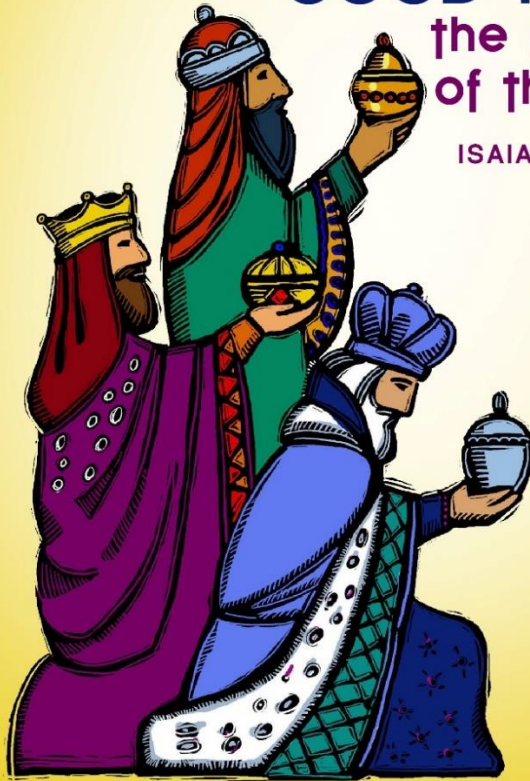


They shall bring
GOLD and
FRANKINCENSE,
and shall bring
GOOD NEWS,
the praises
of the LORD.

ISAIAH 60:6, ESV



THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Epiphany Sunday

January 7, 2024

10:50 a.m.

✠ We Gather in God's Name ✠

Welcome

Rev. Bill Pollack

Prelude

Max Jackson

We Three Kings of Orient Are

Noel Rawsthorne

Call to Worship

Kelly Hanni

Leader: Come, let us worship God our Savior,

People: Who desires everyone to be saved, and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Leader: Come, let us praise the one mediator between God and humankind,

People: We praise Jesus the Christ, who gave Himself a ransom for all!

All: We are a grateful people for God's offer of life abundant and eternal. Amen!

† **Hymn of Praise**

#109

Blest Be the God of Israel (Song of Zechariah)

Blest be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free;
who visits and redeems us, who grants us liberty.

The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill that promise and bring the people peace.

God from the house of David a Child of grace has given;
a Savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven.

Before Him goes the herald, forerunner in the way,
the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.

On those who sit in darkness the sun begins to rise,
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes.
God guides the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace.
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

† **Call to Confession**

† **Prayer of Confession**

Our gracious Savior, how many times must we fall before You in repentance? We are so broken. We desire to be holy, but apart from You, we are nothing. Thank You for forgiveness that is higher and wider and deeper than the ocean. Your grace extends beyond the sky. We confess our weakness and failure, knowing that You see us no longer as sinners, but as holy children, chosen and dearly loved. Pick us up, for we have fallen. We choose to run to You. We are Your grateful children. In Jesus' name we come. Amen.

† **Assurance of Pardon**

† **Response**

“Forgive our sins as we forgive,” You taught us Lord to pray.
But You alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls
and bid resentment cease.

Then by Your mercy reconciled our lives will spread Your peace.

✠ **We Listen to God's Word** ✠

Children's Message

Lisa Stevens

Anthem

Chancel Choir

Orientis Partibus
arr. Mark Schweizer

From the lands of Orient was the donkey heavenly sent.

Strong and very fair was he bearing burdens happily.

Sing we alleluia! Following the distant star came the wise men from afar. And with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger bed. In that heavenly country bright need they no created light.

There to bend the knee before Him, whom heaven and earth adore. As they offered gifts most rare at that manger cold and bare. So may we our treasures bring, Christ to Thee, our heavenly King. Sing we alleluia!

Prayer for Illumination

The Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 60:1 – 6 (NRSV)

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.

L: The Word of the Lord. **P: Thanks be to God**

Psalm 128

#47

Bless All Who Trust in God

Bless all who trust in God and walk within God's ways;
bless every soul whose happiness springs from the Lord's own
praise!

Let families be strong and sparkle bright as wine;
let parents and let children thrive and flourish like the vine!

And since we may not boast such joys are ours by right,
teach us, good Lord, to take Your gifts with thanks and with
delight.

† **The Gospel Lesson**

Matthew 2:1 – 2, 9 – 11 (NRSV)

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." 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.

L: This is the Holy Gospel of Christ **P: Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

Rev. Bill Pollack

At the Dawn of a New Year

✠ We Respond to God's Word ✠

† **Hymn of Response**

#150

As with Gladness Men of Old

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to Thee.

As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to Thy lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before Thee,
whom heaven and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet ever seek Thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at Thy manger, rude and bare,
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King.

Holy Jesus, every day keep us in the narrow way;
and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds Thy glory hide.

† **Affirmation of Faith**

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the

(continued next page)

living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Offering Acknowledgement *Special Offering Backpack Ministry*

† **Doxology**

For this Thy glad Epiphany all glory Jesus, be to Thee.
Whom with the Father we adore and Holy Spirit evermore.

† **Prayer of Dedication**

Hymn of Communion

#525

Let Us Break Bread Together

Let us break bread together on our knees.

let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain: *When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.*

Let us drink wine together on our knees.

let us drink wine together on our knees. [Refrain]

Let us praise God together on our knees;

let us praise God together on our knees. [Refrain]

✦ **THE LORD'S SUPPER** ✦

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right...Hear us, gracious God, as we join creation's song and sing Your eternal praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

...With thanksgiving, we celebrate the good news bringing great joy in celebration of an empty tomb as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. (2x)

Gracious God, pour out Your Holy Spirit.... Through Christ, all glory and honor are Yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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.

The Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Prayer After Communion

✠ We Are Sent in God's Name ✠

† Hymn of Sending

#733

We All are One in Mission

We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.

A single, great commission compels us from above
to plan and work together that all may know Christ's love.

We all are called for service to witness in God's name.
(continued next page)

Our ministries are different our purpose is the same:
to touch the lives of others by God's surprising grace,
so every folk and nation may feel God's warm embrace.

Now let us be united and let our song be heard.
Now let us be a vessel for God's redeeming word.
We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,
our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.

Postlude

Max Jackson

As With Gladness Men of Old

John Leavitt

† **Charge & Benediction**

† *Standing if you are able.*

SERVING TODAY

Head Usher: *Cathy Wilson*

Liturgist: *Kelly Hanni*

LAST WEEK'S RECAP

Attendance: 57

Clean Start: \$165.79

General Offering: \$11,864.00

Memorial Fund: \$1,000.00

Music Department: \$50.00

Operation Christmas Child: \$7.40

Pastor's Discretionary Fund: \$105.00

Online Giving: \$1,461.00

Total Offering: \$14,653.19

IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Sunday, January 7

Sunday Morning Study, 9:18 a.m.

Armchair Theologians, 9:30 a.m.

Glen's Birthday Celebration, Noon

Monday, January 8

Ministry Teams' Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 10

Men's Bible Study, 7 a.m./Bob Evans

Bells Rehearsal, 5:45 p.m. | Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:45 p.m.

Thursday, January 11
Men's Lunch Bunch, 11:30 a.m.
Paper Angels, 1 p.m.

Pastor Led Bible Study Beginning



The story of God's blessings fills the pages of Scripture. It gives us cause to reflect and rejoice in His desire that all people be blessed. Beginning

Sunday, January 14, Pastor Bill will lead a study from the book of Genesis— "Rediscovering Our Faith." Please make *plans* to join him and others for this look at God's calling to follow Him. We will gather in the Bethesda Community Hall at **5:30 p.m.** We will also stream this study on our First Presbyterian Church Facebook page. Study books will be available.

The poster features a stylized, artistic portrait of Martin Luther King Jr. on the left, rendered in shades of brown, orange, and blue. To the right of the portrait, the letters 'MLK' are written in large, bold, black font, with a yellow triangle to the right of the 'K'. Below 'MLK', the words 'MARTIN LUTHER KING' are written in a smaller, bold, black font. Underneath that, the word 'Celebration' is written in a large, flowing, orange cursive font. In the bottom left corner, there is a circular logo for the NAACP, with the text 'NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE' around the perimeter and 'NAACP FOUNDED 1909' in the center. Above the logo, the text 'Sponsored by:' is written in a cursive font. To the right of the logo is a large, stylized arrow pointing left, composed of a black triangle and a yellow triangle. To the right of the arrow, the event details are listed: 'January 15, 2024', '10:30 a.m.', 'Ashland Transportation Center', '99 15th St.', and 'Ashland, KY. 41101'. At the bottom of the poster, the quote 'INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS A THREAT TO JUSTICE EVERYWHERE.' is written in a bold, black font, with 'ANYWHERE' and 'EVERYWHERE' highlighted in yellow. A small signature 'Martin Luther King Jr.' is visible at the bottom right.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Week ending January 5, 2024

Dan Cade (Kim Whitman)
Russell Holbrook (Charlie Holbrook's son)
Nate Lambert (Kim Whitman)
Judy Lilly
Susan Martell (Pastor Bill's sister)
Fred McCullough (Charlie Holbrook's friend)
Family of Phillip Maroudis (Charlie Holbrook's friend)
Jeannie P. (Scott & Carol Sanderson)
Tim Shepard (Bonnie Pettijohn's son)
Rachael Turner (Kathleen Filkins' daughter)

Week ending December 28, 2023

Family of Bill Hall (Geri Willis' brother)
Jerry Hall (Geri Willis' brother)
Jane Justice
Jan Michel (Pastor Bill & Nanette)
Wilma Potter
(Lois Jackson's sister and Pam & Roger Potter's sister-in-law)

Week ending December 21, 2023

Larry & Linda Barker (Don & Judy Lilly)
David Eby
Margaret Ruth (Kelly Hanni)

Prayer requests will rotate off after three weeks. If you have an ongoing concern, please contact the church office.

Ongoing: Gretchen Dillon; Kenny McGill, Derek Payne; Nancy Payne, Bonnie Pettijohn, Jan Winans

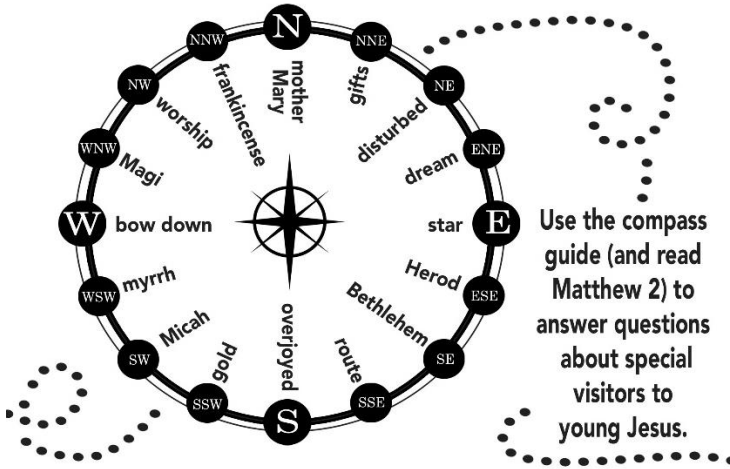
The Lantern: Barry Barbour

Morning Pointe: Carolyn Graber

Oakmont Manor: Annie Miller

Military: Erik Adkins (USAF Reserves, Dayton, OH, son of Kris Adkins); Cadet Katie Brown (West Point, granddaughter of Kim & Mike Whitman); Major Kaitlin Whitmore (US Army, niece of Don & Judy Lilly)

Puzzle!



Use the compass guide (and read Matthew 2) to answer questions about special visitors to young Jesus.

- Who was king at the time of Jesus' birth? _____ (E)
- Who came from the East to worship the one born king of the Jews? _____ (WNW)
- How did King Herod feel about Jesus' birth? _____ (NE)
- Which prophet did the chief priests and teachers of the law quote when King Herod asked where the Christ would be born? _____ (SW)
- In what city would Christ be born? _____ (SE)
- King Herod lied to the wise men, telling them to search and report back so he, too, could do what to Christ? _____ (NW)
- What did the Magi see in the east and follow to find Jesus? _____ (E)
- When the star stopped, how did the Magi feel? _____ (S)
- Who else did the Magi see with Jesus? His _____ (N)
- Before they worshiped the child, what did the Magi do? _____ (W)
- Name the three treasures the Magi brought for Jesus.
_____ (SSW) _____ (NNW) _____ (WSW)
- These three treasures were all brought for Jesus as _____ (NNE)
- What warned the Magi not to return to Herod? A _____ (ENE)
- The Magi had to return to their country by another _____ (SSE)

Answers: 1. Herod; 2. Magi; 3. disturbed; 4. Micah; 5. Bethlehem; 6. worship; 7. star; 8. overjoyed; 9. mother Mary; 10. bow down; 11. gold, frankincense, myrrh; 12. gifts; 13. dream; 14. route

STAFF

Minister: *Rev. William Pollack*
Choirmaster/Organist: *Max Jackson*
Administrative Assistant: *Nanette Pollack*
Facilities Manager: *Glen Thomas*
Nursery Attendant: *Kara Adkins*

SESSION MEMBERS

President of Congregation: *Mitch Hall*
Secretary of Congregation/Clerk of Session: *Kelly Hanni*
Treasurer: *Cathy Wilson*

| 2024 | 2025 | 2026 |
|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Lee McCloud</i> | <i>Kelly Hanni</i> | <i>Mitch Hall*</i> |
| <i>J.T. Norris</i> | <i>Kim Whitman</i> | <i>Jan Holbrook</i> |
| <i>Cathy Wilson*</i> | <i>Geri Willis</i> | <i>Ryan Whitman*</i> |
| | | *2nd term of service |

MINISTRY TEAMS

| | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Building & Grounds: <i>TBD</i> | Membership: <i>Kim Whitman</i> |
| Christian Education: <i>Lee McCloud</i> | Mission: <i>Geri Willis</i> |
| Congregational Life: <i>Cathy Wilson</i> | Personnel: <i>Janet Holbrook</i> |
| Finance: <i>Trish Hall</i> | Worship: <i>Ryan Whitman</i> |

To visit the church website, scan the code below.



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Office hours: Monday – Thursday, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.