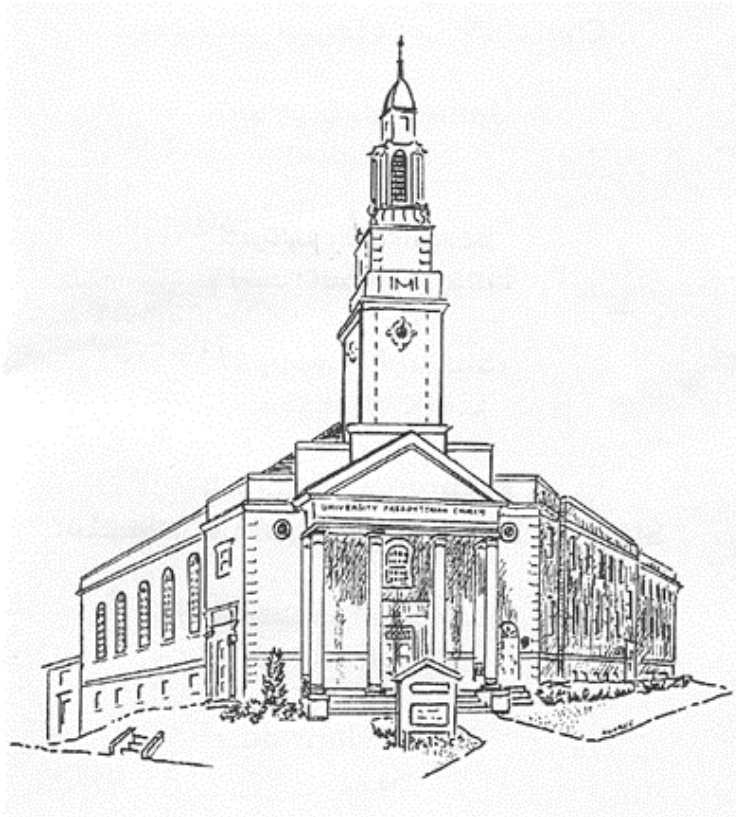


University Presbyterian Church



Sunday, January 18, 2026
10:30 a.m.

Baptism of the Lord, Sunday January 18, 2025
Service for the Lord's Day
10:30 a.m.

AS YOU PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

In order that people may listen to the music or pray in silence without distraction, please refrain from conversation after the music begins and kindly silence all cell phones. Also, please do not bring any food or beverage, other than water, in the sanctuary. Thank you.

Children of all ages are welcome to remain in worship. A playroom is available near the sanctuary for young children who are accompanied by their parents.

Prayer Requests: If you have a prayer request which you would like the pastor to include in "Prayers of the People," please fill out the yellow prayer request slip found in the pew racks and place it in the offering plate when passed.

THE GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Prelude Joseph, Dearest, Joseph Mine George Lachenauer

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship[†]**

God calls us here together — each of us, all of us, our whole selves.

We bring our questions, our longings, our hopes, our dreams and our fears.

Jesus invites us to come and see where God is at work.

Across the street and across the globe, Jesus is present.

Within these walls and within our hearts, God is here.

Let us worship the God who reaches out in love and invites us to come and see!

***Prayer of the Day[‡]**

God of life and new life, you are splendid and strong! Your voice thunders above the sound of loud waters. You sit enthroned above the floods of life. As Jesus heard you speak to him in his baptism, may we also hear you calling us your beloved, through Jesus Christ, your son, our brother. Amen.

*Hymn #408

There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit
Sweet, Sweet Spirit

Doris Akers

THE CONFESSION AND PARDON

The Invitation[†]

Jesus, the Lamb of God, came to redeem and reconcile, to take away the sin of the world. We are invited to tell the truth about the places in need of healing and wholeness. Let us join in the communal act of repentance:

The Prayer[†] (based on Psalm 40)

Saving God, we confess that we often have not waited patiently for you. We have preferred to sing our own song, to go our own way, and to put our trust in idols, institutions and individual strength rather than trusting you. We confess that it is easier to bring you sacrifices and offerings, rather than offering our lives to you. We search for delight in all the wrong places. We keep quiet about the ways we have experienced your love and presence, and we fail to invite others to come and see you, the source of life and love, at work all around us. Forgive us, God. Abide in us until your new song of hope and redemption pours from our lips, and your love is shared in our words and deeds. Amen.

There follows a moment of silent personal confession

The Pardon (based on Psalm 40)

God inclines to us, rescues us and sets us again on solid ground. God has not withheld mercy from us. Trust in the steadfast love and faithfulness of God and know that we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

*Hymn #581

Glory Be to the Father

Henry W. Greatorex

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

*Sharing the Peace and Greetings

As God's forgiven people we extend the peace of Christ to one another saying, "the peace of Christ be with you."

*Sung response Hymn #822

**Shalom to you now, shalom my friends.
May God's full mercies, bless you, my friends.
In all your living and through your loving,
Christ be your shalom, Christ be your shalom.**

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination[†]

Holy God, reveal yourself to us once again as we hear your Word. By the power of your Holy Spirit, inspire us to follow where you lead, and to answer your call.
Amen

Responsive Reading Psalm 29

Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
**the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

The voice of the LORD bursts forth in lightning flashes.
**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe
and strips the forests bare. And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as sovereign forevermore.**

**O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.**

First Scripture Reading Isaiah 42:1-9 (NT, p. 670)

Second Scripture Reading Matthew 3:13-17 (NT, p. 3)

Anthem For God So Loved the World Joseph M. Martin

Children's Sermon

Sermon "Claimed by God"

*Hymn #688 Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

Morecambe

Frederick Cook Atkinson

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Pastorale Janet Correll

*Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above ye heavenly host;

Creator, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

*Hymn #450

Be Thou My Vision

Irish Ballad

Slane

*Benediction

Postlude

In Dir ist Freude

J.S. Bach

*Please stand or rise in spirit as you are able and feel so led.

† Liturgy written by Stephanie Sorge and provided for free distribution for ©
Presbyterian Outlook, 2026.

‡ Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion.

One License #: A-723910

Participating in Worship:

The Rev. Dr. Christine James, Pastor

Rebecca Kroetsch, Choir Director

Gregory White, Organist

Priscilla Maddock, Liturgist

Scott Horton & Amy Maundrell, Greeters

Nick Casseri, Live streamer

Next Week:

Lee Ann Grace, Liturgist

Kathy Hallborg, Amy Maundrell & Vicki Moorhouse, Greeters

Val Macer, Live streamer

This Week...

Sunday, January 18

9:00 am

Choir

10:30 am

Worship Service

11:30 am

James Joyce Library Presentation

Monday, January 19

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday~Office Closed

Tuesday, January 20

Deadline for Newsletter

12:00 pm

Food Pantry Open

Wednesday, January 21

7:00 pm

Session

Thursday, January 22

12:00 pm

Food Pantry Open

Sunday, January 25

9:00 am

Choir

10:30 am

Worship Service

11:30 am

Fellowship Time & Cake

11:45 am

MCC Education Hr.

MLK Day of Service Tomorrow: For MLK Day of Service 2026, we will be volunteering with Calvary Baptist Church at Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Information below. We hope you will join us!

Where: Society of St. Vincent de Paul (1298 Main Street Buffalo, NY 14209)

When: Monday, January 19, 9:00am-12:30pm

Volunteer Opportunity Areas: Dining Room (Kitchen Assistance/Serve Meals), Discount Store (Sorting Clothing and Household Items)

Sign Up: Call Calvary Baptist Church's Office at (716) 895-3642

If you want to carpool there call Val at (716) 605-9471.

You're Invited! The Ministry to Community Committee would like to tell you about our work. More than that, we want to hear your ideas and welcome your involvement! Join us for adult education hour on Sunday January 25 in the Fellowship Hall 11:45-12:45.

Pledges and Envelopes for 2026: Envelopes are available at the back of the Sanctuary- please take yours home! If you cannot find your envelopes, please contact Val Macer at 13vmacer@gmail.com The *per capita* for this year is \$40. This money is paid by our congregation to the Presbytery, so please submit this and your *Initial Offering* of \$3, which pays for your envelopes.

If you have not yet made your pledge, there are forms located by both doors to the Sanctuary or you can contact the Church Office.

Pledge/Donation Summaries for 2025:

Pledge/Donation summaries will be sent out in early January by email. If you find an error in your summary, please contact Val Macer at 13vmacer@gmail.com

Today's Adult Education Hour: Our Adult Education hour (11:45 - 12:45) will host Dr. James Maynard, Curator at University at Buffalo Libraries' Poetry Collection. Dr. Maynard is currently overseeing the completion of the new James Joyce Museum, which will be housed in Abbott Hall on UB's South Campus - across the street from UPC. The noted Irish novelist, poet, and literary critic, James Joyce (1882-1941), will be UPC's new neighbor! Dr. Maynard's presentation will focus on the importance of James Joyce within 20th century English language literature, describe how UB acquired the world's largest collection of James Joyce materials, and explain the value of a publicly accessible James Joyce Museum to the greater Western New York Community.

University Presbyterian Church's Vision Statement

Let us be **BREAD:**

Beaming Christ's love to our neighbors and beyond

Resounding praise of God in worship with music while caring for one another and growing our faith

Enriching our neighborhood through creative use of our building

Acting with energy to foster a growing, vibrant, and welcoming church family

Developing diversity by engaging and welcoming all of God's beloved people

University Presbyterian Church Officers and Staff

Pastor	The Rev. Dr. Christine James
Organist	Gregory White
Choral Director	Rebecca Kroetsch
Treasurer	James W. Smyton
Clerk of Session	Pat Cookfair-Casseri
Stephen Ministry Referral Coordinator	Kathryn F. Hallborg
Administrative Assistant	Peg Kovach
Facilities Manager	Aaron Vivian
Custodian	Roll Tomosso

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Website: www.upcbuffalo.org

Services are live-streamed on YouTube at: <https://tinyurl.com/upcbuffalo>