

"I am the gate;

whoever
enters
through me
will be
saved."

John 10:9

March 8, 2026 10:00 a.m.

Welcome to First United Church of Christ

600 Mulberry St., Tipton, IA (563) 886-6361
www.firstucctipton.org ♦ office@firstucctipton.org

We are pleased you have decided to worship with us today!

Hearing assistance is available; ask an usher for a receiver.

The offering plate is located on the small table outside of the sanctuary



venmo

*You are welcome to give
using this QR code or
Venmo.*

Music used with permission under
CCLI License #3483795 and
One License #A-626250



****THOSE WHO ARE ABLE PLEASE STAND***

PRELUDE

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

OPENING PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: In Your Mercy, **P:** Lord, hear our prayer.

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us
not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the
kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

L: The peace of Christ be with you, **P:** And also with you!

***GLORIA PATRI**

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

PRESENTATION OF FAITH STATEMENT

Harper Bolger

Maxson Christian

***HYMN #200** "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"

PRESENTATION OF FAITH STATEMENT

Avery Hodges

Harper Lemburg

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

***HYMN "What A Wonderful Change In My Life"**

What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought
Since Jesus came into my heart!
I have light in my soul for which long I have sought,
Since Jesus came into my heart!

Refrain:

Since Jesus came into my heart,
Since Jesus came into my heart,
Floods of joy o'er my soul like the sea billows roll,
Since Jesus came into my heart.

I have ceased from my wand'ring and going astray,
Since Jesus came into my heart!
And my sins, which were many, are all washed away,
Since Jesus came into my heart! (Refrain)

I shall go there to dwell in that City, I know,
Since Jesus came into my heart!
And I'm happy, so happy as onward I go,
Since Jesus came into my heart! (Refrain)

SCRIPTURE READING John 10:1-10

“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger's voice.” Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

L: The Word of our Lord

P: Thanks be to God

SERMON “The Gate of Grace”

***HYMN** “King of Kings” Brooke Ligertwood

In the darkness we were waiting
Without hope, without light
'Til from Heaven You came running;
There was mercy in Your eyes
To fulfill the law and prophets;
To a virgin came the word
From a throne of endless glory;
To a cradle in the dirt

Refrain:

Praise the Father, praise the Son
Praise the Spirit, three in one
God of glory, Majesty
Praise forever to the King of Kings

To reveal the kingdom coming;
And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation;
You did not despise the cross
For even in your suffering;
You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation;
Jesus for our sake you died (Refrain)

And the morning that You rose;
All of Heaven held its breath
'Til that stone was moved for good;
For the Lamb had conquered death
And the dead rose from their tombs;
And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come;
To the Father are restored

And the church of Christ was born;
Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this gospel truth of old;
Shall not kneel, shall not faint
By His blood and in His name;
In His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me (Refrain)

***BENEDICTION** “The Blessing” Jobe, Carnes

The Lord bless you, and keep you; make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.

***POSTLUDE**

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Organist—Deb Schwitzer
Liturgist - Bill Schwitzer
Greeters - Larry Beck, Carolyn Herring, Alice Whitlatch
Ushers - Karen Rohlf and Bill Schwitzer
Ministers of First UCC are its members
Assisting them is Rev. Kerri Sandusky

THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

Tues. March 10	10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.	Bible Study
Wed. March 11	4:30 p.m.	Loaves and Fishes Food Distribution
	4:45 p.m.	Radiate Youth Choir
	5 p.m.	Lenten Meal, Zion UCC, Lowden
	5:30 p.m.	Radiate Youth Group (6th—8th grade)
	6:15 p.m.	Dinner for Radiate Youth Group
	6:30 p.m.	Lenten Service, Zion UCC, Lowden
Thurs. March 12	6:45 p.m.	Radiate Youth Group (9th—12th grade)
	10 a.m.	Table Talk @ Cedar Manor
	10:30 a.m.	Caring Conversations
	5 p.m.	AA Meeting
	6 p.m.	Deacon's Meeting
Fri. March 13	6:30 p.m.	Elder's Meeting
	7 p.m.	Church Council Meeting
Fri. March 13	3:30 p.m.	Mission Trip Crew leaving First UCC
Sun. March 15	9 a.m.	Sunday School (PreK—5th grade)
	9 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
	10 a.m.	Worship
Mon. March 16		Grapevine Newsletter Submissions Due
	6:30 p.m.	Scouts—Pack Meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ **Bible Study** is looking at the *I Am* statements: their meaning and how they speak to us still today. You won't want to miss this study that meets each Tuesday at both 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ It's not too late! Even if you missed a previous Saturday, PLEASE come and join us the 1st or 3rd Saturday each month at 8:00 a.m. for our **book study** of *The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry: How to Stay Emotionally Healthy and Spiritually Alive in the Chaos of the Modern World* by John Mark Comer. Grab your copy of the book from the Fireside Room or order your own. Stay tuned to our next book for discussion after Easter!
- ◆ **Easter Lily Display**—Would you like to remember a loved one, honor someone, or simply share a symbol of life with an Easter Lily? First UCC has ordered a limited number of Easter lilies from the Tipton Greenhouse, that you will be able to purchase for the Easter display. The cost will be \$25 each and **must** be paid today to secure your lily for the display. There is a form available outside the sanctuary for you to complete and turn into the offering plate or the office. The lilies will be displayed on the altar for Easter Sunday with names listed in the bulletin. Please feel free to take them home after the Easter service. If you miss the deadline, contact the office to see if we still have some available.

- ◆ Our confirmation students continue to present their **faith statements** during worship the next few weeks. Please continue to keep these youth in your prayers as they prepare.
- ◆ **Loaves and Fishes Food Distribution** takes place on March 11, starting at 4:30 p.m. If you would like to help with this, just show up at the church around 3:30 p.m. on the first and/or third Wednesday of the month.
- ◆ The **First UCC Scholarship** applications is now available on the church's website or in the office. The application is due to the church office by April 1, 2026. You must reapply each year. To receive an application, email the church at office@firstuccipton.org or check out the website at www.firstuccipton.org.

LENTEN SERVICES

Lenten services are held each Wednesday of Lent and will consist of a meal from 5-6:15 p.m. and worship from 6:30-7:15 p.m. Participating churches include: St. John's, Clarence; Zion, Lowden; St. Paul's, Wheatland; Peace, Bennett; and First UCC, Tipton. We look forward to meaningful services.

Date	Theme	Site	Menu
3/11	Understanding	Zion UCC	Lasagna
3/18	Steadfast Love	Peace Church	Soup
3/25	Trust	St. Paul's UCC	Soup

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

April 2	6:30 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Service
April 3	6:30 p.m.	Good Friday Service
April 5	6 a.m.	Sunrise Service at Tipton Park
	10 a.m.	Celebration Service Easter egg hunt to follow service

SERMON NOTES/TAKEAWAYS