

Blackstone Valley  
United Methodist Church

Fourth Sunday In Lent  
April 3, 2011  
10:00 AM

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*Our mission is to change people's lives  
through a relationship with Jesus Christ.*

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**~WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE~**

**Greeting of Peace**

**Opening Song**      *"Blessed Be the Name of the Lord"*      **#2034**

**Lighting of the Altar Candles**

**Call to Worship**

**L:**      As a mother cradles her child to her breast; so does God enfold us with nurturing love.

**P:**      *As a father proudly carries his child atop his shoulders;  
so does God bear us forward into the paths of life.*

**L:**      As friends embrace each other warmly after a long absence;  
so does God welcome our presence.

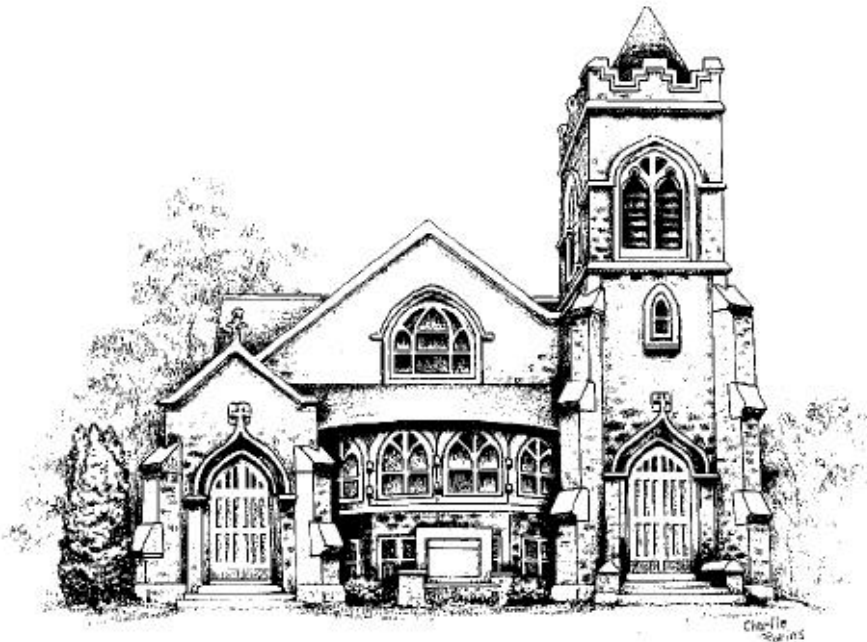
**All:**    *Held, carried, and welcomed, we worship God in a spirit of joy  
and with trust in our hearts.*

**Hymn**                      *"He Leadth Me: O Blessed Thought"*                      **#128**

**Opening Prayer**

God of soulful love – a love that finds and lifts us in the most confusing and despairing of times – with gratitude we enter in this sacred space, not to remain as we are or have been, but to be led somewhere new. Shepherd us. Hold us. Carry us homewards into the heart of Love. Amen

**This Week at Blackstone Valley United Methodist Church**  
*(Children are dismissed for Sunday School)*



61 Linwood Avenue  
Whitinsville, MA 01588  
508-234-2275

**Offertory** "We Are Called" #2172

**Doxology** #95

**Offertory Prayer**

For your goodness and mercy that overflow through our lives and equip us to share, we give thanks. No sacrifice can match your generosity; no offering is adequate to express our gratitude. We bring ourselves with our gifts, that all may be consecrated anew to your service. Amen

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**~WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD~**

**Anthem** "Meet With Me" arr: Ten Shekel Shirt

**Reading of the Word**

**Psalter** Psalm 23 #754, Response 1

**Gospel** John 9: 1 - 12; 35 - 38

**Message** Rev. Michele Ewers

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**~WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE~**

**Celebration of the Sacrament**

**Invitation** Pg 12

**Prayer of Confession**

O God, our Shepherd, we have wandered far from your ways. We have pursued our own ideas as if they were superior to your truth. We live with secrets which we fear to be known. We are afraid to face evil, to confront those we label enemies, to deal with issues of life and death. We are sometimes rigid and legalistic. We blame others for our own failures. Turn us around so we can accept your forgiveness, live more positively in the future, and truly rejoice in your good news. Amen.

**Words of Assurance**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Sharing the Bread & Cup**

"Christ Beside Me" #2166

"Take Our Bread" #640

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**~WE GO FORTH TO LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD~**

**Hymn** "Water, River, Spirit, Grace" #2253

**Sending Forth**

**L:** Friends, held in the tenderness of God, restored by the affirming words of Christ, and empowered by the love of Spirit, go into this day and this new week alive to possibilities and alert to the callings of compassion.

**All:** *We go in the peace of God. We journey with great hope and expectation. Amen*

**Closing Song** "Shine, Jesus, Shine" #2173

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**Bringing The Light Into the World**

Call To Worship, Opening Prayer and Sending Forth:  
from *Seasons of the Spirit*  
Offertory Prayer, Prayer of Confession:  
from *Fresh Winds of the Spirit* by Lavon Bayler

Other Lectionary readings

1 Samuel 16: 1 - 13

Ephesians 5: 8 - 14