

# The Mount Carmel Congregational Church

*A United Church of Christ*



*Sermon on the Mount, Andy Gonzalez (2010)*

**Second Sunday of Lent**  
**March 1, 2026**

## Prelude

“As We Gather at Your Table”

*Arr. Anne Krentz, Organ*

Valerie Duffy,  
Flute

## Greeting and Announcements

## Passing of the Peace of Christ

### Call to Worship

One: We are on a Lenten journey following in the steps of Jesus.

**All: It is a journey we take together, walking side by side.**

One: We are called to pay attention, to notice things on the way:

**All: The sharp stones in the path, the uneven ground, the mercy of shade, the faithfulness of those who walk with us.**

One: We carry little with us but that which is in our hearts:

**All: Hope, trust, fear, apprehension, wonder, sorrow, love.**

One: On this walk we will rest and sing and pray and listen.

**All: In our worship together, we will rest and sing and pray and listen.**

One: Then let us worship God with open hearts.

### \*Hymn

“Be Now My Vision”

NCH #451

### Unison Prayer

*(adapted from a prayer by Dietrich Bonhoeffer)*

***O God, we cannot do this alone.***

***Help us to concentrate our thoughts on you;***

***We feel the weight of the world, and you offer rest;***

***We are lonely, yet you do not leave us;***

***We are feeble in heart, and you call us to courage;***

***We are restless, and you foment patience in our hearts;***

***We harbor bitterness, and you plant seeds of gratitude;***

***We give into despair, and you awaken hope.***

***Whatever these days may bring, we cannot do this alone.***

***We are your people, held in your hands; forgive us, we pray. Amen.***

“You have heard that it was said, *An eye in exchange for an eye and A tooth in exchange for a tooth.* But I tell you not to face off against those who want to hurt you. Instead, if someone slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other cheek to them as well. And if someone wants to take you to court and take your tunic, let them take your coat too. If anyone commandeers you as a partner for one mile, go with them two. If someone asks for something, give it to them, and if someone wants to borrow something, don’t turn away from them.

“You have heard that it was said, *You are to love your neighbor* and hate your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who harass you and make cases against you, so that you become as children of God who is in heaven. God makes the sun rise on both the malicious and the upstanding alike and sends rain on both the lawful and the unlawful. If you simply love those who love you, what reward do you have? Don’t even the tax collectors do the same? And if you welcome only your brothers and sisters, what is extraordinary about what you are doing? Don’t those in other nations do the same? Therefore, just as your heavenly Father is complete in showing love to everyone, so also you must be complete.”

### **A Season of Prayer for Our Church and the World**

Please remember the following persons in your prayers: Elizabeth Alberico; Fred Tiedemann; Rhonda Pruzinsky; Cari Jansen; Carol Fitzsimmons; Randy States; and Jean Vancamp.

### **Moments of Silent Prayer**

### **Pastoral Prayer**

### **The Lord’s Prayer**

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy names. 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

## Call to Offering

Offertory

“BEACH SPRING”

*Arr. John Carter*

## \*The Doxology

*Praise God throughout these forty days;  
Praise Jesus Christ whom God did raise;  
Praise to the Spirit who imparts  
God’s grace and love into our hearts. Amen.*

## \*Unison Prayer of Dedication

*Gracious God, as we pass the plates each week we are reminded that small things add up to larger things. Our weekly gifts help us to practice our generosity, to release our selfishness, and to remind ourselves of our interconnectedness in you. May these gifts add up to more than they seem, we pray. Amen.*

\*Hymn

“As We Gather at Your Table”

NCH #332

## Sermon

### The Service of Communion

One: May God be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them up to God.**

One: Let us offer our God our deepest gratitude.

**All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

One: It is right to give our thanks and praise to you, O God, for you are God of the lost and the found. Day after day we look for you, and day after day you find us. Our seeking does not go unanswered, and for that we are grateful. And yet, gracious God, our seeking does not stop. For even though we find your fingerprints are all over this world, we also see so much brokenness. And so we pray, as we gather for this sacred meal that we would not get comfortable with half-hearted seeking, nor would we grow numb to the suffering of this world. Nourish us that we might relentless in our consoling of the grieving, in our welcoming of the stranger, and in the feeding of the hungry, just as you have done for all of those who came before us in this legacy of love. We join our voices with them and with those who will follow in our affirmation of faith:

**All: You, O God, are supreme and holy.**

**You create our world and give us life.**

**Your purpose overarches everything we do.**

**You have always been with us.**

**You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous,  
good beyond all measure.**

**You came to us before we came to you.**

**You have revealed and proved  
your love for us in Jesus Christ,  
who lived and died and rose again.**

**You are with us now.**

**You are God.**

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit.**

**You empower us to be your gospel in the world.**

**You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.**

**You are our God. We worship you.**

## **The Sharing of the Meal**

*(At this time, Deacons will distribute the Elements. Please be advised that the outer ring of cups are filled with wine, while all remaining cups contain grape juice.)*

## **Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving**

*God of manna and mustard seeds, we came to this table hungry and have fed us here, filling us with hope and the promise of what could be: a table where all are welcomed and all are fed. Thank you for nourishing our curiosity alongside our spirit and our resolve. May we always seek you the way you seek after us. With grateful hearts we pray, amen.*

**\*Hymn**

“O Day of God, Draw Near”

NCH #611

## **Benediction**

**Postlude**

“SLANE”

*Arr. John Carter*

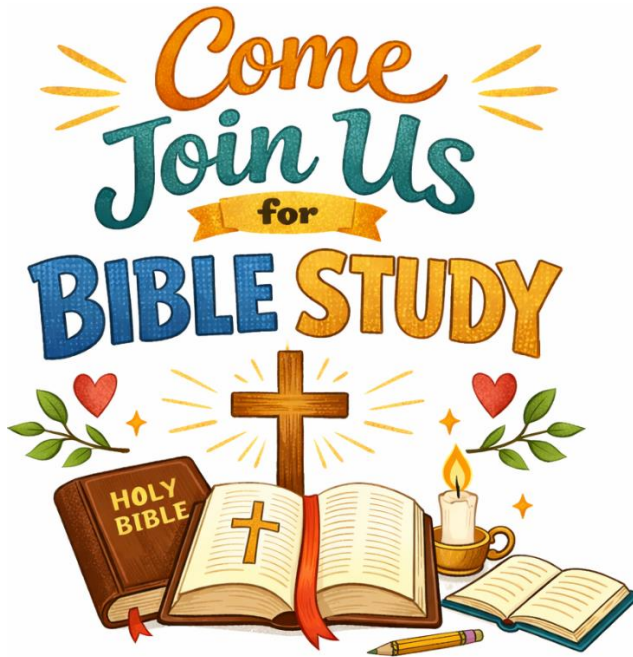
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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Our annual Lenten Taizé worship service will be held on Wednesday, March 11, at 7pm. We hope to see you there!**

**We have begun working on our 2026 Directory! Please report any corrections or changes to the office by Tuesday, March 17.**

**This year’s Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 12, 2026. If you are a Church officer or the head of a committee, we ask that you send a typed copy of your report to Aren, preferably by email, by Tuesday, March 24, along with a list of your current members and officers and any open positions that need to be filled.**



## Saturday Mornings in Lent

March 7

March 14

### Time

10:30am-12:00pm

### Place

Parish Hall Parlor

March 1, 2026



## Mount Carmel Congregational Church

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### **Staff and Officers**

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*As a community of faith, gathered in Christ's love,  
we strive to support one another in hearing the Word,  
living the Word, and sharing the Word.*

