CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany — February 2, 2025

*Please stand in body or in spirit. 10:30am Worship Service

THE GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Janis Pongallo

PRELUDE

INTROIT *Celebrate Love* TFWS 2073 v. 2

CALL TO WORSHIP (FROM PSALM 71)

Leader: In you, O Lord, I take refuge
People: Let me never be put to shame
Leader: In your righteousness, God, deliver me and rescue me
People: Incline your ear to me and save me
Leader: Be to me a rock of refuge
People: Be a strong fortress to save me,
Leader: For you, O Lord, are my hope. You are my trust from my youth
People: You are my protector since my birth, my praise is continually of you!

***HYMN OF PRAISE** *The Summons* TFWS 2130

CALL TO CONFESSION[1]

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, our Deliverer, we confess that we are too reluctant to speak and to live according to your truth. We grow comfortable with the way things are, passively condoning injustice. We see ourselves as "insiders," excluding those we consider "outsiders." We find it easier to pluck up and pull down, to destroy and overthrow, than to build and to plant. Forgive us, O God, for being timid disciples. Empty us of fear and shame and fill us with love that is humble and patient and kind. We pray this in the name of the One who humbled himself, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE[2]

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[1] Call to confession and prayer of confession reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion. Copyright 2012.

[2] Beu, B.J.; Scifres, Mary. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2025: Worship Resources for Every Sunday of the Year (p. 29). Kindle Edition.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

MINISTRY OF MUSIC *Lift Up Your Voice* J. Althouse

CHILDREN'S HAPPENING

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jeremiah 1:4-10	Pew Bible 609
1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Pew Bible 934
*Luke 4:21-30	Pew Bible 835

God is still speaking. **And we are still listening. Thanks be to God!**

***GLORIA PATRI** *Glory Be to the Father* UMH 71

SERMON *Breaking Expectations* Pastor Dianne Tobey Covault

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

HYMN OF REFLECTION *Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak* UMH 463

CALL TO THE OFFERING[3]

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH 94

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

O God, bless these gifts that we have given as expressions of our love for you and our neighbors, that they may bring closer to fulfillment your reign of peace and love; through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign. Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING WITH INTERCESSIONS

THE LORD'S PRAYER UMH 895

PRAYER RESPONSE *Make Us One* TFWS 2224

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

***HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP** *Here I Am, Lord* UMH 593

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *As a Fire is Meant for Burning* TFWS 2237 v. 2

***POSTLUDE**

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[3] Offering Sequence reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion. Copyright 2012.

CHURCH EVENTS FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK

Non-weekly meetings and activities are in **bold print**.

SUN (02/02): **Communion Sunday**
Sunday School, 9:00am
Worship, 10:30am

MON (02/03): **Loss Group, 6:30p/Emma Lang Lounge**

TUE (02/04): Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm

SUN (02/09): Sunday School, 9:00am
Worship, 10:30am
Finance, 11:45a/Emma Lang Lounge

We Are All God's Children

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

** denotes member*

**Bobby Blankenship*	*Carol*	*Frank*	*Lindsey Parker*
**Monta Demchak*	*Caroline*	*Gail*	*Lynn Parker*
**Dave Dickman*	*Chris M.*	*Geof Funk*	*Mary*
**Cindy Light*	*Darlene*	*J & J*	*Mary Ellen*
**John Motley*	*Darlene*	*Jan*	*Mary W.H.*
**Peter Oesterreich*	*Daryana*	*Jim*	*Max*
**Janis Pongallo*	*David R.*	*Jim*	*MJ*
**DeeDee Rencehausen*	*Dennis*	*John*	*Rosie*
**Nadene & Dennis Smith*	*Diane*	*Joshua C.*	*Roy Buser*
**Joan Thorkelson*	*Dixie*	*Kathy*	*Seth Buser*
Ukraine, Israel and Gaza	*Dotty*	*Laurie*	*Sheri G.*
Al Tobey	*Doug Emery*	*Lee*	*Ted Nyland*
Carol De Laat	*Ed Rote*	*Lily Van Scyoc*	*Tom Szor*
Pastor Jason Thompson	*Erik T.*	*Lindsey Elswick*	*Viola*

The family and friends of Ray Hayes, who passed away January 26.

STAR WORDS

Last month in worship we handed out "Star Words". I invite you to take the word you chose and use it throughout the year as a way to center your prayer time and to be aware of God's presence throughout the day. If you have not received a word, please let Pastor Dianne know and she will get one to you! Each week in the bulletin there will be a journal prompt or reflection question that encourages you in your use of the word.

For this week: **Where in your life do you most need this word to show up?**

BIRTHDAY CLUB

DO YOU KNOW THAT WE HAVE A BIRTHDAY CLUB HERE AT CHRIST CHURCH?

When Pastor Dianne was assigned to Christ Church, the conference offered to provide assistance to support a full-time pastor. We were advised that this support was to be temporary: and would decrease over time, and eventually be eliminated

As of this year, any support from the conference has ended and this additional expense has been added to our annual budget.

The **BIRTHDAY CLUB** was established to help offset this additional expense. Any funds generated will be deposited into our "Full-Time Pastor Fund" and used in support of our pastor.

Every three months **ALL BIRTHDAY CLUB MEMBERS** will join together and celebrate with those who have had birthdays during the prior three months. We will enjoy fellowship, cake and ice cream.

Like all good clubs, there are dues for the 2025 **BIRTHDAY CLUB**. A donation is proposed based on the number of birthdays you have had. While $1.00 per year is **suggested** you may join for **more (or less)** per year, based on your ability to pay. Any and all donations are welcome and greatly appreciated. As an alternative to a one-time payment, optionally you can do as some members have done in the past and pay monthly.

If you would like to sign up for the **BIRTHDAY CLUB**, please fill out the form below and return it to the church office, along with your dues or pledge for the club. There are also enrollment cards on the back table in the Sanctuary that you may use if you so choose. If you have any questions, please contact Jack Murphy at murphyjohn@yahoo.com or 216-577-6691.

Tentative dates for the 2025 Birthday Club are March 30, June 29, August 31, & December 29.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

(the following information is confidential and will be shared only as necessary with the Finance Committee)

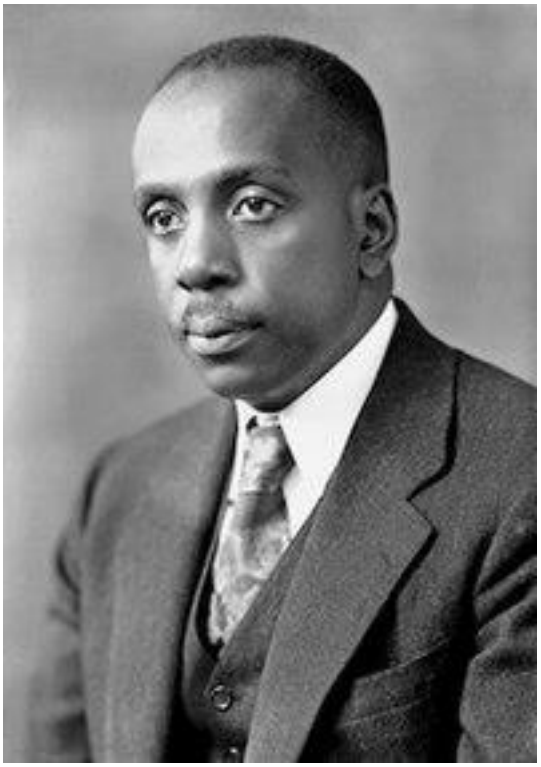
Name, _____Date of Birth, mm/dd/yyyy _____

I will pay $_____ in a ____ one time or ____number of payments by 12/31/2025

____ I cannot pay based on my birthday but will donate $_____ to enjoy the cake and ice cream!

BLACK HISTORY MONTH –
A Review of Prominent Black Theologians – Week One

The Rev. Howard Thurman[4]



The Rev. Howard Thurman was born in 1899 in Daytona Beach, Florida to a loving family. He left home at the age of 14 to attend boarding school in Jacksonville, since there was no high school for black students in his hometown.

After high school, Thurman attended Morehouse College and Colgate Rochester Divinity School. After a brief period as pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church in Oberlin, Ohio, he then began his work as a faculty member, first as Director of Religious Life at Morehouse and Spellman Colleges and then dean of the chapel at Howard University. In 1935, he and his wife led a delegation of African Americans to Southeast Asia, where he met Mohandas Gandhi. He became a follower of Gandhi's principles of non-violent direct action and over time, a spiritual director to civil rights champions in the US including Jesse Jackson, Marian Wright Edelman and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

In 1944, Thurman went to San Francisco where he cofounded the Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples – an intentionally interracial congregation. From San Francisco he was called to Boston University by the university president Harold C. Case, and appointed the first Black Dean of Marsh Chapel. At BU, he pursued his work in theology and to a "society that could acknowledge its differences yet elevate its common human ties."

Some of Thurman's published works include:
Jesus and the Disinherited (1949)
Meditations of the Heart (1953)
The Inward Journey (1961)
With Head and Heart: The Autobiography of Howard Thurman (1979)
The Mood of Christmas (1973)

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[4] This article was distilled from the website of the Boston University Howard Thurman Center, https://www.bu.edu/thurman/about-us/who-is-howard-thurman/

SERMON NOTES

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION[5]

In Jesus' first sermon, he referred to two scriptural stories to illustrate God's love. Why did that so enrage the congregation that they wanted to kill him? Do some of Jesus' teachings still enrage us today?

HOUSEHOLD PRAYER: MORNING

God, you have given me the gift of another day;
may I live it in gratitude.
Help me to be loving to others,
to Earth, and to myself;
in Jesus' name. Amen.

HOUSEHOLD PRAYER: EVENING

Holy One, this day is drawing to an end.
Be with me as I pause and ponder
all the love I saw and received today.
Help me to see you in each moment of love.
Where I fell short of being patient and kind,
help me to feel your patience and kindness toward me,
and give me peace, as I give this day back to you. Amen.

BELL CHOIR ANNOUNCEMENT

Hello bells: a little change in plans. We will resume sometime in March. Stay tuned.

-Roy

[5] These questions for reflection and prayers are reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion. Copyright 2012.

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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PASTOR: *The Rev. Dianne Tobey Covault, OSL*
Cell: *216.509.4229* Email: *pastordiannetc@gmail.com*
Office Hours this week: Monday through Wednesday by appointment

LITURGIST: *Janis Pongallo*
USHERS: *Al Naab, Phil Jennings, John Murphy*
GREETERS: *Nancy Horton*
ACOLYTE: *Ian Eagan, Ben Eagan, Eli Gadomski Littleton, TJ Wood*
AUDIO and VIDEO TECHNICIANS: *John Motley, Rob Pongallo*
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: *Susan Balesky*
ORGANIST/PIANIST: *Roy Buser*
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR: *Desiree Tarpeo* Email: *office@christumc.com*
Office Hours: *Monday-Thursday, 9:00am-2:00pm*

GOAL - FOCUS - STRATEGIES

GOAL: Grow in relationship with Jesus Christ in order to change the world around us, starting with our own community.

FOCUS: To achieve this goal, we will prioritize reaching out to our community as essential to our personal and congregational growth as Christians.

STRATEGIES:

1. We will build meaningful relationships with the people in our community.
2. We will strive to listen and understand the needs of our community.
3. We will use our building and resources to meet those needs in a tangible way.

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Christ UMC Welcomes All

We welcome all persons to our church without regard to race, ethnic or cultural background, social status, gender, sexual orientation, age, theological perspective, political affiliation, or other means people use to categorize or discriminate against others. For our full statement, go to our website.

Ask an usher if you would like a LARGE PRINT HYMNAL, Braille hymnal or hearing device.