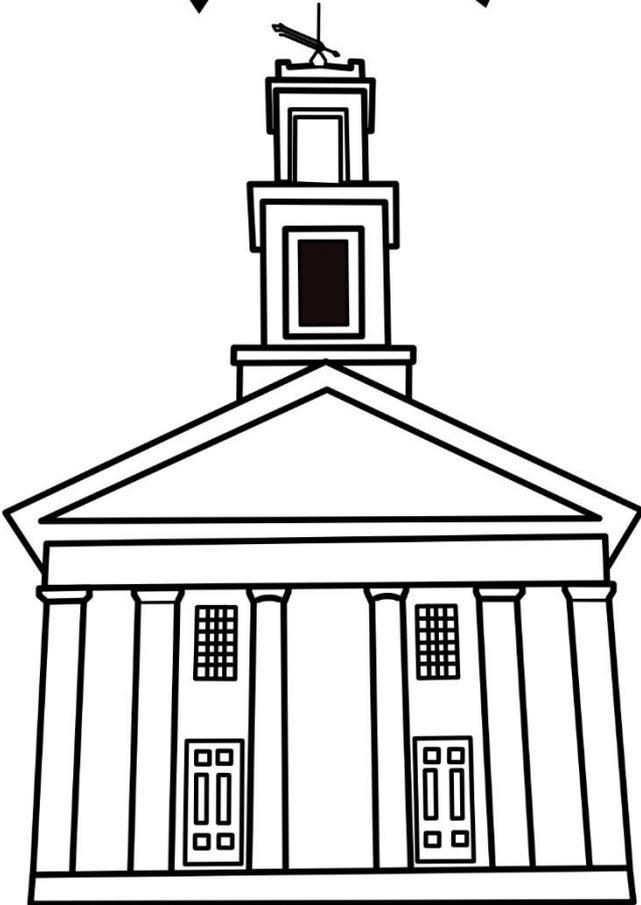


LENT



**MIDDLEBURY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
OPEN & AFFIRMING
MIDDLEBURYUCC.ORG**

Middlebury Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
February 22, 2026
First Sunday in Lent

*all those who are able please stand

Our worship begins with the Prelude.

Please be mindful of those who wish to spend this time in prayer

PRELUDE

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days arr. Gilbert Martin

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Liturgist: Ellen Aronheim

INTROIT

Adult Choir

O come and worship the Lord; Bow down to Him in praise;
For holy is the Lord; Holy, holy, holy.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist

Leader: For forty days and nights the rain fell, and the waters
covered the face of the earth

People: Lead us, O Lord, from death to life

Leader: For forty years the people wandered, seeking the Promised
Land

People: Lead us, O Lord, from death to life

Leader: Elijah traveled forty days in the wilderness to hear the
voice of God in the silence

People: Lead us, O Lord, from death to life

Leader: Jesus fasted and prayed for forty days and was tested by
the devil

People: Lead us, O Lord, from death to life

***HYMN**

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days Pilgrim Hymnal(Red) #153

INVOCATION

THE LORD'S PRAYER (UNISON)

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 and ever. Amen. [We use "Father" and "trespasses," but please use whatever words bring you closest to God.]

CALL TO CONFESSION (Based on 1 John 1:8)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

O God, our refuge and strength, we confess that we fail to trust only in you. We fall into temptation; we accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, and refuse your justice and peace. We choose our ease and comfort over your demanding claims upon us and upon the world. In turning from you, we settle for less than the abundant generosity you intend. Forgive us, we pray. Do not let us be put to shame, O God. Hear us as we call to you and show us your salvation. In Christ's name we pray. Amen. (Time for individual silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Based on Philippians 3:9)

Hear the good news! Our righteousness is found in Christ alone, a gift of God by faith. Beloved people of God, hear and believe the good news: through the grace of Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

***SUNG RESPONSE**

Give Me a Clean Heart

New Century Hymnal (Black) #188

Bulletin (Page 7)

Children Pre-K through 7th grade may exit through the back doors of the sanctuary and meet in the Social Hall for Sunday School

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READINGS OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURE

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’ ” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’ ”

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

SERMON

The Rev. Katrina Manzi

The Temptation of Power

***HYMN**

Forty Days and Forty Nights

New Century Hymnal (Black) #205

JOYS, CONCERNS, & PASTORAL PRAYER

Prayer requests will be received from the congregation. Please be mindful worship is livestreamed, so we advise caution on using last names to preserve people’s privacy.

OFFERTORY

Keep Your Lamps

Spiritual, arr. Andre Thomas
Adult Choir

***Doxology in Unison**

Pilgrim Hymnal (Red) #515

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)**

Holy God, through your Son, Jesus Christ, you reconciled your people to yourself. Accept our offerings of ourselves and our gifts to be used always in your service. Through following Christ's example of prayer and service, may we obey you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN**

Savior, When In Tears and Dust New Century Hymnal (Black) #185

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Adult Choir

Threefold Amen

POSTLUDE

Largo

G.F. Handel

Please join us downstairs in the Social Hall after worship for fellowship and refreshments

Ps. 51:1-12

Margaret J. Douroux, 1970; alt.

Give me a clean heart so I may serve you.

The first system of the score features a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower two staves. The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 8/8. The lyrics are: "Give me a clean heart so I may serve you."

God, fix my heart so that I may be used by you.

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: "God, fix my heart so that I may be used by you."

For I'm not worthy of all these blessings.

The third system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are: "For I'm not worthy of all these blessings."

Give me a clean heart and I'll follow you.

The fourth system concludes the piece. The lyrics are: "Give me a clean heart and I'll follow you."

Margaret J. Douroux, the daughter of a Baptist minister, is known especially for this gospel song, which was recorded by singer James Cleveland. Among her other popular songs found in church hymnals is "God Is Not Dead."

Tune: DOUROUX 10.12.10.10.
Margaret J. Douroux, 1970
Arr. Albert Denis Tessier, 1987



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DOING GOD'S WORK

The Congregation, *Ministers in the World*
Church Officers & Members of our Boards & Committees

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The Rev. Katrina Manzi, *Minister*

Donna Obarowski, *Choir Director*

David Obarowski, *Organist*

Diane Barnard, *Bookkeeper/Asst. Treasurer*

Sara Hubbard, *Faith Formation Volunteer Coordinator*

Rebecca Trosan, *Nursery Attendant*

Sarah Kwashnak, *Interim Office Assistant*