

Sunny Side United Methodist Church
Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 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 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 (based upon *Gifts of the Dark Wood*, Eric Elnes)

This week, as we consider the temptations we face, we are not talking about resisting evil or sinful behaviors and attitudes. Instead, we will look at the ways that we follow the "shoulds," dictated by expectations, rewards, or obligation. Our Lenten journey invites us to face the temptations of "the wrong good" that take away from who God created us to be and steal our joy.

Prayer

Limitless God, we come to You weary and carrying too much. Thank You that Your strength is made perfect in our weakness. We confess we have taken on tasks You did not ask us to do. Help us embrace our God-given limits and establish a healthy rhythm of work and rest. Give us the wisdom to know when to say "no" and the courage to trust that our worth is in You, not in our productivity. We will trust You to order our steps, as we lay down the need for people's approval. Quiet our souls in Your presence, we pray. In the Name of Jesus, **Amen.**

***Bringing in the Light of Christ**

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:** "O Master Let Me Walk With Thee"

430

Litany of Confession, Assurance, and Peace

For paying more attention to the expected path than the right one,
Forgive and restore us, O God.

For denying our God-given uniqueness and gifts, out of a misguided self-sacrificing agenda,

Forgive and restore us, O God.

For valuing the safe choices instead of the ones that lead to life,

Forgive and restore us, O God.

Offer your silent prayers of confession.

Hear these words of assurance:

Finding our place in the world is more than just finding something "good" to do with our time and energy. Finding and following our God-given path is an ongoing process. God desires the best for us and is cheering us on as we discern the best choices. God is with us, forgiving and restoring us to wholeheartedness. May the peace-filled presence of the Holy Spirit be with us all!

Glory to God! Amen!

Hymn: "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

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Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Offertory

***Doxology and Prayer of Dedication**

Choir Anthem: "Since I Have Been Redeemed," Arr. by Edwin Lanier

I have a song I love to sing, Since I have been redeemed,
Of my Redeemer, Savior, King, Since I have been redeemed.

Since I have been redeemed, Since I have been redeemed,
I will glory in His name; Since I have been redeemed,
I will glory in my Savior's name.

I have a Christ who satisfies, Since I have been redeemed,
To do His will my highest prize, Since I have been redeemed.

Scripture: Luke 4: 1-13 and Psalm 103

Message: "The Gift of Temptation"

Rev. JoAn Kinrade

***Hymn:** "I Need Thee Every Hour"

397

***Benediction**

***Choral Benediction**

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

Prayer Requests: Sylvia and Jim Avery, Bob Wooster's sister-in-law Wendy, Bonnie Whalen's cousin Karen, Janice Meadows (surgery March 30), Walter Lawrence, Brenda Hawbecker, Nancy Locke's niece Kelsi and Nancy's son-in-law Rick, Don Smith, Sharon Roderick, Bennie Watson, Wanda O'Neal, Lois Head, Matthew Henry and family, Carl and Rosalyn Hayes, Susan and Bob Francis, Judith and Richard Crowther, Dave and Carol Sparks.

For your calendars:

Wed, March 25 Bible Study, **5pm**, Choir Practice, **6:45pm**

Tue, March 31 United Methodist Men's Club, **6pm**

Wed, April 1 Food Pantry, volunteers report at **8:15am**
Bible Study, **5:00pm**, Choir Practice, **6:45pm**

Thurs, April 2 Maundy Thursday Worship at Hampton UMC, **7pm**

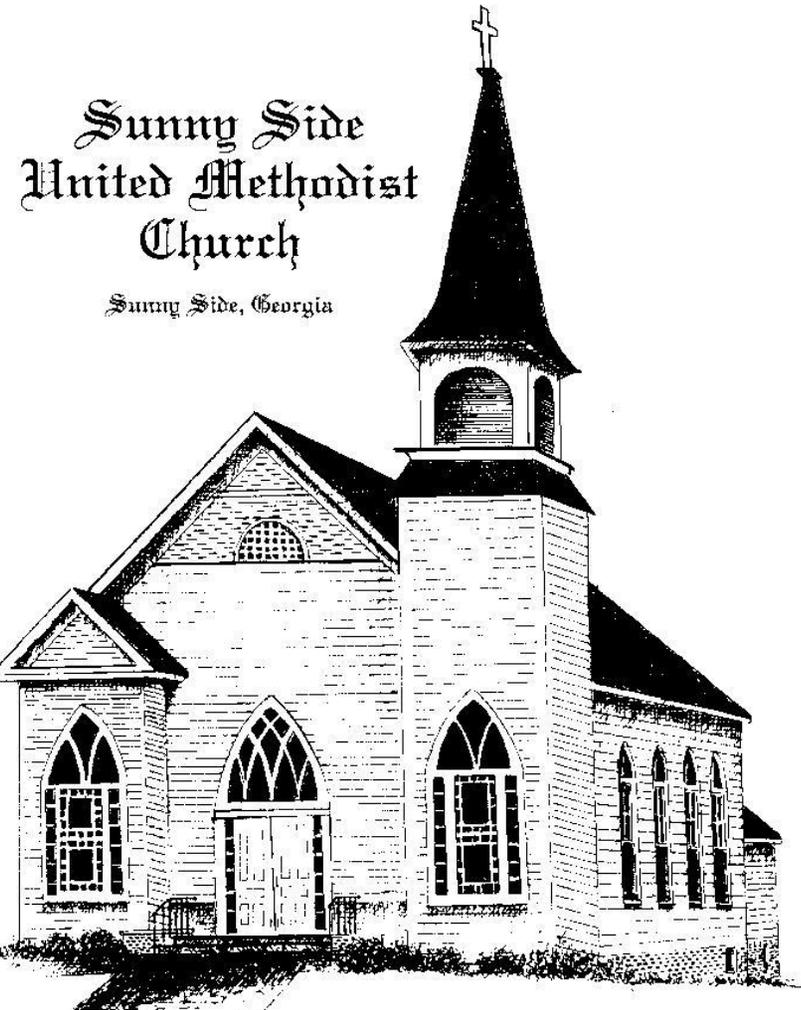
Friday, April 3 Good Friday Worship at Sunny Side UMC, **12noon**

Sunday, April 5 Sunrise Worship Service, **7am** (Bring lawn chairs)
Easter Breakfast, **7:45am**
Regular Easter Worship, **11am**

Looking Ahead: Saturday, May 16, 8am-2pm, YARD SALE
(See Loretta Gregg for more information).

GIVING REPORT (Mar 15, 2026)

	<u>Weekly</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Actual	\$ 2,585.00	\$29,113.60
Budget	<u>\$ 3,557.42</u>	<u>\$39,131.65</u>
Difference	\$ -972.42	\$-10,018.05



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