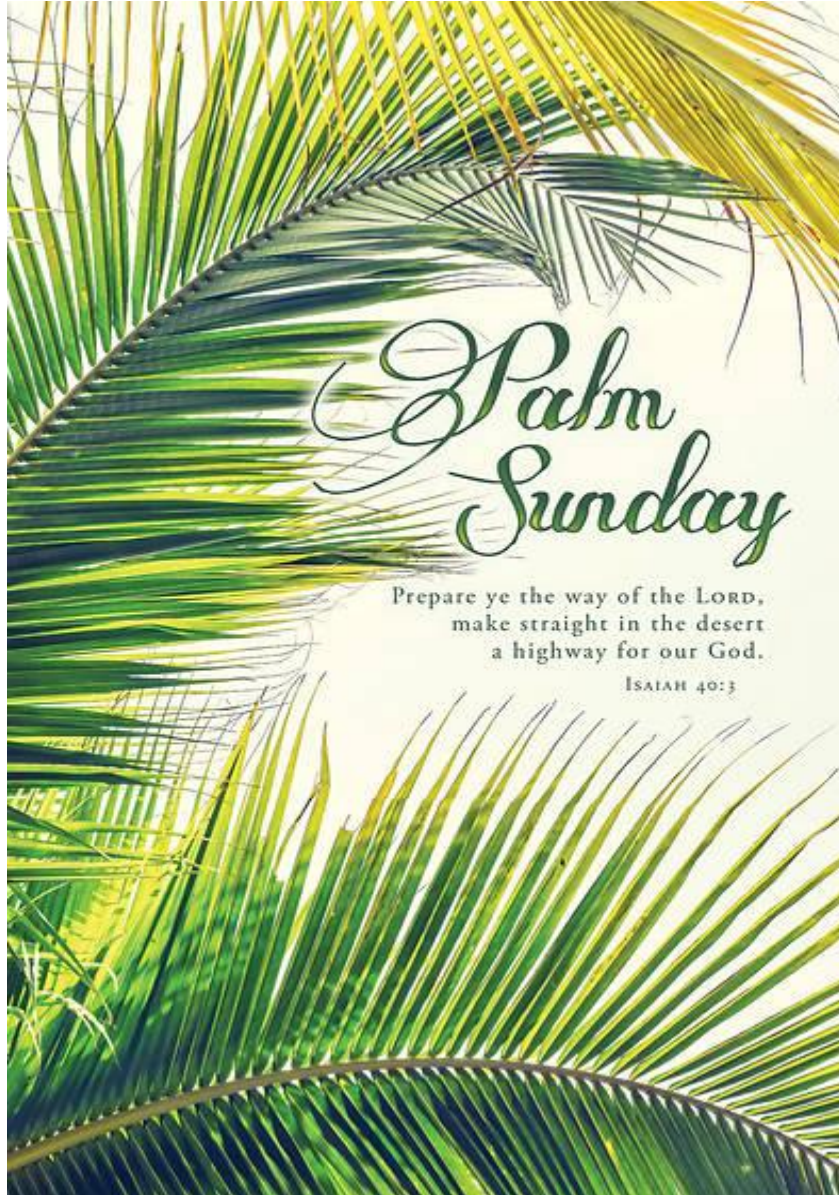


**HAMDEN PLAINS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
15 Church Street, Hamden, CT 06514
203- 248-4654



***"The mission of the
Hamden Plains United Methodist Church is sharing God's love by
creating a safe and welcoming community, connecting people's
needs with God's power, and reconciling divisions through Christ."
-Mission Statement***

PALM SUNDAY

MARCH 29, 2026

ENTRANCE AND PRAISE

+ Those able please stand

PRELUDE

+OPENING HYMN

“Blessed Assurance”

**UMH #369
Megan Malanson**

+WELCOME TO THE PARISH

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carole Outlaw

CALL TO WORSHIP

Carole Outlaw

Leader: Lenten travelers, the journey to the cross begins with a procession into Jerusalem, a demonstration of Jesus’ saving power.

People: We come to praise Jesus, the Messiah, the One who saves!

Leader: The crowds line the path and shout “Hosanna! Save us!” as Jesus rides in, not on a mighty war horse, but on the backs of a donkey and a colt.

People: We come to call on Jesus, the Messiah, the One who saves!

Leader: The city murmurs, wondering who this person is who demonstrates power through humility, strength without tyranny.

People: We come to witness Jesus, the Messiah, the One who saves!

Leader: Lenten travelers, will you come on the journey to Jerusalem, following a Messiah who saves us to live after the pattern of the kingdom of God, not the kingdoms of this world?

People: We come to follow Jesus, the Messiah, the One who saves!

OPENING PRAYER

Carole Outlaw

Humble God, you have shown us the way to enter all the Jerusalems of this world. You showed us not to enter our lives with fear, but with humility and courage. As we worship this day, we draw upon your example of Jesus on that humble donkey, and we raise our palm branches in rejoicing! We raise our voices, shouting along with your people of every age, “Hosanna in the highest!” Come and save us this day, O Jesus of Jerusalem. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Carole Outlaw

Leader: Let us confess before God our tendency, like the Jerusalem crowds, to profess our faith in moments of enthusiasm and deny our faith in moments of stress.

People: O God, we sing and praise you, happy of heart and strong of spirit, when we are among others who praise you too. But in times of stress, we seek scapegoats to be targets for our anger. We betray those we love and who have loved us, and we turn against you, too busy to seek you, too selfish to obey you. Your compassion is without bounds, O God, for you forgive us again and again. You restore us to a right spirit and bring us together to worship you again. God of steadfast love, teach us how to be steadfast; through Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Offer prayers of silent confession.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Rev. Cleaven Johnson, Jr.

JOYS & CONCERNS

After each request

Carole Outlaw

Leader: Lord in your mercy **People:** *Hear our prayer*

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Cleaven Johnson, Jr.

The Lord's Prayer

UMH #895

Carole Outlaw

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

+THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Carole Outlaw

Song: The Jesus in Me

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

Old Testament:

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Carole Outlaw

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! ² Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD. ²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it. ²¹ I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. ²² The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. ²³ This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. ²⁴ This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. ²⁵ Save us, we beseech you, O LORD! O LORD, we beseech you, give us success! ²⁶ Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the LORD. We bless you from the house of the LORD. ²⁷ The LORD is God, and he has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar. ²⁸ You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you. ²⁹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.

Leader: The Word of the Lord. People: ***Thanks be to God***

+ **New Testament:**

Matthew 21:1-11

Carole Outlaw

When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately."⁴ This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet: ⁵ "Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷ they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "*Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!*"¹⁰ When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?"¹¹ The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord. People: ***Praise to you, Lord Christ***

SERMON

"Hosanna in the Highest: The King is Coming!"

Rev. Cleaven Johnson, Jr.

OFFERING

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Carole Outlaw

*Please mail or drop off your tithes and offerings to:
15 Church Street, Hamden, CT 06514.*

Noisy Offering (coins for missions) may be dropped off at the church.

ANTHEM

"We Bring The Sacrifice Of Praise"

HPUMC Choir

+RESPONSE

“The Doxology”

UMH #95

+OFFERTORY PRAYER

Rev. Cleaven Johnson, Jr.

Humble Savior, you ride into our lives not with force, but with invitation—calling us to follow, to risk, and to trust. As we bring these gifts, we confess we don’t always understand where the road leads. But like those who laid down cloaks and waved palms, we offer what we have with hope in our hearts and praise on our lips. Use these offerings to proclaim your kingdom—where love confronts fear and peace dares to speak in the shadow of power. Save us, Lord. Use us. Amen.

GOING FORTH

+CLOSING HYMN

“Old Rugged Cross”

UMH #504

BENEDICTION

Rev. Cleaven Johnson, Jr.

Beloved, as we move into the week ahead, may God bless you with the insight to know the way of Jesus, the courage to hold firm to the way of Jesus when the crowds try to lead you astray, and the strength to follow the way of Jesus, the way of God’s steadfast love that never fails. Amen.

RECESSIONAL

“Sanctuary”

The Postlude

The Worship has ended. The Service Begins

PASTOR OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday’s 3-7 pm. Please call the office if you need to meet with the Pastor. HE is also available Thursday’s & Friday’s Appointment only

MEDITATION TIME: The Prayer Room will be available prior to service for anyone who would like to pray or have quiet time and prepare for service.

YOUR CONTINUED FINANCIAL SUPPORT MEANS SO MUCH! Please mail gifts to HPUMC, 15 Church Street, Hamden, CT 06514 or drop them off during office hours, Tues - Fri., 9:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. For Venmo, scan QR code or go to www.venmo.com/HamdenPlains-UMC.



CONNECTIONAL BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP: Tuesday’s at 6:30 pm on Zoom.

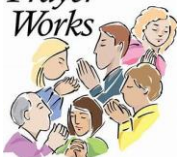
Palm Sunday Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalms 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

CHOIR REHEARSAL: WEDNESDAYS 7:00 p.m. If you would like more information about joining the choir, please contact Dunn Pearson (dunnpearson@gmail.com) for more information. EVERYONE IS WELCOME.



All are invited to *Dinner for a Dollar* each Saturday, 6 – 7 p.m. take-out only through the Church Street doors.

Prayer Works



SPECIFIC PRAYER REQUESTS should be called or e-mailed to Nancy Estes at 203.248.4654 or secretary.hpumc@gmail.com

THIS WEEKS PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray without ceasing; give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:17-19

David, Barbara Gallagher's brother, cancer
 Muriel Collins, Healing
 Rosemary Shaw
 Lorraine Welch, cancer
 Lois Hartsoe, heart issues
 Lois Fucci
 Harold Estes. cancer
 Willie & Delores Freeman
 Pam Gripper
 Ed & Brenda Pineau. resting at home
 Barbara, request from Louise Pruchnicki
 Holly Wesman, partner of Karen Sroka, cancer

Home Bound/ Rehab

Pam Gripper, 91 East Gate Lane, Hamden, 06514
 Lois Hartsoe, 7310 Ashlar Village, Wallingford, 06492
 Pat Leno, 850 Mix Avenue, Hamden, 06514
 Jimmy Morrison, 112 East Gate Lane, Hamden, 06514
 Carmine Raccio, 15 Sunrise Cove Road, Branford, 06405
 Marianne Reynolds, 520 Pool Rd. Apt. 424, North Haven, 06473
 Rosemary Shaw, 345 Fountain Street, Apt. 202, New Haven, 06515



BIRTHDAY'S: Geoffery Stafford 3/24

WAYS TO BE IN MINISTRY AND MISSION:

- Host Fellowship Hour
- Bring your "Cans for the Congo" during office hours or on Sundays.
- Drop off food for the Hamden Food Bank.
- Cook and/or serve for "Dinner for a Dollar" (take-out only). To sign up, contact Elias Joseph at 203.464.4988 or eliasvjoseph@gmail.com
- Check in by phone or send a note to someone home-bound or elderly.
- Continue to mail in your tithes and offerings.
- Donate used books to our Little Free Library
- Donate used printer ink cartridges
- Stay abreast of developments by reading your e-mail or checking the website.
- Read the upcoming Sunday scriptures as an act of spiritual formation
- Become a reporter for *The Messenger*

For information about these ministries, contact Nancy Estes at 203.248.4654/
secretary.hpumc@gmail.com

Worship Assistants

	TODAY March 29 Palm Sunday	Next Week, April 5 Easter Sunday
Liturgist	Carole Outlaw	Kersten Moore
Ushers	Randi Harrell	Megan Malanson
Fellowship Time	Shelly Jones	Louise Pruchnicki
Counters	Lynn Brantley Randi Harrell	Johns Brantley Kersten Moore

March 22: ATTENDANCE: 45

OFFERING: \$3,064

CALENDAR FOR WEEK OF March 29, 2026			
Sunday	March 29	Worship	10:15 am
		Fellowship	Following worship
Tuesday	March 31	Bible Study	6:30 pm
Wednesday	April 1	Prayer Group	11:00 am
Friday	April 3	Parish Wide Good Friday Service	
		UMC Branford, 811 E. Main St.	12:00 pm
		HPUMC Service	7:00 pm
Saturday	April 4	Dinner for a Dollar	6:00 pm
Sunday	April 5	Easter Service	10:15 am
		Fellowship	Following worship

www.hamdenplainsumc.com
<https://www.facebook.com/HamdenPlainsUMC/>

The YouTube channel address:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxwHc1E3_YK4W1nHICT5iAA
or <https://tinyurl.com/t9q8gw6>

Worship at 10:15 a.m. Sundays
Minister: All Congregation Members
Rev. Cleaven Johnson, Jr., Pastor, rareblm1@gmail.com
Dunn Pearson, Musician Ministry, dunnpearson@gmail.com
Nancy Estes, Parish Secretary, secretary.hpumc@gmail.com
Derrick Pommills, Property Manager,
pommillsfacilityservices@gmail.com



EASTER FLOWERS

March 29, 2026

Easter Lilly \$11.00 _____ Daffodil 6in pot \$8.00 _____
Tulip 6in pot \$8.00 _____ Hyacinth 6in pot \$8.00 _____

Your Name: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

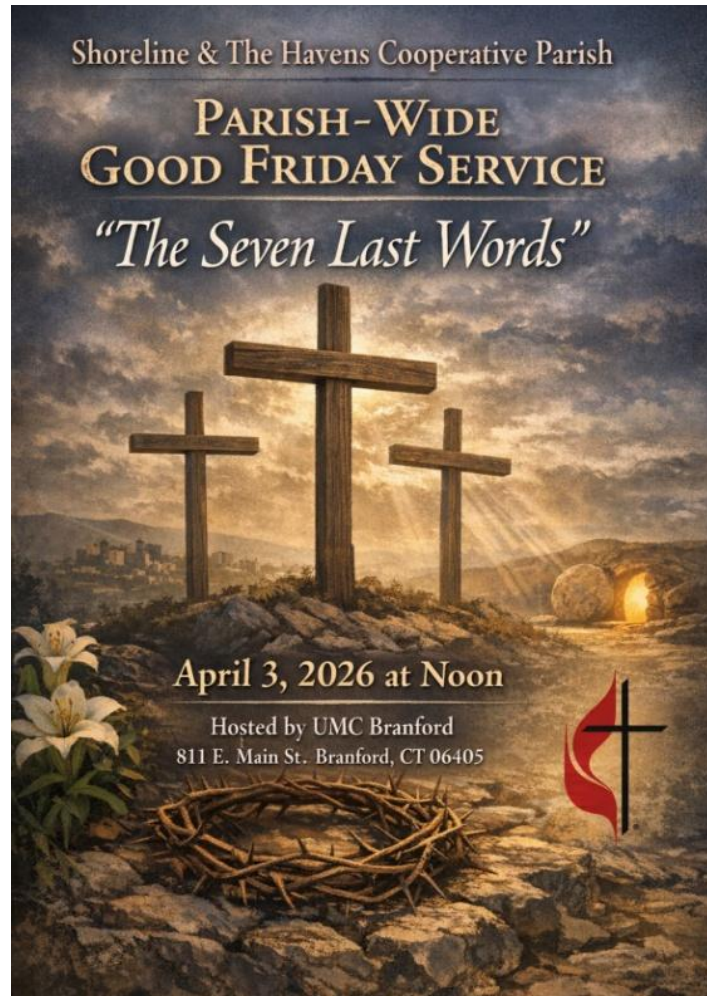
All orders must be paid to Nancy Estes by March 29th

Palm Sunday

Leave in Office, collection plate OR Mail to Church:

15 Church ST., Hamden, Ct 06514

(Please make check payable to Nancy Estes
and mark it "Easter Flowers" on the notation line.)



HOLY WEEK
HAMDEN PLAINS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

GOOD FRIDAY, March 29

7 p.m.

Service of Tenebrae (“shadows”)

St. John, chapters 18 and 19

Overnight prayer vigil follows until 7 a.m. on
Holy Saturday

EASTER DAY, March 31

6:30 a.m.

Sunrise worship at East Rock Park, New Haven
At the Red Bridge

10:15 a.m.

Festival Easter service

Communion

Special music and the singing of the “Hallelujah!” chorus from “Messiah”