



# RECTORTOWN Reporter



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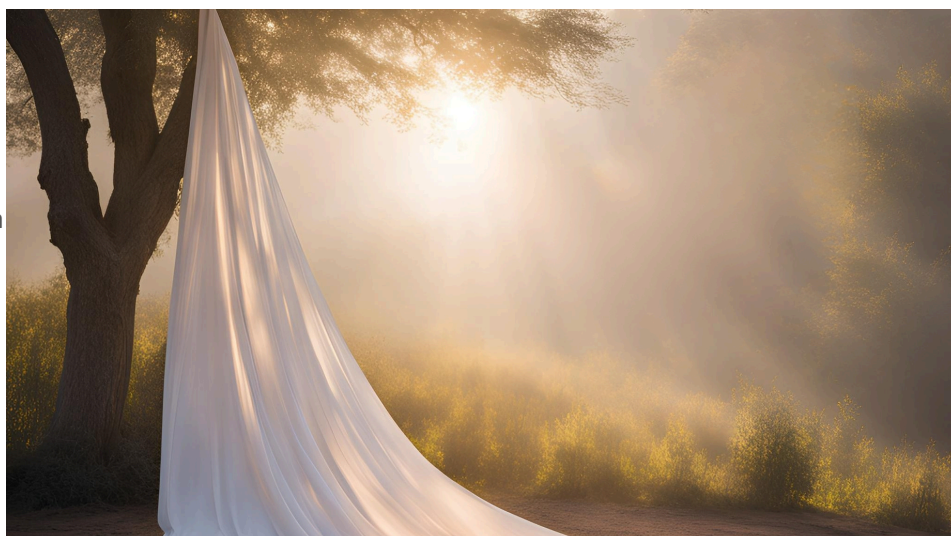
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## THE MEANING OF WHITE & LIGHT IN FAITH

"For at one time you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light."  
Ephesians 5:8 (NRSVUE)



It's February. Just a few weeks ago, we experienced snowy and cold days. The heavy snowfall blanketed the world in white, covering the earth and concealing everything beneath it. We enjoyed the beauty of the snow, yet it also meant staying home, shoveling tirelessly, and waking up to the sound of the plowing trucks clearing the roads. Despite the inconvenience, the snow transformed the landscape, covering dust, dirt, and stains, leaving the world pure and white.

## THE MEANING OF WHITE & LIGHT IN FAITH

Biblically, the color white is often used as a metaphor for God's grace, righteousness, and salvation. It signifies purity, purification, and holiness. The psalmist writes, "**Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow**" (Psalm 51:7). Similarly, the prophet Isaiah proclaims, "**Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow**" (Isaiah 1:8).

In the liturgical tradition, white represents Jesus Christ. This is why churches adorn the altar, lectern, and pulpit with white cloths during significant celebrations such as Christmas, Epiphany, the Baptism of the Lord, Transfiguration Sunday, Easter Sunday, and Eastertide.

White, as the color of Christ, symbolizes the true light of God shining upon the world. The Sundays and seasons associated with white are deeply connected to the imagery of light. For example, Christmas and Epiphany feature the guiding starlight that led the wise men. The prophet Isaiah calls out, "**Arise, shine**" (Isaiah 60:1), while the account of Jesus' baptism describes the heavens opening and the Holy Spirit descending like a dove, illuminating the earth with heavenly light. The Transfiguration story further emphasizes this theme: "**Jesus' face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light**" (Matthew 17:2).

## THE MEANING OF WHITE & LIGHT IN FAITH

We believe that Jesus Christ is the true light. Light is bright, warm, and even intense. It nurtures growth and melts what is frozen. Light also brings to mind another powerful image—fire. Fire is often associated with the Holy Spirit and is represented by the color red, which signifies the blood of Christ. At first, white and red may seem like opposing colors, but in Christ, they become one. Through Jesus' sacrifice, God's redemptive power is given to us. As the well-known hymn "Nothing But the Blood of Jesus" (UMH 362) declares:

**"O precious is the flow that makes me white as snow;  
No other fount I know;  
Nothing but the blood of Jesus."**

Brothers and sisters in Christ, as we journey through February, I encourage you to reflect on your love for God, the Trinity. We have traveled through Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, and the Baptism of the Lord. God's gracious light has shone upon us through Jesus Christ. His grace is sufficient, and now is the time to share it with others.

Just as we sing, **"O precious is the flow that makes me white as snow,"** let us become channels of God's grace, allowing His power to transform others. God's love can cleanse and renew, making all things white as snow. Let us embrace and share His light.

**Amen.**

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## SUNDAY BLESSINGS AND GRATITUDE



**This past Sunday, we were blessed to have Cheryl Kowalczyk as our guest speaker. Her inspiring message deeply touched our hearts and reminded us of God's enduring love. Thank you, Cheryl, for sharing your gifts with us.**

**We also rejoice in welcoming Larry Underwood back to worship! Seeing our beloved centenarian among us after his recent illness fills us with gratitude and joy. His steadfast faith and presence are a true testament to God's sustaining grace.**

**As we reflect on these blessings, let us remember:**

**"The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts. So I am helped, and my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him." —Psalm 28:7 (NRSVUE)**

**"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases." —Psalm 103:2-3 (NRSVUE)**

**Praise be to God for these moments of joy and connection!**



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Hunter Grogg - 3rd

Jozie Long - 4th

Shirley Embrey - 7th

Greg Kroes - 15th

Kattie Ferrebee - 15th

Kim Kroes - 16th

Nelson Warfield - 16th

Chet Walker - 23rd

Andrew Pearson - 25th

Lauren Haley - 26th

Julie Massaro - 28th

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Sheila & Todd Kridler - 14th

## FEBRUARY MEETINGS & EVENTS

### **Admin Council**

February 6th at 7pm

### **Worship**

February 10th at 6pm

### **Trustees**

February 11th at 6pm



### **Valentine's Day**

February 14th



### **President's Day**

February 17th



### **Fig Leaf**

February 18th at 10am



**RECTORTOWN UMC MISSION STATEMENT**  
SERVING GOD THROUGH **P**RAYER, **A**CTION,  
AND **L**OVE THROUGH **S**ERVICE.