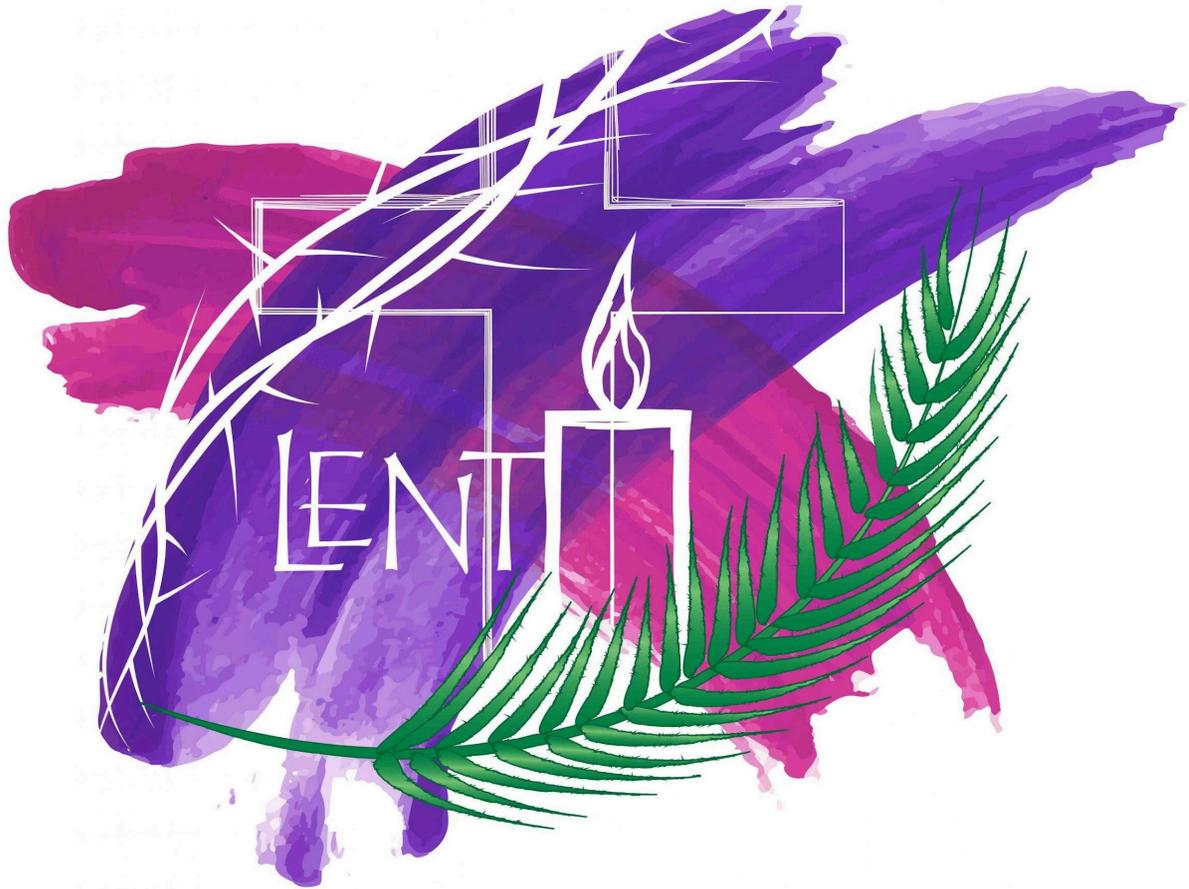


Potsdam United Methodist Church



Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026

Pastor: Heidi Chamberlain

Musician: Dr. Risa Okina ♦ Choir Director: Anthony Steen

Potsdam United Methodist Church ♦ 26 Main Street, Potsdam NY 13676

Pastor's Office Hours as scheduled with Pastor Heidi Chamberlain

To schedule a pastoral conversation please call: 315-528-4709 (cell) **OR** the Church office: 315-265-7474

Pastor Heidi: pastorheidi@potsdamumc.org ♦ Church email: info@potsdamumc.org

Website: www.potsdamumc.org ♦ Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PotsdamUMCNY>

If you prefer to make your offering electronically you can contribute via [PayPal](https://www.paypal.com) - [https://tinyur](https://tinyur.com)

Second Sunday in Lent ~ March 1, 2026

Celebrating the Gift of Christ's Resurrection in Potsdam United Methodist Church

Large print bulletins and listening assistive devices are available, *Please stand, whether in body or in spirit

At Potsdam UMC, all persons are welcome and celebrated regardless of gender, culture, nationality, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender identity, economic circumstance, age, physical and mental ability, marital status or family structure.

WE GATHER IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

ANNOUNCEMENTS / SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRELUDE

Arabeske ~ by Josephine Lang

As we listen to the prelude, take time for quiet contemplation and prayer

INTROIT

Come, Let Us With Our Lord Arise ~ TFWS #2084

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Children of God, in Lent we remember that our salvation is an unearned gift, that new life is a matter of faith, not of works.

P: **We gather to lay down the burden of trying to earn our salvation.**

L: Like Nicodemus, who met Jesus in the dark of night, we struggle to accept that new life is not just possible but given as a free gift of grace.

P: **We gather to bring our struggles into the light and embrace God's grace with open arms.**

L: Like Paul writing to the Romans, we remember God's promise of new life has always rested on grace.

P: **We gather to receive the promise of salvation by grace through faith.**

L: Like the many who have followed, questioned, and grown in the faith, we submit ourselves to be formed by grace as we work out our salvation day by day.

All: **We gather as people guided by the promise of new life, a promise fulfilled by Christ, whose path we follow. AMEN**

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2025.

*HYMN

We've a Story to Tell to the Nations

UMH #569

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Infinite Love, heart of all life,
you loved this word into being with such love as to birth yourself among us.
Love begotten as the Beloved.
Your presence does not separate but unites;
love does not push away, but embraces; you do not condemn, but save.
Trusting this, we know
we are loved, never rejected!

All: **Thanks be to God! AMEN!**

Adapted from Steve Garnaas-Holmes and posted on Unfolding Light, <https://www.unfoldinglight.net/>.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

L: **Gracious and glorious Lord, we come, as did Nicodemus, with questions on our hearts and in our lives. We come hoping someone can help us find answers and healing. Grant us healing and openness to your spirit that we may be better servants of your Word, your Will, and your Way. AMEN**

THERE IS A TIME TO PRAISE GOD WITH SONG...

CHOIR ANTHEM *I Am the Bread of Heaven ~ Arr. Sandy Willard Rogers*

... AND THERE IS A TIME TO PRAISE GOD WITH WORD!

READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT Genesis 12:1–4a

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT Romans 4:1–5, 13–17

READERS THEATER: Second Sunday in Lent

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS AT THE CROSS: NICODEMUS

READING FROM THE GOSPELS John 3:1–17

THE MESSAGE We Know... Nothing Rev. Heidi Chamberlain

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

***HYMN** Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters **UMH #605**

THE PRAYER OF GOD'S PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER (UMH #270)

Responding to God's invitation, in joy, we offer our gifts

OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Though Deepening Trials ~ by George Careless*
arr. Laurel Hunt Pedersen

***THE DOXOLOGY** Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow **UMH #95**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (Romans 4:1-5, 13-17, John 3:1-17)

All: Faithful God of New Beginnings, you call us — as you called Abraham — to trust in what we cannot yet see, to follow where you lead, even when the road is unclear. In the shadows of our questions and the uncertainty of our understanding, you meet us with grace, not condemnation. As Nicodemus discovered, your love is not earned but freely given. Receive now these gifts we offer — not as payment or proof, but as signs of our belief, our hope, and our gratitude. Use them to share your transforming love with a world still searching in the dark. In the name of your Son, given in love, we pray. **AMEN**

A SERVICE OF WORD & TABLE: THE GREAT THANKSGIVING FOR EARLY IN LENT

COMMUNION HYMN [Come, Share the Lord ~ TFWS #2269]

GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN** Freely, Freely **UMH #389**

***THE BENEDICTION**

L: Go now in the mercy of God, whose promises never fail, to live as people who have generously received and thus generously share God's gracious gift of new life with all we encounter. **AMEN**

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2025.

POSTLUDE *A Bridge to Somewhere ~ by Leslie Wagle*

Go forward, to live the church, in ministry to all the world!

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

TWO MEN ON A BENCH

Based on John 3:1-17 , Rev. Timothy Haut – March 2011

There they sat,
two men on a bench
sharing the dwindling hours
of an ordinary day.
In the dusky light
others passed by,
barely noticing this quiet encounter
marked by nodding heads
and soft gestures,
the touch of a hand on an arm,
a smile punctuating an occasional silence.
We, too, would imagine
that this was a sharing
of neighborhood tales,

the memories of years gone by,
the sweet awareness of common friends,
a discussion of tomorrow's weather.

No one could know
that a heart was being healed
as the stars came out,
that heaven was opened
under that street light.

Those passing by
would see nothing holy
in such a familiar scene.
It was just another night,
and everyone was on the way
home.

Worship & Prayer resources for this week: Used by permission – excerpted from *MinistryMatters.com* ©2011, 2017, 2020 & 2026

MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND SPECIAL SERVICES



The Good Cup: Enjoy conversation and a “cuppa” with Pastor Heidi & Pastor Carl, Wednesdays at noon at Jernabi Coffee House.

Coffee & Jesus [A Lenten Study]: Wednesdays, 10-11:30am, March 4, 11, 18, 25. Potsdam UMC Nursery.

ALL I NEED
TODAY
IS A LITTLE BIT OF
COFFEE
AND A WHOLE LOT OF
JESUS

- **Potsdam Holiday Fund:** Meets March 3rd, 5-7pm in the carpeted room downstairs.
- **Cheery'Os:** Next meeting March 5th at 11:30. Please bring your lunch if you would like. Cookies and beverages will be provided.
- **Hearts and Hands on a Mission Craft Group:** 1st Thursday of each month, 2-4pm at the Parsonage. The next meeting is March 5th.
- **Super Church Sunday School:** March 8th and March 22nd.
- **Acapella North Chorus Rehearsal:** Saturday, March 7th, 9am-5pm, carpeted room.
- **A Journey Through Grief:** 2nd Thursday of each month, 4-6pm in Fellowship Hall. The next meeting is March 12th.
- **Palm Sunday:** March 29th.
- **Maundy Thursday Service:** April 2nd, 7pm.
- **Good Friday:** Self Directed Meditation and Reflection; the church will be open, and Pastor Heidi will be available 12pm - 3pm.
- **Easter Sunday:** April 5th.

Worship Participants

Microphone: Norm Gardner

Acolytes: Jordyn Fish, Ben Fish

Counters

March 1: Carrie Livernois, Tom Ortmeyer
March 8: Robin Howard, Debby Nikkari
March 15: Christa Carroll, Carrie Livernois
March 22: Debby Nikkari, Robin Howard
March 29: Tom Ortmeyer, Christa Carroll

Readers

March 1: Christa Carroll, Sharon H.
March 8: Kathy Demo, Tom Ortmeyer
March 15: Nancy Matthews, Christa Carroll
March 22: Sharon Hutchinson, Nancy Matthews
March 29: Collen Gondo

Greeters/Ushers

March 1: Norm Gardner
March 8: Kathy Demo
March 15: Carrie Livernois
March 22: Norm Gardner
March 29: Nancy Matthews

Fellowship Time Hosts

March 1: Carrie Livernois
April 5: Robin Howard & Judy Haer
May 3: Carol Willmert
June 7: Sue and John Loope