

I was blind
but now I see

john 9:25

March 15, 2026
Fourth Sunday of Lent



UNITED CHURCH
of **PITTSFORD**

American Baptist & United Methodist

Liturgist: Verna Hazen
Music Director: Alan Murphy
Pastor: Reverend Julius David Jackson, Jr. (Pastor JD)

*A hearing loop is available for the hearing impaired.
Please ask the ushers if you need assistance.*

* Indicates: Those who are able may stand.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*HYMN #707 (1-3)

Hymn of Promise

*PRAYER OF GATHERING (*in unison*)

Life can be overwhelming at times. We can feel lost and alone, abandoned to our own devices and left to fend for ourselves in scary places. Yet when we pause, gracious God, we remember you are with us. You offer cool refreshment and lasting comfort. Yours is a comfortable hand to hold, a nourishing plate of food offered in a moment of hunger, a cool drink on a hot day. May we celebrate your presence at every turn, O God, and share with others the goodness of knowing you are never far away. Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: God's ways are different from our ways.

ALL: God chooses leaders we might think are weak.

ONE: God offers comfort and encouragement to us even when we are in fear.

ALL: God leads us through dismal times and places, and brings us through to the other side.

ONE: Come, let us worship God.

*UNISON READING

Familiar words come readily to the lips, yet not so readily to the heart. Without thinking we can recite that you are our shepherd, O God - and yet we carry on as if we are alone. We face difficult paths only to forget you are with us, offering strength and comfort in the most dangerous of times. We want to see our "enemies" harmed rather than seek ways with you to make them friends and companions.

In all of this, forgive us. Open our hearts to seek new ways of celebrating your presence and experiencing your healing anew. For we trust that you will lead us in places safe and gentle, if we will but let you. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

1 Samuel 16:1-13 NRSV

***HYMN OF MEDITATION #451 (1-3)** Be Thou My Vision

SCRIPTURE/MORNING MESSAGE

John 9:1-41 NRSV

“OPTICAL CONCLUSION”

Pastor Rev. Julius David Jackson, Jr.

***INVITATION HYMN #298 (1,2 & 4)**

When I Survey The Wondrous Cross

During the invitation hymn, all are invited to come up and place their Lenten intention(s) in the basket under the Cross.

**MORNING PRAYERS/ SHARING OUR JOYS
AND CONCERNS**

Pastoral Prayer

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Musical Selection

***Response:** #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 for Offering**

***HYMN #672 (1,2,4)** God be With You Till We Meet Again

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

~ *Those who are able may stand!* ~

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please join us for coffee in Howard Hall.

CALENDAR

March - *Canned fruit month for food pantry*

March 1-31	*Contact Office to get building code!
March 15	Breakfast and Birds – Church Breakfast
March 18	Capital Campaign Meeting – 6 pm
March 21	UCP Spring Craft Fair – Howard Hall *UCP Bake Sale!
March 22	Guest Speaker: Dr. Denise Mack
March 26	United We Eat Out - at BJ's Restaurant
March 29	Palm Sunday

April - *Paper products month for food pantry*

April 1	Building access codes change
April 5	Easter Sunday

ACTION REQUIRED by 3/31 - Building Access Codes

On 4/1, we will change the building access codes and assign a new code to existing groups. After the codes are changed, the code you currently use will not work to access the building. All UCP congregants who currently use a code will need a new access code by 3/31. Please be prepared to share the code you currently use.

To get your new access code, you may contact the office by phone or email during office hours (T/W/TH mornings) or you may speak with Logan Hazen or Nate Schunk.

NOTE: The new code will not be active until 4/1. Please continue to use your current code until that date. Please see the FAQ insert. Questions? Contact the office.

April Food Cupboard

In April, we will collect paper products for the Community Food Cupboard. They need paper towels, toilet tissue, napkins, etc. A special need is toddlers' diapers.

From the Missions Committee

The Easter offering this year will be split between the One Great Hour of Sharing and the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

One Great Hour of Sharing is administered by the World Relief Committee of the Board of General Ministries of American Baptist Churches, USA. Gifts support emergency relief projects to displaced persons, disaster rehabilitation, and funds for the development projects which address chronic needs.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is administered by the United Methodist Church as part of its Global Ministries, the mission, relief and development agency of the United Methodist Church, working with partners and churches in more than 115 countries.

Lectionary Texts for next week (March 22, 2026)

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm 130

Romans 8:6-11

John 11:1-45

UCP DOOR ACCESS CODE CHANGE FAQ

WHO will be affected by this?

Any UCP member who currently uses an access code to enter the building will need a new code to enter the building.

WHY are codes changing?

We are changing door access codes as a security measure.

WHEN will the codes change?

The door codes will be changed on 4/1 - the week before Easter. The new code will be active mid-week and your old code will no longer work. **Please continue to use your current code until that time.**

HOW do I get my new code?

ACTION NEEDED by 3/31: Please contact the office via EMAIL or PHONE (during office hours - T/W/Th mornings) to get your new code. You may also speak with Logan Hazen or Nate Schunk. Please be prepared to provide the code you currently use.

MAY I still use my old code, once the codes change?

No. As part of the process, the old codes are deleted from the system. Once the codes have been changed that week, your old code will no longer work. Note that the new code will not be active until that week.

WHAT IF my new code doesn't work?

Don't worry. We test the new codes to make sure they work. Plus, your new code is not individual to you - so others will use the same code. (We also test the old codes to confirm they are deleted.)

WHO may I call with questions?

If you have any questions, please contact the office or speak with Logan Hazen or Nate Schunk.

THANK YOU for your help with this process!



UNITED CHURCH
of PITTSFORD

*Each of you should give what you have
decided in your heart to give,
not reluctantly or under compulsion,
for God loves a cheerful giver.*

2 Corinthians 9:7

Scan this QR code with your cell phone to access
UCP's secure giving page at ucpittsford.org/give.
Once there, choose from the following funds:



General Offering
Memorial Fund
Capital Improvements,
Repairs & Replacements
Missions
Music
Christian Education
Fellowship

For more ways to give, please see the
WAYS TO GIVE card in the seatback.
Thank you for your support.