



*Zion Evangelical United Church
1886 ~ 2026
Empowered by God's Love
for 140 Years!*

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026

Worship Service by Rev. Sheldon Alley

Our Mission Statement

“To be a welcoming, Christ-centered community, empowered to share God's love and to make disciples for Jesus Christ through worship, fellowship, teaching, prayer, and acts of caring.”

Opening Music

Shelley Jodoin

Welcome and Acknowledgment

Announcements

Eunice Getz

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Hymn *Praise The One Who Breaks The Darkness* #293

Call to Worship

Lenten travellers, the journey is long. Let us take a moment to rest and breathe.

Only in God do we find our rest.

Sometimes the road is easy, and we bask in the warmth of the Light who guides us.

Other times the road is hard, and we hide from the Light, afraid for our actions to be made known in public.

Some days we delight in the joy of journeying together on this road.

Other days we struggle with the temptation to judge and condemn one another as we travel this path.

Today, let us come into the Light together as we learn to love God and one another through the twists and turns of our Lenten journey.

Come, let us worship God together!

Responsive Reading

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures,

he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul.

He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will 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 love will follow me all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Scripture *Ephesians 5: 8-14 (pg 1136)*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church. Thanks be to God.

Message

Rev. Alley

Hymn *The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want*

#694

Prayer of Dedication for the Offering

Gracious Lord, You have given us grace. You have freed us and granted us the strength and the guidance of your Holy Spirit. All that we have and all that we are is the work of your hands.

Receive, we pray, these offerings, and use them and us as you will. We ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Holy and Loving God, we are not altogether convinced that darkness is a thing of the past. Many people in this world of ours feel their world is one of darkness and gloom. Pressures crowd in upon us and get us down.

The causes are varied: bereavement, illness, money, worries about family, trouble at work or not having work, drugs, drink, boredom, doubt, weariness, futility.

Then there are the world issues: war, poverty, climate change, disease, unfair trade and so on. It does not help when we feel that as Christians we should be doing so much better than we are. Gracious and loving God, we rejoice that you are with us in our troubles, you know us and you love us—always.

Even though we have made a mess of things personally and collectively you remain faithful. We rejoice that your Son came not to a perfect world, but to a broken world, our world, to bring light to the darkness, our darkness.

We pray for our dark and dreary world, a world in need—in need not just of a technical fix, but in need of love and grace, forgiveness and new life, hope, peace, and fellowship, in need of renewal, in need of you.

We pray that you would come alongside us and all those for whom we pray, that you would show us Jesus, the light of the world, the one who came (and who comes) to give us life and health and peace, peace that passes all understanding—not a temporary respite from trouble but the strength to overcome it and ultimately to receive life eternal.

We have been set free. Enable us to use our freedom to share in bringing in the kingdom. In the light of this we have something to celebrate, something to shout about—for even in our trouble and pain, even in our loss, we know that Jesus is with us.

God is our light and our salvation. Hear our prayers, Loving God, spoken and unspoken and answer them for Jesus' sake. Amen.

In the name of Jesus, we lift up these prayers. As we travel this Season of Lent may we reflect on the needs of world. Looking first deep within ourselves and then sharing that with others. May we remain disciplined in the ways of our faith. May we strive to grow in this season. In every decision going forward, let love be our guide. These things we pray in the name of Jesus. And if you feel led to do so we continue to pray in the way we are taught saying, **“Our Father...”**

Choir Practice will take place before our Service next Sunday and on Palm Sunday morning at 10:15.

Share Your Blessings For Lent

We are collecting items for St. Vincent de Paul of Pembroke. Please help us fill our purple box before Easter. Monetary donations are also very much appreciated. A container can be found on the back table in the sanctuary. A list of items is included in the bulletin.

Zion's Spring Yard Sale is scheduled for May 23rd. Please be thinking about items you could donate to our sale while doing your spring cleaning. Items can be stored on our stage prior to the sale.

If you have prayer requests for yourself, family or friends please call Heather Lariviere, our Prayer Chain Leader at 613-735-2825.

Keep in your prayers those who are grieving the loss of loved ones, those experiencing or recovering from illness and surgeries and those going through challenging and difficult times. We especially ask that you remember in prayer, Rev. Dave Bauman and Maureen, Reg Getz, Tim Getz, Myrtle Gutz, Rodney Krieger, Wayne Lemke, Erna Maves, Evelyn Maves, Sandra Maves, Doreen Schroeder. Les and Janice Reavie, and Martin Verkruisen.

New Sign Funds Raised To Date--\$4278.95

Thank you for your continued support. By writing, "New Sign" on your offering envelope, your amount will be added to the fund.

An Open Door Bible Study During Lent

Zion, Calvin and Wesley congregations are invited to a Bible Study on Wednesdays. The Study was cancelled this past Wednesday due to the icy weather. Please see details about the Bible Study on our Community News bulletin board.

Other Community News—See Details on Bulletin Board

Postings from First Step Options:

*Free Support Group for Hope & Healing After Abortion—April 7th

*Nurture Language and Early Literacy Free Workshop—April 15th

Community News Continued

*Dinner, Drama, and a Difference Fundraiser—May 2nd

Fundraising Event for Camp Lau-Ren:

*Release Your Creativity Paint Evening—April 10th

An Irish Blessing

“May God give you...for every storm, a rainbow, for every tear, a smile, for every care, a promise, and a blessing in each trial. For every problem life sends, a faithful friend to share, for every sigh, a sweet song, and an answer for each prayer.”

St. Patrick's Day Laughter

How can you tell an Irishman is having a good time?

“He's Dublin-over with laughter.”

What does it mean if you find a four-leaf clover?

“It means you have too much time to kill.”



OUR JOURNEY THROUGH TIME

1886—2026

NEW PIECE OF HISTORY FOR THE WEEK

In 1925 Zion and Petawawa were constituted a circuit, an arrangement that continued for thirty-three years.

In 1937 the membership of the church increased to such an extent that a gallery was built and the interior of the church building was renovated. The following year art-glass windows were installed.

Note: On each window ledge there is a small plaque indicating the name of a donor of the window.

In 1938, with future expansion needs in mind, three adjacent houses were purchased, two facing Miller Street and one facing Murray Street. In later years they were removed, partly to make space for a parking lot, and partly for the enlargement of the church building.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Donations for Lent

Here is a list of suggestions based on what we need. These donations are primarily for preparing our meals in house. We try not to duplicate the work of St. Joseph's Food Bank, so our suggestion list is short.

Canned Goods

- Diced Tomatoes
- Soup: Tomato, Beef Broth, or Cream of Mushroom Soup
- Sauces: Spaghetti, Tomato Sauce, Tomato Paste, Salsa, Gravy, Soya Sauce
- Canned Vegetables: Corn, Peas, Peas & Carrots, (No Green Beans, please)
- Canned Fruit: All kinds
- Canned Protein: Tuna, Salmon, Chicken, Ham, Turkey, Beans (only kidney beans)
- Mayo
- Salad Dressing: Caesar, Ranch, French, Greek

Dry Goods

- Pasta: Macaroni, Lasagna Noodles, Spaghetti, Penne
- Tea, Coffee, Hot Chocolate
- Parmesan Cheese
- Vegetable & Olive Oil
- Spices: Oregano, Italian Seasoning, Onion Powder, Thyme
- Onion Soup Mix
- Sugar: White or Brown
- Flour

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FACEBOOK

Zion Evangelical United Church Pembroke

