

Pastor Report for March

From February 8, until now I have been on a same schedule: Social Justice on the 2nd Tuesday, Palm Sunday update on the 12th, Joyce Townsend's passing on the 11th, her funeral on the 16th, Linking Board of DMA on the 17th, Ash Wednesday on the 18th, COM was canceled on the 19th, Lent study began and ended on the 25th [no interest], long visitation with Heather Dittman on the 27th, War against Iran began on the 28th, MI UCC Progressives (4 in attendance) on March 2, First Wednesday on March 4, (27 in attendance at Noon) Beloved Community on March 5 and personal pastor gathering on the 6th. The Wednesday with the conference minister is always taped so I have no idea how many tune in after the meeting.

I am not way left on issues supported by the UCC but I am in support of the Palm Sunday Path because of how our country is treating the stranger, and now this going to war without the approval of Congress. I will partake in the Witness Walk and Prayer at the Capitol in Lansing on Palm Sunday afternoon. The Palm Sunday Path is supported by more than UCC. Leadership includes Lutheran, Presbyterian, Episcopal and UCC. More information about The Path is available at [MIPalmSundayPath](#) on facebook and other sites and information was included in the last correspondence from the conference.

I now visit only East Harbor and MediLodge and whoever calls for a visit. I intend to visit Jim Weeks twice a week now because he expresses he is at the end and he loves having a visit. There is a visible change in Jim Weeks.

FYI: As Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, he rode not a war horse but a lowly donkey, coming as a servant Messiah, not a conquering king. Then he wept over Jerusalem and said: “If you, even you, had only recognized the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes!”

He was addressing the religious and political powers-that-be ready in every age to collaborate to hurt the people they are called to care for.

And then we move to his execution on a Roman cross. He prayed for God to forgive his killers and chose to die the victim of violence rather than live as a perpetrator of violence.

However we deal with the questions of war and peace and our everyday violence, we have to deal with Jesus and his records, his words and how he lived and died. In American Christianity today there is virtual eclipse of the historical Jesus. We have today a Jesus-less Christianity lusting for political and military power and gaining it. But it is with Jesus we must start.

In Wendell Berry’s novel *Jayber Crow*, young Jayber enters college as a ministerial student in Kentucky then later drops out and becomes the town barber. When World War II begins he says: “I knew too that this new war was not even new but was only the old one come again. And what caused it? It was caused, I thought, by people failing to love one another, failing to love their enemies.”

Then he adds, “I was glad enough that I had not become a preacher, and so would not have to go through a war pretending that Jesus had not told us to love our enemies.”

“The other cheek,” he says to me as he passes with a slight smile, to see if this time it will take.

In love, submitted March 5, 2026, Pastor Katie/Change Clock-Spring Forward