

January 5, 2025: Epiphany Sunday

~~ *GATHERING BEFORE GOD* ~~

**GREETINGS ~ ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ JOYS ~ CONCERNS
~ GOD MOMENTS ~**

† **HYMN “The First Noel”** UMH #245
The Light of Christ Enters

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

**Almighty Lord in whom we are one,
Open our ears to Your word, awaken our hearts to Your
grace, and renew our souls in Your presence,
That we may serve You more powerfully
gathered together as Your people. Amen.**

~~ *PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD* ~~

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 60:1-6

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 UMH #795

CHORAL HYMN “Christ for the World We Sing” UMH #568

EPISTLE LESSON: Ephesians 3:1-12

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 2:1-12

CHILDREN’S TIME

† **HYMN “We Three Kings”** UMH #254

MESSAGE “They All Gather Together”

~~ *RESPONDING IN THE SPIRIT* ~~

CONFESSION and PARDON UMH p.12

~~ *THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION*~~

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING UMH p.13

THE LORD’S PRAYER UMH #895

All who seek to know Christ are invited to partake.

PRESENTATION OF OFFERING

† **Doxology** UMH #95

OFFERTORY / PASTORAL PRAYER

"The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective." James 5:16

~~ *SENDING FORTH* ~~

The Light of Christ Leads Us into the World

† **HYMN** "Love Came Down at Christmas" UMH #242

† **BENEDICTION**

† Postlude "His Name Is Wonderful" UMH #174

† *Standing as you are able to the glory of God*

Lectionary scriptures for Jan 12 (Baptism of the Lord):

Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Thank you for joining us for worship.

~~ *ANNOUNCEMENTS* ~~

TODAY:

9:00 am Worship – Georgetown UMC

10:30 am Worship – South Otselic UMC

WEEKLY / BIWEEKLY / MONTHLY:

† **Pastor in the office** – Wed 11 am to 2 pm, Thurs 1-4 pm

† **Youth Group** – 2nd & 3rd Sunday, noon to 2 pm, So.Ot.

† **Bible Study** – study of new Social Principles via Zoom,
Wed 10 am; passcode "jesus" for meeting ID:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84098282792>

† **Administrative Board** – Georgetown, 3rd Sunday 8 am;
South Otselic, 4th Sunday 11:45(ish) am;

† **Food Pantry** – 3rd Thursday each month 3-6 pm
Special requests call Kevin Grewe 607-337-8941

† **Sunshine Shop** Thu/Fri 10 am-4 pm; Sat 9 am-noon
– Next open Feb 6-8, Feb 20-22, closed during Jan
– For emergency clothing, call 315-653-7490.

† **60+ dinners** – biweekly, South Otselic UMC, 5 pm;
upcoming Jan 3, Jan 17, Feb 7, Feb 21

UPCOMING EVENTS:

† January 13-15 – floor cleanings South Otselic UMC

† January 15 – Bible study resumes via Zoom

PRAYER LIST: (Short Term):

From 12/29 – Dana Brussel, Doug Evans, Nancy Petit, Gene Wilcox, families who lost homes to fire, UCC Sherburne

From 12/22 – Lorena Auwarter, Robert Harris, Casey Stackhouse & family, family of Stan Rolston

From 12/15 – Audrey Harvey, Betsy Silvester, Bonny Titus, family of Steve Eaton, family of Barbara Turner

From 12/8 – Matt Sheldon

(Long Term): Lorena Auwarter, Jonna Bartlett, David Boyer, Richard Bishop, Paul Carson, Ron Colasudo, Kaity Davis, Linda Excell, Doris Genter, Ted Gargas, Roger Hakes, Chuck Hathaway, Marcia Kalin, Patti Lamandia, Diane MacGregor, Cassandra & Christopher Marquard, Maverick Mesko, Aaron Miller, Phil Mudge, Mitch Mullenax, Jenny Naber, Elaine Perkins, John & Carole Roalef, Kate Robinson, Matt & Annette Sheldon, Cathy Silver, Normajean Stark, Kenneth Sullivan, Angela (Graves) Szlamczynski, Kay Thorpe, David Wentworth, Jason Wentworth

Travel mercies for family and friends

Our men and women in the military

World leaders, our country, & the need for peace

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS:

January: 6-Deedrick Bertholf; 8-Peter Kalin; 9-Doris Genter; 14-Kaitlyne Davis; 18-Keven Simmons; 23-George Lott; 24-Lonnie Hakes; 31-Madison Davis, Sarah Hite

Feb: 1-John Roalef; 2-Dustin Davis; 14-Dawn White; 22-Melanie Simmons; 25-Bruce Hakes

Have a Blessed Epiphany



January 5, 2025: Epiphany Sunday

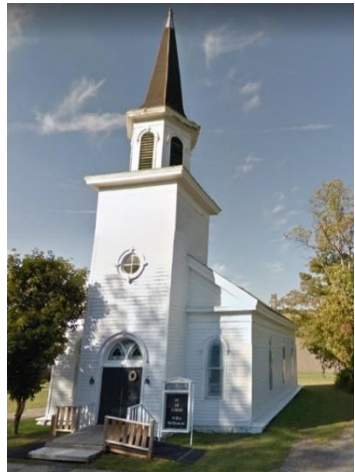


*United Methodist Churches of
South Otselic Georgetown*



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Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

UMH #795

- 1 Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the royal son!
- 2 May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice!
- 3 May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness!
- 4 **May he defend the cause of the poor of the
people, give deliverance to the needy, and
crush the oppressor!**
- 5 May he live while the sun endures, and as long as
the moon, throughout all generations!
- 6 **May he be like rain that falls on the mown
grass, like showers that water the earth!**
- 7 In his days may righteousness flourish and peace
abound, until the moon is no more!
- 10 **May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles
render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba
and Seba bring gifts!**
- 11 May all kings fall down before him, all nations
serve him!
- 12 **For he delivers the needy when they call, the
poor and those who have no helper.**
- 13 He has pity on the weak and the needy, and
saves the lives of the needy.
- 14 **From oppression and violence he redeems
their life; and precious is their blood in his
sight.**

Isaiah 60:1-6

(NRSV)

¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

² For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples, but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

³ Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together; they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.

⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you; the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Ephesians 3:1-12

(NRSV)

¹ This is the reason that I, Paul, am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you gentiles,

² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you

³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words,

⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ.

⁵ In former generations this mystery was not

made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit:

⁶ that is, the gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power.

⁸ Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ

⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things,

¹⁰ so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,

¹² in whom we have access in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Matthew 2:1-12

(NRSV)

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem,

² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east, and have come to pay him homage."

³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him,

⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.

⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.



Council of Bishops

The United Methodist Church



Pastoral Letter Addressing the Plight of Migrants, Immigrants and Refugees in the US Epiphany 2025

Jesus said, “When you welcome the stranger, you welcome me....” Matthew 25:35

At no time has the church in the US had a greater opportunity to welcome Jesus among us as he journeys with migrants, immigrants, and refugees than today. We your bishops are clear that the situation these beloved of God face as the Trump Administration comes to power threatens their humanity, livelihood, and basic human rights.

For decades, a broken immigration system in the U.S. has kept migrants, immigrants and refugees in this country living in the shadows of society in a state of perpetual fear. They have come to the U.S. under forced circumstances fleeing extreme poverty, hunger, political and

religious persecution, war, cartel and gang violence, and the severe impact of climate change. Some are actively recruited by large U.S. companies who need their labor. Yet migrants, immigrants and refugees help to sustain the U.S. economy, serve our families caring for our children and our elderly, cleaning our homes, landscaping our properties, building our roads and the houses we live in, and cultivating and picking the crops that feed our families. They are our neighbors, our friends, and members and pastors of our churches.

Deplorably, racist, xenophobic, nationalistic, and anti-migrant hate speech has become standard rhetoric for many US politicians, including President-elect Donald Trump. He has stated that under his administration he will order the mass deportation of the 11 million undocumented migrants who live and work in the U.S. He has threatened to use military and law enforcement at all levels for this mass deportation. If allowed, this mass deportation of migrants will cause further racial profiling, the separation of families, the undermining of communities and congregations, the weakening of the economy of this country and its democratic systems of law and justice. President-elect Trump has also threatened to end birth-right citizenship, dismantle Refugee resettlement in this country and further strip away the possibility of the U.S. welcoming Asylum Seekers onto this land.

We are living in a dark time that more than ever calls us to be the light of Christ, people of faith who take our baptismal vow to “resist evil in all its forms,” with utmost seriousness.

As United Methodists we have firmly declared through our *Social Principles* that we are called to actively welcome the migrant, immigrant, and refugee among us.

- Affirming the dignity, worth and rights of migrants, immigrants and refugees.
- Recognizing that displaced people are particularly vulnerable as their in-between status often provides them with few protections and benefits, leaving them open to exploitation, violence and abuse.
- Urging one another to welcome migrants, refugees, and immigrants into our congregations, providing concrete support, to them including help with navigating restrictive and often lengthy immigration policies, and assistance with securing food, housing, education, employment and other kinds of support.
- Opposing all laws and policies that attempt to criminalize, dehumanize or punish displaced individuals and families based on their status as migrants, immigrants or refugees.
- Decrying attempts to detain displaced people and hold them in inhumane and unsanitary conditions.
- Challenging policies that call for the separation of families, especially parents and minor children.

- Opposing the existence of for-profit detention centers that are used for the purpose of detaining migrants, immigrants, and refugees including minor children.

(Social Principles of The United Methodist Church, The Political Community Basic Rights and Freedoms, Section G. Migrants, Immigrants and Refugees)

We your bishops call upon the people of The United Methodist Church to pray for migrants, immigrants, and refugees among us and to welcome them with the fullness of Christian love, remembering that as we welcome these, our brothers, and sisters, we welcome Jesus our Lord.

Tracy S. Malone

Bishop Tracy S. Malone
President - Council of Bishops
The United Methodist Church