



# Tower Tidings

First United  
Methodist Church

MAR 2026

## Pastor's Page

Grace and peace to you in this holy season of Lent.

Lent is already upon us. We have begun the journey toward the cross — a journey of reflection, repentance, prayer, and renewal. God invites us to slow down, to listen deeply, and to open ourselves to the Spirit's transforming work.

Throughout this sacred season, I invite you to stay after worship beginning **\*\*March 8\*\*** for a time of guided, prayerful conversation. Together, we will engage the "Courageous Congregation" themes we are exploring in worship: **\*\*grief, discerning purpose, working together, sharing power, and reimagining how we do ministry together.\*\***

As an older congregation of The United Methodist Church, we carry deep faith and long memory. We have known seasons of growth and seasons of loss. We have celebrated baptisms and mourned saints. We have adapted before — and through every chapter, God remains faithful.

During these Lenten gatherings, we will:

- \*Name our grief honestly\* — acknowledging losses while trusting God's comfort.
- \*Clarify our purpose\* — asking what God is calling us to be and to do.
- \*Strengthen how we work together\* — honoring the gifts and wisdom among us.
- \*Practice sharing power\* — making room for every voice the Spirit may use.
- \*Imagining possibilities Ministry\* — discerning not who we once were, but who God is shaping us to become.

Lent reminds us that God meets us not only in our strength, but in our vulnerability. The cross teaches us that surrender can lead to resurrection. Even now, God is doing a new thing among us.

These after-worship gatherings will not be business meetings, but sacred conversations — grounded in prayer, guided by love, and shaped by hope. You do not need to have answers. Simply come with an open heart.

Thank you for your faithfulness, your endurance, and your love for Christ and for one another. I am thankful to walk this Lenten road with you — listening, praying, and discerning together.

May this holy season deepen our trust and renew our courage.  
With gratitude and hope,

In Christ,

*Pastor Sarah*



Worship  
Sundays at  
10 am

1500 N.  
Water St.  
Owosso, mi  
48867

989.725.2201

Email:  
firstumc@  
owossofumc.org

Website:  
Owossofumc.org

Rev. Sarah  
Elliott,  
Pastor



**Volunteers**  
**Saturday March 14**  
**Food Distribution**

**Karin VanderMolen**  
**Rev. Terry Euper**  
**Jennifer Fuentes & family**  
**Tony Moore**  
**James Downing**  
**Steve Pennock**  
**Greg Slocum**  
**Gary Slocum**  
*Please arrive at 8:45 am*  
*Thank you!*



All men are invited to the  
**MEN'S BREAKFAST**  
Sat. March 7 at 8:30 am  
in the church café.  
The cost is \$8.  
Please rsvp to James Downing  
989-323-0079

All Singles Over Sixty are  
welcome to join us for lunch  
on Tuesday, March 3 at  
noon at McAllister's Deli.



## Prayers and Squares – The Prayer Quilt Ministry

*Prayers and Squares* is an interfaith out-reach which combines the gift of a hand-tied quilt with the gift of prayer for someone in need. Each knot tied into the quilt represents a prayer that was offered specifically for the recipient of the quilt.

### How Do You Make a Prayer Quilt?

When our group is asked to make a quilt for someone, we select one of the quilt tops we have on hand, or one of the members decides to make a new top specifically for that person.

The next step is the most important: We ask many people to participate in the step of praying and tying the quilt layers together. This usually involves our quilting group, our congregation, and friends and family of the recipient. Each person ties a square knot and says a silent prayer for our quilt recipient.

### How Do You Decide Who Gets a Quilt?

We don't decide that someone needs a quilt. We only make quilts when someone has specifically asked us to pray for them and is experiencing a life-altering and/or life-threatening situation. A Prayer Quilt Request Form is available in the church office.

As a Prayers and Squares Chapter, we agree to the "Three Commandments" of Prayers and Squares:

1. Make prayer the purpose of the ministry.
2. Before tying knots and saying prayers for the individual, that person must agree to accept the gift of prayer in the form of a quilt.
3. We may not accept payment for a quilt. Those who receive the quilts and those who request them for others must not be obligated to *Prayers and Squares* in any way.

Through the Prayers and Squares Ministry, the First United Methodist Church of Owosso has gifted 264 quilts since we began in early 2004.



**Prayers & Squares**  
THE PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY



**Wednesday Community  
Lent Services  
7:00 pm**

- Feb 25      First Baptist Church, 114 W. Mason  
                  *"I AM"*  
                  Pastor Paul Brunell
  
- March 4     St. John's UCC, 429 N. Washington St.  
                  *"The Bread of Life"*  
                  Pastor Katie Wallen
  
- March 11    Christ Episcopal Church, 120 Goodhue  
                  *"The Light of the World"*  
                  Pastor Sarah Elliott
  
- March 18    First Congregational UCC,  
                  327 N. Washington  
                  *"The Door"*  
                  Pastor Ken Herbruck
  
- March 25    Assembly of God, 1150 N. Shia St.  
                  *"The Resurrection and the Life"*  
                  Pastor Tony Moore

**GOOD FRIDAY**

April 3      12:15 PM  
                  First United Methodist Church  
                  1500 N. Water St.  
                  *"Good Friday"*  
                  Pastor Mike Cooper



**Community Craft Camp**  
**Sat March 14 @ 10am - 4pm**  
**First UM Church,**  
**1500 N. Water St. Owosso**  
*FUNDRAISER FOR MISSIONS*  
***\$20 gets you a table, lunch, snacks,***  
***beverages.***

***BRING YOUR OWN projects and supplies.***

- ◆ Knitting
- ◆ Crocheting
- ◆ Scrapbooking
- ◆ Card-making
- ◆ Quilting
- ◆ Sewing or other projects!

*Silent auction*



Call or email to reserve your space  
 989 725 2201  
[firstumc@owossofumc.org](mailto:firstumc@owossofumc.org)

**MISSIONS**

The **Noisy Collection** has begun and continues every Sunday through Lent. Save up your coins to drop in the can (or quiet money is also great) and help make some noise. This money goes with the pastor to Annual Conference for the offering for Haiti and Liberia.

Our **mission projects** for this year are:

- Cass Community Services
- NOAH Project
- Red Bird Mission
- Heifer International
- Missionaries: Temba Nkomozepe and Randy Hildebrant
- UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief)

We will be highlighting these during the year in case you are not familiar with them. Thank you for your generous giving to show God's love to others.



# PRAYER list...

- Those affected by gun violence, war & disasters

### Church Family

- Sue Gilman's mother passed away
- Jackie Euper, recovering, injuries
- Carol Ray, health issues
- Fred Delcamp, surgery Jan 20
- Art Flanagan, surgery 12/3
- Mark Keesler, health issues
- Roger Elford, at Pleasant View rehab
- Ed Payne, home Hospice
- Diane Allen, cancer
- Rhonda Mullins, health issues
- John Downing, health issues
- Sarah Finnen, health issues

### Family & Friends

- Ces Garcia, health issues, hospital
- RayAnn Black, aneurism back of head (Janet Keesler's cousin)
- John Mullins, POTS, recent fall
- Lois Smithers, cancer returned
- Dean West, cancer (nephew of Cathy Burkitt)
- Michelle Ardelean, kidney cancer (daughter of Clays)

### Military

- SFC Audrey Santana, Pentagon (Fagan/Luna family)
- Emily Alliton, Navy, IL (Sutliff's granddaughter)
- Kory Alliton, Navy, TX (Sutliff's grandson)
- Todd Hofacker, CA
- Yuka Peters, WA State
- Cody Rozell
- John Schlaud, Marines, 5th
- Ryan Weaver, Army Reserve
- Capt. Tim Mapley, MI National Guard deployed to Kosivo

### Our Homebound

- Elaine Shepard, Oliver Woods, 1330 W. Oliver St., 3-12, 989-723-3074
- Jean Stanton, Oliver Woods, 1330 W. Oliver St., 4-15 989-251-6544
- Pat Pudvay, Oliver Woods 1330 W. Oliver St. Owosso
- Judy Helmker, 1694 N M52 #221,
- June Helvie, Memorial Healthcare 826 W. King St. LTC, Room 474

*Prayer requests can be submitted to the church office by phone 989-725-2201, or email [firstumc@owossofumc.org](mailto:firstumc@owossofumc.org)*

*To reach Pastor Sarah for emergency pastoral care, hospitalizations or end of life visits, call or text 989-220-1710*

## Thank you . . .

Dear Rev. Elliott & FUMC:

Thank you for welcoming our mother, Ann Ferden, into your church family. We appreciate you remaining in regular communication and friendship with her even after her transition from attending church regularly.

We trust that her gift of music touched your lives and enhanced your worship through song.

Psalm 150

Jim Ferden, John Ferden, Sarah Meredith

- |    |                |    |                 |
|----|----------------|----|-----------------|
| 1  | Brian Drake    | 23 | Sharon Marsh    |
| 3  | Karolyn Dawley | 27 | Ree' Wyzynajtys |
| 12 | Debbie Delcamp | 28 | Roger Elford    |
| 14 | Steve Schmidt  |    |                 |
| 15 | Bob Vogl       |    |                 |
| 23 | Sharon Downing |    |                 |

## Happy March Birthday !

## Noah's Ark Children's Center & Preschool

We are excited to share that we are still enrolling for PreK4All for the Fall 2026–2027 school year! If you or someone you know has a preschool-aged child, we would love to welcome them into our program.

In February, our students celebrated *Kindness Week*, learning about the power of kind words and how they can lift one another up. Classrooms practiced encouraging language, shared compliments, and even wrote heartfelt letters to our church's homebound members to spread a little extra love

and connection within our church family.

As we head into March as Reading Month, we are looking for guest readers to come share a favorite story with our children. If you would like to volunteer your time and help us inspire a love of reading, please let us know, our students would be thrilled to have you join us! Thank you for continuing to support our youngest learners as they grow in kindness, confidence, and faith.

Jennifer Fuentes, 989 725 2202 [director@naccpreschool.com](mailto:director@naccpreschool.com)

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<p>1 <b>2nd Sunday in Lent</b></p> <p>9 am - Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10 am - Worship <i>Lenten Reflections w/ Pastor in Chapel</i></p>	<p>2</p> <p>11:00 TOPS</p>	<p>3</p> <p>12:00 pm Singles Over Sixty at McAllister's Deli</p> <p>12-1 "Knowing Who We Are" / Zoom in Café</p>	<p>4</p> <p>8am-Coffee Club</p> <p>9 am Chapel Time w/ Pastor</p> <p>7pm Lent Service at St. John's UCC</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7pm AA</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8:30 am Men's Breakfast</p>
<p>8 <b>3rd Sunday in Lent</b></p> <p>9 am - Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10 am - Worship with Communion</p> <p><i>Lenten Reflections w/ Pastor in Chapel</i></p>	<p>9</p> <p>11:00 TOPS</p>	<p>10</p> <p>12-1 "Knowing Who We Are" / Zoom in Café</p> <p>6:30 pm Stephen Ministry / Zoom</p>	<p>11</p> <p>8am-Coffee Club</p> <p>7pm Lent Service at Christ Episcopal</p>	<p>12</p> <p>11 am Older Adult Ministry Team</p>	<p>13</p> <p>FH Set-Up</p> <p>7pm AA</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9-11 am Food Distribution</p> <p>10am-4pm CRAFT CAMP</p> <p>2pm-Handbell Concert - Sanct.</p>
<p>15 <b>4th Sunday in Lent</b></p> <p>9am - Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10 am - Worship</p> <p><i>Lenten Reflections w/ Pastor in Chapel</i></p>	<p>16</p> <p>11:00 TOPS</p>	<p>17</p> <p>12-1 "Knowing Who We Are" / Zoom in Cafe</p> <p>6:30 pm - Noah's Ark Board</p>	<p>18 <b>8-3 Advocacy Day at the Capital</b></p> <p>8am-Coffee Club</p> <p>6:30 pm Worship Team via Zoom</p> <p>7pm - Lent Service at First Congreg. UCC</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9-11 am Chapel Time</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7pm AA</p> <p>5pm Wedding Rehearsal</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10 am - Kitchen Clean Up</p> <p>3pm Jacobs Wedding</p>
<p>22 <b>5th Sunday in Lent</b></p> <p>9 am -Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10 am - Worship</p> <p><i>Lenten Reflections w/ Pastor in Chapel</i></p>	<p>23</p> <p>11:00 TOPS</p>	<p>24</p> <p>11-11:45 am Brown Bag Lunch w/Pastor Sarah - Café</p> <p>12-1 "Knowing Who We Are" / Zoom in Cafe</p> <p>6:30 pm Stephen Ministry / Zoom</p>	<p>25</p> <p>8am-Coffee Club</p> <p>7pm - Lent Service at Assembly of God</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7-8 pm Leadership Board / Zoom</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7pm AA</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 <b>Palm Sunday</b></p> <p>9 am -Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10 am - Worship</p> <p><i>Lenten Reflections w/ Pastor in Chapel</i></p>	<p>30</p> <p>11:00 TOPS</p>	<p>31</p> <p>12-1 "Knowing Who We Are" / Zoom in Cafe</p>	<p>April 1</p>	<p>April 2 <b>Maundy Thursday</b></p> <p>7pm Maundy Service in Chapel</p>	<p>April 3 <b>Good Friday</b></p> <p>12:15 Service Here at FUMC</p> <p>7pm AA</p>	<p>April 4</p>

**Spring Rummage Sale April 16 & 17.**

You can bring your donations beginning April 13.

Owosso Musicale Presents  
**THE CAPITAL CITY RINGERS HANDBELLS**  
 SAT, March 14 ~ 2-3pm at Owosso First UMC  
 Sanctuary - Free Admission  
 Donations Appreciated



# Owosso First United Methodist Church

## HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, March 29 @ 10 am

Good Friday, April 3 @ 12:15 PM  
First United Methodist Church  
Pastor Mike Cooper

Maundy Thursday, April 2 @ 7:00 pm in Chapel

Easter Sunday, April 5 @ 10:00 am



### Church Staff

Rev. Sarah Elliott

Karin VanderMolen,  
Admin. Asst. &  
Bookkeeper

Jon Carroll,  
Building Supervisor

James Mullins,  
Music & Audio/Visual  
Coordinator

Jennifer Fuentes,  
Noah's Ark Director

The MISSION of  
Owosso First United  
Methodist Church is to live  
out our faith in Jesus Christ  
through acts of love with  
honesty, integrity, and  
respect.

The VISION of  
Owosso First United  
Methodist Church is to be  
Christ-centered, a welcome  
and loving environment,  
service-oriented, and  
respectful of ALL creation.

Tower Tidings - MAR 2026  
First United Methodist Church  
1500 North Water Street  
Owosso, MI 48867