



**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent**  
*February 22, 2026*

Prelude

**Pavane, FVB 34**

Bull

Greetings

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

Centering Words:

“Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.”

Call to worship:

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

**We follow, trusting in God’s mercy.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

\*Opening Hymn

*Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

<sup>J</sup> UMH # 269

1.

**Lord, who throughout these forty days for us didst fast and pray,  
teach us with Thee to mourn our sins and close by Thee to stay.**

2.

**As Thou with Satan didst contend, and didst the victory win,  
O give us strength in Thee to fight, in Thee to conquer sin.**

3.

**As Thou didst hunger bear, and thirst, so teach us, gracious Lord,  
to die to self, and chiefly live by Thy most holy word.**

4.

**And through these days of penitence, and through Thy passion-tide,  
yea, evermore in life and death, Jesus, with us abide.**

5.

**Abide with us, that so, this life of suffering over past,  
an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.**

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 269

Words: Claudia Frances Hernaman, 1873

Music: LAND OF REST; USA folk melody; arr. by Annabel Morris Buchanan, 1938; harm. by Charles H. Webb, 1988

Music © 1938, renewed 1966 J. Fischer and Bro. Co.; harm. © 1989 K. Fischer and Bro. Co.

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Call to Confession

Silent Prayers of Confession

Words of assurance

Old Testament Lesson: **Genesis 4:17-5:20a**

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

Epistle Lesson: **Romans 5:12-19**

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

Anthem

***When I Survey the Wondrous Cross***

Martins

\*Gospel Lesson: **Matthew 4:1-11**

This is the Word of God for the people of God. 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

***Light in the Wilderness***

Hymn of Response

***Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice***

♯ FWS # 2089

1.

**Wild and lone the prophet's voice Echoes through the desert still,  
Calling us to make a choice, Bidding us to do God's will:**

**"Turn from sin and be baptized; Cleanse your heart and mind and soul.  
Quitting all the sins you prized, Yield your life to God's control.**

2.

**"Bear the fruit repentance sows: Lives of justice, truth, and love.  
Trust no other claim than those; Set your heart on things above.**

**Soon the Lord will come in power, Burning clean the threshing floor:  
Then will flames the chaff devour; Wheat alone shall fill God's store."**

3.

**With such preaching stark and bold John proclaimed salvation near,  
And his timeless warnings hold Words of hope to all who hear.**

**So we dare to journey on, Led by faith through ways untrod,  
Till we come at last like John To behold the Lamb of God.**

The Faith We Sing Hymnal Number 2089

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr.; Music: LA GRANGE; David Ashley White

Words © 1989 Hope Publishing Co.; music © 1996 Selah Publishing Co.; Used by permission CCLI 673591

Invitation to the Offering

Please submit your offering as you feel led by placing it in the plates on the altar railing, or text your gift to 833-756-0325, or on our website: [www.elyriafirstumc.org](http://www.elyriafirstumc.org).

Offertory

***Praeambulum in F***

Scheidemann

\*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:

**We offer ourselves to you, Lord Jesus, emptying ourselves to become your vessels of love and grace and hope to all we encounter. May the gift of our lives and the gifts of our service create God's kingdom on earth, as it is in heaven. Amen.**

Announcements

\*Closing Hymn

***It Is Well with My Soul***

♯ UMH # 377

1.

**When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, When sorrows like sea billows roll;  
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.**

Refrain:

**It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.**

2.

**Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
Let this blest assurance control, That Christ hath regarded  
my helpless estate, And hath shed His own blood for my soul.**

*Refrain*

3.

**My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!  
My sin, not in part but the whole, Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!**

*Refrain*

4.

**And Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll; The trump shall resound,  
and the Lord shall descend, Even so, it is well with my soul.**

*Refrain*

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 377  
Words: Horatio G. Spafford, 1873  
Music: Ville du Havre; Philip P. Bliss, 1876

Benediction

Postlude

## **Galliard, FVB 35**

Bull

*\*Please stand as you are comfortable*

♪ UMH ~ *United Methodist Hymnal* (hard cover hymnal)

♪ FWS ~ *The Faith We Sing* (soft cover hymnal)

### Worship Participants

Preaching: Rev. Marcus Atha

Liturgist: Sheila André de la Porte

Media Specialists: Denise Smith and David Wilm

Musicians: Kingsley Wood, Jack Roberts and the Chancel Choir

Sound: Neal Hubbard

Ushers and Greeters: John Borer, Kris Long, 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 in honor of all seekers on their Lenten journey. "*But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*" Matthew 6:33

***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.***



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

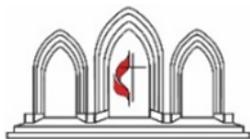
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***Pavane, FVB 34*** by John Bull. ***When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*** by Gilbert Martins, copyright © 1970. ***Praeambulum in F*** by Heinrich Scheidemann ***Galliard, FVB 35*** by John Bull. All songs are performed under license # 673591.

# Third Street Review



February 22, 2026

First United Methodist Church

312 Third Street, Elyria, Ohio 44035

Phone: 440.322.6622

Email: church@elyriafirstumc.org

## ***Fellowship Time***

Come, enjoy goodies and wonderful fellowship in the **Parlor** after worship today **Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>**. 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.

## ***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 February 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, February 28<sup>th</sup>** from **10 am-12 pm!**

## ***Season of Lent***

Lent is a 40-day, solemn Christian season of preparation for Easter, marked by prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to honor Jesus' time in the wilderness. This is a time for spiritual preparation. Even though the word "Lent" is not in the Bible, we can still look to Scripture for comfort and prayer as we move through our 40 days of sacrifice. In the Old Testament, the prophet Moses went into the mountains for 40 days and 40 nights to pray and fast before receiving the Ten Commandments (Exodus 34:28). Likewise, the prophet Elijah went into the mountains for 40 days and nights to fast and pray "until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God" when "the word of the Lord came to him" (1 Kings 19:8-9). Make time to pray, fast, and prepare your heart for Easter!

***"Be joyful in hope,  
patient in affliction,  
faithful in prayer."***

Romans 12:12

## ***312 Happy Hour***

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

Join us for a great meal, fun, and fellowship on  
**February 24<sup>th</sup>; March 10<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>**

## **Open Sponsorship Dates**

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

**March 1, 8, 15, and 29**

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

**March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29**

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

February Mission focus:

### **Save Our Children**

For more than 40 years, Save Our Children has been a beacon of support for Elyria's youth, born from the heart of the youth ministries program at Asbury United Methodist Church. The program provides on average 95 children in grades K- 12 in Elyria with a safe place to go after school. Their mission is to enhance literacy, foster academic excellence, and nurture leadership skills among the vulnerable youth in our community. You may give on-line via our website: [elyriafirstumc.org](http://elyriafirstumc.org) or submit a check to: *Elyria First United Methodist Church*, indicate **SOC** on the memo line. Changing the world one child at a time. Thank you for your generosity!!

***"O Lord, make this Lenten season  
different from the other ones.  
Let me find you again. Amen."***

~ Henri Nouwen

### **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, February 28<sup>th</sup> 10 am-12 pm.**

### **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 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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!

## ***Scripture readings for the week:***

Sunday, February 22: **Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19;  
Matthew 4:1-11**

Monday, February 23: **Psalm 32; 1 Kings 19:1-8; Hebrews 2:10-18**

Tuesday, February 24: **Psalm 32; Genesis 4:1-16; Hebrews 4:14-5:10**

Wednesday, February 25: **Psalm 32; Exodus 34:1-9, 27-28; Matthew 18:10-14**

Thursday, February 26: **Psalm 121; Isaiah 51:1-3; 2 Timothy 1:3-7**

Friday, February 27: **Psalm 121; Micah 7:18-20; Romans 3:21-31**

Saturday, February 28: **Psalm 121; Isaiah 51:4-8; Luke 7:1-10**

Sunday, March 1: **Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17;  
Matthew 17:1-9**