

You are invited to share your joys and concerns with the congregation. Please place them in the prayer basket on the table to your right upon entering the Fellowship Hall or, if online use, Zoom Chat or Facebook Comments. Please indicate if the request is not public (i.e., for the pastor alone). Your financial offerings can be placed in the offering box at the front of Fellowship Hall. Restrooms are found behind the kitchen, to the right as you exit the Fellowship Hall.



Mid-Coast Presbyterian Church

Pastor – Rev. Diane Hoppe Hugo

The mission of Mid-Coast Presbyterian Church is to be in partnership with God to transform ourselves, our communities, and our world.

Service for the Lord's Day ~ February 22, 2026

First Sunday in Lent Our theme during Lent is Wilderness

Welcome: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Lighting of the Christ Candle & A Time of Silence

We invite you to a time of silent meditation and companionship with God.

Prelude

Call to Worship *(responsive)*

God hovered over the void and breathed life into dust.

God created in the wilderness.

The Israelites wandered in the desert for forty years.

The Israelites found God in the wilderness.

Jesus said “no” to the tempter time and time again.

Jesus claimed his identity in the wilderness.

We grow in the wilderness. We learn in the wilderness.

For God is with us – before, through, and after the wilderness.

Let us worship God!. **Amen.**

Prayer of Confession

The Invitation

We come before our God those as who wander and those who seek: mindful of Christ's claim on our lives, but inconsistent in living as he taught. Let us pray.

The Prayer of Confession

God of Creation, the Psalms remind us that even before a word is on our tongue, you know it completely. You know the prayers we bring today – confessions of greed and doubt, fear and frustration, conflict and regret. Free us from these sins. Give us strength to repent as we say “no” to that which separates us from you, and “yes” to all ways that let love grow. Guide us out of our self-created wilderness spaces and into your light. Open to your mercy we pray...

Silence is held....Amen.

The Assurance of Pardon

God does not will us to be condemned, but that we be restored. As we confess our sins with sincere intent to change, we are forgiven. Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Hymn of Repentance: Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy.

(This hymn will be used throughout Lent, thank you, choir, for introducing it this Sunday.)

Prayer for Illumination (*unison*)

God of light and life, open our eyes as well as our ears, so that we may not only hear your Word preached today but then see your Word lived out in our lives and in your world, through Christ, our Lord, the light of the world. Amen.

Scripture Lessons Psalm 32, Romans 5: 12-19 and Matthew 4:1-11

Come Holy Spirit (*silence is kept for reflection*). This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“Wilderness Training”

The Reverend Scott DeBlock, Resource Presbyter and Guest Preacher

Hymn of Affirmation: “O Love How Deep, How Broad, How High” No. 83 (*please rise in body or spirit*)

Sharing Joys & Concerns, Prayers of Intercession and the Lord’s Prayer

Lenten Intercession: Ruth Cook, leading

When you hear the phrase: *We answer this call in faith...* please respond:

We place ourselves and this world in your care.

The 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

A Time of Offering

Offerings Prayer(*unison*)

As we follow Jesus, we learn the mystery of abundant life; as we offer our gifts and ourselves, we share Christ’s love with the world. Bless all our offerings that they may be living messages of peace, love, spirit, joy, and hope to this church, to this community, to this nation and the world. Amen

Closing Hymn: “*Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*” No. 81 (*please rise in body or spirit*)

Charge to the Congregation & Benediction

God is Good—**All the Time.** All the Time—**God is Good.**

Postlude

Please join us for refreshments right here in Fellowship Hall: We are an Earth Care church: if you don’t take your bulletin with you, please recycle it in the basket on the table with the Offering Box. Thank you!

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Guest Preacher: Rev. Scott DeBlock

Liturgist: Joanna Damon

Accompanist Becky Jordan