. Thanks be to God! Amen.

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

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!

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 – O God, Our Help in Ages Past p. 117 UMH

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.*

Old Testament Lesson – Psalm 32:1-5 (NRSVue)

L: 1 Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

C: 2 Happy are those to whom the Lord impute no iniquity and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

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

C: 4 For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah

L: 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah

Hymn – O How I Love Jesus p. 170 UMH

New Testament Reading – Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 (NRSVue)

¹ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." ³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² 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. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ 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! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no

longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.” ’ ²⁰ 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. ²¹ 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.’ ²² 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. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.²⁵ “Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² 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.’ ”

Sermon – Steadfast Love

Closing Hymn – Standing on the Promises p. 374 UMH

Benediction & Commission

May God's grace go ahead of you, trail behind you, and encircle you each and every moment, that with every move you make you would know with absolute assurance that God's steadfast love will never leave you alone. Amen!

Lectionary Readings for the week beginning March 31, 2025

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalms 126

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

Announcements

- Gifts have been given to the glory of God and in memory of Harold Langley by Frances Sisk, Bonnie and David Joyner, Judy and Mike Williard, and Cameron, John, Peter and Silas Hogg.

Prayer List

Church Family

Wayne Bumgardner

Frank Dalton

Sherry Doub

Frances V. Gough

Steve and Lena Gough

All who are serving our country at home and abroad

Wanda Needham

Barbara Perryman

Frances Sisk

Church Family

Wayne Bumgardner

Frank Dalton

Sherry Doub

Frances V. Gough

Wanda Needham

Barbara Perryman

Frances Sisk

Church Friend / Extended Family

Tommy Bost	Amber Lambert
Tammy Seats Boyd	Jeannette Lanier
Jimmy & Deborah Branch	Kevin McBride
Jane Bullin	Kevin McDaniel
Leisha Carpenter	Mark Megela
Joe Dean	Dawn Proctor
Ruby Driver	Jay D. Prevette
Mack Edwards	Vivian Royal
Joanne Everhart	Mary Ellen Smith
Mary File	Kim Triplette
Garry Harbin	Mark Wall
Kathy Harbin	Ann Wallace
Lynda Harper	Robert and Susan Warren
Ronald Howell	Savannah Wooten

March Birthdays

Mary Jane Disher	2	Savannah Owen	10
Nyk Travis	7	Elizabeth Mark	11
Leroy Burton	8	Niki Pardue	11
David Luck	9	Joshua Doub	23
Peter Hogg	10	Hank Disher	23
Silas Hogg	10	Jimmy McBride	30

April Birthdays

Garry Harbin	2	Brad Collins	26
John Seats	4	Sadie Disher	27
Susie Seats-Edwards	9	Annabel Parker Mark	28
Jeremy Gearheart	10	Autumn Rayne Atkinson	28
Caroline Burton	11	Hugh McBride	30
Bradley Thompson	21	Faye Seats	30
Ronnie Southern	23		

Wesley Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but thine.

Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee, or brought low for thee.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen!