Asbury United Methodist Church

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Worship Leader: Jan Jones Chancel: Barbara Bishop
* Please rise in body or in spirit

"The Way Around"
Week Three
March 8, 2026

WE GATHER
Meeting One Another on The Way

Prelude "As the Deer" Hanna Noh

Welcome and Announcements

Preparing Together *Threshold Moment*

"A Wilderness Wandering People"

Leader: In our series about this journey called life, we focus today on how the journey changes us. This can lead to not always being understood. Jesus found this out as he pushed against the status quo of his day leading to a fair amount of rejection. Close family, friends and neighbors may cling to an idea of who we are and cannot imagine we have grown beyond that identity. And likewise, we may do the same to them. We are called to move ahead and do what we feel called to do, claiming who we know we are, taking the way around what others think we ought to do and be. And we offer the same steadfast love and encouragement to others.

[sung]
We are a wilderness wandering people
on a journey of the soul.
May we find our destination
in our longing to be whole.
Our Holy God is calling to us.
With Jesus by our side
may compassion be our compass;
may the Spirit be our guide,
on The Way,
on The Way,

on The Way.

Prayer for the Path

God of the Bending Road,
be with us on The Way.
We find ourselves changed
by the things we encounter and the people we meet.
We want to grow and yet sometimes
the growing pains can be disorienting for everyone.
Help us as we navigate the twists and turns,
and help us see that others are doing the same.
Amen.

Opening Hymn TFWS 2152 – Change My Heart, O God X2

Greeting Each Other

Leader: The best part of having companions on The Way is the sharing that we get to do that makes us feel just a little less alone. During this series, we will share answers to a common question with each other. I invite you to turn to someone you did not come to church with and answer this question: "What is a change in plans you've been through in your life?"

WE PROCLAIM
Discovering Ourselves on The Way

Scripture Reading *Luke 13: 31-34*

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem. 'Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

Choir Anthem "Lord, You Are Near Me"

Sermon "The Way Around" Rev. Yohan Go

WE RESPOND
Opening to the Holy on The Way

Sharing Joy and Concerns

Prayers for Getting Out of Our Own Way

Leader: We pause along the way to offer our whole attention to God in prayer. This is especially necessary when bends in the road require decisions about the way we move forward or we find ourselves unsure. Let us meet God in the stillness, offering our most honest selves.

In this season of Lent, we will begin our prayers with a simple ritual of confession, a moment of personal reflection, and then we will lift our concerns and joys before God.

UMH #488 Jesus, Remember Me

Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.
Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom. (x2)

Confession at the Cross

Leader: As we continue our Lenten pilgrimage, we return to God again and again. In a moment, I invite you to come forward, as you are able, and take a ceramic shard. Hold it in your hands, and in the silence, offer your confession to God. Then place it upon the cross near the chancel—an outward sign of an inward turning, and a witness to our trust that God is still at work among us. In Christ, even our brokenness is gathered, formed, and reformed into something beautiful: a mosaic cross of grace. If you prefer to remain seated, you are invited to remain in prayer where you are.

Ritual of Return

Communal Prayer of Confession

Leader: Let us pray.

All (or Leader/People):
Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned—
in what we have done, and in what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may walk in your ways
and live in your love. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Hear the good news: No matter whether you pause in gratitude for the gifts of God or not, God never stops giving. We can begin a higher way at any time. Whether or not you know it, believe it, or feel it, Jesus is with you now because Jesus promised to

set the table along our journey of life over and over again. In the name of Christ, you are forgiven.

People: In the name of Christ, you are forgiven. Amen.

Response Song: Be Still and Know That I Am God by Christopher Walker, Paule Freeburg, DC

[sung together]
Be Still and Know That I Am God
You are my chosen one to whom I love
I give my life is yours in you
Be Still, Be still
And know that I Am God

Praying for Others Along the Way (Pastoral Prayer)

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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

WE GO FORTH

Continuing with Jesus on The Way

Offering "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

Doxology
[Tune: Old 100th]

Praise God, Creator of us all,
Praise Christ, by whom we hear our call,
Praise Spirit, that which sets us free,
Our awe is yours, the One-in-Three.

Offering Prayer Rev. Yohan Go

Closing Hymn UMH 419 "I Am Thine, O Lord" vs. 1 & 4

Benediction

Our blessing, or "benediction," for this season is a call and response form.
Your response is:

"We will follow on The Way."
"We will follow on The Way."

The Creator God filled you with breath,
inviting you to this journey called Life.
We will follow on The Way.

Jesus, our Guide, showed us what it means
to make a new way with Love.
We will follow on The Way.

The Spirit gives us strength to move forward
with Courage and Compassion for all we meet.
We will follow on The Way.

May this week be filled with opportunities
to let others share with you their journey stories,
and for you to share yours
so you might come to know each other more fully.
May it be so. Amen.
"Buen Camino!"

Postlude "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" Hanna Noh

Announcements

1. The worship leader for Sunday, March 15th is Dixon Disu.

Birthdays

8th Olivia Disu & David Dorsey

9th Cheryl Anderson & Bob Cameron

10th Brooke Arnold

12th Christian James Iavarone

Flowers The flowers on the altar this week are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Diana and Watson Mills, from Lee, Christina, Leslee and Tyler.