



March 1, 2026
Windows Into the Light
A Lenten Journey of Grace Upon Grace

UMC in Wayne

99 Parish Drive Wayne, New Jersey 07470

Email: Office@umcwayne.org Phone: (973) 694-3260

Website: www.umcwayne.org Watch on Facebook: UMC.Wayne

Join us on Zoom: [Meeting ID: 823 9591 4126 Passcode: 092827](https://umcwayne.org/join)

In the same way, let your light shine before others,
so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.
~*Matthew 5:16*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

*** CALL TO WORSHIP** *Psalm 103:8, 10*

Leader: God is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

**All: God does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor punish us for our unfaithfulness.**

Leader: Then let us turn to the Gracious One, trusting in God.

**All: We praise you, O God, and return to you,
that you may give us new birth in your Holy Spirit.**

***HYMN**

Lift High the Cross

UMH #159

OPENING PRAYER

God of new life, Jesus said that we must be born again from above to enter into your Realm. We surrender ourselves to you now, that we might receive life from you, in this moment, and each moment to come. May your Spirit blow through our worship, and transform us by your grace. We pray in the name of Jesus, and in the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE BASKET

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

**Light of God, shine in my heart and transfigure my darkness,
that I may become your light, radiant with your presence.
Amen.**

SCRIPTURE John 3:1-17 Good News Translation

There was a Jewish leader named Nicodemus, who belonged to the party of the Pharisees. One night he went to Jesus and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher sent by God. No one could perform the miracles you are doing unless God were with him."

Jesus answered, "I am telling you the truth: no one can see the Kingdom of God without being born again."

"How can a grown man be born again?" Nicodemus asked. "He certainly cannot enter his mother's womb and be born a second time!"

"I am telling you the truth," replied Jesus, "that no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. A person is born physically of human parents, but is born spiritually of the Spirit. Do not be surprised because I tell you that you must all be born again. The wind blows wherever it wishes; you hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it is going. It is like that with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

"How can this be?" asked Nicodemus.

Jesus answered, "You are a great teacher in Israel, and you don't know this? I am telling you the truth: we speak of what we know and report what we have seen, yet none of you is willing to accept our message. You do not believe me when I tell you about the things of this world; how will you ever believe me, then, when I tell you about the things of heaven? And no one has ever gone up to heaven except the Son of Man, who came down from heaven."

As Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the desert, in the same way the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to be its judge, but to be its savior.

MESSAGE

The Window on the Heart

PRAYERS OF JOY AND CONCERN

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

When we least expect it, even when we are not ready, God comes to us, calling us to trust, calling us to follow, calling us to set aside our foolish lives, for the grace-full ones which are offered to us. Let us confess how often we choose not to follow, as we pray together saying,

UNISON PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

We are all too human, Faithful God, and so think we have nothing to learn from others, and thus discount ancestors in the faith like Nicodemus or Sarah. We look for an answers online, convinced that we can trust whatever we find. We close tight the shutters of our souls, so the Spirit can only rattle us, but not get in to transform our lives.

Yet you continue to keep watch of us, Promise Giver, whether it is when we swagger through the sunshine of our lives, or in those shadowed moments of uncertainty in the night. You will not stumble as you continue to come to us, to lead us into your kingdom. You will always be our help, whether or not we recognize it or accept it, even as you remained faithful to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Silence is kept

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Our hope, our help, our peace, our joy? All come from God, the One who loved us, and the world so much, that Jesus came to bring us salvation.

Keeper of our souls, be with us;

Watcher of our days, lead us;

Salvation of our lives, have mercy on us. Amen.

WORSHIPING GOD THROUGH OUR GIVING

OFFERTORY

O Day of Peace

UMH #729

O day of peace that dimly shines
Through all our hopes
And prayers and dreams
Guide us to justice truth and love
Delivered from our selfish schemes
May swords of hate fall from our hands
Our hearts from envy find release
Till by God's grace our warring world
Shall see Christ's promised reign of peace

Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb
Nor shall the fierce devour the small
As beasts and cattle calmly graze
A little child shall lead them all
Then enemies shall learn to love
All creatures find their true accord
The hope of peace shall be fulfilled
For all the earth shall know the Lord

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

You trust us enough to place your blessings in us, so may we be as faithful in offering them back to you, so others might be kept in their loneliness, might be fed in their emptiness, might receive hope in their despair. This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor Ninabeth: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you

Pastor Ninabeth: Lift up your hearts

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor Ninabeth: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Please sing the Sanctus, Memorial Acclamation, and Amen.

The music is in your pew behind the hymnals and is titled "Communion Settings"

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 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.

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*** CLOSING HYMN**

Freely, Freely

UMH #389

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS March 2026

CALENDAR OF EVENTS March 2nd ~ 8th

Monday March 2nd

AA mtg @ 7:30pm in Fellowship Hall (Room 8)

Tuesday March 3rd

Karate @ 5pm in the underground

Wednesday March 4th

Bible Study @ 12pm in Fellowship Hall BYO Lunch

Karate @ 5pm in the underground

Thursday March 5th

Karate @ 5pm in the underground

Friday March 6th

First Friday Fellowship @12pm in Fellowship Hall BYO Lunch

Sunday March 8th

3rd Sunday of Lent Worship with Parish Drive @ 10am



**The First Friday Fellowship group
will meet at noon on Friday, March 6.**



**We will be learning about the origins of idioms,
such as "raining cats and dogs", "break a leg",
and "let the cat out of the bag".**



**Attendees are invited to bring a few idioms
and their meanings to share with the group.**



As always, BYO lunch and beverage.



Dessert will be provided.



Thank you for financially supporting our ministry.

We offer many ways to give:

In the sanctuary or by mail.

Online at www.umcwayne.org

<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZP6G/home>

Text "GIVING" to 973-447-3223

QR Code:



The words and music in our liturgy, hymns, and songs are by:

Claude Monet (French, 1840 - 1926) The Portal of Rouen Cathedral in Morning Light, 1894 Oil on canvas

Public Domain The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, 2001.33

Lift High the Cross George William Kitchin, Michael Robert Newbolt, Sydney Hugo Nicholson

CCLI Song #5169 © Words: Hope Publishing Company; Music: Hope Publishing Company

Freely Freely Carol Owens CCLI Song #13209 © 1972 Bud John Songs, Inc.

CCLI License # 3179963, CCLI Streaming License # 20349948

UMC Wayne Ministers are All the members of UMC in Wayne

Pastor Ninabeth Metcalf

Peter Candela – Music Director

Marilyn Creamer – Handbell Director

Email: office@umcwayne.org

The Wayne Interfaith Food Pantry
is in need of:



Peanut Butter
Jelly
Jar Spaghetti Sauce



**TODAY'S GOOD MOOD
IS SPONSORED
BY GOD
& COFFEE FELLOWSHIP**

Coffee fellowship info:

The following supplies are needed for coffee fellowship:
packaged cookies!

Sunday donations of bagels, cream cheese,
sliced cheese, fruit and
baked goods are always welcome.

See Liz Tible if you have any questions.