

January 4, 2026
Epiphany Sunday
Sacrament of Holy Communion
Fear Doesn't Stop Us

PRELUDE (*A Time for Quiet Meditation*)

How Lovely Shines the Morning Star Dieterich Buxtehude

WORDS OF WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGREGATIONAL CALL TO WORSHIP #507

Come to the Table of Grace
(verse 1)

Table of Grace

Come to the table of grace. Come to the table of grace. This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of grace.

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***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: In the dark of the morning,

All: The stars still shine.

One: In the depth of winter,

All: The birds still climb.

One: At the start of the year, tender and new,

All: God is here. God is near.

One: Do not rest in your fear.

All: Let us worship God.

***GATHERING SONG #24**

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens
(verse 1)

Holy Manna

***God, who stretched the spangled heavens infinite in time and place,
flung the suns in burning radiance through the silent fields of space, we,
your children in your likeness, share inventive powers with you. Great
Creator, still creating, show us what we yet may do.***

(verse 3)

***We have ventured worlds undreamed of since the childhood of our race;
known the ecstasy of winging through untraveled realms of space;
probed the secrets of the atom, yielding unimagined power, facing us
with life's destruction or our most triumphant hour.***

(verse 4)

***As each far horizon beckons, may it challenge us anew; children of
creative purpose, serving others, honoring you. May our dreams prove
rich with promise, each endeavor well begun. Great Creator, give use
guidance till our goals and yours are one.***

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CALL TO CONFESSION

One: On this Epiphany Sunday we stand at the start of a new year; and there is nothing better about a new year than the chance to begin again. When we speak honestly with God, and God surrounds us by grace, we are able to begin again. Together, let us pray:

*Please stand as you are able.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, we long for Christmas to usher in a season of peace and joy. But just days after, we find ourselves facing fear again. So, today, we pray: forgive us when fear is louder than love; when it prevents us from following your call; when we allow it to stop us in our tracks. Show us how to turn fear into action. Show us how to live like the magi who – even in a fearful world – searched for you. With hope, we pray.

(Time of Silence)

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

One: Whether we are courageous or fearful, God's love for you knows no end. Hear these words of forgiveness: whether we are brave or timid, God's love is boundless: we are seen, we are forgiven, we are surrounded with grace, we are sent to serve.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

***SONG OF RESPONSE #137** *He Came Down*
(verse 2)

He Came Down

He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light; hallelujah forevermore.

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

One: In Christ we discover a peace that surpasses all human understanding. Let us share that same peace with one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And, also, with you.

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of the stars, like the magi, we come to this place searching for you. Clear out the distractions. Wipe away the doubt. Open up our hearts and speak to us through these ancient words. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING *Isaiah 60:1-6*

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 on 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.

CHORAL ANTHEM

**Please stand as you are able.*

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING *John 1:10-18*

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

THE MESSAGE

"Fear Doesn't Stop Us"

Rev. Dr. John Wahl

UNISON AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a with-us-God. We believe in the hope of tomorrow. We believe that good news is louder than fear. We believe this good news is for all people. So, even when our knees shake, when our voice trembles, when fear is all around us, we will hold onto that good news. We will reach for each other, look for God in our midst, sing songs of joy, and proclaim: unto us, love is born. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

We take this time to reflect and recognize all contributions of time, talent, and treasure. A basket is available for making monetary donations.

OFFERTORY

My Lord, Your Table Now Is Spread

Todd Kendall

***DOXOLOGY #151**

*We Three Kings of Orient Are
(verse 3)*

Kings of Orient

***Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising gladly raising; worshiping God Most
High. O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty
bright, westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy
perfect light!***

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

INSTRUCTIONS AND BLESSING FOR STAR WORDS

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE / GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Please stand as you are able.*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Loving and gracious God, from east and west, from north and south, you have gathered us at your table, called us your beloved, and fed us from your body. Transform us to be your body in the world, and fortify us by your Spirit so that we might serve you and our neighbors with great joy. Amen.

*SENDING SONG #152

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

(verse 1)

Puer Nobis Nascitur

What star is this, with beams so bright, more lovely than the noonday light? 'Tis sent to announce a newborn king, glad tidings of our God to bring.

(verse 2)

'Tis now fulfilled what God decreed, "From Jacob shall a star proceed"; and lo! the eastern sages stand to read in heaven the Lord's command.

(verse 3)

While outward signs the star displays, an inward light the Lord conveys and urges them, with tender might, to seek the giver of the light.

(verse 4)

O Jesus, while the star of grace impels us on to seek your face, let not our slothful hearts refuse the guidance of your light to use.

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

*FINAL BLESSING

POSTLUDE

With Joy Unending

Edward Broughton

*Please stand as you are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Every Day for Everyone Bible Study

Thank you to all the faithful participants of this 2025 year-long bible study. Our **final discussion group** will be **today, January 4, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.** in the church library.

CFPCC Food Bank Needs

Please consider donating the following items to help stock the shelves at Chagrin Falls Park Community Center:



Fresh meats, eggs, butter, flour, or anything you would like to donate.

CFPCC is receiving donations at your car. Someone will come out and retrieve donations. You can, also, leave them in the blue donation bin in the Narthex.

Pass-it-on Resale Store



The **store will be open** on:

Friday, January 9 (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.)

Saturday, January 10 (10 a.m. – 2 p.m.)

Pass-it-on is accepting donations. Please contact Brenda Wahl at 440-829-7841 or passitonamissionoflove@gmail.com.

Knitting For Others

Inviting all folks from 12-100 years of age, who like to knit or who would like to learn, to be a part of Valley's Knitting Group.



The group will meet Sundays, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.:
January 11 & 25

This group has been busy knitting prayer blankets and shawls for members of our congregation. It takes a lot of yarn to knit or crochet these items. Many of us have made items in the past but have not used quite all of the yarn. Knitting for Others can use the leftover yarn to make items to share with others. If you have any bulky size-5 or 6 yarn that you will not be using and could share with Knitting for Others, we certainly would appreciate your donation. Yarn can be left in the box marked “yarn” in the Library. Thank you so much for your help.

For questions, please call one of our Co-Chairs, Beverly or Bev:

Beverly Wahl
502-553-7255

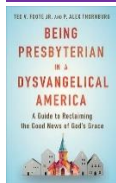
Bev Keough
330-888-5385

Notice of Annual Meeting



The Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation will take place on Sunday, February 1, immediately after the worship service. Please plan to attend, if you are able.

Book Study – *Being Presbyterian in a Dysvangelical America*



In *Being Presbyterian in a Dysvangelical America*, Ted V. Foote Jr. and P. Alex Thornburg speak directly to Presbyterians who are disillusioned and confused by how Christianity is being misused in American culture. So often, our beliefs as faithful Christians do not line up with the shouted chants and disturbing actions taken by those claiming to represent a true vision of Christianity.

This will be a hybrid study format (in-person in the church library and on-line) – meeting on Monday nights from 7-8:30 p.m. Books will be available in the church office for \$15.

Meeting Dates

January 12 (organizing meeting), February 2 and 16, March 1, 15, and 29

Sarah Circle 2025-26

We'd love to have you join us!

**The next meeting will be:
Tuesday, January 13**

Our study this year is:

PCUSA: Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ

Meet September — May the second Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. in the Church Library. Books are available and cost \$14.00. To order a book or for more information, please contact Glenna Pool at 419-789-9446 or e-mail gpool205@yahoo.com.

Mid-week Lunch Group – January 13



All are welcome to gather for lunch together at Buckeye Café (located across from the church in Tanglewood Square) at noon on the second Tuesday of each month (January 13, February 10, March 10, etc.) for a time of good food, great coffee, and even better conversations.

Donations – Credit Card or Zelle

Credit card donations are available on-line at the Valley Presbyterian website below: <http://valleypresbychurch.org>

Look for “Give Now” button. Can only be used for donations.
Can not pay for holiday flowers, VBS, books, etc. at this link.

Use the following QR Code to donate via **Zelle**:



VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

www.valleypresbychurch.org

VPC Guest Wifi Password: VPC12345

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Organist: John Kautzman
Greeter: Glenna Pool