

## March 26, 2023

(\*\*Indicates, please stand as able)

Prelude

Greeting/Life of the Church

Pastor Jeff Bandy

\*\*Call to Worship

L: Our lives feel all disjointed as though they were a valley of dry bones.

**P: Spirit of God bring connection and continuity to our lives.**

L: The Spirit of God breathes hope into each one of us.

**P: Spirit of God encourage us to be people of faith.**

L: Open our hearts, Lord, and bring us to your light.

**A: Spirit of God open our lives to you and break us free from doubt and fear.**

\*\*Opening Hymn

"Holy Spirit, Truth Divine"

UMH #465

Opening Prayer (unison)

**Healing and Empowering God, we are sometimes so sure that things will not work out, we doubt even your ability to put things right in our lives. We lack such faith. But Jesus came to show us that our most dreaded enemy – death – can be overcome by faith. Heal our doubts and our longings for assurance and give us spirits of trust and hope. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

Children's Moments

OT Lesson

Ezekiel 37:1-14

L: The Word of God for the People of God.

**P: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Prayer Hymn

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

UMH #420

Prayers of the Faithful & the Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

Offering/Offertory

\*\*Doxology

UMH #95

\*\*Prayer of Dedication

**From your hands, O God, come the blessings that make life possible, even the very gift of life itself. In gratitude and thanks, receive from our hands this portion of our labors. By your Spirit's leading, may we use these gifts to bless the life of others with the assurance of love, the promise of hope, and the course of justice. This we do to your glory. Amen.**

\*\*Gospel Lesson

John 11:1-45

L: The Word of God for the People of God.

**P: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Ministry of Music

"Beneath The Cross She Watches"

Chancel Choir

(see back cover)

Sermon

"Giving It Up: Lives"

Pastor Jeff Bandy

\*\*Closing Hymn

"Alas And Did My Savior Bleed"

UMH #359

\*\*Sending Forth

Choral Benediction

Postlude



*The Altar Flowers are given by Gary and Chris Allen  
in honor of their 51<sup>st</sup> Wedding Anniversary.*

## “Beneath The Cross She Watches”

Words by Marty Kay Beall  
Choral Setting by John Carter

Beneath his cross she watches  
through tears that fall like rain.  
Her eyes behold his suffering.  
Her heart endures his pain.  
Her son, the promised Savior,  
will die this very day  
but Mary will not leave him  
and cannot turn away.

His clothing lies divided.  
His robe becomes a prize.  
The dice are cast to win it.  
His grieving mother sighs.  
The weeping turns to wailing  
as friends cry out and pray  
but Mary will not leave him  
and cannot turn away.

Now from the cross we hear it;  
he breaks the bond they share.  
He gives his weeping mother  
into his brother's care.  
The darkness gathers round them.  
The deed is nearly done.  
But Mary will not leave him,  
her dying firstborn son.

### WELCOME VISITORS!

If you are visiting with us today, please take a moment to sign our attendance register located in each pew. We welcome you and hope you will come back and worship with us again soon.



### Rev. Jeff Bandy

Office Hours M, T, TH 9:00am-3:00pm & by Appt.

Office: (937) 372-7601 ext. 13

[pastorjeff@fcum.org](mailto:pastorjeff@fcum.org) ♦ [www.fcum.org](http://www.fcum.org)

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**We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation**

## March 26, 2023 – Worship Team

Ushers	Doug Wickiline, Bruce Spitler, Brant Wickline
Greeters	Bob Whipp, Pam Whipp
Liturgist	Elaine Hughes
Guest Organist	Mike Klontz
Choir Director	Glen Shaw
Bells Director	Jim McPeck



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Monday 27	Cub Scouts Boy Scouts	6:30 pm 7:00 pm	FH 15 A-B FH 15 C
Tuesday 28	Lenten Bible Study Visitation-Bonny Wagoner Funeral - Bonny Wagoner	10:00 am 10:30 am 11:30 am	Rm 16 A-B Narthex Sanctuary
Wednesday 29	Handbell Practice Choir Practice	6:15 pm 7:30 pm	Music Room Sanctuary
Thursday 30	Prayer Shawl	11:00 am	Parlor
Friday 31	Winter Guard Practice Magic Volleyball Practice	3:30 pm 5:30 pm	FCC FCC
Saturday 1			
Palm Sunday 2 	Sunday School Worship Service	9:15 am 10:30 am	Parlor, 11, 15C, 16A Sanctuary

### Sunday School Studies

**Double I** meet in 15C, Leader Wayne Cook, study of "The Final Week" by John Birch.

**Open Doors** meet in Parlor, Leader Sandy Pramer study of "The Final Week" by John Birch.

**Grades 6-12** will meet in Rm 16 A-B, Leader Julie Wickline.

**Preschool – Grade 5** Join the children in Rm 11 under the leadership of Kiley Fleming and Karen Mossier for Bible Stories and activities to reinforce the Bible Story of the day.

### Next Sermon – Palm Sunday, April 2

"Giving It Up: Popularity"  
Gospel Lesson

Rev. Jeff Bandy  
Matthew 21:1-11

## March 26, 2023 Announcements

**FAMILY NIGHT:** Join us **TONIGHT at 5:00pm** in the Community Center. Our theme this time is a game and pizza night. We will provide pizza and drinks. Please bring your favorite game and a snack to share (optional). All are welcome to attend.

**COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE:** We will have a blood drive in the Community Center on **Monday, April 3, 2:00pm to 6:00pm**. You can make a reservation for your preferred appointment time to donate by going to [www.donortime.com](http://www.donortime.com) or (937) 461-3220. Remember that your donation can save as many as THREE lives!

**MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP SERVICE:** There will be a worship service in the Sanctuary on **Maundy Thursday, April 6 at 7:00 pm**. The Choir will be singing and we will receive The Lord's Supper together. Join us as we remember the momentous events of Holy Week and prepare for the celebration of Easter.

**EASTER SUNDAY CELEBRATION:** Please join us **Easter Sunday, April 9**. A light breakfast will be served from 9:00 –10:00 am in Fellowship Hall. At 10:00 am there will be an Easter Egg Hunt for the kids. Worship service begins at 10:30 am.

**LENTEN OFFERING FOR VBS:** The church will be collecting a special offering through **Easter Sunday, April 9**, to support Vacation Bible School. The cost is approximately \$30 per child and our goal is to raise \$3000. VBS Offering Envelopes will be available on the table in the narthex or in the office. Please mark your check VBS. Thank you for your prayers and support as we prepare to explore God's goodness.

**JACKSON AREA MINISTRIES:** Spring is arriving soon! The "JAM" program provides garden plants and seeds for the residents in need so they can provide veggies and fruits for their family. Please consider making a donation (mark checks J.A.M. project) and place in the offering plate or drop seed packets into the basket in the narthex through **Easter Sunday, April 9**.

**EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS:** Guidelines and application forms for FCUMC's Educational Assistance are available in the narthex and church office. This year assistance will be offered to graduating high school seniors who are contemplating entering a college or technical school in the fall of 2023 as well as to upper classmen currently enrolled in college. These forms must be completed and returned to the church office by the **April 16** deadline.

**OFFICE CLOSURES:** Due to Vacation schedules the office will be closed **Friday, April 21 and Friday, April 28** we're sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

**OUR PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY IS EXPANDING AND WE NEED YOUR HELP:** Besides the prayer shawls and lap blankets, we are now also making chemo hats for those suffering hair loss due to treatments. Please let the office know of anyone who is going through serious injuries, surgeries, illnesses or grief of death, divorce, job loss, depression or loneliness. We will see that they receive our gift. We are also asking for more volunteers who knit or crochet to join our group (**Thursdays 11-12:30 in the Parlor**) or would like to do projects at home. We very much would appreciate those who can teach these skills or can help problem-shoot for new members wanting to learn these skills. Please leave a message for Judy Mahan at (937) 372-5711 or (937) 416-4015.



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## Gospel Lesson – John 11:1-45 (NIV)

### The Death of Lazarus

**11** Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup> (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) <sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick." <sup>4</sup> When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." <sup>5</sup> Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. <sup>6</sup> So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, <sup>7</sup> and then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea." <sup>8</sup> "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?" <sup>9</sup> Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. <sup>10</sup> It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light." <sup>11</sup> After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up." <sup>12</sup> His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." <sup>13</sup> Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. <sup>14</sup> So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, <sup>15</sup> and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." <sup>16</sup> Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

### Jesus Comforts the Sisters of Lazarus

<sup>17</sup> On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. <sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, <sup>19</sup> and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. <sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup> "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup> Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to

her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; <sup>26</sup> and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup> "Yes, Lord," she replied, "I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world." <sup>28</sup> After she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. "The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you." <sup>29</sup> When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup> When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there. <sup>32</sup> When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." <sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. <sup>34</sup> "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. <sup>35</sup> Jesus wept. <sup>36</sup> Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" <sup>37</sup> But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

### Jesus Raises Lazarus From the Dead

<sup>38</sup> Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. <sup>39</sup> "Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days." <sup>40</sup> Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" <sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." <sup>43</sup> When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" <sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

### The Plot to Kill Jesus

<sup>45</sup> Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

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