

And all...
were going out to [John]
and were being baptized by
him in the river Jordan,
**CONFESSING
THEIR SINS.**

Mark 1:5, ESV



THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

First Sunday of Epiphany | Baptism of Jesus

January 11, 2026

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

Ryan Whitman

L: We cry out to You, O Lord, from the bondage of the weak.

P: Captive to the unseen, trapped in false worship, we seek freedom and power through Christ Jesus.

L: We come to regain that which You freely bestowed upon all.

P: For in repentance and rest is our salvation; in quietness and trust is our strength.

All: We come to reclaim the unleashing of Your Spirit's power in our daily lives. Amen.

† Hymn of Epiphany

#151

We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

Refrain:

*O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect Light!*

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign. [R]

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity high;
prayer and praising gladly raising, worshiping God Most High. [R]

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering
gloom; sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-
cold tomb. [R]

Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice:
Alleluia! Alleluia! sounds through the earth and skies. [R]

† Call to Confession

† Prayer of Confession

Loving God, we suffer. We suffer from this nature of sin that corrupts even our best attempts to please You. We suffer from brokenness that plagues us with self-centeredness and fear. We suffer from discontentment, from comparisons to others, from the worship of false gods. We run after every new and empty promise -- promises of security, ease, meaning or intimacy -- but it is all in vain, for only in You will we find true rest and peace. Forgive us, Lord. Forgive our idolatry, our refusal to give up lordship of our lives, our forgetfulness of Your grace and faithfulness. Continue to call us back. Thank You for never giving up on us. For Jesus' sake, Amen.

† Assurance of Pardon

† Response

#150 (4)

As with Gladness Men of Old

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.

✠ **We Listen to God's Word** ✠

Children's Message

Anthem

Chancel Choir

Arise, Shine, For Your Light Has Come

H H Hopson

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. Behold, darkness has covered the earth, and thick darkness. Arise, shine,

Prayer for Illumination

The Epistle Lesson: 2 Peter 1:16–18 (NRSV)

Carli Weston

For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. ¹⁷ For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased" — ¹⁸ and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. L: The Word of the Lord. P: **Thanks be to God**

Remember Not, O God

Remember not, O God, the sins of long ago;
in tender mercy visit us, distressed and humbled low.

O Lord, our Savior, help, and glorify your name;
deliver us from all our sins and take away our shame.

Then, safe within your fold, we will exalt your name;
our thankful hearts with songs of joy your goodness will proclaim.

† **The Gospel Lesson**

Mark 1:1–5, 9–15 (NRSV)

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ. ² As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending My messenger ahead of You, who will prepare Your way, ³ the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make His paths straight,’ ” ⁴ so John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And just as He was coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon Him. ¹¹ And a voice came from the heavens, “You are My Son, the Beloved; with You I am well pleased.” ¹² And the Spirit immediately drove Him out into the wilderness. ¹³ He was in the wilderness forty days, tested by Satan, and He was with the wild beasts, and the angels waited on Him. ¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God ¹⁵ and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news.”

L: This is the Holy Gospel of Christ!

P: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Rev. Bill Pollack

In the Beginning

✠ We Respond to God's Word ✠

† Hymn of Response

#163

Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice

Wild and lone the prophet's voice echoes through the desert still,
calling us to make a choice, bidding us to do God's will:

"Turn from sin and be baptized; cleanse your heart and mind and soul.
Quitting all the sins you prized, yield your life to God's control.

"Bear the fruit repentance sows: lives of justice, truth, and love.
Trust no other claim than those; set your heart on things above.
Soon the Lord will come in power, burning clean the threshing floor:
then will flames the chaff devour; wheat alone shall fill God's store."

With such preaching, stark and bold, John proclaimed salvation near,
and his timeless warnings hold words of hope to all who hear.

So we dare to journey on, led by faith through ways untrod,
till we come at last like John to behold the Lamb of God.

† Affirmation of Faith

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come again to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer/ The Lord's Prayer (sins)

Offering Acknowledgement *Special Offering: Organ Repair Fund*

† Doxology

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

To God the Father, God the Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in one,
May every tongue and nation raise
An endless song of thankful praise.

† Prayer of Dedication

✠ We Are Sent in God's Name ✠

† Hymn of Sending

#182

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto Me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon My breast."

I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in Him a resting place, and He has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one; stoop down and drink and live."

I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in Him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;
look unto Me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."

I looked to Jesus, and I found in Him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk till traveling days are done.

Postlude

Max Jackson

Wild And Lone The Prophets Voice

Morgan Simmons

† Charge & Benediction

† *Standing as you are able.*

SERVING TODAY

Head Usher: *Donna Jones*

Liturgist: *Ryan Whitman*

LAST WEEK'S RECAP

Attendance: 66

General Offering: \$7,595.00

Backpack Ministry: \$30.00

Pastor's Discretionary: \$250.00

Peacemaking: \$55.96

Poinsettias: \$30.00

Tru Green/Youth: \$20.00

Online Offering: \$2,214.75

Total Offering: \$10,195.71

PRAYER CONCERNS

Week ending January 8, 2026

Jimmy Hall

Tim Hammond (Jeri Ward's nephew)

Angel Horn (Nanette)

Angie Lewis

Anette Murphy (David Murphy's mother)

Wayne Rice (Jimmy Hall)

Gail Rous

Week ending January 1, 2026

Family of Russell Bryan (Chris Payne)

Don Lilly

Betty Jean Phipps

Week ending December 25, 2025

Christina Columber (Greg & Geri Willis)

Khyler Kingery (Ashton Wheeler)

Paul Layman

Ongoing:

<i>Pastor Bill</i>	<i>Chris Payne</i>
<i>Christina Akers</i> <i>(Heather Whitman's sister-in-law)</i>	<i>Derek Payne</i>
<i>Gretchen Dillon</i>	<i>Nancy Payne</i>
<i>Charlie Holbrook</i>	<i>Bonnie Pettijohn</i>
<i>Bill Gesling</i>	<i>Tim Shephard</i>
<i>Kenny McGill, Sr.</i>	<i>Jan Winans</i>
<i>Bob Miller</i>	<i>Ann Wiseman</i>

Kingsbrook Care Center: Barry Barbour

The Lantern: Carolyn Graber

Military: Erik Adkins (USAF Reserves, son of Kris Adkins); Cadet Katie Brown (West Point, granddaughter of Mike Whitman); Christian Brown (US Air Force, grandson of Mike Whitman); Greg Weston (Army National Guard); Lieutenant Colonel Kaitlin Whitmore (US Army, niece of Don & Judy Lilly)

IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

➡ SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

Sunday Morning Study, 9:28 a.m. (will resume 1/18)

Armchair Theologians, 9:30 a.m.

Children's Sunday School (K–4th grade), 9:30 a.m.

Harmony of the Gospels, 9:30 a.m.

Youth Group (5th – 12th grade), 9:30 a.m.

Morning Worship, 10:50 a.m.

➡ MONDAY, JANUARY 12

Ministry Teams Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

➡ TUESDAY, JANUARY 13

Tai Chi, 5 p.m.

➡ WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14

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

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

➡ THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

Paper Angels, 1 p.m.

Dames + Dinner, 5:30 p.m.

➡ SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

Tai Chi, 11 a.m.

Dr. Barbara Walters' Celebration of Life, 2 p.m.

Sunday Morning Study

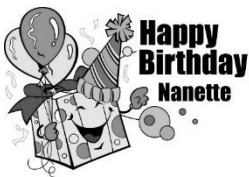
Please note that the Sunday Morning Study is on holiday and will resume on **January 18**. At that time, we will begin a new nine-week study titled "A Guided Meditation on The Fruit of the Spirit," led by Rob Atkins. We extend a warm invitation to everyone interested in joining this new class.

Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration

We are pleased to announce the upcoming Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, which will be held at the Ashland Transportation Center on **Monday, January 19 at 10:30 a.m.** March to follow. First Presbyterian Church will once again be providing lunch for all participants following the MLK walk. The lunch service will begin at noon. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help with lunch preparations, please contact Cathy Wilson. Thank you for supporting this event.



Nanette's Birthday Celebration



From weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters to emails, text messages, and so much in between, we are blessed to have Nanette in our church office. On **Sunday, January 25**, we will have the opportunity to thank her as we celebrate her birthday following morning worship in the Narthex. Please join us at this celebration. Cards and words of gratitude are welcome.

Join us to celebrate love & ever-lasting friendship!

Galentine's Dinner

When?

Where?



Tuesday, Feb. 10, 6 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church
Bethesda Community Hall

Childcare provided

RSVP by 2/8 in the Narthex or

text Kelly 606.923.7826

Hosted by the Membership Team

Dress Code: Red or Pink



A fresh start

Baptism is a blessing because it changes us and gives us hope.

Directions: Write the boxed letters in the squares below. Then unscramble those letters to form two words that complete the Bible verse and represent the gift of baptism.



We were therefore fore buried with him
 through baptism into death in order that,
 just as Christ was raised from the dead
 through the glory of the Father,
we too may live a _____.

Romans6:4, NIV

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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*

2026	2027	2028
<i>Mitch Hall*</i>	<i>Jimmy Hall</i>	<i>Teresa Cassity</i>
<i>Jan Holbrook</i>	<i>Lee McCloud *</i>	<i>Kelly Hanni *</i>
<i>Ryan Whitman*</i>	<i>J.T. Norris *</i>	<i>Donna Jones</i>
<i>*2nd term of service</i>		

MINISTRY TEAMS

Building & Grounds: <i>Glen Thomas</i>	Membership: <i>Teresa Cassity</i>
Christian Education: <i>Lee McCloud</i>	Mission: <i>Donna Jones</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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