

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | Tuesday, March 24, 2026

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### CHURCHES UNITE FOR COMMUNITY-WIDE GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP APRIL 3

Churches from around the Traverse City area will come together on Good Friday, April 3, 2026 to remember the seven last words of Christ in preaching and song. [The service](#) is from 12:15pm–3:00pm at Central United Methodist Church at 222 Cass Street in Downtown Traverse City. Worshippers are welcome to come for all or part of the service.

Offerings gathered at the worship service will support BDAI – Before, During & After Incarceration, an advocacy group for the incarcerated, previously incarcerated, and their families. BDAI promotes alternatives to incarceration, restorative programming, and community education while engaging local and statewide stakeholders to improve the criminal justice system.

This year's community service features a wide array of denominations and ministries:

Rev. Haley Vay Beaman, Feast of Victory Lutheran Church  
Deacon Tom Bousamra, BDAI: Before, During and After Incarceration  
Rev. Matt Herron, Sojourn Church  
Rev. Alex Jensen, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Grand Traverse  
Rev. Jim Perra, Grace Episcopal Church  
Rev. Jordan Starkenburg, Associate Pastor, The Presbyterian Church of Traverse City  
Rev. Joan VanDessel, Central United Methodist Church

Dovetailing with this longstanding community tradition, Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel will lead a community-wide [Stations of the Cross for migrants](#) beginning at 6:00pm in Rotary Square, co-sponsored by several area congregations.

Also this Holy Week, the community is invited to [A Calm Evening led by Fred Szczepanski on Wednesday, April 1 at 6:00pm](#). Pianist Fred Szczepanski is known as Mr. Fred and as a longtime worship and music leader in Traverse City. He will lead candlelight Taizé worship and piano. Over decades of service, he became beloved throughout the community for his reflective, Taizé-inspired worship offerings during the season of Lent. This event will be at Central United Methodist Church.