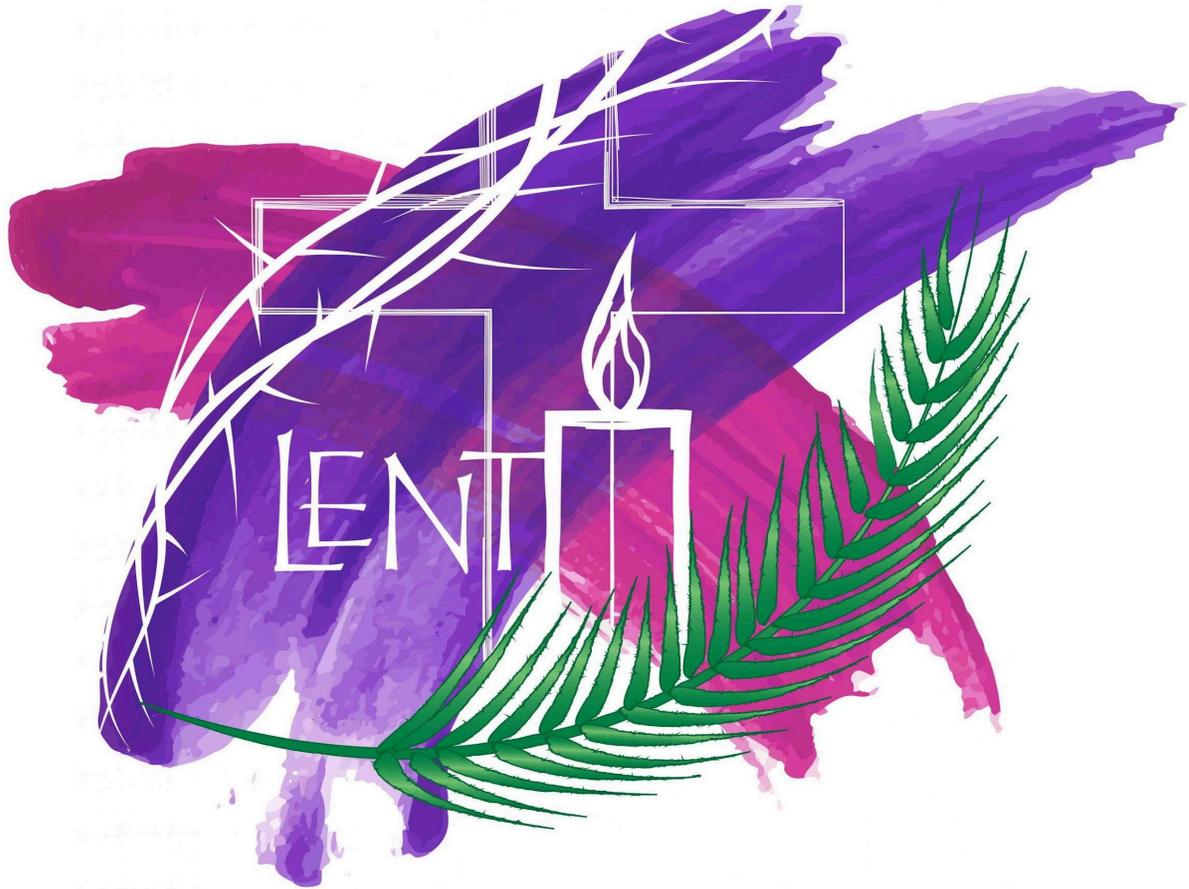


Potsdam United Methodist Church



Fourth Sunday in Lent *March 15, 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://tinyurl.com>

Fourth Sunday in Lent ~ March 15, 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

Jesus Paid it All ~ by John T Grape, arr. Janifer Cook

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

INTROIT

We Utter Our Cry ~ [UMH #439 verses 1, 3 & 5]

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Beloved, the journey of grace takes us to still waters, the valley of the shadow of death, even to tables surrounded by our enemies.

P: We gather to worship God, our Shepherd, who guides us on the journey.

L: The journey of grace points us toward the Light so that we may bear the fruit of the Light in all that we do.

P: We gather to be formed by grace so that our lives may bear the fruit of all that is good, and right, and true.

L: The journey of grace calls us to pay attention, to discern what is pleasing to God.

P: We gather to listen to the Spirit, who empowers us to go from this place to work together to do what is pleasing to God.

L: Come, let us worship God who provides, inspires, and empowers us on the journey of grace.

All: Come, let us worship God as we journey in grace together! AMEN

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

*HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

UMH #451

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Healing God, we have languished in our blindness.

We have chosen to hide in darkness to avoid reaching out and risking acceptance.

We are afraid of the light, and yet we crave it.

In your light, there is healing and hope, restoration and transformation.

Forgive our lack of faith and our fearfulness, O Lord.

Give us courage to reach out to the light and accept its healing rays.

May our lives be transformed by your mercy, for we pray this in Jesus' Name.

AMEN

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

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

CHOIR ANTHEM

All Things Bright and Beautiful ~ David H. Williams

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

READING FROM THE PSALMS Psalm 23 (King James Version) UMH #137

HYMN

He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought UMH #128, vss 1-3

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Ephesians 5:8–14

READERS THEATER: Fourth Sunday in Lent

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS AT THE CROSS: THE MAN BORN BLIND

READING FROM THE GOSPELS

John 9:1–41

THE MESSAGE

Rev. Heidi Chamberlain

Do You Believe in the Son of Man?

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

UMH #381

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE AND THE SHEPHERD'S PRAYER

All: The Lord is the Shepherd of my life; He provides all that I need.

He lets me rest in green meadows and leads me beside peaceful streams.

He renews my strength.

He guides me along the right paths that bring honor to His name.

Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid,
for the Lord is close beside me.

His presence protects and comforts me.

I feast on what He provides me despite the presence of many foes.

My enemies consider me specially anointed as with precious oil
because I do not live in fear.

My cup overflows with blessings.

Surely your goodness and love for me will continue all the days of my life,
and no matter what happens, my home is with you forever! AMEN

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

OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Behold the Great Redeemer Die ~ by George Careless,
arr. Laurel Hunt Pedersen

*THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

UMH #95

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

(Psalm 23, Ephesians 5:8-14)

All: Radiant Shepherd, you walk beside us through valleys and over mountaintops,
guiding us with grace and guarding us with love. In your presence, we lack
nothing that truly matters. Even in a world clouded by shadows, your light
shines through — inviting us to live as children of the day. Receive these gifts, O
God, as signs of our desire to walk in your ways, to live as your people, and to
shine with the goodness, justice, and truth that reflect your image.

Let our giving be more than ritual; let it be an act of trust, a response to your
faithfulness, and a testimony of your light at work in us. In Christ's holy name,
we pray, AMEN

GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD

Open My Eyes, That I May See

UMH #454

*HYMN

*THE BENEDICTION

L: Beloved, may the blessing of God's mercy go before you, behind you, and all around you as we journey in grace, reflecting the Light of new life wherever we go. **AMEN**

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

POSTLUDE

Amazing Grace ~ traditional arr. Amy Potter

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

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

"IN THE PRESENCE OF MY ENEMIES"

by Anna Murdock (c) 2011

<p>You prepared a table before me in the presence of my enemies and, at first, I was nothing more than a bleating sheep, unable to understand.</p> <p>It was when you asked me to help, O God, that I truly understood ... or at least understood in the way that you asked me to understand.</p> <p>You handed a chalice to me from the table you prepared and whispered, "For all." I gulped.</p>	<p>"Oh God... really? For all?"</p> <p>You whispered again, "Look into their eyes, offer to them what I have prepared, Some might be your enemies, but none are mine."</p> <p>And so I stood, at the end of an aisle, with chalice in hand and wept at the thoughts of my enemies welcomed to the table that was prepared for me in such a generous way.</p>	<p>The table was not mine; the guest list was not mine; the chalice never ran dry ... nor did the grace and mercy.</p> <p>Once again, I heard, "Do this in remembrance ... and remember, these are not my enemies."</p> <p>Over and over again, You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies, and then you say, "All sit ... together." And still the chalice never runs dry for those around the table - not even for me.</p>
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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 25.
- **March Mission:** Bread for the Neighborhood Center.
- **Super Church Sunday School:** March 22nd.
- **Council Meeting:** Monday, March 23rd, at 10:30am.
- **Palm Sunday:** March 29th.
- **Maundy Thursday Service:** April 2nd, 7pm.
- **Good Friday Vigil:** 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 TBD.
- **Easter Sunday:** April 5th.

Worship Participants

Microphone: Norm Gardner	Acolytes: Jordyn Fish, Ben Fish
Counters March 15: Christa Carroll, Debby Nikkari	Readers March 15: Nancy Matthews, Christa Carroll
Greeters/Ushers March 15: Carrie Livernois	Fellowship Time Hosts April 5: Robin Howard & Judy Haer