

First Sunday of Lent

February 22, 2026

11 am.

"Everyone seems to be sticking up for Caesar - 'Render to Caesar the things which Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's . It's about time somebody stuck up for God.'" Ammon Hennacy

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

CANDLE LIGHTING/ BELL / PRELUDE

GREETINGS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

SONG OF PREPARATION: Pastor Bill

*CALL TO WORSHIP: (Responsively)

L: Come away from the gods of your own creation to worship the living God.

P: We leave our anxiety behind us, and look with confidence to the future.

L: Turn from your preoccupation with those things which demand your time and attention, away from God.

P: We shall find a way to serve the Lord, and rise above our fears.

L: Be not afraid, for the Lord is your shield, and great is the reward to those who find comfort there.

ALL: The Lord gathers us like a mother hen. The Lord is our God!

*HYMN: *"When I Survey The Wondrous Cross"* (NCH) # 224

*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Loving God, help us remember that Your call to prayer is an invitation. Awaken us to Your already present gift of mercy, grace, and healing love. Slow every impulse of ego, every urgency of schedule, every lie of self-sufficiency, and every other temptation that leads us away from this gift You continually offer. Form instead, a steadfastness born of Your saturating Spirit of renewal and rest. Let it ready us for every demand of today, and every day. Yes, ready and renew us for this is Your Holy call - to love You and our neighbors, with hearts made whole by You. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

* SHARING GOOD NEWS:

L: Do not be afraid: Christ claims us, and Christ dwells with us. because, God loves us so much.

* RESPONSE: (to be sung)

Lord, you are, more precious, than silver. Lord, you are, more costly than

A MOMENT WITH THE CHILDREN Pastor Bill

SPECIAL MUSIC: A Violin performance by Rev. Dr. David Long- Higgins

MESSAGE: "Spirit Led- Wilderness" Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

A TIME FOR PRAYER:

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer/ Silent Prayer /Lord's Prayer (debts / debtors)

Prayer Response

A TIME FOR SHARING:

Friendship Folders

Mission Moment: - Blankets Of Love -

A Reminder to send Gifts , Tithes, and Offerings to:

First UCC Church, P.O. Box 253, Austinburg, OH. 44010

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

Great Shield and Defender, you visited Abraham, Moses, and Gideon. Each of these forbearers were summoned to accomplish something with vigor. We join now with all who have gone before us as pilgrims on a journey. Today we pause to present our offerings, and to dedicate our lives in faithful sacrifice to your Spirit. Amen.

A Doxology (Black) # 780

PASSING THE PEACE

L: May the peace of the Lord, be with you.

P: And also with you.

*HYMN: "Sent Forth By God's Blessing" (NCH/Black) # 76

*BENEDICTION:

(Then all are invited to sing)

Blest be the tie that binds, our hearts in Christian love. The Fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.



MINISTER:

Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins

Rev. David Long Higgins has been the Conference Minister for the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ since 2018. This is our Conference, and it contains 308 congregations throughout the State of Ohio, plus bits of West Virginia, and Kentucky. In his role as Conference Min-

ister, Dave has been called to facilitate a process to strengthen our covenantal collaboration between congregations, associations, institutions of higher education, health and human service ministries, ecumenical and interfaith engagements, as well as partnerships local and global. Dave's passion is to see individuals and churches grow in their sense of the alive presence of God and all that this calls forth to be signs of good news in the world, so that all may flourish. Dave has served in a wide variety of capacities throughout the United Church of Christ. He is a graduate of Heidelberg University with a Bachelor of Arts in psychology and music (violin performance). His Master of Divinity was earned at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities in New Brighton, Minnesota. He is also a graduate of the Wellstreams Spiritual Direction Program of the Spirituality Network of Columbus (Ohio). Prior to beginning his role with the Conference, Dave was a parish pastor for over 30 years. Dave and his wife Beth, who is also an ordained UCC clergy person, have two adult children, Andrew and Hannah. When not on the ministry trail Dave enjoys movies, playing violin and guitar, bicycling, travel, writing poetry/prayers, and photography.

**THE HEARTLAND CONFERENCE'S
PORTAL TO MINISTRY RESOURCES!**



Descant

2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing, the

Unison

1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, our true faith con - fess - ing, the
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er liv - ing, the



tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face. Our faith ev - er



peo - ple of God from this dwell-ing take leave. The ser - vice is
tasks of our ev - ery - day life we will face. Our faith ev - er



shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em - brac - ing God's chil - dren of



end - ed, O now be ex - tend - ed the fruits of our wor - ship in
shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em - brac - ing God's chil - dren of

each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with
 all who be - lieve. The seed of the teach - ing, re -
 each tribe and race. With your grace you feed us, with

your light now lead us, u - nite us as one in this
 cep - tive hearts reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for
 your light now lead us, u - nite us as one in this

life that we share. Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks -
 God and for all. God's grace did in - vite us, and love shall u -
 life that we share. Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks -

giv - ing give hon - or to Christ and that name which we bear.
 nite us to work for God's realm and to an - swer the call.
 giv - ing give hon - or to Christ and that name which we bear.



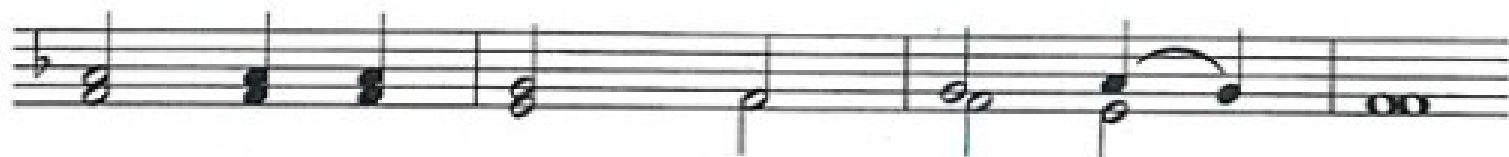
1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross,
2 For - bid it, then, that I should boast,
3 From sa - cred head, from hands, and feet,
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine,



on which the Christ of glo - ry died,
save in the death of Christ, my God;
sor - row and love flow min - gled down!
that were a pres - ent far too small;



My rich - est gain I count but loss,
All the vain things that charm me most
Did e'er such love and sor - row meet,
Love so a - maz - ing, so di - vine,



and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
I sac - ri - fice them to Christ's blood.
or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?

In Our Prayers

Please remember in your prayers: Rev. Allison Milligan, Karen Taylor, Maranda Rabenold, Randy Tackett, Sandy Fitzhugh Wagner, Rob Harrison, Zach Wilson, Jinny Young, Tony Schommer, Pat Yarbrough, Kris Tetrick, Caroline Holden, Charlotte Carter, Margie Heino, Colleen Carrahar, Clayton Warner

Weekley Prayer: Pastor Mike Cole and out friends with the United Church 0 Geneva (UCC/ABC)

Please keep our service members in prayer: Robert "Nick" Grandy, John Jackam, Dan Jackam, Andrew White and all our service members.

~~~~ Calendar Notes ~~~~

Sunday. Feb 22nd : 11 am Worship Service

Tues. Feb 24th: 12 pm Bible Study

4 pm Yoga

8 pm AA

Wend. Feb 25th: 6 pm Lenten Supper and Study at Jefferson

7 pm: Game Night

Fri. Feb 27th: 8 pm GRMC

Sat Feb 28th: 9 am Yoga

Sunday. March 1st: 11 am Worship Service,

First United Church of Christ

Austinburg, Ohio

February 22nd 2026

Rev. Bill Terry

Musician: Gary Yost

Guest Pastor: Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins

Choir Director: Bridget Sherman

Stewardship: Please mail in your offerings to P.O. Box 253, Austinburg OH 44010. You also can sign-up for online giving at app.easytithes.com/App/Giving/austinburgucc or *sign up via our website.*

Please maintain your stewardship so we can continue to reach out in Christ's name. Thank you!

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Previous Sunday attendance: 34

Total Online Attendance for the Feb 8th service is 22

Check out our church website at austinburgfirstucc.org Visit our Facebook page at facebook.com/AustinburgFirstUCC or email austinburgucc@windstream.net

Pastor Bill's Contact Information

Rev. William Terry ~ (Landline) (440) 335-4031 ~
gintex4@twc.com

Office Hours:

Office Phone: 440-275-5125

Tues, Thurs, Fri: 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Welcome all ages, races, genders and orientations – because we welcome all who love the Lord with no exceptions. Please keep spreading the word we have something to share.

Red Wagon Donations for the Geneva Food

Pantry for February: ***tuna & toilet paper for the food pantry***

Donations for the Blessing Box can go directly into the Box by our back door. Personal toiletries and feminine Hygiene products are always needed.

Bible Study: has resumed please join us on Tuesday afternoon at 12 pm in the Conference Room.

Yoga Classes: will be on Tuesdays from 4:00 pm to 7:30 pm and Saturdays from 9:00 am to 11 am in the Upper Annex

Blanket The World With Love: As of last Sunday donations have been made for ___ blankets for Church World Service. They will be sent to those who have lost homes through natural disasters, the homeless and refugees who have arrived in the US, and other places they are needed through out the world, providing warmth, hope and love. You can still send you donation for a blanket to the church.

Game Nights: Game nights will be on Feb 25th and March 11th, 25th. We will be playing Mexican Train a Dominos game.

Free Community Dinner: Thank you to everyone who helped make the free community dinner run smoothly. To preparing the food, to serving and cleaning up and especially to those that came and enjoyed the delicious supper.