



**Sunday, January 25, 2026**  
**10:00 am Worship Service**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

**Mission Statement:** Compelled by God's love and our faith in Jesus Christ, Unity Church, a diverse people of faith, seeks to realize God's dream for the world through worship, learning, giving, and serving.

**Core Values:** We love children. Serve Christ with courage. Embrace diversity. Nurture community. Be an advocate for justice and peace.

**Vision Statement:** We are called to Reach Up, Reach In and Reach Out

**(302) 658-5288 [UnityChurchELCA@gmail.com](mailto:UnityChurchELCA@gmail.com)**  
**2101 Lancaster Avenue, Wilmington, DE 19805**  
**[www.unitywilmington.org](http://www.unitywilmington.org)**

*We invite you to contact Unity's staff members:*

**The Rev. Brian K. Sanders, Lead Pastor**  
**443-676-2239; [bks0808@aol.com](mailto:bks0808@aol.com)**

**The Rev. Dr. Melissa P. Lemons, Pastor for Community Ministry**  
**[melissalemons@gmail.com](mailto:melissalemons@gmail.com); 302-803-8866**  
**Office hours: by appointment**

**Norwood Coleman, Jr., PhD, Music Director**  
**Mrs. Sharlene Drummond, Choir Director**

**YOU CAN ACCESS US ON SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:00AM ON YOUTUBE, UNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, WILMINGTON, DE WITH THE CURRENT SUNDAY DATE. FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE, USE LINK BELOW.**

**<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCN4vkddPnbKEzTKIFg-Lkvg>**

### **“Enter to Worship”**

\*Those who are able are invited to stand \*\* **Please, no walking or standing during this time. BOLD PRINT:** Congregation responds, P: Presider, A: Assisting Minister/Worship Leader. Where you see a ✝, you are invited to make the sign of the cross.

## **THE GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### **PRAISE & WORSHIP**

### **RINGING OF THE BELLS**

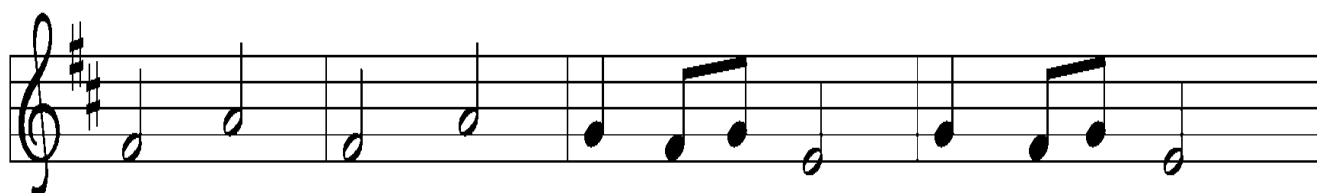
#### **Introduction**

**A:** Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be “caught” in the net of God’s grace and mercy.

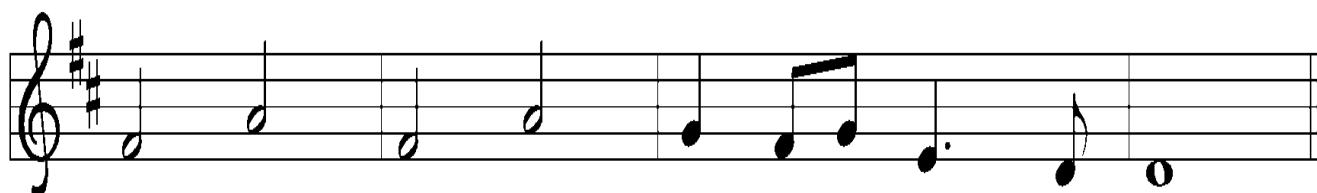
### **OPENING HYMN- “IN MY LIFE LORD BE GLORIFIED”**

**TFF 248 Please Stand**

# Lord, Be Glorified



1 In my life, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;  
2 In our song, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;  
3 In your church, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;  
4 In your world, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;



in my life, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.  
in our song, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.  
in your church, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.  
in your world, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.

Text: Bob Kilpatrick, b. 1952

Music: BE GLORIFIED, Bob Kilpatrick

Text and music © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, assigned 1998 to The Lorenz Corporation. All rights reserved.

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## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM (Please Stand)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters. **Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Mighty God, lover of justice, **you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in ✝ Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace. **Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

A or P: Lord God, **your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## WORD (Please be seated)

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song*

### **First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-4**

<sup>1</sup> There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the LORD] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup> You have multiplied exultation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

### **Psalm: Psalm 27:1, 4-9 (READ RESPONSIVELY)**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?  
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

<sup>4</sup> **One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek;  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my  
life; to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the  
temple.**

<sup>5</sup> For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,  
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high  
upon a rock.

<sup>6</sup> **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who sur-  
round me. Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sac-  
rifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the LORD.**

<sup>7</sup> Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.

<sup>8</sup> **My heart speaks your message—"Seek my face."  
Your face, O LORD, I will seek.**

<sup>9</sup> Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger. Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

### **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18**

<sup>10</sup> Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. <sup>11</sup> For it has been made clear to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. <sup>12</sup> What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." <sup>13</sup> Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? <sup>14</sup> I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup> so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. <sup>16</sup> I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. <sup>17</sup> For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

<sup>18</sup> For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.  
*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Please Stand)**

**P:** Please stand for the reading of the Holy Gospel.



## GOSPEL

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to: **Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23**

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>12</sup> Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup> He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup> so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

<sup>15</sup> "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,

on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—

<sup>16</sup> the people who sat in darkness

have seen a great light,

and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death

light has dawned."

<sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

<sup>18</sup> As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. <sup>19</sup> And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." <sup>20</sup> Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup> As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. <sup>22</sup> Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.


<sup>23</sup> Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

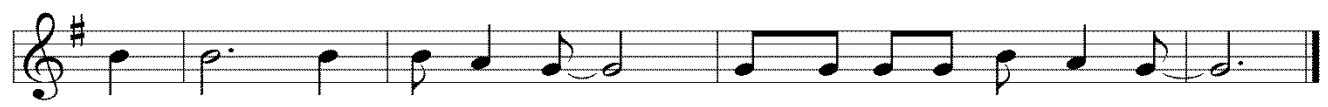
## HYMN OF THE DAY – “It’s Me, O Lord” TFF 240

### It’s Me, O Lord *Standing in the Need of Prayer*


*Refrain*



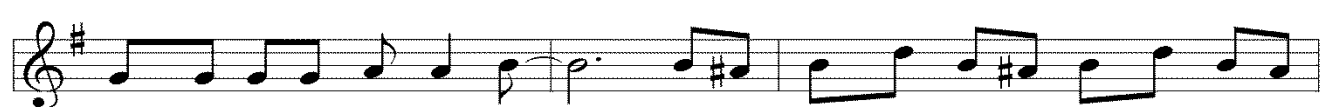
It's me, it's me, O Lord, stand-in' in the need of prayer;




it's me, it's me, O Lord, stand-in' in the need of prayer.



1 Not my broth - er, not my sis - ter, but it's me, O Lord,  
 2 Not the preach - er, not the dea - con, but it's me, O Lord,  
 3 Not my fa - ther, not my moth - er, but it's me, O Lord,  
 4 Not the strang - er, not my neigh - bor, but it's me, O Lord,



stand-in' in the need of prayer; not my broth - er, not my sis - ter, but it's  
 stand-in' in the need of prayer; not the preach - er, not the dea - con, but it's  
 stand-in' in the need of prayer; not my fa - ther, not my moth - er, but it's  
 stand-in' in the need of prayer; not the strang - er, not my neigh - bor, but it's



*Refrain*  
 me, O Lord, stand-in' in the need of prayer.  
 me, O Lord, stand-in' in the need of prayer.  
 me, O Lord, stand-in' in the need of prayer.  
 me, O Lord, stand-in' in the need of prayer.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: STANDING IN THE NEED, African American spiritual



## SERMON

Pastor Brian Sanders

Notes...

### APOSTLES CREED (Please Stand)

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell.\* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

\*Or, "he descended to the dead," another translation of this text in widespread use.  
From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (Please sit, stand or kneel)

A: As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home. *A brief silence.*

Holy One, you entrust the message of the cross and the mission of the gospel to the church in every land. Guide the newly baptized and deepen the faith of all who follow Christ. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Holy Creator, you lavish creation with splendor, and we praise you for the gift of life. Teach us to live as wise stewards, sharing the earth's resources with all inhabitants of this garden planet. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Holy Judge, your power is love, and you judge the nations by the measure of Christ. Free any who are unjustly accused or wrongly condemned. We pray for those in authority (*local and national officials may be named*). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Holy Lover, you care for vulnerable young children, frail elders, and any who are sick (*especially*). We pray for all who are affected by natural disasters (*individuals or situations may be named*). Provide for their needs and relieve their suffering. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Holy Giver, you gather, forgive, and shape us as disciples of Christ. Nurture in us a spirit of patience and respect, that we may love one another as you love us. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Holy Savior, you free us from the power of death. Lead and guide us until we come at last into the communion of all your saints in light. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

## **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## **PEACE**

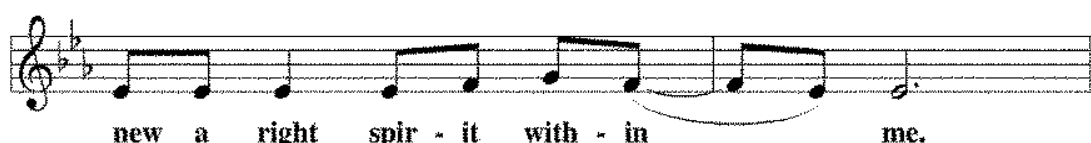
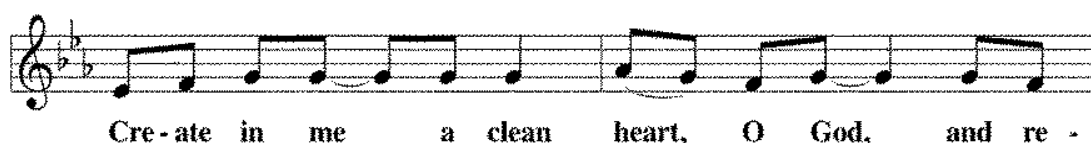
P: The peace of Christ be with you always

C: **And also with you.** Please share a sign of Christ's peace.

## **OFFERING**

(God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Cor. 9:7, 8)

(During the offering, the ushers will pass the offering plates moving from back to front while a musical selection is played. Then the congregation will sing the Offertory hymn printed below.)



## OFFERING PRAYER

A: God of majesty, **no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**PLEASE BE SEATED.**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*All are welcome to communion*

P: The Lord be with you

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. We remember and proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us,

full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in Christ's death and resurrection. We look with hope for the Lord's coming and ask... **Come, Lord Jesus. Come Holy Spirit. Amen**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**P:** Gathered as one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:  
(*Alternate/modern versions of prayer in This Far by Faith p. 3, WOV p. 39*)

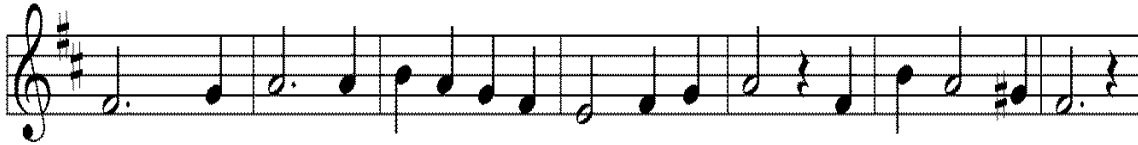
**C:** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine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

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**P:** Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see.



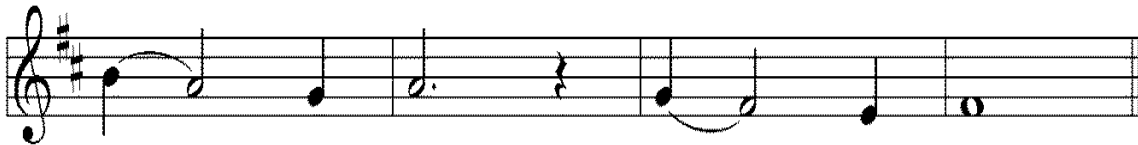
☩ Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**A & C: Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## THE SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us to minister to the world.*

## **BLESSING**

P: May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise ☩ bless you now and forever.

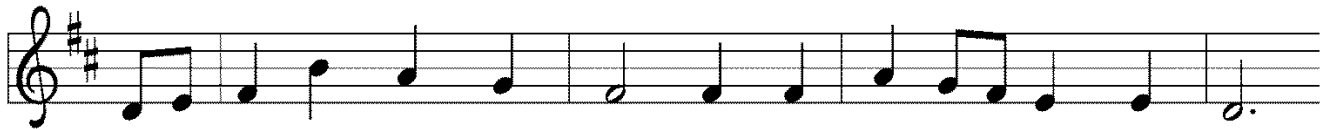
**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN– “O Word of God Incarnate” ELW 514 Please Stand**

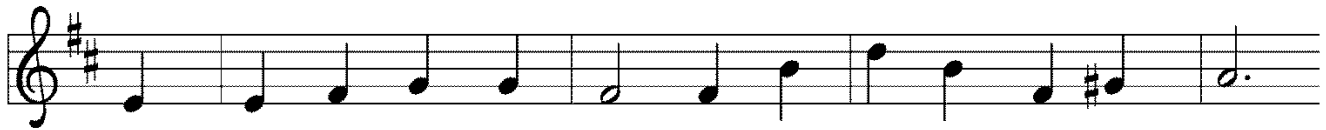
## O Word of God Incarnate



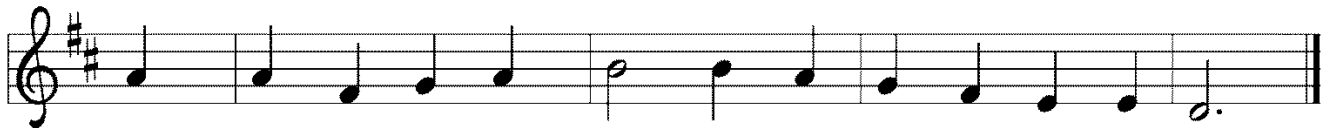
1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,  
2 The church from you, dear Mas - ter, re - ceived the gift di - vine;  
3 Oh, make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of bur - nished gold



O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:  
and still that light is lift - ed o'er all the earth to shine.  
to bear be - fore the na - tions your true light, as of old;



we praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,  
It is the chart and com - pass that, all life's voy - age through,  
oh, teach your wand - ring pil - grims by this their path to trace,



a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.  
mid mists and rocks and quick - sands still guides, O Christ, to you.  
till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, they see you face to face.

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt.

Music: MUNICH, *Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693



## DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy  
**Thanks be to God.**

**“Let us exit to serve”**

*We are called to reach up, reach in, and reach out.....*

**IF YOU HAVE ANYONE YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD TO THE PRAYER LIST, PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE @ 302-658-5288. NAMES WILL REMAIN ON THE PRAYER LIST FOR 3 MONTHS, UNLESS YOU REQUEST LONGER. PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE to MAKE ADDITIONS – (302) 658-5288.**

**THIS WEEK WE ASK THAT YOU KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS:**

<b>UNITY CHURCH</b>	<b>PASTOR BRIAN SANDERS</b>
<b>PASTOR CLARENCE PETTIT</b>	
<b>REV. LORRAINE</b>	<b>RUTH JOE</b>
<b>FRAN RODRIQUEZ</b>	<b>ROB FISHER</b>
<b>JOAN MILLER</b>	<b>MARLENE SMITH</b>
<b>JAMES SPAMER</b>	

**ANNOUNCEMENTS – Birthdays, Anniversaries, Visitors**  
**WE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME ALL VISITORS TO UNITY THIS MORNING.**  
**IT IS SO GOOD TO HAVE YOU AND PLEASE COME AGAIN.**

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** will be held on Sunday, February 1, 2026, in the sanctuary immediately following the morning worship service. Please plan to attend.

**ALL COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS** – Please have your 2025 reports into the church office ready for input into the congregational annual report no later than Tuesday, January 27, 2026.

**PUB THEOLOGY** – is held on the third Sunday of each month. We meet in the Weiser Room, have lunch and hold a lively discussion centering around everyday life. It is quite interesting and everyone is invited to attend. In February, we will meet on February 15, 2026.

**SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR/FELLOWSHIP** is held in the Narthex immediately following morning worship and all are invited to attend. If anyone is interested in hosting one Sunday, please contact Rev. Lorraine @ (302) 383-9755.

**PRIVATE PRAYERS** – If you would like extra prayer time, you are welcome to stay at the altar after you have had communion.

**WEEKLY ZUMBA CLASSES** – These classes are held in Luther Hall immediately following morning worship. Please come and participate. Everyone is invited to attend for a fun, healthy activity, and there is a free-will offering.

**Dementia Caregiver Support Group:** 2nd Thursday of the month, 6-7:30pm. Contact Rev. Brian Sanders for more info.

**Prayer:** Anyone interested in 30 minutes of presenting prayer leads is invited to join our Prayer Line every Monday evening at 6:30-7:00 pm. Dial 1-240-591-0390, 315-704#.

**Volunteers needed:** Readers (lectors), Assisting Ministers (Worship leaders), Communion Assistants and Altar Guild. Please consider helping out in this capacity. Also, we need a volunteer liaison for the Boy Scouts to replace Bob Mazzoni. See Carol Egan for more info.

**Council Vacancies:** There are several open positions on Unity Church Council – volunteers needed to oversee Education, Hospitality, and Stewardship Committees; as well as anyone with accounting or

bookkeeping skills to assist the Treasurer. See Rob Snowden or Pastor Sanders.

**Offering/Giving:** An alternative way to contribute to Unity is to set up VANCO on your mobile phone by texting (844)794-0738 and follow directions to donate by credit card. There is a "donate now" button on our Website which is [www.unitywilmington.org](http://www.unitywilmington.org)

**Spiritual Direction/Companionship:** If you'd like to talk individually about your faith life and how God shows up for you, contact Pr. Melissa. Sessions are free for Unity members (normally \$50 per hour). Companions usually meet once a month.

**BIBLE STUDY SURVEY** – Please take a copy of the Bible Study Survey which is at the back of the church and fill it out to aid Pastor Sanders in best way to approach weekly Bible Study and fulfill the needs of those attending the Bible Study.

**Bible Study** will resume on Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup> and will be held every Wednesday evening at 7:00 via Zoom. Please access Zoom as follows:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87206052414?pwd=cWxnSnJodFE5S3hObzQrVGdMWGwwUTo9>

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,87206052414#.....0#,,717690# US (Wash, DC)

**Meeting ID: 872 0605 2414**

**Passcode: 717690**



