



United Methodist Church of Antioch

4th Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026

PRELUDE *Open My Eyes, That I Might See*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u>Sun, Mar. 15</u>	Worship 8am & 10:30am
UMCOR	Choir/Sunday School/Church Chat 9:15am
Sunday	Handbells 11:45am
	AA 8-9pm/White Rm 102
<u>Mon, Mar. 16</u>	Quilting 9am-12pm/Green Rm 104
	AA 6-7pm & 8-9pm/White Rm 102
<u>Tues, Mar. 17</u>	Private Group 9am-12pm/White Rm 102
	Bible Study 4-5pm/Wesley Hall
	AA 6-7pm/White Rm 102
<u>Wed, Mar. 18</u>	Trustees Mtg 6:30pm/Wesley Hall
	AA 6-7pm & 8-9pm/White Rm 102
<u>Thurs, Mar. 19</u>	AA 6-7pm/White Rm 102
<u>Fri, Mar. 20</u>	AA 6:30-7:30pm/White Rm 102
<u>Sat, Mar. 21</u>	AA 6-7pm/White Rm 102
<u>Sun, Mar. 22</u>	Worship 8am & 10:30am
	Choir/Sunday School/Church Chat 9:15am
	AA 8-9pm/White Rm 102

~Please note, the worship service is recorded and streamed to the internet, and there are large print bulletins, hymnals, and Bibles available. See an usher if you would like one. Additionally, there are handicap accessible restrooms located in Wesley Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

-Easter lilies have been ordered for our sanctuary. As per tradition, you may make an offering toward the flowers of any amount in honor of a loved one. Flower envelopes are available at the usher's stand. **Please print clearly the name and "in honor of" or "in memory of."** Mark your envelope "flowers." The names of those honored will be in our bulletin on Easter Sunday. Please turn your names into the office by **Monday, March 30**. Flowers will be available to take home following the 2nd Easter service.

-Mission Focus for March is PADS of Lake County. There are two opportunities to help this month. We'll be collecting single meal, shelf stable, pop-top meals/dinners/soups and preparing 40 lunches for the main office site in Waukegan. Lunch preparation is March 25th at 6:30pm in the church kitchen.

-Missions Goal: Fill 3 PADS Housewarming Baskets. Items and quantity requested are very specific. Look for the small orange bucket in Wesley Hall, pull out a slip or two, donate the listed item. Please do not buy extras, they cannot be used for this PADS Project.

-The Christian Wellness Ministry will be hosting a free 2-hour training program to inform participants about dementia. The training is provided by a member of Right at Home, a local home healthcare company, and is open to all! A short questionnaire is available on the table in Wesley Hall from **Feb. 29-Mar. 15** to help us schedule the best day and time to host the event. We will be posting more information once a date is determined!

-The Christian Wellness Ministry is pleased to announce the dates for 2026 Golden Gems luncheons! If you are at least 80yrs of age, you will receive an invitation about one month prior to the scheduled luncheon. We would appreciate an RSVP shortly after receiving the invitation. Mark these dates for the luncheons on your calendar: April 23rd, June 18th, September 10th, and December 3rd. If you have any questions, please call Carol at 630-399-0089.

-The Northern Illinois Conference is launching the **#BeUMC Awards** for the upcoming Annual Conference! NIC will present #BeUMC Awards in 3 categories: an outstanding layperson, an

outstanding clergy member, and an outstanding congregation. The deadline to submit a nomination is April 15th. For more information and access to nomination forms visit:

<https://www.umcnic.org/news/announcing-the-beumc-awards>

-Mark your calendars for the Prairie Central Training, “Culture Shift: Cultivating Healthy Congregations **Part 2!**” This is a free follow-up training that builds on the training from January 31st. This event will be on Sunday, May 3rd, from 2-5:30pm at Barrington UMC. For more details, see the flyer on the table in Wesley Hall or visit: <https://www.umcnic.org/calendar/prairie-central-training-culture-shift-part-2>

-The most recent Bishop’s Letter is on the table in Wesley Hall if you are interested in reading it.

MISSION STATEMENT (Unison)

The mission of the United Methodist Church of Antioch is to grow in faith; to worship God following the teachings of Jesus Christ, and to be instruments of God’s love through the Holy Spirit as we reach out to our community and the world.

**Invites you to stand as you are able or to sit with gusto!*

***WE ARE WELCOMED TO WORSHIP (Responsively)**

L: As we gather for worship, we again focus on Jesus Christ, who saves us from our sins.

P: Isn’t this season of penitence over yet? Aren’t we done with all this self-reflection? We’re ready for something else.

L: Ah, yes. Impatience. We do this so well. All of us, really. Waiting is a challenge for us.

P: Waiting, yes. But, Justice and Grace are really making us think. We’re not exactly sure what to make of all this testimony.

L: The judge's instructions were to keep an open mind, to listen with curiosity to what you hear the people of Judas' time say.

P: Ultimately, at the end of this season, we want our hearts to be right with God. We want renewed hearts and minds to enter the next season of the church year.

***HYMN Red Hymnal #368** *My Hope Is Built*

***OPENING PRAYER (Unison)**

Holy God, watch over what we think and what we say. Prevent us from making judgments before it is our time to make a judgment. And then, help us to know that you still hold the ultimate judgment, and we sit at your feet. Help us to learn from you and your word this day. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN Black Hymnal #2162 *Grace Alone*

WE ASK FOR UNDERSTANDING (Unison)

Almighty God, we pause now, knowing that the next section of worship will challenge us. We struggle with justice and mercy. We struggle with forgiveness. May the Scriptures we read and the skit we engage with open us to your teaching. Amen.

WE HEAR THE GOOD NEWS

—Hebrews 12:14-17 & Matthew 27:1-10

Pursue peace with everyone and the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God, that no root of bitterness springs up and causes trouble and through it many become defiled. See to

it that no one becomes an immoral and godless person, as Esau was, who sold his birthright for a single meal. You know that later, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to repent, even though he sought the blessing with tears.



When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” But they said, “What is that to us? See to it yourself.” Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself. But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, “It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money.” After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter’s field as a place to bury foreigners. For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, “And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, and they gave them for the potter’s field, as the Lord commanded me.”

L: The word of God for the people of God.

P: **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION *The People Vs. Judas Iscariot* **Act IV**

CHOIR ANTHEM (10:30 Service)

UMCA Choir

Turn Thy Face From My Sins

MORNING PRAYERS

Joys/Concerns

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

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. Amen.

OFFERTORY *Living Hope*

***DOXOLOGY #95**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

***WE DEDICATE OUR GIFTS TO GOD (Unison)**

Sometimes our offerings don't feel like they are enough, but we bring them anyway, O God. Receive what we have shared today in a way that makes more of what we give, because when we give as you teach, Lord, it is always enough. May everything we do, say, and share point toward changing the world for your sake. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN Green Hymnal #3105** *In Christ Alone*

In Christ alone my hope is found,
he is my light, my strength, my song.
This Cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my all in all,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness
scorned by the ones he came to save.
'Til on that cross as Jesus died
the wrath of God was satisfied;
for every sin on him was laid.
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth in glorious day,
up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me.
For I am his and he is mine,
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme or plan
can ever pluck me from his hand.
'Til he returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

***WE GO FORTH WITH BLESSING (Responsively)**

L: We are sorry for the things we do and say that we know are wrong.

P: We desire reconciliation with those we have wronged.

L: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

P: And also with you. Amen.

***POSTLUDE** *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*

Red indicates "The United Methodist Hymnal"

Black indicates "The Faith We Sing"

One License # A-739071

***Giving and attendance information for Sunday, March 8th,
will be included in the bulletin for March 22nd.**

The People Vs. Judas Iscariot: the punishment phase by Wm. Clayton McCord

“I have always wondered about the eternal fate of Judas Iscariot, the betrayer of Jesus. Was he beyond forgiveness? How is our sinfulness different?”

“The story of his betrayal and confession holds in tension the judgment of God on the one hand and the free grace of God on the other. In this tension I saw a connection to the theme of Lent: an honest accounting of our own guilt and need for salvation and renewal. The result was *The People vs. Judas Iscariot*, a five-part series for Lenten worship or group discussion.

“I wanted a series that would honor the theme of Lent and beckon introspection. I wanted to keep it Christ-centered...”

“The goal of *The People vs. Judas Iscariot* is based upon the Ash Wednesday reading of Joel 2:13 ‘Return to the Lord, your God, for God is gracious and merciful; slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love...’ The series is guided by three objectives: 1) to revisit the passion narrative, hearing details through key witnesses in ways we might not have considered before now; 2) to prompt reflection upon our own need for forgiveness; and 3) to focus on the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ and his suffering for the sins of the world.

“In this series Judas undergoes the punishment phase of his trial. He has already plead guilty to a crime against Jesus. Now the question is: ‘Is anything serious enough to merit God’s abandonment?’ Does Judas receive mercy or eternal punishment?” (p. 9).

Each Sunday will build on the last, so you will want to do everything you can to be present for every Sunday – or at least, as many as you can! After the last presentation, you, the congregation, will vote on whether Judas receives mercy or eternal punishment. This doesn't mean that this is what God has done, but it certainly gives us an indication of what we've been thinking about during this season of Lent and how we see Judas in the aftermath of hearing the witness testimony.

February 22:

The congregation was sworn in as the jury. The Judge addressed the congregation, outlining their duty to determine the punishment of Judas. Within that context, the Judge stated that we were *NOT* attempting to hold our judgment above God's judgment; rather, the congregation was to 'prayerfully consider' the justice of God's law which exposes our sin, and the extent of God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ which saves us – the theme of Lent. The prosecution attorney Justice and the defense attorney Grace made their opening statements.

The prosecution began its case with the testimony of the disciple John. Through John's testimony, the prosecution attempted to verify that Jesus knew Judas was "evil" and "unclean" from the very beginning. Under cross-examination by the defense, John revealed that he, too, was a sinner; he was once known as a "Son of Thunder" for his temper, and he had desires for glory to be at the right side of Jesus in the kingdom. That nothing is hidden from God convicted us all. Court was in recess (p. 15).

March 1:

The prosecution attorney, Justice, called the next witness, Mary Magdalene, who gave further damaging testimony about the character of Judas. When asked if she ever heard Judas ask for forgiveness, she said no – nor did she ever hear Jesus forgive him. Defense attorney Grace challenged Mary Magdalene’s testimony, forcing her to admit that all people are sinners and all need forgiveness; most importantly, that Jesus said from the cross, “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.”

Following Mary Magdalene’s fiery cross-examination under the defense, Justice called the next witness, the Unnamed Woman, revealed to be Mary of Bethany. She retells how she anointed Jesus prior to his crucifixion; how Judas objected to the act, then left the house to betray Jesus.

Just as the defense sought to show that Judas was not the only one to object to her extravagance, Judas burst into the courtroom. He demanded an opportunity to testify on his own behalf. The court was disrupted and Judas was led away by the Bailiff. The Defense counsel Grace asked for a recess, which was granted (p. 15-16).

Last Week:

The Prosecution counsel, Justice, called the disciple Peter to the witness stand. Peter testified about the events surrounding Jesus’ last supper, noting that Jesus waited until Judas left the room before he bestowed a special honor on the remaining disciples: that they would sit on the throne beside Jesus to judge the twelve tribes of Israel. With reference to Judas, Peter further testified that a denial of Jesus is a condemnation, a denial of true life; therefore, it leads to death. Defense counsel Grace quickly got Peter to recall that he

himself denied Jesus. Peter tried to save himself. Was he forgiven for his denial?

Following Peter's testimony, Justice called the Young Boy who was with Jesus during his arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane. The Young Boy told how Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss; how Judas called for the authorities to take Jesus "under guard." Under gentle cross-examination by the defense, the Young Boy admitted he tried to save himself and left Jesus behind; yet he believed that Jesus forgave him. Could the same be true for Judas?

Finally, attorney Justice called the prosecution's last witness, Mary, mother of Jesus. She depicted the emotional, final moments of Jesus' death on the cross, testifying that Judas was nowhere around to ask forgiveness. When others tried to save themselves, Jesus did not attempt to save himself. Defense counsel, Grace, questioned Mary about the thieves who were crucified next to Jesus; Mary admitted that Jesus forgave one of the thieves, and reiterated what Jesus said from the cross – "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" – which Grace hopes to show was a blanket forgiveness to all who crucified Jesus, including Judas. Under redirect, Justice asked Mary if Jesus forgave both thieves, to which she responded, "No." So Jesus did not forgive everyone. The prosecution rested and the court was in recess (16-17).

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

March 15

March 22

Greeters

8:00am	Anne Dickson	LouAnn Holmes
10:30am	Sally Rodgers	Susan Antonelli

Ushers

8:00am	Walt Cichonski	Wayne Buck
10:30am	Jerry Topcik	Chris Shannon

Soundboard

8:00am	Denny Sathoff	Walt Cichonski
10:30am	Phil Georgia	Mike Lapke

Liturgists

8:00am	Jane Buck	Leta Sathoff
10:30am	Margaret Zaller	Margaret Zaller

Coffee Servers

8:00am	Leta & Denny Sathoff	Carol & Walt Cichonski
10:30am	Caroline Adams Andrea Zachotina Cichonski Family	Cheryl Collins Karen Heinsohn LouAnn Holmes

Openers

Prayer Card

8:00am	Nancy Colby	(Needed)
10:30am	(Needed)	(Needed)

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF ANTIOCH

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Pastor- Rev. Katie Voigt

Music Director/Organist-Debbie Gillette

Choir Director-Nicole Heyl

Custodians- Michelle M. & Kelly K.

Office Administrator- Hannah T.

UMCA Christian Preschool Director- Kim Dodd

(847) 395-1362

Scan below for
March's Newsletter



Scan below to
give electronically!



Please Note:

**Deadline for the Newsletter is the 15th of each month-for
the FOLLOWING month Send info in Word doc or body
of email to editorumca@gmail.com**

Next deadline is April 15th for the May newsletter.

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.