



*Through the Valley:
"Why Lament?"*

**February 18, 2024, 10:30 a.m.
First Sunday of Lent**

**First United Methodist Church of Newton
111 Ryerson Avenue, Newton NJ**

Order of Worship

(*Please rise in body or in spirit.)

PRELUDE Christie Spriggs

GREETING Rev. Todd R. Lattig

*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively) Kathleen Meredith

God, where are you? Where are you in this world of violence?

In these uncertain times, we rely on our faith to know you are here.

God, why do those who cause harm seem to be comforted and not punished?

We cry out to you, Lord, asking, have you forgotten us?

God, even though we may not understand, we rest on our faith and trust you that you remember us.

We rejoice with songs on our tongues, giving you praise in your care for us. Amen.

*HYMN “If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee” UMH 142

*OPENING PRAYER (unison) Kathleen Meredith

Dear God, we thank you for this day and for bringing us together in the community of faith. In the midst of our joys and praise, we acknowledge the burdens in our hearts.

When it feels like the world is against us and our efforts seem in vain, we cry out to you, “God, please answer us!”

Help us to remember that you are present even in the silence. May this time of worship be a space where we can pour out our hearts to you honestly. Fill our spirits with hope, love, healing, and direction. We pray in the name of Jesus, our source of comfort and strength. Amen.

ANTHEM “What Wondrous Love Is This” Chancel Choir
Melinda McCoy-Miller, flute

COMMUNITY PRAYER Rev. Lattig

CHORAL RESPONSE TO PRAYER Chancel Choir

KIDS ROCK CHILDREN’S SERMON Rev. Lattig

SCRIPTURE READING Kathleen Meredith

Psalm 13

¹ O LORD, how long will you forget me? Forever?

How long will you look the other way?

² How long must I struggle with anguish in my soul,
with sorrow in my heart every day?

How long will my enemy have the upper hand?

³ Turn and answer me, O LORD my God!
Restore the sparkle to my eyes, or I will die.
⁴ Don't let my enemies gloat, saying, "We have defeated him!"
Don't let them rejoice at my downfall.
⁵ But I trust in your unfailing love.
I will rejoice because you have rescued me.
⁶ I will sing to the LORD
because he is good to me.

This is the Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God for this Word.

SERMON Through the Valley: "Why Lament?" Rev. Lattig

OFFERTORY Christie Spriggs
Please proceed up the center aisle to place your offering in the plate or scan one of the QR codes on the back of this bulletin to make your offering electronically using PayPal or Tithe.ly.

*DOXOLOGY UMH 95

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison) Karhleen Meredith
Living God, we thank and praise you for your presence with us as individuals and together as your church. Receive these offerings as an expression of our gratitude and our devotion to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*HYMN "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" UMH 474

SERVICE OF DIMINISHING LIGHTS Kathleen Meredith

*BENEDICTION Rev. Lattig

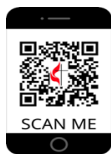
POSTLUDE Christie Spriggs



This Week's Schedule

Monday, Feb 19	10 Chair Yoga (HH) 11:30 LWJ Yoga (HH)
Tuesday, Feb 20	10-1 Life With Joy (HH) 10-1 Manna House Prep/Serve (Newton Presbyterian)
Wednesday, Feb 21	10-3 Life With Joy (HH)
Thursday, Feb 22	10-1 Life With Joy (HH)
Saturday, Feb 24	9-2 Treasures of Hope
Sunday, Feb 25	9 Joy Fellowship Service (HH) Sunday School (1B) 10:30 Sanctuary Service

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Today's Worship Leaders

Pastor
Music Coordinator/Joy Fellowship
Liturgist
Greeter
Camera Operator
Soundboard Operator

Rev. Todd R. Lattig
Christie Spriggs
Kathleen Meredith
Fred Fox
Jen Phlegar
Jay Morrison