

# CHRIST

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Seventh Sunday After Epiphany**

**February 23, 2025**

\*Please stand in body or in spirit.

10:30am Worship Service

### THE GATHERING

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Jane Thorkelson

**PRELUDE**

**INTROIT**

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

UMH 384 v. 1

**CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>**

**Leader:** Jesus teaches us, “Do to others as you would have them do to you.” But who are the others?

**People:** **Our enemies and friends, family and strangers.**

**Leader:** Jesus teaches us, “Be merciful as your Father is merciful.” But what is mercy?

**People:** **To act with compassion, to help without expecting anything in return.**

**Leader:** Jesus teaches us, “Forgive, and you will be forgiven.” But how do we forgive?

**People:** **By recognizing enemies, friends, family, strangers, and ourselves as people in need of compassion.**

**Leader:** Let us worship God, who loves us and empowers us to love one another with mercy and compassion.

**People:** **Come, let us worship! Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE**

*Where Charity and Love Prevail*

UMH 549

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION<sup>2</sup>**

**Holy Jesus, You call us into a life that others have told us is easy, but it is not. You challenge us to forgive, to love our enemies, to bless those who curse us. We want the easy way, but You have given us the hard path. Grant us the patience and endurance to journey with You, to allow ourselves at times to stumble, to live into the hard way so that we might fully experience Your love, grace, and peace in this world, by becoming a people full of love and grace and**

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/where-you-are-far-horizons/seventh-sunday-after-the-epiphany-year-c-lectionary-planning-notes/seventh-sunday-after-the-epiphany-year-c-liturgical-resources>

<sup>2</sup> *ibid*

<sup>3</sup> Beau, B.J.; Scifres, Mary. *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2025: Worship Resources for Every Sunday of the Year* (p. 47). Kindle Edition.

# CHURCH EVENTS FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK

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

- SUN (02/23):** Sunday School, 9:00am  
Worship, 10:30am  
**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, 4:00p/Garfield Memorial**  
**UMC (3650 Lander Rd, Pepper Pike, OH)**
- TUE (02/25):** Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm
- SUN (03/02):** **Communion Sunday**  
Sunday School, 9:00am  
Worship, 10:30am  
**Education Meeting, 11:45a/Emma Lang Lounge**

## *We Are All God's Children*

### REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

*\* denotes member*

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

### THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who called, sent cards, thought about, and prayed for me during my recent surgery and recovery. I really appreciated everyone's thoughtfulness.

-DeeDee

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH –

## A Review of Prominent Black Theologians – Week Four

### The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney<sup>45</sup>

The Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney is a scholar, pastor, preacher and activist. She is the Right Rev. Sam B. Hulse Professor of Hebrew Bible at Brite Divinity School in Ft. Worth, TX, where she teaches master's and doctoral students in initial and advanced degree programs including MDiv, ThM and PhD.

Dr. Gafney was born in 1966 and earned a BA from Earlham College, a Quaker institution, in 1987. She completed a Master's of Divinity from Howard University, an historically black college, in 1997. She completed a PhD in Hebrew Bible from Duke University in 2006, where she was mentored by Roland E. Murphy. Her doctoral dissertation became her first book, *Daughters of Miriam*, a study of female prophets in ancient Israel.



Among her research interests are feminist biblical studies, rabbinic studies, and issues in translation.

Dr. Gafney, an Episcopal priest, remains a member of the historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas in Philadelphia, PA as she is canonically resident in the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania and licensed in the Diocese of Texas. Founded in 1792, it is the first Episcopal church in the U.S. founded by and for African Americans. She is a former member of the Dorshei Derekh Reconstructionist Minyan of the Germantown Jewish Centre, in Philadelphia. She remains actively engaged in inter-religious work and is particularly interested in how Jews and Christians interpret the texts they hold in common. She is also licensed in the Diocese of Fort Worth.

Dr. Gafney is a former US Army Reserve chaplain who served the Thompson Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church as pastor before joining the Episcopal Church. Some of Dr. Gafney's works include:

---

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.wilgafney.com/media-kit/>

<sup>5</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilda\\_C.\\_Gafney#Selected\\_publications](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilda_C._Gafney#Selected_publications)

- DeYoung, Curtiss Paul; Gafney, Wilda C.; Guardiola-Saenz, Leticia; Tinker, George E.; Yamada, Frank M., eds. (2008). *The Peoples' Bible*. Fortress Press.
- DeYoung, Curtiss Paul; Gafney, Wil; Guardiola-Saenez, Leticia A. (2010). *The Peoples' Companion to the Bible*. Fortress Press.
- Gafney, Wilda C. (2017). *Womanist Midrash: A Reintroduction to the Women of the Torah and the Throne*. Presbyterian Publishing Corporation.
- Gafney, Wilda C. N. (2017). *Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah. Wisdom Commentary. Vol. 38*. Liturgical Press..
- Gafney, Wilda (2021). *A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church: Year A*. Church Publishing.

## 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: **What community implications does your word carry?**

## LENTEN SUPPER AND STUDY

This year’s joint Lenten study between West Park UCC and Christ UMC takes place each Wednesday evening during Lent from March 12-April 9 at West Park UCC. We begin at 5:30 in Bartter Hall with a potluck dinner, with the study from 6-7pm. This five-week program will focus on Adam Hamilton’s book *Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws*. If you would like to order a book, please notify the office THIS WEEK, as we will be placing the order on **February 24**. Please bring your own plates, cutlery, napkins and cups as well as a dish to share to the study.

# SERMON NOTES

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION<sup>6</sup>

How has God sent you to be a preserver of what is good and healthy?

How is your family living up to the wisdom that Joseph showed in caring for the people of Egypt and, eventually, even his own kin?

## HOUSEHOLD PRAYER: MORNING

In the morning when I rise, O God,  
you are with me strong and sure,  
turning my dreams into insights  
and teaching me the delights of your law.  
You preserve my life day after day,  
and in return, I rejoice at the new dawn.  
Guard my waiting this day, O Lord,  
guide my feet and my hands,  
give me stillness and patience  
so that I may give delight to myself  
and to those I meet;  
in Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

## HOUSEHOLD PRAYER: EVENING

Lord, throughout this day you have rescued us from harm and despair,  
giving us instead the joy of accomplishment  
and fellowship with our family and friends.  
Protect us through the night, Holy One,  
that in our dreams we will not be shaken  
but will see you face to face and wake renewed.  
We take refuge in you; in Jesus' name. Amen.

---

<sup>6</sup> 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

3625 West 138th Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44111

216.671.2600 FAX: 216.671.2601 [www.christumc.com](http://www.christumc.com)

PASTOR: *The Rev. Dianne Tobey Covault, OSL*

Cell: 216.509.4229

Email: [pastordiannetc@gmail.com](mailto:pastordiannetc@gmail.com)

Office Hours this week: By appointment.

LITURGIST: *Jane Thorkelson*

USHERS: *Al Naab, Phil Jennings, John Murphy*

GREETERS: *Nancy Horton*

ACOLYTES: *Ian Eagan, Ben Eagan, Eli Gadomski Littleton, TJ Wood, Grace Horton*

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](mailto: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.



QR CODE



COPYRIGHT LICENSES: *CCLI 1446526, CSPL 112047, OneLicense A-727707*

## *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.***