

January 25, 2026: 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

~~ *GATHERING BEFORE GOD* ~~

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

† HYMN “Shout to the Lord”

TFWS #2074

The Light of Christ Enters

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive) *from umcdiscipleship.org*

Children of God, when fears press in on every side,

we can proclaim with confidence:

God is our light and salvation! Whom shall we fear?

When our problems overwhelm us and we feel pressed in on
every side, we can declare with confidence:

God is the stronghold of our lives!

Of whom shall we be afraid?

No matter the troubles we face,

we seek after God and to live in the house of God forever.

God shelters and protects us in the day of trouble.

Come, let us worship God with joy,

for God is our light and salvation!

We come to worship as bearers of the Light.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

~~ *PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD* ~~

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 9:1-4

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 27:1, 4-9

UMH #758

CHORAL HYMN “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

TFWS #2129

EPISTLE LESSON: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 4:12-23

CHILDREN'S/INTERACTIVE TIME

† HYMN “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” UMH #206

MESSAGE “Carrying the Light”

~~ *RESPONDING IN THE SPIRIT* ~~

THE NICENE CREED UMH #880

PRESENTATION OF OFFERING

† **Doxology** UMH #95

OFFERTORY / PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER UMH #895

“*The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.*” James 5:16

~~ *SENDING FORTH* ~~

The Light of Christ Leads Us into the World

† **HYMN “O Church of God, United”** UMH #547

BENEDICTION

† Postlude “*God Be with You till We Meet Again*” UMH #672

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

Scriptures for February 1, 2026 (4th Sun after Epiphany):

Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31;

Matthew 5:1-12

Thank you for joining us for worship.

~~ *ANNOUNCEMENTS* ~~

TODAY:

9:00 am Worship – Georgetown UMC
10:30 am Worship – South Otselic UMC
noon(ish) South Otselic UMC Administrative Board

WEEKLY / BIWEEKLY / MONTHLY:

- † **Pastor in the office** – Wed 11 am to 2 pm, Thurs 1-4 pm
- † **Administrative Board** – Georgetown, 3rd Sunday 8:15 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 10-4; Fri 11-5; Sat 9-noon
 - Next open Feb 5-7, Feb 19-21; *closed Jan*
 - For emergency clothing, call 315-653-7490.

- † **Community Lunch** – 1st & 3rd Thursdays, noon, South Otselic UMC; *next dates Feb 5, Feb 19*

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- † Take church to David Wentworth – Feb 1, 11 am
- † Lenten Ashes – Feb 18 during office hours or appointment

PRAYER LIST: (Short Term):

From 1/18 – Ed & Debbie Slocum, George Lott & Wenda West, family of Matthew Brooks, family of Renee Good, family of Rufus Green, family of Kodianne Lynch, family of Eleanor Price

From 1/11 – Give God thanks!

From 1/4 – Bob Engle, Edith Goldschmidt, Chris Marquard, people with flu/illness, homeless/without shelter, our country, world peace, 2026

From 12/24 & 28 – family of Dana Brussel, family of Gloria Gormley, family of Jay Graham, holiday travelers

(Long Term): Jonna Bartlett, Richard Bishop, David Boyer, Paul Carson, Margaret Chase, Ron Colasudo, Kaity Davis, Doug Evans, Linda Excell, Ted Gargas, Kevin Grewe, Roger Hakes, Chuck Hathaway, Patti Lamandia, Diane MacGregor, Cassandra & Christopher Marquard, Chris Marquard, Maverick Mesko, Aaron Miller, Phil Mudge, Mitch Mullenax, Jenny Naber, Elaine Perkins, John & Carole Roalef, Kate Robinson, Justin Sheldon, Matt & Annette Sheldon, Cathy Silver, Ella Simmons, Normajean Stark, Kenneth Sullivan, Angela (Graves) Szlamczynski, David Wentworth

Travel mercies for family and friends

Our men and women in the military

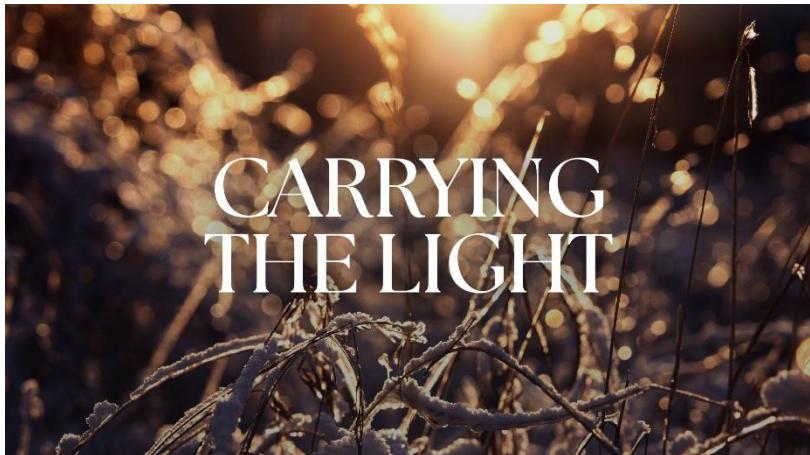
World leaders, our country, & the need for peace

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS:

January: 31-Madison Davis, Sarah Hite

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

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Psalm 27:1, 4-9

UMH #758

¹ The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

⁴ One thing I asked of the Lord, that I will seek after:

that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in the Lord's temple.

⁵ The Lord will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble, will conceal me under the cover of his tent, and will set me high upon a rock.

⁶ **And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies round about me; and I will offer sacrifices in the Lord's tent with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.**

⁷ Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!

⁸ **"Come," my heart said, "seek the Lord's face!" Your face, Lord, I seek.**

⁹ Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in anger, for you have been my help.

Cast me not off, forsake me not, O God of my salvation!

Isaiah 9:1-4

NRSV

¹ But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he 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.

² 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.

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

⁴ 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.

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

NRSV

¹⁰ 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 united in the same mind and the same purpose.

¹¹ For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters.

¹² 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."

¹³ Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius,

¹⁵ so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name.

¹⁶ (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.)

¹⁷ 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.

¹⁸ 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.

Matthew 4:12-23

NRSV

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee.

¹³ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali,

¹⁴ so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵ "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles

¹⁶ 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."

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

¹⁸ 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 fishermen.

¹⁹ And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people."

²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

²¹ 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.

²² Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

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