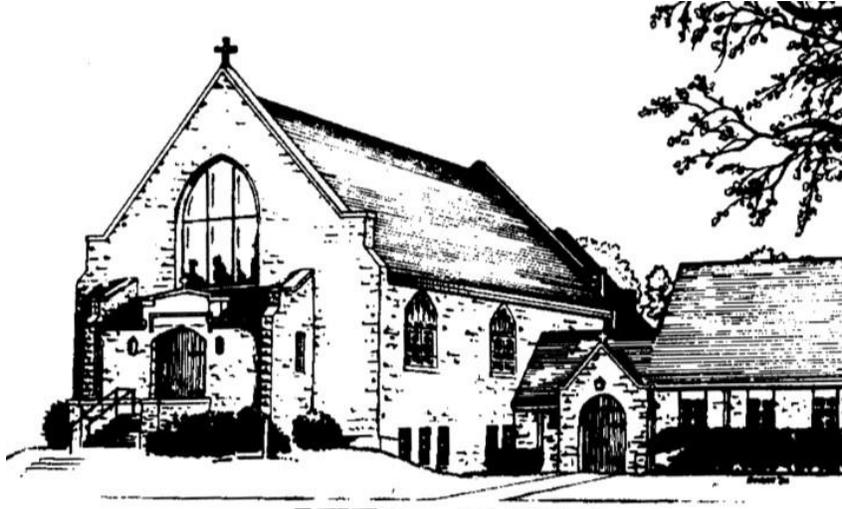


Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

P.O. Box 2255

Batesville, Arkansas, 72503

stpaulsbatesville.org

482 E. Main St.

870-793-2203

Today's Ministers

<i>Celebrant:</i>	Rev.Carolyn Adhola
<i>Eucharistic Minister:</i>	Paul Hance
<i>Ushers:</i>	Mike & Rhonda Mundy
<i>Organist & Choir Director:</i>	Kristian Ameigh
<i>Technical Support:</i>	David Taverner
<i>Altar Guild:</i>	Nikki & Brenda Bittle

This Week's Community Meal (3/18/2026): Team Mundy/Bittle

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

The Word of God

Opening Hymn: 149 *Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church*

Unison or harmony

1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your Church
2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,
3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,

walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,
so dai - ly liv - ing to your way of love,
you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;

led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,
and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,

moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:
know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:
glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flower,

far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.
so we are dead and live with you in God.
so in the Fa - ther's glo - ry shall we wake.

Today's service begins on Page 355 in the Book of Common Prayer.

The people standing (as able), the Celebrant says

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;

People His mercy endures for ever.

The Celebrant says

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Kyrie (Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us) S91

Celebrant and People

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.
Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Old Testament

1 Samuel 16:1-13

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall

anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the Lord.” But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23

1 The LORD is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.

3 He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.

6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Epistle

Ephesians 5:8-14

A reading from the letter to the Ephesians.

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light— for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,

and Christ will shine on you.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn 30: *At The Cross*

vs 1-3 only

30 At the Cross

1. A - las! and did my Sav - ior bleed, and
2. Was it for crimes that I have done, He
3. Well might the sun in dark - ness hide, and
4. Thus might I hide my blush - ing face while
5. But drops of tears can ne'er re - pay the

1. did my Sov' - reign die? Would He de - vote that
2. groaned up - on the tree? A - maz - ing pit - y!
3. shut its glo - ries in; when God, the might - y
4. His dear cross ap - pears; dis - solve my heart in
5. debt of love I owe; Here, Lord, I give my -

1. sa - cred head for sin - ners such as I?
2. Grace un - known! And love be - yond de - gree!
3. mak - er, died for His own crea - ture's sin.
4. thank - ful - ness, and melt mine eyes to tears.
5. self a - way; 'tis all that I can do.

At the cross, at the cross, where I first - saw the light, and the
bur - den of my heart rolled a - way; it was there by faith I re -

ceived my - sight, and now I am hap - py all the day.

Words: Isaac Watts, 1707; refrain Ralph E. Hudson, 1885
Music: Ralph E. Hudson, 1885

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near

him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

Verse 4 & 5 only of Sequence Hymn sung

Sermon

Rev. Carolyn Adhola

Nicene Creed *found on page 358 in the Book of Common Prayer*

All stand, as the People and Celebrant say together.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the People, Form I— found on page 383 in the Book of Common Prayer

With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Lord, have mercy.”

For the peace from above, for the loving kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this city Batesville, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who travel on land, on water, or in the air [or through outer space], let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

We pray especially for everyone on our St. Paul’s prayer list and all our intercessions for family & friends.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, especially David Carpenter and Ann Rhodes, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace.

Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of St. Paul's and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

To thee, O Lord our God.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

CONFESSION OF SIN (BCP p. 359)

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

Peace

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Announcements

Declaration and Promise of New Vestry Members

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY SENTENCE (BCP p. 376)

The Celebrant says

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.

Psalm 50:14

Offertory: *Sent In Grace*

by Kristian Ameigh, lyrics by the Choir of St. Paul's

WORDS OF INSTITUTION (BCP P. 362)

The people stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

EPICLESIS (BCP p. 363)

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

The Celebrant then continues

THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP p. 363)

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass 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 and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

FRACTION ANTHEM (BCP p. 364)

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
therefore let us keep the feast.

Agnus Dei (S163)

BCP p. 407

Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

The Celebrant may say the following Invitation (BCP p. 364)

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Anthem: *Let Us Break Bread Together On Our Knees*

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (BCP p. 365)

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

BLESSING (BCP p. 366)

The Priest blesses the people, saying

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

Post Communion Hymn 671: *Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound*

1 A - maz - ing grace! how sweet the sound, that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his
4 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
*5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

1 saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
2 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
3 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
4 have al - rea - dy come; 'tis grace that brought me
5 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

1 now am found, was blind but now I see.
2 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
3 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
4 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
5 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

The melody may be sung in canon at distances of either two or three beats.

Dismissal (BCP p. 366)

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Organ Postlude

This Sunday's altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of Rhonda Mundy's upcoming birthday by Mike Mundy.

Upcoming Events & News

Easter Gifts: Easter will be on April 5th this year. Memorial and thanksgiving gifts need to be received by March 30th to be included in our Easter bulletins.

Episcopal Basket Weaving: Mike Schmidt will lead a class on how to make palm crosses for Palm Sunday. A light breakfast will be served in the Parish Hall. All ages are welcome to come, and it will begin at 8:30 am and last until 100 palms are made. Come out and enjoy the fun!

Altar Flowers: The next available dates are April 19th & 26th and May 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th & 31st. If you would like to reserve any of these dates, please contact Rhonda Mundy.

Forward Day by Day: The May, June, and July issue of Forward Day by Day has arrived and will be available for you to pick up this Sunday in the Narthex and in the office during the week. We will also mail you a copy if you wish – please call or email Katie if you would like her to mail one to you.

ECW Meeting Update: ECW will begin meetings after Easter season. Watch for upcoming dates in the announcements soon!

Lenten Lunches: Lenten Lunches will be held again this year on Wednesdays at noon with a soup lunch and devotional.

- March 18th at Lyon College in the Scottish Heritage Building with devotional by Rev. Tom Frase of First United Methodist Church
- March 25th at St. Paul's with devotional by Rev. Dr. Jim Freeman of First Presbyterian Church

Adult Sunday School: Adult Sunday School is reading Adam Hamilton book, *The Lord's Prayer*, and we will continue meeting at 9:15 each Sunday morning in the Parish Hall. Come see what it's all about!!

Mark Your Calendar:

- **Children's Sunday School:** Sunday, March 15th at 9:30 am
- **Care Team Meeting:** Sunday, March 22nd after Coffee Hour
- **Adult Sunday School:** Sundays, 9:15 am in the Parish Hall
- **Coffee Hour:** After the service, everyone is invited to the Parish House (two lefts at the bottom of the steps) for refreshments and fellowship
- **The Chosen Meetings:** Every Monday from 3:30-5:00 pm and every Tuesday from 3:30-5:00 pm
- **Dementia Caregivers Support Group:** April 9th at 11:00 am & April 14th at 2:00 pm at the First Presbyterian Church in the Parlor

St. Paul's Prayer List:

Intercessions: Jamie Bridgers, Jim & Deb Johnson, Patricia Smith, Joan Davidson, Matt Stephenson, John & Susan Dempsey, Ellen Massey, Bill Olson, Cindy Perkey, Isabelle Tenace, Dana & Bob Teichart, Mabelle Christiansen, Martha Healey, Mike Mundy, Natalie Molineaux, and Marilyn Smith.

Intercessions for Family & Friends: Kitten Lawless, DeAnna McCool, Robin Goertz, Gerry Goertz & Jinny Goertz, Tom & Kathy Celestine, David Smith, Lucy Harris, Adam M, Charlotte, Daniel & Steven King, Sherry Snow, Mark Higginbotham, Danny Yeager, Shannon Bohnert, Micah Jordon, Rodney Brady, John V. Miller, Ben Handford, Jim Reynolds, Peggy Comer, Kristin, Georgina Mosser, Kristi Smith, Raymond Staggs, Gary & Phylis Bratton, Connie Barnett, Q, James & Lois Work, Wilma, Mitchell Dobson, Sharon Runyan, Eleanor, Shelly & Heath Wooldridge, Linda Brewer, Sarah Mosser, Nicole Haskins, Linda Healey Morgan, Sandra Coe, the Teague Family, Kera Cook & family, Jacqueline Levy, Gina, Linda, Autumn & Our Father's Table, Hank Pearce, Sharon Santangelo and Ellie & Clarke.

Memoriam: David Carpenter and Ann Rhodes.

Birthdays: Rhonda Mundy (3/17), Susan Dempsey (3/17), and Laura Hance (3/19).

Ministers Serving this Sunday

Celebrant: Rev. Carolyne Adhola

Lay Eucharistic Minister (8:00): Sarah Harmon

Lay Eucharistic Minister (10:30): Paul Hance

Lector: Brenda Bittle

Ushers: Mike & Rhonda Mundy

Technical Support: David Taverner

Coffee Hour: Sally Fittsizer

Altar Guild: Nikki & Brenda Bittle

Community Meal (3/18/2026): Team Mundy/Bittle

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday: 8:00am-12:00 pm

The office is closed on Friday