

SUGAR CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Sunday, March 1, 2026 ∞ Second Sunday in Lent ∞ 10:30 AM

❖ Those who are able, please stand.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

GATHERING MUSIC

Bethany

James Southbridge

WELCOME AND SHARING OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Rev. Amy Duiker

INVITATION TO SILENCE

❖ **CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)**

Cindy Kemp, liturgist

Are you weary? Is your heart broken?

Are you walking in death's shadow? Have the words, "If only..." escaped your lips?

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. Believe in me, and even now, you will live."

Let us go, that we may die with him, that we may live with him.

Let us trust. Let us worship, and receive the new life Jesus gives.

❖ **HYMN**

Sometimes a Light Surprises

GtoG #800

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

Loving and life-giving God, we confess that we doubt your power and presence in our lives and in our world. When the worst happens, when we are plagued by losses, we think that you must not be loving enough and powerful enough to rescue us, or you would have.

Forgive us for failing to understand and appreciate that you are the God who, in Jesus, walks with us, weeps with us, dies with us, and brings light and life from our darkness and death. In your mercy, enable us to trust and follow you no matter what happens.

SILENT CONFESSION

A time for self-examination and silent prayer.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (RESPONSIVE)

For God so loved the world that he gave us his only Son, that whoever believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

In Jesus Christ, sin and death cannot bind us. We are forgiven, freed, and raised to new life with him. Thanks be to God!

❖ **GLORY TO GOD**

O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High

GtoG #618 v5

*All glory to our Lord and God for love so deep, so high, so broad:
The Trinity whom we adore forever and forevermore.*

❖ **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Liturgist: The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

SPECIAL MUSIC

Nothing Else

Cody Carnes

Haylee Shuster, soloist

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

GOSPEL LESSON

John 11:1-44

Liturgist: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

When Death Meets Life

Rev. Amy Duiker

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

INVITATION TO SILENCE

❖ **HYMN**

O Christ, the Healer

GtoG #793

❖ **STATEMENT OF FAITH (UNISON)**

excerpt from A Brief Statement of Faith (PCUSA)

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, Fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Worshippers are invited to speak their name and briefly share joys and concerns as we pray with and for one another.

After each request, the pastor will say: Lord, in your mercy.

*The congregation responds: **Hear our prayer.***

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

DEDICATING OURSELVES TO THE WAY OF JESUS

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY *Tristesse*

Stanley E. Saxton

❖ DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Tune: Old Hundredth

Praise God throughout these forty days.

Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.

And praise the Spirit, who imparts God's love in Christ into our hearts. Amen.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD IN THE WORLD

❖ HYMN

Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days

GtoG #166

❖ TABLE GRACE

❖ CHARGE & BENEDICTION

❖ POSTLUDE

Exaltation

James Mansfield

Our Lenten Doxology: words by G. W. Dub Shepherd

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Church Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 8:30 am—4:30 pm





Come join this vibrant intergenerational ministry on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month in the Fellowship Hall from 5:45 – 7:45 PM.

We will explore the New Testament from A to Z using selected sections of *A is for Alabaster: 52 Reflections on the Stories of Scripture* by Anna Carter Florence.

Our next GIFT Fellowship will be on the 11th of March!

It is a fun filled time of fellowship, faith formation, and food! ALL are welcome!

A donation of \$5 per week (\$20/family) is suggested but not required.

If you are planning on attending, please sign up on the blue insert in the bulletin.



Backward Bites & Board Games

Sunday, March 8; begins after worship @ church

Pick-up at Schultz House @ 3:30 pm

Youth and friends are invited to a regressive dinner (that's a progressive dinner but with dessert first!) and a board game at each stop.

They'll start at the church with dessert and a game, head to the Martins' house for the main course and a game, and end with apps and a game at the Schultz house.

RSVP to Pam Schultz.



Youth Summer Mission Trip @ Kirkmont Center

Sunday, June 28-Friday, July 3

CHAPERONES NEEDED (ONE MALE AND ONE FEMALE)

Indicate your interest on the blue sheet in the bulletin.



We are a Matthew 25 Church

We Pledge to act boldly and compassionately to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor.

Matthew 25:31-46 calls us to actively engage in our community and the world around us. We will do this by embracing one or more of these areas of focus:

- .Building congregational vitality
- .Dismantling structural racism
- .Eradicating systemic poverty



Unmasking Christian Nationalism:

Faithful Witness in the Face of Exclusion and Harm

Saturday, March 21, 2026, 1:00-4:00 PM

[Covenant Presbyterian Church, Springboro](#) and online

The March event is for anyone involved in our community of congregations in the Presbytery and will be led by the **Rev. Marciana Bain** and **Dr. Miranda Zapor Cruz**.

Listen in to a conversation between these two friends and colleagues and bring your own questions and concerns as they help us explore and reflect on what Christian Nationalism is, what it isn't, how it operates and harms, and how any and all disciples can learn and respond faithfully.

Watch for registration information coming soon.

Financial Resources

2026 Per Capita

The Per Capita contribution for 2025 is \$54.66 per member. Below is the breakdown:

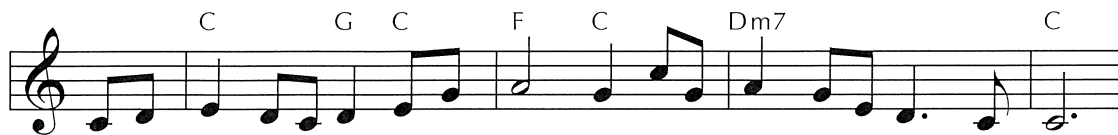
General Assembly	\$11.26
Synod of the Covenant	\$ 3.40
Presbytery of the Miami Valley	\$40.00

Per capita is a set amount of money (apportionment) per member that congregations pay to the larger Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Last year, Sugar Creek members generously supported this request for funding for General Assembly, the Synod of the Covenant, and the Presbytery of the Miami Valley. These contributions are used to connect our congregation with the work of the wider church. Examples include staff support for General Assembly committees and commissions, gatherings for training, support for churches in crisis, and connecting with ecumenical partners worldwide. These contributions help connect us to resources for mission, education, and ministry.

800 Sometimes a Light Surprises



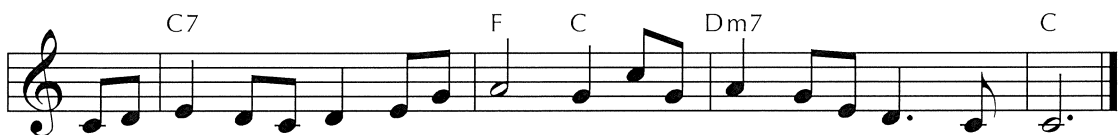
1 Some - times a light sur - pris - es the child of God who sings;
 2 In ho - ly con - tem - pla - tion we sweet - ly then pur - sue
 3 It can bring with it noth - ing but he will bear us through;
 4 Though vine nor fig tree nei - ther their longed - for fruit should bear,



it is the Lord who ris - es with heal - ing in his wings;
 the theme of God's sal - va - tion and find it ev - er new;
 who gives the lil - ies cloth - ing will clothe his peo - ple, too;
 though all the fields should with - er, nor flocks nor herds be there,



when com - forts are de - clin - ing, he grants the soul a - gain
 set free from pres - ent sor - row, we cheer - ful - ly can say,
 be - neath the spread - ing heav - ens no crea - ture but is fed;
 yet God the same a - bid - ing, his praise shall tune my voice;



a sea - son of clear shin - ing to cheer it af - ter rain.
 "Let the un - known to - mor - row bring with it what it may."
 and he who feeds the ra - vens will give his chil - dren bread.
 for while in him con - fid - ing, I can - not but re - joice.

This is one of the few hymns rooted in what can happen during worship, and that experience—gaining a spiritual insight while singing—is no less possible now than when this text was written in the 18th century. It is set here to a folk song variously labeled Irish or English.

793 O Christ, the Healer



1 O Christ, the heal - er, we have come to pray for
 2 From ev - ery ail - ment flesh en - dures our bod - ies
 3 How strong, O Lord, are our de - sires, how weak our
 4 In con - flicts that de - stroy our health we rec - og -
 5 Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your com -



health, to plead for friends. How can we fail to
 clam - or to be freed; yet in our hearts we
 knowl - edge of our - selves! Re - lease in us those
 nize the world's dis - ease; our com - mon life de -
 mu - ni - ty may find the whole - ness that, en -



be re - stored when reached by love that nev - er ends?
 would con - fess that whole - ness is our deep - est need.
 heal - ing truths un - con - scious pride re - sists or shelves.
 clares our ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?
 rich - ing us, shall reach the whole of hu - man - kind.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This prayer for wholeness of body, mind, and spirit considers not only the infirmities of individuals but also those of localities, societies, and nations. In the midst of such widespread need, worshipping communities are called to continue Christ's healing work in the world.

Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days

166

1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us did fast and
 2 As you with Sa - tan did con-tend and did the vic-tory
 3 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through this Pas-sion-
 4 A - bide with us, till when this life of suf - fering shall be

pray, teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.
 win, O give us strength to per - se - vere, in you to con-quer sin.
 tide, yes, ev - er - more, in life and death, O Lord, with us a - bide.
 past, an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at-tain at last.

Like many of this author's hymns, this text was written primarily for children but works equally well in reminding adults how Lent connects us with Christ's temptation in the wilderness and prepares us for Easter. The 16th-century English psalm tune provides sturdy support.