

# THE SANCTUARY

*An open and affirming church where God is still speaking.*

## MARCH 2026

This Lenten season, we remember that no terrain—inner or outer—is beyond God’s reach. We trust that barren places can bloom with justice and renewal, that we never truly walk alone, and that the wilderness is sacred sanctuary.

In March, we will welcome back Reverend Sonny Graves to lead our worship for back to back Sundays! We will also get to know Reverend Susan Shands, a lifelong UCC member who works primarily in healthcare chaplaincy, with a particular focus on end-of-life spiritual care and grief tending.

Office hours will continue to be Fridays from 11 AM to 1 PM. For all other inquiries outside of office hours, the office can be reached remotely via email. For pastoral care needs, please contact Moderator Krista Kim.

*See you in church.*

## BEYOND THE SANCTUARY

*Ways We're Gathering This Month*

✦ MONDAY, 3.9

**Church Council Meeting**  
7:00 PM

✦ WEDNESDAY, 3.18

**Spiritually Seeking  
Book Club**  
6:00 PM

✦ SUNDAY, 3.25

**Still Speaking Prayer Circle**  
9:15 AM

*Please note: Lenten Soup  
Supper and Devotional  
Study will be announced in  
the weekly announcements.*

## AS ALWAYS...

Keep up with our news via our email announcements! If you do not receive our emails, please contact [officecucc@gmail.com](mailto:officecucc@gmail.com).

**As a reminder, nobody from our church will ever solicit money or gifts via email - if you receive a request that seems suspicious, please reach out to the office.**

## WORSHIP CALENDAR

*Sunday worship begins weekly at 10 AM.  
Childcare is available and Sunday School  
is in session weekly unless otherwise  
noted in the announcements.*

✦✦ SUNDAY, MARCH 1  
*Communion Sunday*

**Reverend Dr. Barb Wells**  
*Liturgist: Holly Gould*  
*Steward: Krista Kim*

✦✦ SUNDAY, MARCH 8  
*Anderson Family Baptism*

**Reverend Kathleen Remund**  
*Liturgist: Bavery/Thies*  
*Steward: Kathleen Matson*

✦✦ SUNDAY, MARCH 15  
**Reverend Sonny Graves**  
*Liturgist: Reilly Family*  
*Steward: Tracy Tronnes*

✦✦ SUNDAY, MARCH 22  
**Reverend Sonny Graves**  
*Liturgist: Tracy Tronnes*  
*Steward: \*volunteer needed\**

✦✦ SUNDAY, MARCH 29  
*Palm Sunday*  
**Reverend Susan Shrand**  
*Liturgist: Krista Kim*  
*Steward: \*volunteer needed\**

*Please note: Live streaming service  
has been postponed - please contact  
Krista Kim if you or someone you  
know relies on the live stream.*

# MARCH THEME: WALKING INTO THE WILDERNESS

From Director of Ministry & Education Jill Sanderson

## When you hear the word wilderness, what comes to mind?

For many of us, it brings up images of something bleak or lonely...isolating. A place of scarcity, danger, or getting lost. I've often felt that way too. Jesus spending forty days in the wilderness toward the end of his life has always sounded stark and unsettling to me, a time set apart that feels heavy and a little frightening.

*And yet, throughout the Bible, people are led into the wilderness again and again.* Not because God has abandoned them, but because the wilderness is a place where encountering God seems almost inevitable. Away from routine, noise, and the familiar patterns of everyday life, people find themselves listening more closely to God, to one another, and to what truly matters.

This month in worship, we will walk through wilderness stories in scripture and walk alongside those who entered these spaces intentionally, including Jesus. Together, we'll explore what it means to step away from the material world of habit and certainty and into a deeper, more ancient connection with God. The wilderness may still feel uncomfortable or uncertain, but it is also a place where clarity, hope, and transformation can begin to take shape.



*Wherever you find yourself on the journey, you are invited to walk with us this season.*



## UCC LENTEN STUDY: "OUTGROW"

Led by Moderator Krista Kim, this continuing education opportunity will explore a daily devotional to guide us through the days of Lent, Maundy Thursday, Palm Sunday, and Easter. Each day includes a scripture reading, reflection and prayer, from the first day of Lent through Easter Sunday.

The group will invite you into the discipline of Lent, a season in which life's trials do not relent but neither does our growth in the Spirit. Weekly meetings will be announced via email - please contact Krista Kim for more details or meeting date inquiries.

## HELP WANTED:

*Are you being called to serve?*

- Meals on Wheels delivery begins March 23 and ends April 5. Meal delivery takes less than an hour and is a wonderful way to give back to our community. Contact Jill Sanderson to sign up to assist us in this important initiative.
- Sunday Stewards needed: help us greet our congregation and assist in the Sunday service. Contact Krista Kim with questions about this simple but important way to serve.

# SUNDAY SCHOOL

In March, our children will explore the theme Walking into the Wilderness as we journey through Lent together. In the Bible, the wilderness is a place where people slow down, ask honest questions, and learn how to keep going when things feel unfamiliar. This month, children will discover that the wilderness is not a place we walk alone; God is present and near. Each week, we'll focus on a different part of the journey:

## **Bold Blessing**

Children will explore how God's presence goes with us into new or uncertain places, using wind, movement, and play to notice that God is close even when we can't always see it.

## **Thirsty Voices**

Through stories and hands-on water activities, children will learn that water is a basic need and that it's important to ask for what we need and care about whether others have enough.

## **Breath of Hope**

Using the story The Day Humpty Dumpty Got Back Up Again, children will practice how to keep going when things feel broken, discovering simple ways hope can return one breath, one step at a time.

## **Palm/Passion Sunday: Still Walking**

As we wave palms and walk with Jesus into Holy Week, children will explore how joy and courage can exist together, and how we continue walking with love even when the road changes.

## **Throughout the month, children will engage in:**

- storytelling and picture books
- movement-based games and imaginative play
- sensory activities with wind, water, and breath
- simple art projects they can take home

*Our goal is to help children experience Lent as a season of curiosity, honesty, and gentle faith learning that even in uncertain places, God walks with us.*

## OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM: BIG PRACTICES FOR LITTLE ONES



**Do one kindness for nature: put out water for birds, pick up litter, or care for a plant.**

*Reflection: How did I help today? How did it feel to care?*

Prayer: Kind God, help me be gentle with the earth and all living things.



**Find signs of new life; draw or tell someone about them!**

*Reflection: What new life do I see? What feels new or happy in me?*

Prayer: God of new life, thank you for growing things - and growing me.



**Pick up a fallen leaf or stick, and think of something you want to let go of: (worry, a mistake, fear) and drop it back to the ground.**

*Reflection: What did I imagine letting go? How did I feel after?*

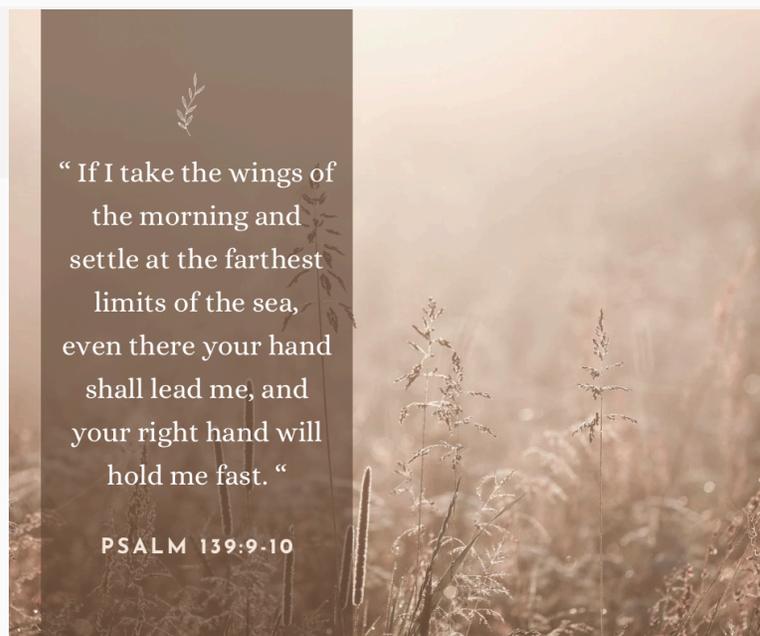
Prayer: Loving God, help me feel light and free.

# TRY THESE AT HOME: FAITH BEYOND THE SANCTUARY

*Worship does not end when we leave the sanctuary. It travels with us— into quiet mornings and restless nights. This take-home collection of prayer practices and simple activities is an invitation to notice the Holy in everyday life and create small spaces of faithful connection wherever you are.*

## **One way to keep Lent this year is simple and ancient: step outside.**

You don't need to find sweeping landscapes or embark on distant pilgrimages; the holy often meets us in the ordinary. When we commune with nature in this Lenten season, we can notice a familiar pattern: letting go, waiting, trusting and returning. When we step into this rhythm, we remember that transformation is rarely sudden. It is patient, communal, and often unseen. We remember that God is still speaking—not only in sanctuaries and scriptures, but in wind through branches, in thawing soil, in the resilient turning of seasons.



## INTO THE WILDERNESS:

*Simple and mindful practices in nature*

- Walk the same path each week, slowly, and notice what changes.
- Gather a small stone, feather, or twig as a reminder of your Lenten intention.
- Find a quiet, safe place and let silence be your teacher for a few minutes
- Look for new life: green shoots, birds nests, longer daylight
- Listen for layers of sound: near/far, loud/soft

# LENTEN REFLECTIONS FOR JOURNALING & PRAYER

*Take what you need, leave the rest.*

## ✦✦ **Where in my life do I feel untended or uncertain?**

*Wilderness Christ, you met truth in lonely places. As I enter the quiet, strip away what is false in me and return me to what is real.*

## ✦✦ **What am I ready to release or loosen? What have I been carrying that is not mine to hold?**

*God of endings that feed beginnings, nothing you create is wasted. Receive what I release today, and compost it into life.*

## ✦✦ **What pain in the world am I noticing more clearly? How can I respond gently and concretely?**

*Tender Christ, you moved toward suffering with love. Soften what has hardened in me; let mercy flow again.*

## ✦✦ **What feels newly alive in me? What values or callings are emerging?**

*Creator of returning light, you are always making all things new. Grow in me what the world needs—courage, joy, and love.*

## ONLINE GIVING

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## BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Eric Kim
- 5 David Kim
- 12 Mary Hays
- 12 Brent Reilly
- 15 Drake Smerchek
- 16 Adley Tronnes
- 19 Ruth Webb
- 22 Cammi Gould
- 23 Andres Dominguez
- 29 Paige Ninner

## PRAYERS

*If you have a prayer request, you're invited to share it with us.*

Requests may be submitted via the church office, during Sunday worship, or a prayer request form located in the sanctuary.

Prayers can be included beyond our worship service in newsletters and announcements upon request so we can lift one another up in prayer as a faith community.

In the event of a need for urgent pastoral care, Moderator Krista Kim or the church office are equipped to facilitate communication with former Interim Pastor Tiff Bates.

*"Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you."*

-St. Augustine

## THANK YOU

Special thank you to our Moderator Krista Kim for helping our worship services flow smoothly so far this year! We are so grateful for all of our worship volunteers, treat bringers and all who offer to help serve our congregation: inside and outside of the church.

*Thank you for reading! If you would like your newsletters delivered to your home address, please reach out to [officecucc@gmail.com](mailto:officecucc@gmail.com)*

## CHURCH LEADERSHIP

**Moderator:** Krista Kim  
**Ministry/Education:** Jill Sanderson  
**Vice-Moderator/Treasurer:** Tracy Tronnes  
**Worship Life:** Mary Lou Behring  
**Trustees:** Bruce Morris

## CONTACT

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📍 114 N. Henry St.  
Edgerton, WI 53534

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE HOURS:  
Fridays from 11 AM to 1 PM

\*Please note: Our member and leadership contact information is kept private from documents viewable by the general public. If you are a member and would like to get in touch with a member of leadership, please contact the office.



# CHURCH COUNCIL

Monday, January 12 2026

**PRESENT:** Krista Kim, Jill Sanderson, Tracy Tronnes, Bruce Morris and Mary Lou Behring. Krista led us in prayer. The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed. Jill made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Tracy seconded it. Motion carried.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** Tracy noted that we are in a good spot financially. We finished in the black for the first time in a long time. Our budget for 2026 looks good.

**TRUSTEES:** Bruce stated that the church has already received the peanut fellowship money to the general fund. Our 4-year obligation to JAMS has been fulfilled. We have money left over from the fundraiser so a decision needs to be made if we want to go ahead with a new student for a 4-year commitment or do we just want to donate the money to the academy. We can decide this at our next meeting. Lapel mics have been purchased and new speakers have been installed in the sanctuary.

**WORSHIP LIFE TEAM:** Lynn Bates will be joining our team as well as Tammy Campbell taking on another term.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION/ MINISTRY ENGAGEMENT:** Jill asked if she should write two annual reports. One for CE and one for Education ministry. Tracy thought it would be a good idea. There was a discussion about a CE team. Jill stated the books that were ordered were a little more than she thought. The church will take care of it. She stated that she has lesson plans made up for the year so if any of the other parents would like to teach a week or two it wouldn't take much to prepare. Jill will also take the 3rd part of her lay ministry class. The church will pay the tuition. Confirmation will resume for Feb, March, April and May. The kids will be confirmed in June.

**COMMUNICATION/ADMIN:** Kathleen and other staff are not happy how our streaming service has been going. It was decided to stop streaming for now until we can find a better way to do it.

**OLD BUSINESS:** The concert that was held on Dec. 20 "Sounds of Peace" brought in \$ 650.00 and was donated to Open Doors for Refugees, Madison There was a wonderful crowd and it was well received by the community.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Matt and Krista are working on clarifying the protocol for emergency pastoral care. Tracy stated that a contract with Rev. Tiff Bates has already been signed. Krista stated she also has another pastor willing to help. The pastor's office has been emptied and cleaned out and is available for any visiting pastors. The annual meeting will be held on Jan. 25 after worship with a short break and some nourishment before the meeting. Thoughts of having a bible study for lent is being planned as well as a soup supper. Jill asked permission to use the gathering space that was painted for a spiritually seeking book club that she leads. Permission granted. Tracy has been working on the Nominating for next year. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully,

Mary Lou Behring