

Maundy Thursday

April 2, 2026

(**Indicates, please stand as able)

Welcome

Prelude Carol Stewart
"The Old Rugged Cross" George Bennard/Don Husted

**Gospel Reading John 13:1-17, 31b-35

**Call to Worship

We gather with the dirt of the day on our hands, our feet, and our hearts.

We come in need of a Savior.

We gather with the disciples, preparing to come to the table, yet surprised once again by Jesus.

We come with our expectations only to be astonished by love.

We gather at the basin to be washed and at the table to be fed, in body and in spirit.

We come to receive a new commandment.

We gather in awe of the grace demonstrated in Jesus kneeling to serve.

We come seeking the grace to love one another as Christ loves us. Amen.

**Opening Hymn "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" UMH #297

Opening Prayer

Merciful Savior, We have traveled this long, dusty Lenten journey. Our feet are tired, dirty, aching, and calloused. You have shown us Your love by becoming a humble servant. Humble us when we try to travel without You. As Christ has washed us, so let us wash one another. Humble us when we believe some work is below us. As Christ has washed us, so let us wash one another. Humble us when we are too proud to accept help, or care, or love. As Christ has washed us, so let us wash one another. Humble us when we do not fully receive the gift of Your amazing and bountiful grace. As Christ has washed us, so let us wash one another. Amen.

Ministry of Music Chancel Choir
"God So Loved the World" John Stainer

Meditation "Commanded to Love" Pastor Jeff Bandy

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, you have showed us what love is through your Son, Jesus Christ. We find ourselves humbling ourselves before you once again confessing that so often our discipleship has been weak, when we have failed to serve as Jesus served; we humbly ask:

Forgive us.

When we have failed to love one another as Jesus loves us; we humbly ask:

Forgive us.

When we have been happy to proclaim our devotion to Jesus with our lips and then denied him by our actions; we humbly ask:

Forgive us.

Merciful God, empower us by your Spirit to be steady and true to you in every time of trial; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Jesus said: "I came not to judge the world, but to save the world" and "having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end." The good news, therefore, is this: In Jesus Christ, we are loved and we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

**Response Hymn "What Wondrous Love Is This" (v 1-3) UMH #292

Holy Communion with Hand Washing

Special Music Teri Gray, vocals; Carol Stewart, piano
"Via Dolorosa" Billy Sprague and Niles Borop

**Closing Hymn "Were You There" UMH #288

**Sending Forth

So may the blessing of the God who calls the people out of Egypt call us out from our comfort and our safety to embrace a journey of challenge and risk. May the blessing of the Son who kneels and washes our feet call us out from our comfort and our safety to embrace and serve those we meet on the journey. May the blessing of the Spirit who weaves dreams of a new community call us out from our comfort and our safety to provide welcome and hospitality to strangers as well as friends.

Stripping of the table (After Altar is cleared, please leave in silence, and return for Easter Sunday service)

Special Music Chancel Choir
"I Love You Lord" Laurie Klein

Postlude Carol Stewart
"O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus" Thomas J. Williams/John Innes

Next Sermon – Easter Sunday, April 5

Please join us for an Easter Sunday Celebration: We will have Hospitality time 9:30–10:30am in the Fellowship Hall, at 10:00am there will be an Easter Egg Hunt for the kids and Worship service will begin at 10:30am. (Please note there will be no Sunday School classes.)

Gospel Reading - John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet

¹³ It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ² The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³ Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴ so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵ After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

⁷ Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

⁸ "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

⁹ "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

¹⁰ Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." ¹¹ For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

¹² When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. ¹³ "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶ Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial

³¹ Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

³³ "My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

³⁴ "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."



Maundy Thursday



Rev. Jeff Bandy

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

Office: (937) 372-7601 ext. 13

pastorjeff@fcum.org ♦ www.fcum.org

Like and Follow us on Facebook @ FCUM.Xenia

We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation

Maundy Thursday, April 2, 2026

Worship Team

Ushers

Chad Mossing, Will Mossing,
Gerald Mahan, Jim Osburn

Greeter

Elaine Grayson

Liturgist

Sandy Pramer

Organist

Carol Stewart

Director of Music

Teri Gray

Handbell Choir Director

Jim McPeek