



March 15, 2026
Fourth Sunday in Lent

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Sharing an experience of belonging, with God's music and the love
and justice of Jesus at the heart of what we do.

Welcome

Rachel Robicheau

Opening Music: Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Guided Breath & Centering Moment

Opening Prayer

Rev. Timothy Sylvia

Entry Into Worship

Cheryle Totten

One: We gather as people who know what it is to be broken.
For we live in a world quick to assign blame
when things fall apart.

**Many: We long to experience compassion
instead of condemnation.
So we come seeking what restores us.**

One: God does not turn away from brokenness.
God draws near.

**Many: Near to this place where wounds are named,
where shame is released,**

One: And where healing begins.

Many: Let us worship the God who restores us.

Scripture: Psalm 23

Cheryle Totten

Gospel: John 9: 1-41

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

Music: Where God Meets Us

Sermon: What Restores Us When We Are Broken?

Rev. Timothy Sylvia

Music: Broken

Affirmation (Unison)

Rachel Robicheau

**We believe brokenness is not a punishment from God.
And that suffering is not proof of sin.**

**We believe God does not explain away our pain,
but enters into it.**

**We believe restoration does not mean returning to who we were,
It is becoming whole in new ways.**

**We trust the God who walks with us through the valley
and calls us beloved still.**

Offering Invitation

Rachel Robicheau

Pastoral Prayer (with the Lord's Prayer)

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Closing Music: O Christ, The Healer

Sending Forth

Rev. Timothy Sylvia, Pastor
Jeff Hobart, Director of Music Ministry

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

This morning's flowers are in honor of Rev. Timoth's March 19th, birthday, given by Tony Massaroni.

4th ANNUAL LENTEN TUNA DRIVE: Bring your donations of canned tuna to the church any time until Easter (April 5th) to reach this year's goal of 2,200 cans to be donated to the Friendly Food Pantry!

EASTER FLOWERS: Order your Easter flowers either online at bit.ly/2026EasterFlowers or forms are available in the narthex. All orders must be received by April 1st.

ADULT HYGIENE PRODUCTS DONATIONS: Missions is launching a drive for donations of adult incontinence items and women's hygiene products. There is a Donations bin in Memorial Hall. These products will be delivered to Interfaith Social Services (ISS) in. You may also donate on-line on the church's [giving](#) page.

FAITH FORMATION BOOK STUDY, Tuesday, March 17th, 7:00 pm: Join Rev. Jennifer in a three-week discussion of Christena Cleveland's fabulous book, God is a Black Woman. Are you ready to embark on a pilgrimage to dismantle the cultural "whitemalegod" and encounter the Sacred Black Feminine? Email Jennifer (jennifer@wearechanginglives.org) to participate in this book study on Tuesdays, March 3rd, 17th and 24th at 7:00 pm EST on Zoom.

RACIAL AUTHORITARIANISM, Saturday, March 21st, 6:00 pm: Join the Racial Justice team for a spaghetti dinner and community conversation with Cassie Ramos. Dinner will be served at 6:00 pm, followed by dessert and the speaker at 6:45 pm. There's an option to join the conversation via Zoom at 6:45 pm if you will not be able to attend the dinner portion of this event. **Register by March 18th** at bit.ly/RacialAuthoritarianism.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE, March 20th: Please submit to Nadine (info@wearechanginglives.org) anything you'd like included in the April newsletter. Thank you.

ISS STOP THE STIGMA WALK, Saturday, April 25th, 9:30 am: A church team has been set up for this year's walk. If you'd like to join the team, please contact Susan Goodale (psgoodale@comcast.net) prior to registering. Funds raised will go to the New Directions Counseling Center at ISS. Anyone is able to go for counseling regardless of insurance or inability for their copay. Stop the Stigma against mental illness, substance abuse. You can donate to our team, or an individual on our team, by clicking on this link: <https://interfaithsocialservices.org/stop-the-stigma-5k/?form=5Kdonation> and specify that you are donating to First Congregational Church Randolph or the specific walker's name.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Staff Meeting
Racial Justice

Monday, March 16th
Sunday, March 22nd

10:00 am in the Parlor
2:00 pm in the Chapel

SCAN OUR QR CODES:



Online Giving



Events Page of Our Website