



"Come, follow me, and I will
make you fishers of men."

Matthew 4:19

February 8, 2026
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

www.greenfieldcharge.org

greenfieldchargeucc@gmail.com

Facebook: Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

Pastor

Wendy Farber

farberhome@atlanticbb.net

Pianist

Anneka Gribbin /
Sylvia Olewinski (MH)

Audio Tech

Jeff Farber (Greenfield)

Organist

Gary McIntyre (Grace)

Sunday Meditation

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

Welcome

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

February 8, 2026

Mt Hope 8:30am

Greenfield 9:50am

Grace 11:00am

3rd Sunday after Epiphany / *Make Glorious the Way*

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

Come, people of God - the dawn is breaking!

A new day rises where sorrow had settled in.

The dawn is breaking - and we rise with it.

Where burdens have bent us low,

the Holy One draws near, steadying our steps.

The Holy One draws near - and we gather our courage.

Where yokes have weighed on shoulders and spirits,

God is loosening what has held us down.

What held us down is lifting - and we move toward freedom.

Come, all who yearn for justice; all who hope for healing; all who hunger for joy.

**We come to the dawning way, we come to the hopeful way,
we come to the way God makes glorious.**

* *Invocation*

Holy One, your light dawns where our shadows are deepest. You are never far; your presence remains with us. Awaken us to the glimmers of your glory breaking into our world's weariness.

Shine upon the paths we walk - paths obstructed by fear, uncertainty, and the heavy burdens our communities carry.

Yet, your compassion rises like morning light! Reveal in us the places where liberation is already taking root.

As you drew near to Galilee's borderlands, Draw near to us today.
Let us behold your radiance in overlooked places and in one another.

Make us ready, alert, and courageous - a people who move with your Spirit, who join your work of release, and who make glorious the way where your justice and joy can flourish.

Descend upon us, Spirit of the Living God. Remain with us.
Awaken us. And guide our worship into the brightness of your new day. Amen.

* *Opening Hymn* *"Surely Goodness and Mercy"*
Mt Hope VH #286 Greenfield CH #691 Grace VH #286

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Holy Companion of our difficult days, you call us toward what is new even when we feel worn or uncertain.

We confess the weight we carry - worries we rehearse, the fears we nurture, the habits that hold us tight, patterns we cling to, the moments we turn from compassion, the truths we avoid.

Unbind what tightens around our hearts. Lift what has grown too heavy. Make room in us for generosity, justice, and the courage to begin again.

**Shape us for your healing work as this new day unfolds.
Amen.**

Words of Grace

Hear the good news of the Gospel: People who have walked under heavy burdens have been met by the One who lifts them.

People who have carried what felt unshakeable have felt the yoke break from their shoulders.

Into every place of strain or sorrow, God's mercy draws near. God's compassion reaches out. God's grace opens a way forward.

In this promise, receive your freedom. In this grace, begin again.
Amen.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Matthew 4:12-23 NRSV

Gloria Tibi (Glory be to Thee, O Lord.)

TH #497

Jesus Begins His Ministry in Galilee

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵ “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the
gentiles—

¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned.”

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the
kingdom of heaven has come near.”

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

¹⁸ As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. ¹⁹ And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³ Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message / Congregation Conversation

* *Meditation Hymn* “*I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*”

Mt Hope VH #335

Greenfield FHP #54

Grace VH #335

Today's Message

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hades; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic/Christian church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

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.**

* *Sung Response*

“*Hear Our Prayer, O Lord*”

TH # 501

The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Statement

Offertory (MH)

* Doxology

TH # 551

* Offertory Prayer

O Way-Making God, You are the source of every mercy and every new beginning, we give thanks for the gifts gathered here and for the hope you are stirring among us.

As you lift burdens from weary shoulders and open paths we could not see before, shape these offerings into acts of healing, deeds of justice, and lives of shared joy.

Bless the giving and the givers, that generosity may widen your way and strengthen the communities we touch.

With gratitude for all you are doing in us and through us, we dedicate these gifts to the work of compassion you entrust to our care. Amen.

* *Closing Hymn*

“He Keeps Me Singing”

Mt Hope VH #260

Greenfield CH #746

Grace VH #260

* *Benediction*

Go now in the presence of the One who lifts what is heavy, breaks what binds, and opens the way before you.

As a new day unfolds, may courage rise in you, may compassion guide you, and joy find room to grow.

The Spirit who descends and remains goes with you, goes before you, and goes within you - making glorious the way you walk.

Go in peace, to begin again. Amen.

* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

Make Glorious the Way: Service Prayers for the Third Sunday after Epiphany was written by Rev. Michael Anthony Howard, who serves as the Minister of Faith in Action for the Living Water Association, Ohio NorthEast, of the Heartland Conference, United Church of Christ. Michael's work supports congregations as they weave theology, justice, and place-based ministry into faithful action that bears prophetic witness to God's dwelling among us.