



United Methodist Church of Antioch

5th Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2026

PRELUDE *Were You There?*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sun, Mar. 22 Worship 8am & 10:30am
Choir/Sunday School/Church Chat 9:15am
-Pretzel Day!
AA 8-9pm/White Rm 102
- Mon, Mar. 23 AA 6-7pm & 8-9pm/White Rm 102
- Tues, Mar. 24 Bible Study 4-5pm/Wesley Hall
AA 6-7pm/White Rm 102
- Wed, Mar. 25 PADS Lunch Making 6:30pm/Kitchen
AA 6-7pm & 8-9pm/White Rm 102
- Thurs, Mar. 26 Golden Gems Planning Mtg. 10am/Kitchen
AA 6-7pm/White Rm 102
- Fri, Mar. 27 AA 6:30-7:30pm/White Rm 102
- Sat, Mar. 28 Private Group 3-5pm/Green Rm 104
AA 6-7pm/White Rm 102
- Sun, Mar. 29
Palm Sunday & Worship 8am & 10:30am
5th Sunday Choir/Sunday School/Church Chat 9:15am
UVC 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.

-The preschool is doing their annual butter braid fundraiser! If you are interested in ordering, see the order form on the table in Wesley Hall. Please put your payment in the envelope next to the order form. **The last day to pay is Sunday, March 29th**. If payment is not received, the order will not be able to be placed.

-Our church will be one of the groups hosting the Prairie Central District Book Discussion Groups of Spring 2026! Join together with clergy and laity across the district to read and discuss the book *Innovating for Love* by Kenda Creasy Dean. It will be at 12pm every Thursday starting April 9 through May 14. For more details, see the poster on the table in Wesley Hall.

-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. Thank you to all who have taken item slips for the orange bucket. If you have taken a slip, please put your item in the PADS basket by March 31st.

-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. 22** 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 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>

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: Are you ready? The day is finally here. The last day of the punishment phase of Judas Iscariot’s trial.

P: We come this morning – ready and not ready to make a decision about Judas Iscariot.

L: What is the hesitation? What is the delay?

P: We are worried that if we condemn Judas we condemn ourselves. We are worried that if we don’t condemn Judas than anyone can do anything.

L: Those are the two ends of the spectrum, aren’t they? So how do we decide?

P: The judge instructed us to hear all the testimony with an open mind and an open heart and to pray about the result. We will just have to wait until all the testimony has been heard.

***HYMN Red Hymnal #338** *Where He Leads Me*

***OPENING PRAYER (Unison)**

Lord, we pray that you would guide our decision-making today and always. Hear our fervent pleas to do what you call us to do. Help us to live our lives out in the world such that we show your love and mercy and justice to all we meet. We want people to know you and how you've changed our lives so that you can change theirs. Open our eyes and our ears to something new today that would help us to share you. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN Black Hymnal #2149 *Living for Jesus*

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

–Romans 7:14-15, 21-25 & Luke 23:26-34a

For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold into slavery under sin. I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.

So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So then, with my mind I am enslaved to the law of God, but with my flesh I am enslaved to the law of sin.



As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.’ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us,’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’ For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

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

P: Thanks be to God.

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

CHOIR ANTHEM (10:30 Service)

UMCA Choir

Amazing Grace

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

He Giveth More Grace/No One Ever Cared for Me Like Jesus

***DOXOLOGY #95**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

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

Life-Giving Spirit, you breathe hope into our valleys of despair and call forth life where we saw only dry bones. We come today not out of habit, but out of longing to be part of your work that restores, renews, and redeems. Take these gifts and use them to teach, guide, and share your love with the world. Let them be signs of trust and

tools of transformation in a weary world. May our offering, like our living, lean into your Spirit and testify that life – abundant, eternal, and holy – is possible in you. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN Red Hymnal #504** *Old Rugged Cross*

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

L: We go forth today, tired and challenged.

P: **We have made a communal decision and we will live in God’s truth.**

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** *Lift High the Cross*

Red indicates “The United Methodist Hymnal”

Black indicates “The Faith We Sing”

One License # A-739071

Worship Attendance/Giving for Sunday

March 8, 2026

8am- 42

10:30am- 46

General Fund: \$2,722.77

Missions: \$74.28

Building: \$395

Air Conditioner: \$6,880

UMCOR: \$120

UMCAP: \$10

Easter Lilies: \$215

Worship Attendance/Giving for Sunday

March 15, 2026

8am- 50 10:30am- 49

General Fund: \$8,477.54

Missions: \$22.70

Building: \$240

Air Conditioner: \$10,020

UMCOR: \$796

Food Pantry: \$50

Easter Lilies: \$445

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 reveled 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).

March 8:

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.

Last Week:

The Defense began its case by calling a Friend of Judas to the witness stand. In zealous style, Friend of Judas described the traditional Jewish view of the Messiah as one who would come with power and authority and rain fire upon Israel’s enemies and set up the new Kingdom of God. Defense attorney Grace hoped to show that Judas could have betrayed Jesus as a way to force his hand and usher in the new Kingdom, but that Judas had made a mistake, misinterpreting Jesus’ Messiahship. Prosecution counsel Justice blasted Friend of Judas under cross-examination, noting that his entire testimony was not in the scriptures; therefore, it cannot be proven. Furthermore, Justice wonders why Judas would insist that Jesus be taken “under guard” if he thought Jesus would usher in the Kingdom.

Grace called the defense's next witness, Chief Priest. Arrogant and somewhat detached, Chief Priest recalled that Judas was deeply sorry for his betrayal; attorney Grace implied that Judas was in bondage to sin and could not free himself – the plight of all humanity. Justice cross-examined, and we learned that Judas wanted thirty pieces of silver to betray Jesus, suggesting that Judas was in bondage – to selfish, material gain.

For their next witness, the defense recalled Peter as a hostile witness. Attention was directed once again to the events of the Last Supper. At that time, did Judas partake of the Body and Blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins? Peter said, "Yes." The prosecution counsel Justice quickly shifted the focus to the Garden of Gethsemane, where Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss – a sin that occurred hours *after* the Last Supper. The Court was sent to recess.

Our thanks to all who played a role in
The People vs. Judas Iscariot: the punishment phase

Bailiff	Denny Sathoff
Judge	Pastor Katie
Attorney Justice	Paul Bleadow
Attorney Grace	Nicole Heyl
John	Tom Kessell
Mary Magdalene	Carol Dunn
Unnamed Woman	Leta Sathoff/ Rebecca Reckamp
Judas	Phil Klingler
Peter	Tom Reilly
Young Boy	Owen Richards
Mary	Margaret Zaller
Friend of Judas	Rick Carlberg
Chief Priest	Phil Georgia
Paul	Tom Kessell
Death	Rick Carlberg

Thank you to Nicole Heyl for organizing us and leading rehearsals.

Notes

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

March 22

March 29

Greeters

8:00am	LouAnn Holmes	Wayne Buck
10:30am	Susan Antonelli	Pat Calkins

Ushers

8:00am	Jim Menzer	Jim Menzer
10:30am	Chris Shannon	Tom Reilly

Soundboard

8:00am	Walt Cichonski	Denny Sathoff
10:30am	Mike Lapke	Chris Shannon

Liturgists

8:00am	Leta Sathoff	Mary Geier
10:30am	Margaret Zaller	Caroline Adams

Coffee Servers

8:00am	Carol & Walt Cichonski	Marty Garrett Jean Haling
10:30am	Cheryl Collins Karen Heinsohn	Joanna & Rick Carlberg
	LouAnn Holmes	Sathoff Family

Openers

Prayer Card

8:00am	Shelby Wais	Shelby Wais
10:30am	(Needed)	(Needed)

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF ANTIOCH

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Follow us on Facebook!

Watch us on YouTube!

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.