

### Upcoming Meetings & Events

- ◆ 3/19: Men's Bible Study (7:15)  
Women's Bible Study (1:00)  
Finance Meeting (5:30)
- ◆ 3/20: Wednesday Nighter (5:30)
- ◆ 3/21: ELC Board Meeting (5:30)
- ◆ 3/23: Easter Egg-Stravaganza,  
Food Pantry/Clare's Closet
- ◆ 3/24: Palm Sunday
- ◆ 3/26: Outreach Meeting (5:30),  
Circle of Hope (6:30)
- ◆ 3/28: Holy Week Service
- ◆ 3/31: Easter Breakfast (9:00),  
Worship (10:30)
- ◆ 4/6: UMW Brunch

The Circle of Hope will meet Tuesday, March 26 at 6:30 in the parlor.

First Church will host Camp in the Community the week of July 1-5. Camp is open to rising kindergarten-8th grade. Registration is now open at [www.campinthecommunity.org/host/johnsoncity](http://www.campinthecommunity.org/host/johnsoncity)

**SAVE THE DATE!** On April 6, there will be a UMW brunch hosted by the Circle of Friends. More details will be provided soon.

### Food Pantry Items of the Month

For the month of March, the Food Pantry is collecting items to supplement food for our neighbors in need. The needed items are peanut butter, cereal, and toilet paper. Donations can be placed in the boxes in the narthex and the connector.

Prayer Cover: Ben Peeples

### Prayer List

Randy & Pat Adams  
Family of Charlee Blackburn  
Laurie Blayney  
Paul Bowman & family  
Bob & Carla Brown  
Catherine Cartus  
Karl Cavanary  
Vernon Crawford  
Eddie Deakins  
Jackie Denny  
Paul Duncan  
Phyllis Eckerson  
Vivian Eckerson  
Tom Eorgan  
Clint Ferguson  
Cecilia Fleckstein  
The Foster Family  
Jim Furches  
Betty & Earl Gouge  
Casey Hamrick  
Nora & Tony Haynes  
Family of Anakin Hoyle  
Scott Huff  
Keith & Jean Jones  
Joyce Josie  
Deni Kiehl  
Tammy Kosa  
Linda Kostreva  
Karen Martin  
Bob & Wanda May  
Kent & Midge Merrill  
Jim & CarolAnne Milliken  
Tom Palmer  
Ruby Payne  
Bob & Athena Peeples  
Carolyn Peeples  
Bonnie Sampson  
Bobby Seay  
Family of Greg Simmons  
John Staley  
Mike Terry  
J.D. Toth  
John & Susan Trotter  
Steve Uelhof  
Anna Grace West  
Manna House



## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

### WORSHIP GUIDE

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

**Prelude** "Fairest Lord Jesus" Arr. Kenton Coe

**First Things First**

**Call to worship**

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord at all times.

**People: God is with us wherever we go.**

Leader: Draw near to the Lord and do not be afraid.

**People: God welcomes us with open arms.**

Leader: Be at peace in God's presence.

**People: We will trust the Lord and praise God's name forever.**

**Invocation**

**Hymn of Praise** "Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know" #163

**Confession and Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: Holy God, help us to reconsider the standards by which we live-

**People: to examine the values we condone and the values we condemn.**

Leader: In scripture, You pronounce blessings upon the poor and hungry.

**People: Forgive us when we, by choice or policy, withhold their basic needs.**

Leader: You pronounce blessings upon the weeping and forsaken.

**People: Forgive us when we fail to notice the pain and isolation others endure.**

Leader: You pronounce woes upon the greedy and pretentious.

**People:** Forgive us when we lust after riches and power.

Leader: You pronounce doom on the proud and deceitful.

**People:** Forgive us when we are not humble and compromise truth.

Leader: Impress on our hearts the values You desire for us.

**People:** Help us to embrace the values You favor, that we might grow in faith and live in love.

*(a time of silent prayer and reflection)*

Leader: God hears our prayers, has mercy on us, and leads us on our journey of faith. My friends, hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

**People:** In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and made whole.  
Thanks be to God! AMEN

Old Testament Reading Psalm 20

Morning Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Hymn of Reflection "Hail to the Lord's Anointed" #203, v. 1, 3, & 4

Mission Moment

Doxology #95

Gospel Reading Mark 14:1-11

Anthem "I Need Thee Every Hour"

Sermon "Blessing at Bethany" Rev. Jodie Ihfe

Hymn of Commitment "Be Thou My Vision" #451

Benediction

Benediction Response

Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise;  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;  
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
Great God of heaven, my treasure thou art

### Wednesday Night Fellowship

Program: The Way: walking in the Footsteps of Jesus

Menu: ham, broccoli, potatoes, salad, bread, dessert

Dinner begins at 5:30 and classes begin at 6:30.

Please make reservations by **Monday, 3/18 at noon** by returning the slip found in the pew pads or by contacting the church office.

First Church is "hosting" Family Promise the week of March 18-24. This means we pray for the families, collect the items they need, and support the ongoing work of Family Promise. We are collecting heavy duty mesh laundry bags, healthy snacks, free & clear laundry detergent, and plastic plates and eating utensils. Donations can be placed in boxes marked Family Promise in the narthex or connector. Financial donations can be made through FUMC or directly to Family Promise.

March 24 is Palm Sunday. The children of the church will lead us in a Palm Processional. If you would like for your child(ren) to participate, meet in the narthex at 10:15 that day.

Join us on Thursday, March 28 for dinner at 5:30 in the fellowship hall followed by a Maundy Thursday worship service at 6:30 in the sanctuary. (Wednesday Night Fellowship will not meet on March 27.)

On Easter Sunday, March 31, breakfast will be served from 9:00-10:15 followed by Easter worship at 10:30. The Easter Breakfast has traditionally been hosted by the men of the church. If you would like to help cook and serve, contact Drew Cradic or Pastor Gary.

The annual community Easter Celebration and Egg Hunt will be Saturday, March 23 from 10:00-12:00. Donations of candy or other treats to fill eggs are needed. Volunteers are also needed for setup, clean up, and during the event. The Outreach Team will have sign up sheets.

*Offering boxes are located at the front and rear of the sanctuary and in the narthex.*