

**Sunny Side United Methodist Church**  
**First Sunday in Lent**  
**February 22, 2026**

We are so glad you are worshipping with us this morning! We hope you feel the love and peace of Christ in this place! If you have a prayer request or are a first-time guest, please complete a card from the pew rack in front of you and put it in the offering plate.

**Gathering Music**

**Tom Robinson**

**Welcome, This Week's Theme, and Prayer**

Unexpected Love, Enter our lives and open us to the gifts residing deep within the Holy Darkness of our lives. Walk with us. Speak to us. Call to us, O Loving God, we pray. **Amen.**

**\*Chiming of the Hour**

**Choral Call to Worship.** "There's a Path," by Bell and McFee

There's a path though it winds its way through darkness.  
We would choose to avoid it if we could.  
We awake to an unexpected calling  
God says, "Come... there are gifts in the Dark Wood."

**Prelude**

**\*Hymn:** "Take My Life and Let it Be"

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**Litany of Confession, Assurance, and Peace**

For giving fear too much face-time,  
**Forgive and restore us, O God.**  
For digging in rather than going with the flow,  
**Forgive and restore us, O God.**  
For holding on too tight when what we need to do is let go,  
**Forgive and restore us, O God.**

*Offer your silent prayers of confession.*

Hear these words of assurance:

God dwells with us, no matter how sure or unsure we are.  
God is not uncertain about whether or not we are worthy of love.  
God is with us, forgiving and restoring us to wholeheartedness.

**Thanks be to God! Amen!**

May the unsurpassing peace of Christ be with us all!

**Glory to God! Amen!**

**Litany of Consecration for the Yamaha Grand Piano (see insert)**

**Offertory**

**\*Doxology and Prayer of Dedication**

**Choir Anthem:** "Labor of Love," by Glenn Calcote

Such a labor of love, O what a labor of love,  
That brought Jesus down from heaven above.  
From the splendor of glory, to dark Calvary,  
O what a wonder, O what a Savior,  
O what a wonderful labor of love,  
Sweet Labor of Love.

**Scripture:** John 5: 2-17

**Message:** "The Gift of Uncertainty"

**Rev. JoAn Kinrade**

**Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer**

(by Dr. Marcia McFee and Rev. Joanna Harader, *adapted*)

There are many people who are walking the Dark Woods for various reasons.  
Let us lift up names of those who need our prayers...  
Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

There are many places in this world where uncertainty reigns.  
Let us lift up names of places in this world that need our prayers...  
Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Generous God, who filled the earth with abundance- oceans and skies all of water, fields that yield food, glorious birdsong and beauty of all sorts-  
**May we live with generous hearts, with open hands.**

Humble God, who became flesh and entered into our humanity- who touched the untouchable, spoke to the outcasts, washed the disciples' feet-  
**May we live with humble hearts, looking always to the needs of others.**

Righteous God, who longs for us to be in relationship with you- through sincere prayer, fasting, worship, scripture reading, and fellowship-  
**May we love you with all of our hearts, souls, minds, and strength.**

Walk with us on this Lenten journey, Lord. Give us eyes to see the path you would have us take. Give us ears to hear the truth you would speak to us. Give us the courage to look and listen for you, even in the uncertainty of the Dark Wood.

**May we move from fear and failure to faithfulness, becoming more truly and wholly ourselves; the persons you created us to be.**

**\*Hymn:** "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

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## \*Blessing

### \*Choral Benediction: "There's a Path," by Bell and McFee

There's a path and it leads us out together  
To the wood where the darkness hovers still.  
We are sent and the Spirit goes before us.  
God says, "Go... be my presence in the world."

### \*Postlude

\*You are invited to stand at this point in the service, as you are able.  
Please silence cell phones during the worship service.

**Pastoral Care:** Rev. JoAn Kinrade, [joan.kinrade@georgiaumc.net](mailto:joan.kinrade@georgiaumc.net)

**Prayer Requests:** James Ross' aunt Jessica, Mark Kay Kukla's mother, Peggy's Rankin's brother Tommy, Candi Babcock's friend Ann McGrath, the family and friends of Jonna McRae, the family and friends of Jackie Bond, Bonnie Whalen's granddaughter Gracie, Matthew Henry and family, Sharon Roderick, Vivian Locke, Bennie Watson, Wanda O'Neal, Lois Head, Carl and Rosalyn Hayes, Susan and Bob Francis, Judith and Richard Crowther, Dave and Carol Sparks.

### HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES:

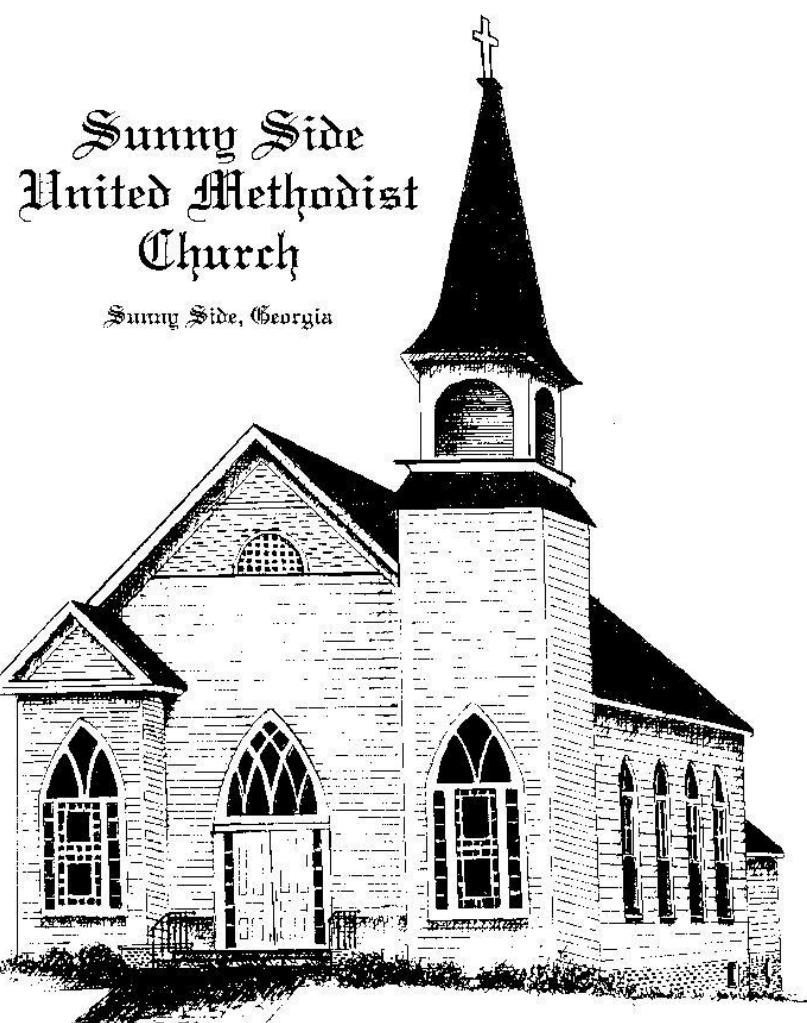
Maundy Thursday with Holy Communion, **April 2**, at Hampton UMC  
Good Friday, **April 3** at 12noon, at Sunny Side UMC  
Easter Sunrise with breakfast following, **Sunday, April 5**, 7am  
Easter Resurrection Celebration, **April 5**, 11am

### For your calendars:

Wed, Feb 25      Bible Study, 5pm, Choir Practice, 6:45pm  
Sat, Feb 28      Celebration of Life Service for Jonna McRae, 1pm  
Wed, March 4      Food Pantry, volunteers report at 8:15am  
                    Bible Study, 5pm, Choir Practice, 6:45pm  
Tue, March 10      Trustees, 5:30pm Admin. Council, 6:30pm

### GIVING REPORT (Feb 15, 2026)

	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Actual	\$ 2,631.00	\$18,656.40
Budget	<u>\$ 3,557.42</u>	<u>\$24,901.96</u>
Difference	\$ -926.42	\$ -6,245.56



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