CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Third Sunday After Epiphany

January 26, 2025

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

10:30am Worship Service

THE GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Al Naab

PRELUDE *He Has Done Marvelous Things*

An Anonymous Gospel-Style Vocal Warmup

CALL TO WORSHIP[1]

Leader: This day is holy to our God; do not mourn or weep.

People: The Spirit of the Holy One is upon us to bring good news to the poor.

Leader: This day is holy to our God; for the joy of the Holy One is our strength.

People: God sends us to proclaim release to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, and justice to the oppressed.

Leader: On this day, may the scripture be fulfilled in our hearing:

People: May the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be pleasant to you, Holy One, our rock and our redeemer.

***HYMN OF PRAISE** *Gather Us In* TFWS 2236

PRAYER OF INVOCATION[2]

Spirit of God, blow through our lives and our worship. Bind us together in unity and love, that we might be one body in Christ, one body in ministry to the world. Strengthen us with your power, that we might fulfill your call in our lives – a call to love and service. Anoint us with your mysterious presence, and send us forth to be the hands and feet of Christ. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

MINISTRY OF MUSIC *Praise His Holy Name* K. Hampton

CHILDREN'S HAPPENING

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[1] Scifres, Mary; Beu, B. J.. The Abingdon Worship Annual 2022 (p. 23). Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.

[2] From the Abingdon Worship Annual 2013 Edition Copyright © 2012 by the Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

SCRIPTURE READINGS Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Pew Bible 379
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Pew Bible 933
*Luke 4:14-21 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 *Mission Statements* Pastor Dianne Tobey Covault

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

HYMN OF REFLECTION *Open My Eyes, That I May See* UMH 454

CALL TO THE OFFERING[3]

OFFERTORY

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

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

God of life and of new life, bless these gifts that we have given that they may further your reign in this world. Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: Gracious God of love
People: Fill us with the power of your Spirit

THE LORD'S PRAYER UMH 895

PRAYER RESPONSE *O Lord, Hear Our Prayer* TFWS 2200

***HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP** *O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing* UMH 57 vs. 1-3, 7

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *We Are Singing For the Lord is Our Light* TFWS 2235

***POSTLUDE**

CHURCH EVENTS FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK

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

SUN (01/26): Sunday School, 9:00am
Worship, 10:30am

TUE (01/28): Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm

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

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

We Are All God's Children

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

** denotes member*

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

STAR WORDS

Earlier this 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: **Write a prayer asking God to guide you in daily living by teaching you through this word.**

HEALING DESPAIR & ANXIETY IN KIDS AND TEENS

The Westlake UMC will be hosting a community group for anyone concerned about the mental health of young people beginning January 27 at 7pm for 4 consecutive Monday evenings. Join us to better understand brain development and explore strategies & activities that provide power & hope to kids and teens dealing with difficult emotions. The small group is led by Dr. Tony DiBiasio, PhD who has over 35 years of counseling experience with children, adolescents, and families. For more information or to sign up, visit www.westlakeumc.org.

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. 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!

SERMON NOTES

SERMON NOTES

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION[4]

The Old Testament "year of jubilee" to which Jesus refers in his first sermon—what some have called his "mission statement"—was a time set aside every fifty years to forgive financial debt and redistribute the land among the people. Why do you think God envisioned a year of jubilee, and what might that look like in our world today?

HOUSEHOLD PRAYER: MORNING

Holy One, thank you for the gift of this new day.
Help me to stay attentive to your creation
and mindful of your teachings
as I travel through it.
Empower me to see and spread
the good news of your grace for all people. Amen.

HOUSEHOLD PRAYER: EVENING

Holy One, thank you for the gift of today.
Thank you for all the ways that I saw your glory
and learned your teachings,
beyond speech and words,
in the course of this day.
As I drift to sleep this night,
draw me closer to you,
my rock and my redeemer. Amen.

[4] 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, Tuesday, and Wednesday by appointment

LITURGIST: *Al Naab*
USHERS: *Al Naab, Phil Jennings, John Murphy*
GREETERS: *Nancy Horton*
ACOLYTE: *Ian Eagan, Ben Eagan, Eli Gadomski Littleton*
AUDIO and VIDEO TECHNICIANS: *John Motley, Rob Pongallo*
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC: *Susan Balesky*
ORGANIST/PIANIST: *Anna Pengov*
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.

PayPal

QR CODE

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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.