

# CHRIST

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

### Baptism of the Lord

\*Please stand in body or in spirit.

January 12, 2025

10:30am Worship Service

### THE GATHERING

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Emanuel Mora

#### PRELUDE

#### CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT

*To God Be the Glory*

UMH 98 v. 1

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

Leader: When we pass through the cleansing waters of baptism and the troubled waters of our lives, God declares:

**People: I will be with you.**

Leader: When we go through the fires that refine us and the fires that threaten our livelihoods, God declares:

**People: I will be with you.**

Leader: Even when we travel to the far corners of the earth or down into the depths of our souls, God declares:

**People: I will be with you.**

Leader: So come, let us worship God whose love never fails, whose presence never leaves, whose mercies never end.

**People: Praise be to God who, in the form of Jesus, waded into the waters of baptism to prove God's solidarity with us! Amen.**

#### \*HYMN OF PRAISE

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

UMH 139

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION<sup>2</sup>

**Creator of the universe, we gather amazed at your power and glory. We are eager to worship you and offer our praise, but we are often reluctant to answer**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/re-membering-the-body/first-sunday-after-the-epiphany-baptism-of-the-lord-year-c-lectionary-planning-notes/first-sunday-after-the-epiphany-baptism-of-the-lord-year-c-liturgical-resources>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/re-membering-the-body/first-sunday-after-the-epiphany-baptism-of-the-lord-year-c-lectionary-planning-notes/first-sunday-after-the-epiphany-baptism-of-the-lord-year-c-liturgical-resources>

when we hear you calling our name. We sing our songs of tribute in the sanctuary, but shy away from the river, lest we be baptized with the fire of the Holy Spirit. Forgive us when we forget your promise to be with us always, O God. Renew us with the power of your ever-present love, and strengthen us to proclaim your justice throughout the world. Amen.

## WORDS OF GRACE

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

MINISTRY OF MUSIC *Praise God With Cymbals* A. Pote

## CHILDREN'S HAPPENING

SCRIPTURE READINGS	Isaiah 43:1-7	Pew Bible 585
	Acts 8: 14-17	Pew Bible 892
	*Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	Pew Bible 834

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

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

SERMON *One of Us* Pastor Dianne Tobey Covault

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

HYMN OF REFLECTION *I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry* TFWS 2051

## CALL TO THE OFFERING<sup>3</sup>

## OFFERTORY

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

## \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

O God, at his baptism, you acknowledged Jesus as your beloved Son, and through him you opened to us a way to become your children by grace. May these gifts we return to you be a sign of our dedication to live as your faithful daughters and sons, born in the waters of baptism by the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

## SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: Mothering Spirit, hear our prayers

People: **And stir us with your power.**

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<sup>3</sup> Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion. Copyright 2012.

THE LORD'S PRAYER		UMH 895
PRAYER RESPONSE	<i>O Lord, Hear Our Prayer</i>	TFWS 2200
REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM		See Insert
*HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP	<i>Wash O God Our Sons and Daughters</i>	UMH 605
*BENEDICTION		
*BENEDICTION RESPONSE	<i>We Are Singing For the Lord is Our Light</i>	TFWS 2235
*POSTLUDE		

## CHURCH EVENTS FOR THE UPCOMING WEEK

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

- SUN (01/12):** Sunday School, 9:00am  
Worship, 10:30am  
**Finance, 11:45am/Emma Lang Lounge**
- TUE (01/14):** Choir Rehearsal, 7:00pm
- WED (01/15): February Messenger Articles Due**
- SUN (01/19):** Sunday School, 9:00am  
Worship, 10:30am  
**Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Service, 3:45pm/Garfield  
Memorial UMC (3650 Lender Road, Pepper Pike, OH)**

## MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MEMORIAL SERVICE

The East and West Ohio Conferences of The United Methodist Church are coming together to honor the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with a joint worship service on Sunday, January 19, 2025, at Garfield Memorial United Methodist Church in Pepper Pike. Themed “Living the Dream: Bold Faith, Hopeful Future,” the event hosted by Bishop Hee-Soo Jung will focus on building Dr. King’s vision of a beloved community rooted in justice, love, and hope.

The service, scheduled from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., will open with gathering music at 3:45 p.m. and feature retired Bishop Julius C. Trimble, General Secretary of the General Board of Church & Society of The United Methodist Church as the keynote speaker. Known for his commitment to justice and reconciliation, Bishop Trimble will offer a message of inspiration and challenge. I hope you will attend!

# REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM

*All standing in body and/or in spirit*

...Today we come to the waters, to renew our commitments in each other's presence to Christ who has raised us, the Spirit who has birthed us, and the Creator who is making all things new.

## Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

Leader: And so I ask you, will you turn away from the powers of sin and death?

**People: We renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of our sin.**

Leader: Will you let the Spirit use you as prophets to the powers that be?

**People: We accept the freedom and power God gives us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.**

Leader: Will you proclaim the good news and live as disciples of Jesus Christ, members of his body on earth?

**People: We confess Jesus Christ as our Savior, put our whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as our Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races.**

Leader: Will you be living witnesses to the gospel, individually and together, wherever you are, and in all that you do?

**People: We will remain faithful members of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world.**

Leader: Will you receive and profess the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

**People: We affirm and teach the faith of the whole church as we put our trust in God, the Father Almighty, in Jesus Christ, his only Son, and in the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.**

## Thanksgiving Over the Water

Leader: The Spirit of the Lord is with us.

**People: Even so, come Lord Jesus!**

Leader: Let us pray. Almighty God, the life you birthed in us by baptism into Jesus Christ will never die. Your justice never fails. Your mercy is everlasting.

**People: Your healing river flows. Your Spirit blows where you will. We cannot stop you, God!**

Leader: But sometimes we try. We try to block the flow, or redirect the winds of the Spirit. We lose hope, or take hope away from others. We let the world tell us who we are, or even let the church limit what you would make of us. We walk so far away from the life-giving Stream that we do not hear its sound, and we forget your power. We parch ourselves.

**People: We are dry and thirsty, O God. Come, refresh us!**

Leader: Speak to us once more your great good news of life, and pour into us afresh your love, stronger than death, until we can all rise, and each in our own voice proclaim,

**People: I am a child of God.**

Leader: Even so, come upon us, Holy Spirit!

**People: Come upon us, Holy Spirit!**

Leader: Come upon these waters.

**People: Come upon these waters.**

Leader: Let these waters be to us drops of your mercy.

**People: Let these waters remind us of your righteousness and justice.**

Leader: Let these waters renew in us the resurrection power of Jesus.

**People: Let these waters fill us with hope for your now and coming reign.**

Leader: Most Holy God, Abba, Father!

**People: Glory to you!**

Leader: Jesus Christ, Savior, Lord!

**People: Glory to you!**

Leader: Spirit of fire, Spirit over the waters, Spirit of holiness!

**People: Glory to you!**

Leader: Eternal God, One in Three and Three in One!

**People: All glory is yours, now and forever. Amen!**

*The pastor will distribute water to the congregation*

# *We Are All God's Children*

## REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

*\* denotes member*

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

## STAR WORDS

Last week 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: **How does this word reflect who you are today?**

## A REQUEST FROM THE UNITED METHODIST COMMITTEE ON RELIEF (UMCOR)

Join us in prayer for the people of Southern California, who are currently being impacted by multiple fires in Los Angeles County.

To support this and other U.S. disaster response and recovery efforts, donate here: <https://bit.ly/umcorusdr>. Every dollar you give goes to support those in need. You may also give through Christ UMC, marking your donation "California Fires UMCOR"

# QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION<sup>4</sup>

How may I live in the power of the Holy Spirit this day?

What in my life is like chaff that the Holy Spirit burns away in order for me to live as a free and faithful child of God?

## HOUSEHOLD PRAYER: MORNING

Loving God,  
we begin this new day in the sure knowledge  
that you have claimed us as your children.  
In all that we do,  
keep us mindful of actions that are pleasing in your sight.  
In all that we say,  
make us attentive to the witness we give to your love.  
Let our lives be an example to all whom we encounter,  
living as daughters and sons of God  
who follow in the path of Jesus,  
our Lord and our brother. Amen.

## HOUSEHOLD PRAYER: EVENING

As evening comes and we end the labors of this day,  
we thank you, Lord Jesus, that you have been our companion.  
If we have disregarded your fellowship, forgive us.  
Where we have strayed from your path, correct us.  
Let us rest this evening as children of God,  
sheltered in the love of those who belong to your holy family of grace.  
Amen.

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<sup>4</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

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

Cell: 216.509.4229

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

Office Hours this week: Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday by appointment

LITURGIST: *Emanuel Mora*

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](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



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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.***