

Foolishness of Christ



3rd Sunday in Lent
March 8, 2026

Prelude

"L'espoir que i'ay d'acquirir vostre grace"

Anonymous

Greetings

*The assembly responds or joins in unison when our text is **bold**.*

Centering Words:

God's foolishness is wiser than our wisdom, and whose weakness is stronger than our strength, draws us in. Delight in the abundance of prosperity with which God has blessed us.

Call to worship:

Be still before God, and wait patiently, delight in God, who fulfills the desires of your heart.

Who is worthy to stand in God's presence?

Come, not in your wisdom, but in humility; not to boast, but to learn.

We come without power or pretension; we bring our weaknesses more than strength.

Consider your call and commit your way to God.

We trust God to grant us light and new life.

God's blessing pours out on the crowds.

God's attention is focused on each one of us.

*Opening Hymn

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

♯ UMH # 89

1.

**Joyful, joyful, we adore You, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before You, Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day!**

2.

**All Your works with joy surround You, Earth and heaven reflect Your rays,
Stars and angels sing around You, Center of unbroken praise;
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain Praising You eternally!**

3.

**Always giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living, Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Loving Father, Christ our Brother, Let Your light upon us shine;
Teach us how to love each other, Lift us to the joy divine.**

4.

**Mortals, join the mighty chorus, Which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us, Joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward, Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward In the triumph song of life.**

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 89

Words Henry Van Dyke, 1907

Music: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824; arr. by Edward Hodges, 1864

Call to Confession

Silent Prayers of Confession

Words of assurance

Old Testament Lesson: **Exodus 17:1-7**

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Psalter: **Psalm 95** with Musical Response 1

♪ UMH # 814

Musical Response 1:

Harden not your hearts; listen to God's voice.

¹ O come, let us sing to the Lord;

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

² Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;

let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

³ For the Lord is a great God

and a great Ruler above all gods,

⁴ in his hand are the depths of the earth

and also the heights of the mountains.

⁵ **The sea belongs to God who made it,**

and the dry land, because God formed it.

Musical Response

⁶ O come, let us worship and bow down;

let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

⁷ For the Lord is our God,

we are the people of God's pasture,

the sheep of God's hand.

Hear the voice of the Lord today!

⁸ Harden not your hearts, as at Meribah,

as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,

⁹ when your forebears tested me,

and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.

¹⁰ **For forty years I loathed that generation**

**and said, "They are a people who err in heart,
and they do not regard my ways."**

¹¹ **Therefore I swore in my anger**

that they should not enter my rest."

Musical Response

Anthem

Hallelujah Feeling

Caleb & John

Soloist: Randy Long

Epistle Lesson: **1 Corinthians 1:18-25**

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Hymn of Preparation

Seek Ye First

♪ UMH # 405

1.

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God And His righteousness;
And all these things shall be added unto you.**

Hallelu, Hallelujah!

2.

**Ask, and it shall be given unto you; Seek, and you shall find.
Knock, and it shall be opened unto you.**

Hallelu, Hallelujah!

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 405

Words: Karen Lafferty , 1972

Music: Karen Lafferty, 1972

© 1972 Maranatha! Music

Used by permission CCLI 673591

Message

Foolishness of Christ

Hymn of Response

Help Us Accept Each Other

♪ UMH # 560

1.

**Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.**

2.

**Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all not just for some,
to love them as we find them or as they may be come.**

3.

**Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved
in living situations to do the truth in love; to practice your acceptance
until we know by heart the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.**

4.

**Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on:
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!**

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 560

Words: Fred Kaan, 1974

Music: John Ness Beck, 1977

Words © 1975 Hope Publishing Co.; music © 1977 Hope Publishing Co.

Used by permission CCLI 673591

Invitation to the Offering

As you feel led, please place your offering and/or completed connection card in the basket at the back of the chapel, or text your gift to 833-756-0325, or Contribute Now on our website: www.elyriafirstumc.org.

Offertory

"Tièrce en taille"

Couperin

*Doxology

**Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

♩ UMH # 95

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 95
Words: Thomas Ken, 1674
Music: OLD 100TH; Attr. to Louis Bourgeois, 1551

*Offertory Prayer:

Thank you, God, for hungers satisfied and dreams fulfilled. Thank you for the inheritance of faith, which blesses our life on earth. We trust you to accomplish good among us through the sharing of these gifts and the recommitment of our lives. Help us to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Amen.

Announcements

*Closing Hymn

We Walk by Faith

♩ FWS # 2196

1.

**We walk by faith, and not by sight; No gracious words we hear
From Him who spoke as none ne'er spoke, But we believe him near.**

2.

**We may not touch His hands and side, Nor follow where He trod;
But in His promise we rejoice, And cry, "My Lord and God!"**

3.

**Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; And may our faith abound,
To call on you when you are near, And seek where you are found.**

4.

**That when our lives of faith are done, In realms of clearer light,
We may behold you as you are, With full and endless sight.**

5.

**We walk by faith, and not by sight; No gracious words we hear
From Him who spoke as none ne'er spoke, But we believe him near.**

The Faith We Sing Hymnal Number 2196
Words: Henry Alford
Music: MARTYRDOM; ATTR. TO Hugh Wilson

Benediction

Postlude

"Variations on a theme from Clément Jannequin"

Alain

Worship Participants

Preaching: Rev. Joel Harbarger

Liturgist: Kristen Jones

Media Specialists: Denise Smith and David Wilm

Musicians: Kingsley Wood, Jack Roberts and the Chancel Choir

Sound: Neal Hubbard

Ushers and Greeters: John Borer, Roger and Wendy Fleming, and Mike Zahnke

This service is broadcast live on the radio station WOBL 1320 AM and 107.7 FM. Today's radio broadcast is sponsored with money given for our radio ministry. Thank you to those who donate which allows us to continue our radio ministry as we share God's love with the radio audience and the community.

The altar flowers are given by John and Paula Hammond in loving memory of Lila Hammond's earthly birthday.

If you are interested in joining our church family, or if you have any pastoral needs or prayer concerns, please call the church office at 440.322.6622.

**Please stand as you are comfortable*

[♩]UMH ~ *United Methodist Hymnal* (hard cover hymnal)

[♩]FWS - *The Faith We Sing* (soft cover hymnal)

Rev. Joel Harbarger served United Methodist Churches for over 36 years as a Youth Pastor, Campus Pastor, solo rural Pastor and a Lead Pastor. He continues to preach occasionally and serves on various District and Conference Committees. Joel and his wife, Wendy, retired to a "cabin in the woods" outside Athens, Ohio when he retired in 2022. Their son, Nate and his wife Katie live in Morgan Hill, California with their two daughters Hadley and Sophie. Their daughter Molly and her partner Seraphie live in Seattle, Washington.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

312 Third Street, Elyria, Ohio 44035 440.322.6622

www.elyriafirstumc.org

An equal opportunity provider

"L'espoir que i'ay d'acquirir vostre grace" Anonymous. ***Hallelujah Feeling*** Writers: Caleb Crino, Jake Henry, Jeff Pardo, John Secker; Copyright: Lyrics © Capitol CMG Publishing. ***"Tièrce en taille"*** by François Couperin. ***"Variations on a theme from Clément Jannequin"*** by Jehan Alain, Copyright © 2002 by Alphonse Leduc et Cie Éditions Musicales, Paris. All songs are performed under license # 673591.

Third Street Review



March Mission focus:

March 8, 2026

First United Methodist Church

312 Third Street, Elyria, Ohio 44035

Phone: 440.322.6622

Email: church@elyriafirstumc.org

UMCOR Sunday March 15th

When people face crisis—whether from natural disaster, conflict, or hunger—UMCOR is there to help. But that kind of response doesn't just happen. It requires trained staff, reliable systems, and the ability to act quickly and compassionately.

You may give on-line via our website: elyriafirstumc.org or submit a check to: *Elyria First United Methodist Church*, indicate **UMCOR** on the memo line. Making it possible for the Church to be a consistent, trusted presence in moments of urgent need. Thank you for your generosity!

New Church Plan

As we move forward with the New Church Plan, in April and May the preaching duties will be shared by Marcus Atha and Karson Collins.

After Easter Sunday, we will not have services on the first Sunday in our church but encourage our members to visit Karson in Lakewood. Marcus will lead services on the second, fourth, and fifth Sundays. Karson will lead the third Sunday worship service.

Share Your Gifts/Talents

Volunteering once a month can make a significant difference in the life of our ministries, the community, and YOU!

Please contact the church office to cheerfully offer your gifts and talents to serve in these vital ministries in 2026!

Community Breakfast

Still thinking about joining a breakfast team? The 1st and 4th Sunday teams can really benefit with your help! ***Prayerfully consider joining a breakfast team this year***, then call Julie Joy in the church office (440.322.6622) to volunteer!

Fellowship Time

Come, enjoy goodies and wonderful fellowship in the **Parlor** after worship on **Sunday, March 15th**. If you would like to bake or host this monthly time of fellowship in the future, please see Darlene Lewis or Carol Stomieroski, or call the church office.

Season of Lent

While the days leading to Easter are for reflecting on one's personal relationship with God, we also must reflect on how well we are showing God's love to our friends and our enemies. We might find it relatively easy to care for those who look like us, talk like us, vote like we do or worship in the same congregation. Yet, there is room for most of us to improve when it comes to loving those who get on our nerves or who have harmed us because of the color of our skin, our gender, our age, our income, our education, our religion or because of whom we love. When we realize that we have not loved our enemies as God has commanded us to do, we must confess our shortcomings and find ways to do differently. Make time to pray, fast, and prepare your heart for Easter!

Free Hygiene Store

We are grateful for your continued support of this much needed ministry. Being open to the community and filling in the gap for many families is a blessing!

Our needs for March include:

- **Baby Wash and Lotion**
- **Cleaning Supplies** (glass, bathroom, and toilet bowl cleaners)
- **Laundry & Dish Soap**
- **Shampoo & Conditioner** (dry shampoo too)
- **Women's and Men's Body Wash, Deodorant, and Razors**

Please place these items in the box located on the main level. The store will be open on **Saturday, March 28th** from **10 am-12 pm!**

Free Clothing Store

We are accepting clothing, coats, blankets, and linens once again. Please place items in the box on the main level. Thank you! The store will be open to the community next **Saturday, March 28th** **10 am-12 pm.**

Open Sponsorship Dates

Altar Flower dates: **Cost \$22**

March 29, April 19

Radio dates: **Cost \$300** (*includes advertising!*)

March 15, 22, and 29

Please call the church office at 440.322.6622 to reserve your special date!

312 Happy Hour

Happy Hour is a twice per month event held on the **2nd and 4th Tuesdays** at **noon** in **Fellowship Hall!**

Join us for a great meal, fun, and fellowship on
March 10th and 24th

Scripture readings for the week:

Sunday, March 8: **Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42**

Monday, March 9: **Psalm 81; Genesis 24:1-27; 2 John 1:1-13**

Tuesday, March 10: **Psalm 81; Genesis 29:1-14; 1 Corinthians 10:1-4**

Wednesday, March 11: **Psalm 81; Jeremiah 2:4-13; John 7:14-31, 37-39**

Thursday, March 12: **Psalm 23; 1 Samuel 15:10-21; Ephesians 4:25-32**

Friday, March 13: **Psalm 23; 1 Samuel 15:22-31; Ephesians 5:1-9**

Saturday, March 14: **Psalm 23; 1 Samuel 15:32-34; John 1:1-9**

Sunday, March 15: **1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41**



2026 EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM



DEADLINE FOR ORDERS IS: SUNDAY, MARCH 22ND

A separate check should be made payable to:

First United Methodist Church (indicate "Easter Flowers")

****Please do not include your tithe with the flower payment.***

FLOWERS	# ORDERED		\$ ENCLOSED
White Lilies	_____	x \$17	_____
Tulips (pink, red, or yellow) circle one	_____	x \$16	_____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ PHONE # _____

In Memory ~ Honor ~ Appreciation of: (please circle one)

_____ I will pick up. _____ Leave for Tuesday pick up _____ Plant in courtyard

**Plants may be picked up on Easter Sunday following the worship service,
or on Tuesday, April 7th between 9 AM and 3 PM.**

First United Methodist Church

312 Third Street, Elyria, Ohio 44035 Phone: 440.322.6622

Hallelujah Feeling

Some days I climb the mountains Some days I touch the clouds
Some days my best friend has been the cold, hard ground
But there's mercy new each morning Comfort through the night
My eyes are fixed on Jesus And I'm gonna be alright

I got that hallelujah feeling down in my soul
I got that hallelujah feeling and it won't let go
I've been born again Yes and amen
No matter what comes I know
I got that hallelujah feeling down in my soul
Hallelujah Hallelujah

Oh just because it's raining Doesn't mean the sun won't shine
There's a season for the struggle And a season for the prize
But my hope is never fading Cause it's anchored in the truth
My Father goes before me And His joy will see me through

I got that hallelujah feeling down in my soul
I got that hallelujah feeling and it won't let go
I've been born again Yes and amen
No matter what comes I know
I got that hallelujah feeling down in my soul
Hallelujah Hallelujah Hallelujah Hallelujah

When everything is shaking Got that solid rock like pavement
I might bend but I'm not breaking I know who's on my side
When everything is shaking Got that solid rock like pavement
I might bend but I'm not breaking The Lord is on my side

(On my side)

I got that hallelujah feeling down in my soul
I got that hallelujah feeling and it won't let go
I've been born again Yes and amen
No matter what comes I know
I got that hallelujah feeling down in my soul

Hallelujah Hallelujah Hallelujah Hallelujah Hallelujah Hallelujah

03/08/26 Soloist: Randy Long

Writers: CALEB CRINO, JAKE HENRY, JEFF PARDO, JOHN SECKER

Copyright: Lyrics © Capitol CMG Publishing

Used by permission CCLI 673591