

# March 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1 Adult Sunday School 9:00	2	3 Yoga 4:00	4 Wednesday Night Alive 6:00 RH	5 Congregational Care 11:00 Yoga 4:00	6	7
8 <i>Daylight Saving Time Begins</i> Adult Sunday School 9:00	9	10 Yoga 4:00	11 Larksfield fellowship 10:00 Wednesday Night Alive 6:00 RH	12 Bunny's Lit Class 10:00 Yoga 4:00	13	14
15 Adult Sunday School 9:00 Boards Meet 11.45	16	17 Trustees 4:00 Yoga 4:00	18 Wednesday Night Alive 6:00 RH	19 Fellowship Lunch 11:30 Yoga 4:00	20	21
22 Adult Sunday School 9:00	23 Council 4:00	24 Yoga 4:00	25 Larksfield fellowship 10:00 Wednesday Night Alive 6:00 RH	26 Yoga 4:00 Spanish Class 5:30	27	28
29 <i>Palm Sunday</i> Adult Sunday School 9:00	30	31 Yoga 4:00	1 Wednesday Night Alive 6:00 RH	2 Congregational Care 11:00 Maundy Thursday dinner 6:00	3 Tennebrae Plymouth UCC 6:00 Offices closed	4

## CHURCH STAFF

Senior Minister:	Rev. Paul Ellis Jackson	Sexton:	Emily Hurt
Director of Music:	Dr. Ryan Beeken	Sunday School Teachers:	Pamela Clarkson Anna Duxler Megan Lovely
Pianist/Organist:	Helen Griffin	Sound Technician:	D'Angelo Talbot
Pianist/Organist:	Laura Williams	Video Technician:	Julia Gonzalez
Bookkeeper:	Christy Banzet		
Office Administrator:	Heidi Brandenberger		

*Loose coins in the offering plate are dedicated to the Head To Toe Hygiene Pantry.*



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## “The Last Week: The Fruitless Tree and the Den of Robbers”

Worship Service  
Sunday, March 1, 2026  
10:30 a.m.

Our Covenant

In the love of truth,  
and in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ, this church exists to serve those that believe that the Christian faith affords our clearest insight into the nature and will of God.  
Accepting that faith as our guide,  
we join with one another to worship and work so that peace, justice, and brotherhood may prevail in the world.

# UNIVERSITY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

## The Order of Worship

*Please honor those who cherish moments of silence before the worship begins.*

PRELUDE Helen Griffin, piano

ANNOUNCEMENTS Brent Lehner

CHORAL CALL UCC Chancel Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Paul Ellis Jackson

OPENING HYMN \* (All Verses) Pilgrim Hymnal #13  
"Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens Adore Him"

A TIME FOR ALL CHILDREN Emily Hurt

CHILDREN'S RECESSIONAL All  
*Go Now in Peace, Go Now in Peace, May the Love of God  
Surround You, Everywhere, Everywhere, You May Go*

ANTHEM "Safe Within Your Hands" Mark Hayes  
La'Anie Ortiz, soprano

JOYS/CONCERNS/PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Paul Ellis Jackson

**Joy:** Thank you to everyone that made soup, brought sides and desserts and attended last Sunday's Soup Potluck lunch. We enjoyed your company and hope you had a good time.

**Prayer List - Health:** Mary Anna Meshew, Marilyn Pearson, Yvette Ehrlich, Burt & Sharon Tims, Brenda Leerskov, Linda Eberhardt, Cyndi Richter, Raymond Grier, Jerry Leisy, Jan Deering, Eddie Asten, family of Dean Mason

LORD'S PRAYER All

Our Father/Creator, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us the wrongs we have done, as we forgive those who have wronged us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

MUSICAL RESPONSE Helen Griffin, piano

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN \* (All verses) Pilgrim Hymnal #404  
"Take My Life and Let It Be"

COMMITMENT INVITATION

Brent Lehner

OFFERTORY

Helen Griffin, piano

ANTHEM

"Kyrie"  
UCC Chancel Choir

arr. John Leavitt

TRADITIONAL WORD (NRSV)

On the following day, when they came from Bethany, he was hungry. Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see whether perhaps he would find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. He said to it, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard it. Then they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling and those who were buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves, and he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. He was teaching and saying, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'? But you have made it a den of robbers." And when the chief priests and the scribes heard it, they kept looking for a way to kill him, for they were afraid of him because the whole crowd was spellbound by his teaching. And when evening came, Jesus and his disciples went out of the city. --Mark 11:12-19

CONTEMPORARY WORD

"By overturning the tables, Jesus isn't "cleansing" the Temple to make it better; he is symbolically shutting it down. He calls it a 'den of robbers'—a term Borg and Crossan remind us referred to a 'hideout' for those who had already committed the robbery of the poor through high taxes and debt. The incident in the temple was not a 'cleansing,' as if the temple could be made right. It was a symbolic destruction." --Marcus Borg & John Dominic Crossan

SERMON

"The Last Week: The Fruitless Tree  
and the Den of Robbers" Rev. Paul Ellis Jackson

BENEDICTION \*

"God Be with You Till We Meet Again"

*God be with you 'til we meet again; by God's counsels guide, uphold you;  
with God's sheep securely fold you; God be with you 'til we meet again.*

PASTORAL BLESSING \*

Rev. Paul Ellis Jackson

POSTLUDE

Helen Griffin, piano

*All who are able may stand.*