

BELIEVE

First Congregational Church of Tallmadge
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WHAT'S THE LEAST
I CAN

BELIEVE

AND STILL BE A
CHRISTIAN?

(Don't) Give Me That Old Time Religion

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Liturgy for the Celebration of Worship

1ST SUNDAY IN LENT
FEBRUARY 22, 2026 | 10:00 AM
Liturgist: Rev. John Phillips

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."

WELCOME

The chimes call us to a time of worship

Greeting Liturgist

Prelude

"There Is a Balm in Gilead" - arr. Powell

Organ: Nancy Lynn Robinson

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Opening of the FCC Annual Meeting

(Please stand.)

Annual Meeting Opening Prayer

One: God of the seasons turning.....
...Help us to live in such a way that we draw closer to
your vision for us and journey faithfully in your Way.

All: **In this time together we celebrate the many gifts we
all have to offer. Help us offer what we can to your
service and your glory, mindful of our great gifted
ness in so many ways throughout our lives. These
things we pray in the name of Jesus of Nazareth, the
one we call Christ, in whose name and hope we
gather together as a community. Amen.**

*Call to Worship

Liturgist

One: People of God, on this wilderness journey, what
will you eat?

All: **The word of the Lord is our daily bread.**

One: People of God, in this time of temptation, how will
you live?

All: **Our faith is in the faithfulness of God.**

One: People of God, at this kingdom crossroad, whom
will you serve?

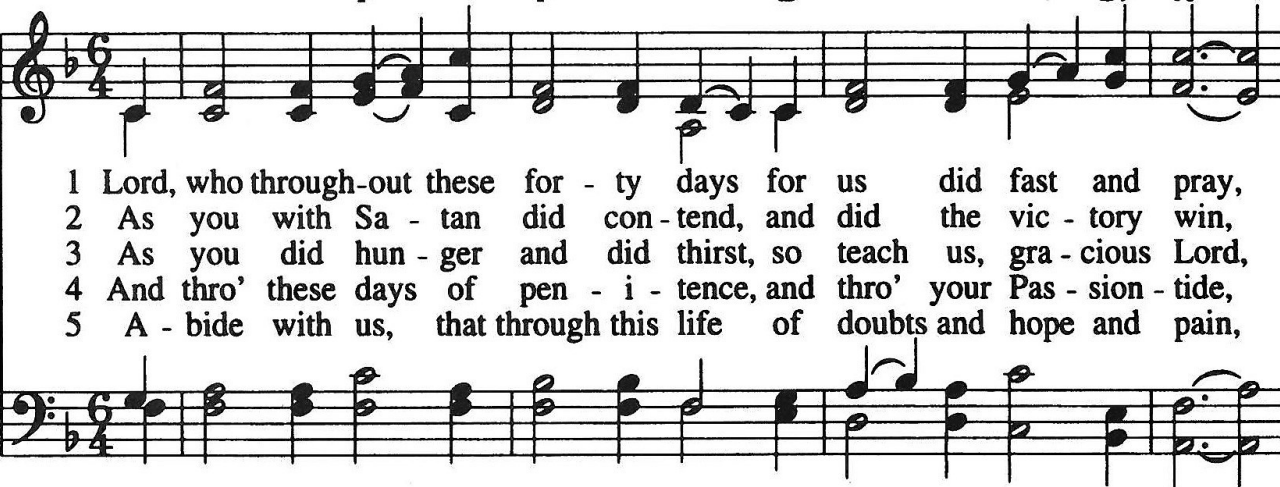
All: **We worship the Lord our God alone!**

*Opening Hymn

"Lord , Who Throughout These Forty Days" #252
(words and music on the following page)

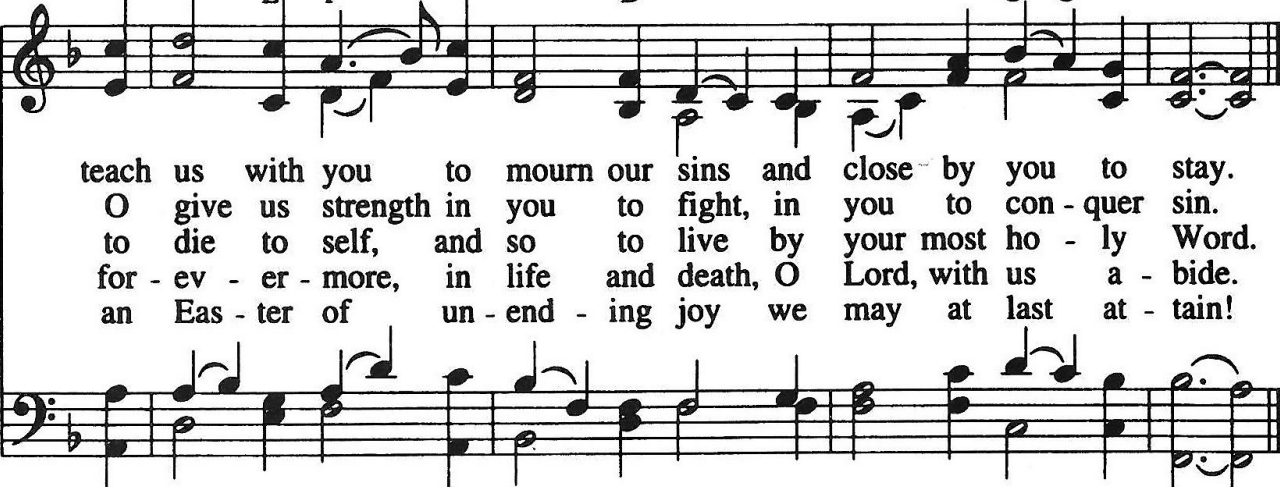
Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days 252

N.C. F $\frac{C}{F}$ F $\frac{Bb}{F}$ F $\frac{C}{E}$ Dm C $\frac{C}{Bb}$ $\frac{F}{A}$ Am



1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us did fast and pray,
 2 As you with Sa - tan did con - tend, and did the vic - tory win,
 3 As you did hun - ger and did thirst, so teach us, gra - cious Lord,
 4 And thro' these days of pen - i - tence, and thro' your Pas - sion - tide,
 5 A - bide with us, that through this life of doubts and hope and pain,

Am Dm $\frac{C}{E}$ $\frac{Dm}{F}$ Am Bb $\frac{Bb}{D}$ F F $_2$ F $\frac{Bb}{C}$ $\frac{F}{C}$ C7 Fsus F



teach us with you to mourn our sins and close - by you to stay.
 O give us strength in you to fight, in you to con - quer sin.
 to die to self, and so to live by your most ho - ly Word.
 for - ev - er - more, in life and death, O Lord, with us a - bide.
 an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at last at - tain!

WORDS: Claudia F. Hernaman (1838-1898), alt.

MUSIC: American melody, adapt.; harm. Annabel Morris Buchanan (1889-1983)

LAND OF REST
C.M.

***Call to Confession**

***Opening Prayer**

Liturgist

Gracious God, you know the ways of good and evil. You know the things that tempt us and the things that give us life. You know our nakedness, and you know our sin. We confess that we have disobeyed your word, denying your providence and care and relying on our own cleverness. Have mercy on us, we pray: cover us with your grace, feed us with the bread of life, and re-create us in your image; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

***Declaration of Forgiveness**

***Passing the Peace**

One: As a forgiven and reconciled people - let us offer signs of Christ's peace to one another

Greeting: "The peace of Christ be with you!"

Response: "And also with you"

Anthem

"There Is a Balm in Gilead" - Boesiger & McDonald

Chancel Choir, Director: Nancy Lynn Robinson

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Celebrating our Music Ministry

A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

Children's Message

Wendy Brown

Celebrating the Ministry of the Christian Education Board

WE LIFT OUR PRAISE & PRAYER TO GOD

Naming our Prayers before God

Moments of Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer w/ Lord's Prayer (using debts/debtors)

Celebrating the Ministry of the Trustees

HEARING GOD'S WORD FOR THE DAY

Scripture Lessons

First Lesson: Psalm 32

- ¹ Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.
- ² Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
- ³ While I kept silence, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
- ⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.
- ⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the LORD',
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.
- ⁶ Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters
shall not reach them.
- ⁷ You are a hiding-place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.
- ⁸ I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.
- ⁹ Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,
else it will not stay near you.
- ¹⁰ Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.
- ¹¹ Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Liturgist: The Word of God for the people of God

Everyone: THANKS BE TO GOD

*Hymn of Preparation

"Forty Days and Forty Nights" vs. 1-2

Forty Days and Forty Nights

George Hunt Smyttan, 1856; alt.

Matt. 4:1-11; Heb. 2:18

1 For - ty days and for - ty nights you were fast - ing in the wild;
2 Shall we not your sor - row share and from world - ly joys ab - stain,
3 Then if Sa - tan on us press, flesh or spir - it to as - sail,
4 So shall we have peace di - vine: ho - lier glad - ness ours shall be;
5 Keep, O keep us, Sav - ior dear, ev - er con - stant by your side;

For - ty days and for - ty nights tempt - ed, and yet un - de - filed.
Fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer, strong with you to suf - fer pain?
Vic - tor in the wil - der - ness, grant that we not faint or fail!
'Round us, too, shall an - gels shine, such as served you faith - ful - ly.
That with you we may ap - pear at the e - ter - nal Eas - ter - tide.

The son of a doctor in ...

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 19:3-9, 9:16-17

³ Some Pharisees came to him, and to test him they asked, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause?' ⁴He answered, 'Have you not read that the one who made them at the beginning "made them male and female", ⁵and said, "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh"? ⁶So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.' ⁷They said to him, 'Why then did Moses command us to give a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her?' ⁸He said to them, 'It was because you were so hard-hearted that Moses allowed you to divorce your

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

wives, but at the beginning it was not so. ⁹And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for unchastity, and marries commits adultery.'

¹⁶No one sews a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old cloak, for the patch pulls away from the cloak, and a worse tear is made. ¹⁷Neither is new wine put into old wineskins; otherwise, the skins burst, and the wine is spilled, and the skins are destroyed; but new wine is put into fresh wineskins, and so both are preserved.'

Liturgist: The Word of God for the people of God

Everyone: THANKS BE TO GOD

Sermon

"What's the Least I Can Believe and Still Be a Christian?: (Don't) Give Me That Old Time Religion" - Rev. Daniel Doty

Celebrating the Ministry of FCC Tallmadge

Celebrating Women's Fellowship Ministry

Celebrating the Ministry of the Social

Action Board

Voting to Become a Global Mission Church

Vote to affirm New Teams

THE OFFERING

Invitation to the Offering

GIVE ONLINE HERE



Offertory

"He Shall Feed His Flock Like a Shepherd" - John Ness Beck/Thewes

Organ: Nancy Lynn Robinson

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(Please stand.)

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God above ye heavenly host.

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

We give you thanks and praise, O God, for the free and abundant gift of grace you have given us in Jesus Christ. Let the simple gifts of our lives be a sign of our unending gratitude for your undying love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Presenting the 2026 Budget

Annual Meeting Closing Prayer

WE ARE SENT BY GOD TO BE THE GOOD NEWS

*Closing Hymn

"Forty Days and Forty Nights" vs. 3-4
(words and music on page 6)

*Benediction

*Congregation Response

**"Go now in peace, never be afraid
God will go with you, each hour of every day.
Go now in peace, in faith and in love."**

Go Now in Peace—Besig, © Harold Flammer Music, A division of Shawnee Press, Inc.

Postlude

"Praise and Thanksgiving Be To God" - arr. Mansfield

Organ: Nancy Lynn Robinson

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THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH OUR SERVICE TODAY

Tech Team:	Vince Scovern, Anne Pertick, Diana Fiocca
Liturgist:	Rev. John Phillips
Ushers:	Joe Labay, Ann and Patrick Hagan, Larry Robinson
Greeters:	Jack and Helen McKee

Today's altar flower are provided by: Bill Westfall

"All my Blessings and the Friendship from the Church Congregation."

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UPCOMING EVENTS



BIBLE AND BREWS | WEDNESDAY, FEB. 25 @ 7:00 PM—THE VENUE

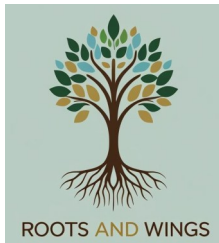
Join Rev. Dan for a night out. This month we will meet in the ballroom at the Venue.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP MARCH LUNCH—PIZZA AND BUNCO

THURSDAY, MAR. 5, 12 PM

All women are invited to join us on the first Thursday in March, March 5th, at 12 PM in the fellowship hall for a pizza lunch and Bunco. Please bring a \$5 donation per person to help defray the cost of the pizza. Never played Bunco before? No worries—you'll pick it up fast and have a blast! **Sign up in the atrium** before or after church on Sundays: **2/15, 2/22, and 3/1.**



ROOTS AND WINGS | SUNDAY, MAR. 8, 4 PM

Roots and Wings is a fellowship group for grandparents and grandchildren to grow in faith and friendship together. This month's activity is Games, games and more games.



YOUTH SUNDAY PLANNING MEETING | SUNDAY, MAR. 8, AFTER WORSHIP

Youth Sunday is coming up on April 26th. It's time to start planning. Join us after worship on Sunday, March 8th and bring your good ideas!

Rev. Daniel J. Doty, *Senior Minister*
Nancy Lynn Robinson, *Choir Director/Organist*
Wendy Brown, *Director of Family Ministries*

IN PERSON | PARKING LOT | ONLINE WORSHIP
SUNDAYS AT 10:00 AM

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Thursday: 9:00 am—3:00 pm
Fridays—9:00 am—12:00 pm

85 HERITAGE DR | TALLMADGE, OH 44278

THE PRAYER CHAIN CONNECTION

We pray for the names listed below and also for many other church members and their concerns, which remain confidential. You may call or text Diana Caldwell with your prayer concerns @ 330-265-5723. *Bless be God who did not refuse me the kindness I sought in prayer. Psalm*

Brad Ashley

Noreen Ashley

Tim Ashley

The Becking Family

Katie Ann Bickett

Margarete Boschert

Jim Brown

John Calvarese

Patti Calvarese

Sue Canavan

Jim Caplinger

Patty Conely

Rylin Davis and family

Sean and Sara Doty

Elaine Engle

Debbie Fickes

Karen Ford

Darrell Goodson

Eleanor Hall

Sue Hamilton

Alleen Hilbish

Jim Jackson

John James

Nancy Johnson

Anita Kelly-Lahrmer

Zell Lambert

Yvonne Larson

Roberta Lewis

Ron Mitchell

Bob Poff

David and Jackie Parker

LTJG John Norton

Heather Read

Richard Reynolds

Alice Sheeler

Eddie Showalter

Lt. Maxwell Spear

Richard & Karen Thomason

Kim and Noel Walters

Ensign 2 Kaitlyn Wetter

Don Woerz

Alzheimer's Care Giver Support Group

**We will not
have a
spaghetti
dinner in
January or
February.
Plan to join
us in
March!**

FCC TALLMADGE WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

SPAGHETTI
dinner

**THURSDAY, MARCH 19
4:30-6:30 PM**

**TO-GO ORDERS
CALL:
330-603-0704**



EASTER FLOWERS ORDER FORM 2026

Easter morning, April 5, we will adorn the Chancel with beautiful flowers. We are offering a selection of colorful potted spring flowers along with the traditional Easter lilies. The cost is \$10.00 per plant. Please complete this form, then bring it to the church office or place it into the offering plate on Sunday morning. Checks may be made out to First Congregational Church. Names of those honored will be listed in the bulletin. *The last day to order is March 9th.*

Name _____ Phone No. _____

of Easter Lilies _____

of Tulips _____

of Daffodils _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Message _____

Please check one: Pick up flowers _____ Donate your flowers _____

If you are ordering flowers and donating money for music, PLEASE PROVIDE 2 SEPARATE CHECKS

Easter Special Music Donation 2026

The 10:00 AM Easter service on April 5 will feature a brass quintet sponsored by our "Special Music Fund." Please consider contributing to this fund as a memorial or honorary gift. Simply fill out this form, then place it in the offering plate or return it to the church office with your check made out to First Congregational Church of Tallmadge. In the memo line at the bottom of your check, please write "Easter Special Music Donation." Names of those honored will be listed in the bulletin.

Forms must be returned to the office by March 22nd.

Name _____ Phone No. _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

If you are ordering flowers and donating money for music, PLEASE PROVIDE 2 SEPARATE CHECKS

Message _____