



*February 18, 2024*  
*Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ*

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Pastor

Mrs. Wendy Farber

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Today's Services led by  
Church Members

Pianist

Sylvia Olewinski (MH)

Audio Tech

Jeff Farber (Greenfield)

Organist

Gary McIntyre (Grace)

*Sunday Morning Meditation*

When clouds threaten, look for signs of light and life: a rainbow, a bird, a gentle rain, the waters of baptism. These gifts of love bring hope and wash us clean.

**Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ**

**February 18, 2024**

Mt. Hope 8:30am  
First Sunday in Lent

Greenfield 9:50am

Grace 11:00am

*Community News*

*Prayer List and Prayers of the People*

*Prelude/Lighting of the Candles*

\* *Call to Worship*

Bring your lives, full of sorrow and joy.

**Bring yourselves, full of hope and despair.**

Come in your brokenness, ready for fullness of life.

**Stay in your weakness, ready to receive strength and the power of God.**

\* *Invocation*

Source of hope, bring us into the presence of hope.

Inspire us with the strength of faith.

Shower us with the waters of mercy and grace, that our hope may be renewed as we learn to trust your promise and love. Amen.

\* *Opening Hymn* “*Lead Us, Heavenly Father, Lead Us*”

*Mt Hope PH # 344*

*Greenfield Insert*

*Grace TH # 220*

*Prayer of Yearning*

**Merciful God, you know the worries and the doubts that fill our lives. Strengthen our faith and inspire our trust.**

**Show us with your mercy and grace, that we may embrace the fullness of life and love, through the power of your Holy Spirit and the mercy of Jesus, the Christ. Amen.**

*Words of Assurance*

God is good.

**All the time.**

And all the time,

**God is good.**

Trust this truth and receive God’s gifts of mercy and love. **Amen.**

*The Epistle Reading*

**1 Peter 3:18-22 NRSV**

<sup>18</sup> For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup> in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup> who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup> And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup> who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

\* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

**Mark 1:9-15 NRSV**

*Gloria Tibi (Glory be to Thee, O Lord.)*

**TH #497**

*The Baptism of Jesus*

<sup>9</sup> In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from the heavens, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

*The Testing of Jesus*

<sup>12</sup> And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup> He was in the wilderness forty days, tested by Satan, and he was with the wild beasts, and the angels waited on him.

*The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry*

<sup>14</sup> Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God <sup>15</sup> and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

\* *Gloria Patri*

*Children's Message / Congregation Conversation*

\* *Meditation Hymn* “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

*Today's Message:*

**Simple Faith?**

**by John Jamison**

*\* The Apostle's Creed*

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hades; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic/Christian church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

*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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

*Sung Response*

*"Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"*

TH # 501

*The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings*

Offertory Statement

Offertory (MH)

\* Doxology

TH # 551

\* Offertory Prayer

**Trustworthy and trusting God, thank you for entrusting us with this good earth. Thank you for sharing your gifts with us. Help us live up to your trust, even as we learn to place our trust in you. Bless the gifts that we share, that they may honor the generosity you have shown us. In trust and gratitude, we pray. Amen.**

\* *Closing Hymn*      *“Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart”*

*Mt Hope* VH # 150      *Greenfield* CH # 390      *Grace* VH # 150

\* *Benediction*

Go to be signs of hope for all the world to see:

**rainbows in the clouds,**

waters in the desert,

**love in a world of hate.**

Go to be signs of hope for all the world to know.

\* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

\* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

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# Church & Community News

| Date                   | Time     | Location   | Event   |
|------------------------|----------|------------|---|
| <i>Following Weeks</i> |          |            |   |
| <b>2/25 Sun</b>        | 8:30 am  | Mt. Hope   | Regular Church Services<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent |
|                        | 9:50 am  | Greenfield |   |
|                        | 11:00 am | Grace      |   |
| <b>3/3 Sun</b>         | 10:00 am | Grace      | Joint Service<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent           |
| <b>3/10 Sun</b>        | 8:30 am  | Mt. Hope   | Regular Church Services<br>4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent |
|                        | 9:50 am  | Greenfield |   |
|                        | 11:00 am | Grace      |   |
| <b>3/17 Sun</b>        | 8:30 am  | Mt. Hope   | Regular Church Services<br>5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent |
|                        | 9:50 am  | Greenfield |   |
|                        | 11:00 am | Grace      |   |
| <b>3/24 Sun</b>        | 8:30 am  | Mt. Hope   | Regular Church Services<br>Palm Sunday                    |
|                        | 9:50 am  | Greenfield |   |
|                        | 11:00 am | Grace      |   |

## *Prayer List Continued:*

### **Long Term**

Travis Black

Andy Burket

**Donna Glass**

Wanda Leonard

**Ellen Pozgar**

Emma Weyandt

**Mabel Snowberger**

### **Our Troops**

Lt. Russell Strange

### **College Students**

KyLeigh Alexander

Cassie Berkhimer

Grace Burket

Leah Farber

Aaron Reynolds

Ally Walter

### **Community**

The Greenfield Charge

Mission Giving

Our Sponsor Children

Penn West Conference

Camp Living Waters

### **Our Nation**

National & World Leaders

Military Families

American POW's

War Torn Countries

The Unemployed

Victims of Natural Disasters

Victims of Domestic

Violence/Abuse

Victims of Addictions

Others in Need of Prayer