

The liturgical color is green, signifying life in the Christian church

OFFERTORY 11:00

"The One"  
Chancel Choir

Craig Courtney

**PRELUDE** "Fuge and Harmonization on ST. ANNE" J. S. Bach/Hal Hopson  
Amy Bender, organist

**WELCOME** 9:00 Don Humphrey | 11:00 Chris Fournier, Liturgist

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

There are some days when I need the reminder that I belong to God. Do you ever feel that way?

**Yes. We do. The world can be a harsh place; we often need that reminder.**

Well then, let us care for one another. Let us speak the truth we each need to hear. Church, you belong to God. You are God's beloved.

**Friend, you belong to God. You are God's beloved.**

Let us worship the God who knows our names.

**Let us worship the God who calls us beloved. Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN** "When Jesus Came to Jordan" #UMH 252  
*Hymn History:* The words to this hymn were written by Fred Pratt Green. He was born in Roby, Lancashire, England in 1903. Rev. Green was a British Methodist minister serving various churches and circuits in England from 1928 to 1969. He also wrote the words to over 100 hymns in his lifetime. Many of these are in the United Methodist Hymnal (see the Index Of Composers for the hymns included in our hymnal). Rev. Green was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters in 1982 by Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. Some of his hymn writing materials are housed there. Other materials are at Durham University in England. He set up the Pratt Green Trust which uses the royalties from his works for the advancement of church music. Rev. Green died in Norwich, England in 2000.

**OPENING PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

*Children are invited to stay in worship or meet in the Narthex to go to Sunday School*

**ANTHEM 9:00** "One Small Child" arr. Mark Hayes  
Noralee Starr, soloist

**11:00** "I Will Call Upon the Lord" arr. Doug Holck  
Chancel Choir

**COMMISSIONING** Justin Mackey, Director of Modern Worship

**SHARING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

You may place your offering in the Offering Box at the entrance of the Sanctuary or give online using the link on the back of the bulletin

**\*DOXOLOGY #94**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**SHARING STORIES OF GOD AT WORK THROUGH CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS**

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Loving God, from the very beginning, you breathed life into us and called us good. However, somewhere along the way we replaced "good" with "not enough." Somewhere along the way we turned the volume up on that phrase and began to doubt our own self-worth. Forgive us, for this is not what you have taught us. For when the world tells us we are not enough, you call us beloved. Show us how to return to that truth. Show us how to let go of our weariness and rest in that good news. Amen.**

**WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

**Our story begins with belovedness. Even when we lose our way, even if we stumble and fall, God never stops breaking through the clouds to claim us. We are known. We are forgiven. We are beloved. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**I believe that the God I see in scripture is a God of love. I believe that God created me and delights in that creation. I believe the psalmist who says, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made." (Psalm 139) I believe that, just as God called Jesus "beloved," God extends this same term of endearment to us. I believe that no matter our earthly challenges, nothing could strip me of that sacred title. I could fail every test, miss every goal, drop every ball, and I would still be God's beloved. Therefore, I cling to this promise like a rock in the storm. I anchor myself with this good news, allowing the anxiety of the day to roll over me as best I can, because I know where I belong. I am a child of God. I am beloved. I strive to live this way. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE**

**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 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. Amen.**

**HYMN OF CENTERING** "Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters" UMH #605

**SCRIPTURE** Luke 3:21-22

*\*Congregation invited to stand if able*

**MESSAGE** "How Does a Weary World Rejoice? We Trust in our Belovedness"  
Rev. Dr. Ivy Smith

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**BAPTISMAL REAFFIRMATION**

**\*HYMN OF MISSION** "Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine" UMH #606

**\*FAITH IN ACTION**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION SONG RESPONSE** "Go Now In Peace"  
**Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day.**  
**Go now in faith, steadfast, strong, and true. Know He will guide you in all you do.**  
**Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see.**  
**God will be there watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**  
**Amen. Amen. Amen.**

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**POSTLUDE** "How Brightly Beams the Morningstar" Pachelbel

*Other than the Prayer of Dedication, the prayers used in this service were written by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.*



Altar Flowers are presented by Dale & Debbie Lewis and family  
In Memory of Tyrel Lewis, son, grandson, brother, and uncle;  
Jean Lewis, mother and grandmother;  
Betty M. Klein, mother and grandmother

There are flower openings on January 14th and 21st.  
For flowers please call Kathy Fellows: 440-477-4485




"Beloved" by Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org  
Inspired by Luke 3:21-22, Digital painting and collage


**MENTOR**  
*United Methodist Church*

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Traditional Worship  January 7, 2023

# MENTOR UNITED HIGHLIGHTS METHODIST CHURCH



## Members who are in need of prayer:

Karen Mancini, Marilyn Oliver, Dick Anderson,  
Luke Sanvido, David Fell, Norma Ickes, Bob Williams,  
Ruthie Hobart, Mike Cosmo, David Smith,  
Jon & Rev. Beth Wilterdink

## Members admitted to Rehab, Assisted Living or Nursing Home Facility:

*The Enclave* - Kay Disbro, Delores Tackett,  
Johanna Kessler, Dee Smith, Mary Lou Haines, John Shetler  
*Salida Woods* - Doris Sturm  
*University Manor* - Virginia Gilman  
*Parker Place* - Bill Owen, Bob & Sandy Linsell, Deloris Parsons  
*Danbury Senior Living* - Kathryn Bevacqua  
*Tapestry* - Gloria McFeely  
*Symphony of Mentor* - Lorraine Ahlstrom  
*Breckenridge/Fairmount* - Patricia Laubscher

**Love & Sympathy to the friends and family of Dale Snyder,  
who passed on January 1, 2024**

## Upcoming *This Week*

Wednesday, January 10

- Child & Caregiver Class
- Missions Meeting
- Finance Meeting

Monday, January 8

- Parents Morning Out

Tuesday, January 9

- Ring Journey Group
- Staff Dinner
- Trustee Meeting

Thursday, January 11

- Canticle Bells, 6 PM
- Charter Members, 6:45 PM
- Chancel, 7:45 PM

Friday, January 12

- MOMCo

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### Staff Update

We welcome to our staff, Briyant Hines as our new Youth Director and Justin Mackey as our new Modern Worship Director. We look forward to furthering our mission of leading all onto a path of Christ centered discipleship with them. You can learn more about them on our website.



**Briyant Hines**



**Justin Mackey**

*Join us* on January 14th after services for a gathering in the Gallery to meet & welcome our new staff members, Briyant Hines and Justin Mackey.

### Meals for Pastor Ivy

You can sign up to make or buy meals and deliver them to Pastor Ivy's house by visiting our website. We continue to pray for and support her during her husband's recovery of his recent stroke.

### Blood Drive

Blood Drive is on Tuesday, January 16th. Sign up online or visit the Information Hub.

### Food Ministry

Our next Food Distribution is on January 15 & 16th. Check out the Information Hub, Weekly Update, or our website to learn about what items are most urgently needed. We feed many families in the community with our ongoing distributions.

### Admin Council

Next meeting is Wednesday, January 17th at 6:30 PM.

### Youth Mixer

Join us for a mixer to meet with our new Youth Director, Briyant Hines. Youth and their parents will meet in the Youth Room on January 21 from 6pm-8:30pm.



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