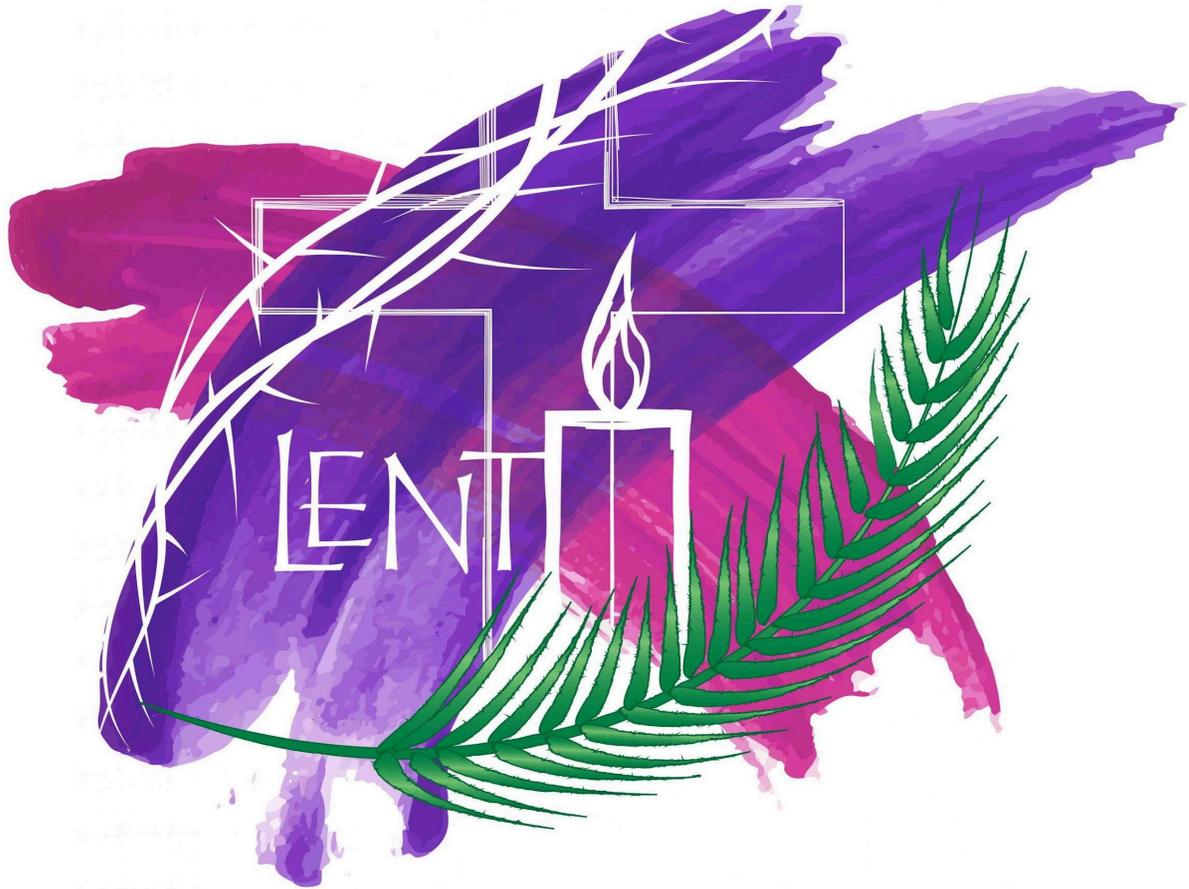


Potsdam United Methodist Church



Third Sunday in Lent *March 8, 2026*

Pastor: Heidi Chamberlain

Guest Musician ~ Diane Romlein

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://tinyurl.com>

Third Sunday in Lent ~ March 8, 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

Guest musician ~ Diane Romlein

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

INTROIT

Celebrate Love ~ TFWS #2073

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We come to the well of fear and doubt.

P: **We have drawn deeply of those waters.**

L: We come to the well of anger and hate.

P: **These waters flourish in all the land.**

L: Lord, bring us to the water of peace and hope.

P: **Lord, bring us to the well of salvation. AMEN**

*HYMN

You Who Are Thirsty

TFWS #2132

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: God of living waters, we confess that we have often turned from you and wandered in our own wildernesses of fear and doubt.

Our thirst mounts daily, seeking to be quenched by your redeeming love.

Yet, when that love is offered to us, we again turn away, unable to truly believe that you would actually heal and love us.

We have behaved in very unloving ways.

We have chosen to ignore those in need or to deal only passively with them.

Our hearts are not placed in service to others, but rather in self-serving motives.

Heal us, merciful God!

Wash us again in the living water. Help us be faithful servants. AMEN

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ASSURANCE

P: Wellspring of eternal life, we come to you this day having drunk deeply the waters of anxiety and despair. Bring to us your living water. Quench our thirsting souls.

L: The waters of mercy and healing are poured over you. God is loving and faithful to those who come to God. Come; seek the loving presence and be healed.

All: AMEN

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

CHOIR ANTHEM

God's Unfailing Love ~ Philip M. Young

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

READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Exodus 17:1–7

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Romans 5:1–11

READERS THEATER: Third Sunday in Lent

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS AT THE CROSS: THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

READING FROM THE GOSPELS

John 4:5–42

HYMN

Fill My Cup, Lord

UMH #641

THE MESSAGE

Slow to Believe

Rev. Heidi Chamberlain

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

***HYMN**

Gather Us In

TFWS #2236

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

Guest musician ~ Diane Romlein

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

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

(Romans 5:1-11)

All: Steadfast God of Hope, you have called us to rejoice — not in ease or achievement — but in the grace that sustains us through suffering, the love that meets us in struggle, and the hope that does not disappoint. You pour your Spirit into our hearts, shaping us into a people who give not out of obligation, but out of gratitude. As we bring these gifts, may they testify to your presence among us and to the promise of reconciliation, you offer the world through Christ. Make us bold in our sharing, joyful in our worship, and confident in your grace. In the name of the one who died for us and lives within us, we pray. AMEN

GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN**

O How He Loves You and Me

TFWS #2108

***THE BENEDICTION**

L: Go now in the blessing of God's mercy that companions us all on the journey, opening our hearts to receive and share God's steadfast love until all creation resonates with the joy of new life. AMEN
Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2025.

POSTLUDE

Guest musician ~ Diane Romlein

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

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

LIVING WATER

Based on John 4:5-42, Rev. Timothy Haut – March 2014

She stands in the noonday sun
aimlessly staring at a spot in the distance
where the road out of town
is hazy with dust.

She is tired, alone, empty,
and even the trough of water at her feet
seems stagnant, lifeless, too,
as she stoops to fill her pail.

In the shadows,
there is one watching
who understands such thirst,
who sees beyond the shame and regret,

sees one thirsty for love
greater than the tattered, shabby thing
that has worn her down,
sees a tender, forgotten heart
ready to be beautiful again.

He steps out, touches her shoulder,
asks her to drink with him
the living water,
and waits to see
if this might be a day
for some kind of resurrection.

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

MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND SPECIAL SERVICES



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

+ 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 11, 18, 25. Potsdam UMC Nursery.

- **Super Church Sunday School:** March 8th and March 22nd.
- **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:** April 3rd, Self Directed Meditation and Reflection; the church will be open, and Pastor Heidi will be available 12pm - 3pm.
- **Hearts and Hands on a Mission Craft Group:** 1st Thursday of each month, 2-4pm at the Parsonage. The next meeting is April 2nd.
- **Easter Sunday:** April 5th.

Worship Participants

Microphone: Norm Gardner

Acolytes: Jordyn Fish, Ben Fish

Counters

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

Readers

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

Fellowship Time Hosts

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