

Bethany United Church of Christ
February 22, 2026
First Sunday in Lent

As you prepare your heart for worship it might be helpful to read through the call to worship and the prayer of confession and think about them.

-
- **Prelude and Bell Ringing**
- **Announcements, Joys and Concerns**

Call to Worship (from Psalm 32)

Leader: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

Congregation: **Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,**

L: and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

C: For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

L: I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity;

C: I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

L: Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found.

C: You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble.

L: Many are the sorrows of the wicked,

C: but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.

L: Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous,

C: and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

Prayer of Invocation

*Hymn of Praise #310 “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

- **Call to Confession**

Prayer of Confession

Heavenly Father, forgive us. We sin far more than we realize. We sin at times when we do not think carefully about what we say or do. We sin by doing things we do not realize are sins. We sometimes forget that something we do or say is a sin. We are sometimes tempted without being aware of it. Forgive us, and fill us with your Holy Spirit. Your grace for us is more than we know. If you were not a God who loves and forgives us as you do, we would all be lost. Help us to follow Jesus more faithfully. We pray this in his name, confident in your love and grace and not in ourselves. Amen.

Silent Confession

- **Assurance of Pardon**

*GLORIA PATRI

Invitation to the Children (Jesus Loves the Little Children)

Children's time

Pre-K to Grade 2 children dismiss to church entryway for Sunday School

Scripture

Old Testament lesson – Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

New Testament lesson – Matthew 4:1-11

Sermon “Hidden Temptations”

*Hymn of Response #478 (SS) “I Need Thee Every Hour”

Prayers of the People

- **Lord's Prayer**

- **Offering, Offertory**

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn of Commitment #17 (SS) “Come, Thou Fount”

*Charge and Benediction

Amen! We go forth to serve.

*Choral Response: “God Be with You” #177 (SS) (v. 1)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY - Rev. Darwin Smith

Thank you to all who attended, brought snacks and games to, and helped with Family Fun Night last Sunday!

Women's Fellowship will meet Wednesday, March 4, at 1:30 p.m. The program will be a practice for the World Day of Prayer. Delinda Mulch and Tami Roskamp are hostesses.

The World Day of Prayer will be held here at Bethany UCC on Friday, March 6, sponsored by Women's Fellowship. Registration will be at 9:30 a.m. with brunch at 10 a.m. and a worship service to follow. The program was prepared by the ladies of Nigeria and focuses on ladies' leadership with women taking part in the service. Anyone who is interested may attend.

March-April Upper Rooms are available in the entryway.

SAVE THE DATES:

- World Day of Prayer: Friday, March 6, 9:30 a.m.
- Retreat House Service: Sunday, July 12, 10 a.m.
- All-Day Bible School: Monday, July 13
- Women's Event: Saturday, August 22, 10 a.m.
- Men's Event: Sunday, November 8, 6 p.m.
- Women's Bible Study: Mondays, 9:30 a.m.
- Confirmation Class & Sunday School: Sundays, 9 a.m.

Lance Roskamp is greeter today, Jared Roskamp next week. Thanks to the greeter, Rev. Smith, the musician, AV tech - all who helped with the service.

WELCOME ALL! If you are a visitor, please sign the guest register and come again.

Bethany United Church of Christ

848 E Co Rd 70, Mendon, IL 62351 | bethanyucc-tioga.org

