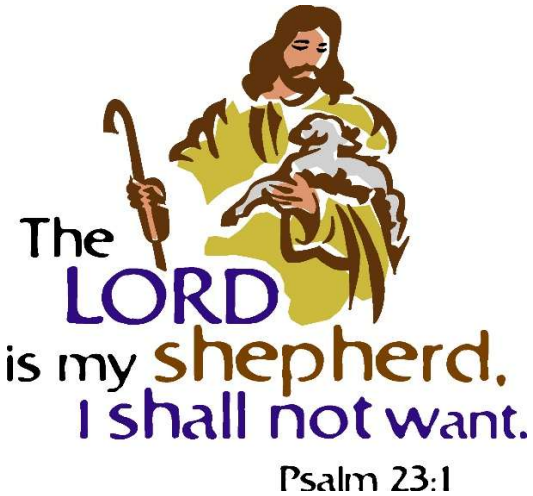


Sunday, March 15, 2026
The Fourth Sunday of Lent
Third Presbyterian Church
Sue Sawers, CRE
Guest Preacher
1030 North 7th Street; Springfield, IL 62702
(217) 528-0457
Facebook: **Third-Presbyterian Church**
Email: thirdpres1030@gmail.com

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Thank you for silencing your phone and other electronic devices.
Please complete prayer requests, as legibly as possible, and place them on the offering plate.

WELCOME **Sue Sawers, CRE**

Welcome to Third Presbyterian Church this morning. We ask that you please sign the attendance pad at the end of each pew and pass it along to your neighbors.

We welcome Sue Sawers CRE to the pulpit this morning.

PRELUDE "As the Deer" **Cory Brown, Pianist**
(By: Martin Nystrom, Arranged by: Roger House)

***CALL TO WORSHIP** **Sue Sawers, CRE**

Leader: God does not see as mortals see. We look on the outward appearance. God looks on the heart.
People: Jesus, Light of the World, give us eyes to see as you see!
Leader: Once we lived in darkness, but now—as children of light—we are called to what is good and right and true
People: Jesus, Light of the World, give us eyes to see as you see!
Leader: In days of old, Kings were faulty shepherds focused on themselves.
People: Today, we have the Lord as our shepherd.
All: Let us worship the Lord, our shepherd, and glorify him!

***MORNING PRAYER**

All: Gracious God, we thank you for the dawn of this new day. We waken from sleep into the light and grace of Christ. Stay with us, we pray, shepherding us through all that the day will hold. Lead us into pleasant places and give us the provisions we need if we find ourselves in difficulty or danger. Whenever the cup of gladness overflows, help us see that it is filled with your goodness and mercy. All praise to you, O Lord. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** "Come, Thou Almighty King" **#8**

***CALL TO CONFESSION** **Sue Sawers, CRE**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

People: Gracious God, we are people who still love darkness rather than light. We keep shameful deeds secret but flaunt our occasional acts of virtue. We see ourselves blameless but pass judgment on others. We do not stand firmly enough with those who are vulnerable. We step back and protect ourselves. Forgive us, we pray. Bring us into your light that we may see ourselves rightly; that we may see ourselves loved, made whole, and live more fruitful lives. Keep raising us up from the deadness of sin. Shine your grace upon us. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON** **Sue Sawers, CRE**

Leader: The psalmist assures us that God's goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of our lives. As God's forgiven people, receive this goodness and mercy and live a new life in the grace of Christ.

***GLORIA PATRI**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, it is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES **Dequan Stamps**

CHOIR ANTHEM "Faithfulness" **Chancel Choir**

(Words By: Thomas O. Chisholm, Music By: Joel Rainey)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION **Sue Sawers, CRE**

Leader: Gracious God, open our hearts and minds as the Scriptures are read and proclaimed, so that by the power of your Holy Spirit, we may see what is good and right and true. And seeing, help us do what is pleasing to you so that your glory becomes visible in our words and deeds. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

PRAISE SONG "Goodness of God" **Praise Team**

(Words & Music by: Jenn Johnson, Ed Cash, Jason Ingram, Ben Fielding, & Brian Johnson)

SCRIPTURE LESSON (I Samuel 16: 1-13, Selected Verses) **Sue Sawers, CRE**

The Lord said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons...When [Jesse's} sons came before [Samuel] he looked on Eliab and thought, 'surely the Lord's anointed is now before [me]. But the Lord said…"Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him...for the Lord does not see as mortals see, they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart. Then Jesse called Abinadab...(then) Shammah...[and then the other 5.] Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these...Are all your sons here?" [Jesse] said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." Samuel said to Jesse, "Send for him"… [Jesse] sent for him and brought him in...The Lord said [to Samuel] "Rise and anoint him for this is the one."

Psalm 23 (NRSV)

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me. Your rod and your staff—they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

*This is the Word of the Lord***...Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "The Lord Is My Shepherd" **Sue Sawers, CRE**

HYMN "Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us" **#688**

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY **Sue Sawers, CRE**

Leader: Our lives overflow with the goodness of God. Sharing what we have so abundantly received, we bring our tithes and offerings to God with gladness and gratitude.

PRAISE SONG "Still Waters" **Praise Team**

(Words & Music by: Leanna Crawford, Justin Richards, & Jonathan Conrad Gamble)

***DOXOLOGY** **#815**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him, all creatures here below. Praise Him above, Ye Heavenly Host, Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** **Sue Sawers, CRE**

Leader: In this Lenten season, O God, we are grateful for the gift of your dear Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Receive, we pray, these offerings we bring. May they be used in the service of your grace and truth dwelling among us. In Christ's holy name we pray. Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS/JOYS & CONCERNS **Sue Sawers, CRE**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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.

***CLOSING HYMN** "All the Way My Savior Leads Me" **#680**

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** **Sue Sawers, CRE**

Leader: Let us go from God's House into God's World, following the Lord, our shepherd, who sends goodness and mercy to pursue us all our days. Let all around us see the joy of God's overflowing abundance and care in our lives.

***BENEDICTION** **Sue Sawers, CRE**

Leader: May God the Creator and...Christ our Savior...and the Holy Spirit, our Advocate, shepherd your going out and your coming in...and be your strength and help in every time of need. **AMEN**

***POSTLUDE** "10,000 Reasons" **Cory Brown, Pianist**
(By: Matt Redman)

***Please stand in body or in spirit**

This church welcomes you, no matter who you are, where you are from, or why you are here. We are Christ's people, and this is Christ's place with its doors open. If you are passing through Godspeed; if you are looking for a home, please stay; if you need instruction, learn from us as we learn from you. We invite visitors to join us, but most of all, to return often. We are so glad you are here!

If you know of anyone who is in hospital and would like visitors or to be placed on the prayer list, please pass this information along to another church member or call the church office at 217-528-0457 as the hospitals can no longer share this.
Thank you.

Below is a list of the ongoing prayer requests for this week. Certainly, God knows each person and each request and simply calls upon us to lift the name in prayer. Call the Church Office, 217-528-0457, to have a name added or removed.

All people experiencing natural disasters and other devasting weather events…may God ease their pain, loss, and feelings of uncertainty as they rebuild their lives and homes, All those experiencing conflict in their homeland…for peace, Citizens of Our Country, State, and City, Third Presbyterian Church and its Members, Ted Bishop, Janet Bottoms, Lucy Collebrusco, Michelle Davidson, Janice Dawson, Linda Farley, Wanda Sue Freeman, Damaris Fritz, The Niece of Judy Graves, The Guthrie Family, Art Heinold, Marilyn Houston, Lou Jordan, Rachel Krause, Mary Lou Landreth, Bill Lohman, Shirley McConnaughay, Donnie Monroe, The McDevitt Family, The Moss Family, Friends of Bill Moss, Jo Etta, Jim Rominger, Dorothy Rutherford, Wanda Saccaro, Kevin, Dequan Stamps, Julie Vanderwater, and Dagmar West.

Please Welcome Sue Sawers who will be the guest preacher at TPC today, March 15.

MARCH
4 – Donna Gardiner
6 – Steve VanHook
10 – Patsy Rader
16 – Diane Sawyer
17 – Debbie Gill; Diana Nevitt
19 – Alicia Houston
20 - Paula Klickna; Lori Fernandez
22 – Robert Suttie

Please RSVP by Thurday, March 26 for each meal

We need to get an accurate attendance number to order food

Sign up sheets in the Narthex or

Call the church office at 217-528-0457

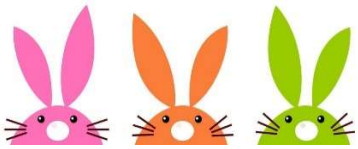
Trustee's Spring Clean Up Day
Saturday, March 21st, 8:00am

If you are able, please join us.
We are grateful for all help.

EASTER EGG HUNT 2026

Please place candy donations in the basket in the Narthex

Thank you!



Remember to invite family, friends, and neighbors

11am -2pm

Free entry (optional free will offering) and free lunch—

baked items will be available for sale

Volunteer Opportunities

For bakers: Brownies and Rice Krispie treats are needed to be sold at the Easter Egg Hunt. No need to wrap them. Just drop them off at the church on

Friday, March 27 between 8am-530pm

Other Chanches to help: Fill plastic eggs with candy –

Monday, March 23 from 10am to 1pm and 3 to 6pm.

Thank you for any help you you are able to give

Calendar/Announcements

Today, Sunday, March 15th
9:00am—Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:15am—Sunday School Class-LLL (Hanahan Room)

Monday, March 16th
Church Office Closed

Tuesday, March 17th
3:00pm—MOCN Parenting Class (Hanahan Room)
5:00pm—After Five CWC-Dinner & Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
6:30pm—Session Meeting (Hanahan Room)

Wednesday, March 18th
5:00pm—MOCN Family Activity Night (Fellowship Hall)

Thursday, March 19th
4:00pm—Praise Team Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
5:00pm—Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

Saturday, March 21st
8:00am Trustees Outdoor Spring Clean-Up and Meeting

Sunday, March 22nd
9:00am—Worship Service (Sanctuary)
10:15am—LLL Sunday School Class (Hanahan Room)

To reach office staff

Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday, 8am-4:30pm (Subject to change without notice).
Email: thirdpres1030@gmail.com
Phone: 217-528-0457