



United Methodist Church of Antioch

3rd Sunday in Lent

March 8, 2026

PRELUDE *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun, Mar. 8

Daylight Worship 8am & 10:30am

Savings Time Choir/Sunday School/Church Chat 9:15am

Begins AA 8-9pm/White Rm 102

Mon, Mar. 9

Missions Mtg. 10am/Wesley Hall

Private Group 7-9pm/Green Rm 104

AA 6-7pm & 8-9pm/White Rm 102

Tues, Mar. 10

CROP Walk Mtg. 4pm/Kitchen

Bible Study 4-5pm/Wesley Hall

AA 6-7pm/White Rm 102

Wed, Mar. 11

UMCAP Board Mtg 2:15pm/Wesley Hall

AA 6-7pm & 8-9pm/White Rm 102

Thurs, Mar. 12

Antioch High School Religious Forum

-Antioch High School Visiting from 8:45-10am

AA 6-7pm/White Rm 102

Fri, Mar. 13

AA 6:30-7:30pm/White Rm 102

Sat, Mar. 14

AA 6-7pm/White Rm 102

Sun, Mar. 15

Worship 8am & 10:30am

UMCOR Choir/Sunday School/Church Chat 9:15am

Sunday Handbells 11:45am

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

-Please note: Hannah will be out of office Mar. 9-12. During this time, volunteers will be in the office from 9am-12pm helping to take phone calls and messages. Responses may be delayed. We thank you for your patience and understanding. She is planning on returning Monday, March 16.

-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.

-UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) Sunday is March 15th, this special collection supports the administrative costs, allowing 100% of specified donations to go to the directed need.

-The next CROP Walk meeting is this Tuesday, March 10th at 4pm if you are interested in attending.

-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>

-Kids Above All did a wonderful tribute article to our church in their monthly newsletter. This is available in Wesley Hall if you would like to read it.

-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: There are days when we just wish that God would smite those who really deserve it, aren't there?

P: There sure are! But wait a minute. What if someone else thinks that God should smite me? Then what would happen?

L: There is our dilemma. This is what we've been struggling with all Lent, isn't it?

P: How do we balance God's justice and God's mercy? Which is right and which is wrong? How can they both be right?

L: God invites us to a world where we have to use more than the usual parts of our brains. We have to think and engage with Scripture. We can't simply look at the words and accept everything as it looks.

P: Context matters, Jesus' overarching story matters, God's intended purposes for the world matter. In the end, we sure are glad that we don't have God's job of deciding!

***HYMN Red Hymnal #462** *'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus*

***OPENING PRAYER (Unison)**

God of Justice and Mercy, we are trying to decipher what both of these ideas mean in our world today. How can we live both of them out so that others can see your heart for what it is? How can we invite people to love you and be a part of you, if we can't explain all of it? Lord, help us to be assured that we don't have to explain all of you to invite someone to worship. Bless us with the courage to invite someone, to love someone, to talk about you, so that your Kin-dom might come on earth. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

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

—Galatians 5:16-21 & Mark 14:53-54, 66-72

Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.



They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, the elders, and the scribes were assembled. Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest, and he was sitting with the guards, warming himself at the fire.

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the female servants of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, “You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth.” But he denied it,

saying, “I do not know or understand what you are talking about.” And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. And the female servant, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, “This man is one of them.” But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, “Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean, and you talk like one.” But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, “I do not know this man you are talking about.” At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, “Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.” And he broke down and wept.

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

P: Thanks be to God.

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

CHOIR ANTHEM (10:30 Service)

UMCA Choir

Gethsemane

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 *In the Garden*

***DOXOLOGY #95**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

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

Lord, please take what we offer, in spite of our denials, and use it for your purposes. We dedicate these gifts, as well as our whole lives, to your purpose of others coming to know you, and the whole world changing because we all grow in your love. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN Red Hymnal #355** *Depth of Mercy*

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

L: Sometimes our doubt and fear lead us to outward denials.

P: We will pay attention to help our words and actions match our truest desires.

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** *Come Down, O Love Divine*

Worship Attendance/Giving for Sunday

March 1, 2026

8am- 38 10:30am- 54

General Fund: \$9,183.86 Missions: \$35.17

Building: \$315 Air Conditioner: \$2,400

Food Pantry: \$50

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).

Last Week:

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).

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

March 8

March 15

Greeters

8:00am	Jane Buck	Anne Dickson
10:30am	Nancy Rae	Sally Rodgers

Ushers

8:00am	Jim Menzer	Walt Cichonski
10:30am	Valerie Lapke	Jerry Topcik

Soundboard

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

Liturgists

8:00am	Denny Sathoff	Jane Buck
10:30am	Nikki Georgia	Margaret Zaller

Coffee Servers

8:00am	Pat Metz Barb Cantrell	Leta & Denny Sathoff
10:30am	Brian Hofius-Krampe Carol Frazier	Caroline Adams Andrea Zachotina

Openers

	Metz Family	Cichonski Family
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Prayer Card

8:00am	Nancy Colby	Nancy Colby
10:30am	Ardy Lange	(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 March 15th for the April newsletter.

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.