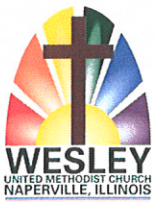


BAPTISM OF THE LORD

January 12, 2025



WELCOME



PRELUDE *Sweet By and By* J. Webster, arr. M. Hayes



CALL TO WORSHIP
Stand in body. Stand in spirit. Please share in the words in bold.



When we pass through the cleansing waters of baptism and the troubled waters of our lives, God declares:

I will be with you.

When we go through the fires that refine us and the fires that threaten our livelihoods, God declares:

I will be with you.

Even when we travel to the far corners of the earth or down into the depths of our souls, God declares:

I will be with you.

So come, let us worship God whose love never fails, whose presence never leaves, whose mercies never end.

Praise be to God who, in the form of Jesus, waded into the waters of baptism to prove God's solidarity with us! Amen.



+HYMN *Wash O God Our Sons and Daughters* UMH 605



OPENING PRAYER of CONFESSION followed by WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Isaiah 43:1)
Creator of the universe, we gather amazed at your power and glory. We are eager to worship you and offer our praise, but we are often reluctant to answer when we hear you calling our name. We sing our songs of tribute in the sanctuary, but shy away from the river, lest we be baptized with the fire of the Holy Spirit. Forgive us when we forget your promise to be with us always, O God. Renew us with the power of your ever-present love, and strengthen us to proclaim your justice throughout the world. Amen.



HEBREW BIBLE READING Psalm 143:1-10 UMH 856-57
This is a responsive reading. Please share in the words in bold.



+GOSPEL READING Luke 3:1-6,15-23 NRSVUE Pew Bible NT pg. 60
Please stand in body, stand in spirit, however you are led and able.
This is the word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.



+DOXOLOGY *All Creatures of Our God and King* UMH 62 v. 7



TIME for YOUNG DISCIPLES Alexander Dungan



SERMON and INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP Rev. Megan Tobola



HYMN OF FAITH *Breathe on Me, Breath of God* UMH 420



REAFFIRMATION of the BAPTISMAL COVENANT
This is neither baptism nor re-baptism. As United Methodists we believe in one baptism. This is an opportunity to reaffirm our covenant. If you are interested in being baptized, please talk to the pastor.



RENUNCIATION OF SIN and PROFESSION of FAITH

And so I ask you, will you turn away from the powers of sin and death?

We renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of our sin!

Will you let the Spirit use you as prophets to the powers that be?

We accept the freedom and power God gives us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves!

Will you proclaim the good news and live as disciples of Jesus Christ, his body on earth?

We confess Jesus Christ as our Savior, put our whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as our Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races!

Will you be living witnesses to the gospel, individually and together, wherever you are, and in all that you do?

We will remain faithful members of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world.

Will you receive and profess the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

We affirm and teach the faith of the whole church as we put our trust in God, the Father Almighty, in Jesus Christ, his only Son. and in the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

+THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Spirit of the Lord is with us. **Even so, come Lord Jesus!**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, the life you birthed in us by baptism into Jesus Christ will never die. Your justice never fails. Your mercy is everlasting.

Your healing river flows. Your Spirit blows where you will.

We cannot stop you, God!

But sometimes we try. We try to block the flow, we redirect the winds of the Spirit, or we walk so far away from the life-giving Stream that we do not hear its sound, and we forget its power. We parch ourselves.

We are dry and thirsty, O God. Come, refresh us!

Come upon us, Holy Spirit! **Come upon us, Holy Spirit!**

Come upon these waters. **Come upon these waters.**

Let these waters be to us drops of your mercy.

Let these waters remind us of your righteousness and justice.

Let these waters renew in us the resurrection power of Jesus.

Let these waters make us long for your coming reign.

Most Holy God, Abba, Father! Elohim Adonai! El Shaddai! **Glory to you!**

Jesus Christ, Savior, Lord! **Glory to you!**

Spirit of fire, Spirit over the waters, Spirit of holiness! **Glory to you!**

Eternal God, One in Three and Three in One!

All glory is yours, now and forever. Amen!

Remember you are baptized, and rejoice!



SHARING the PEACE of CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.



INVITATION to the PRACTICE of GIVING

As forgiven and reconciled people, let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

Give by Text: (630) 528-0155, Online: wesleynaperville.org/giving

The offering basket is also available at the front of the sanctuary.



PRAYERS of the PEOPLE - Letter from the UM Council of Bishops read by Bishop Dan Schwerin
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, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.



+CLOSING HYMN

Jesus, Name Above All Names

TFWS 2071



+BENEDICTION



POSTLUDE

Prayer

Everyone is invited to a time of fellowship in the Atrium following the postlude.

The altar flowers today have been provided by Fay Wilson.



PRAYERS OF
Liberation

BASED ON
Luke 4:18-19 NRSV

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.*

*He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to set free those who are oppressed,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*

Each month throughout the year, at least one resource will be available for download and hardcopy for your individual discipleship journey.

These resources will focus on one more of the following: prayer, devotional time, Scripture study, social holiness, and/or testimonials.

For JANUARY 2025

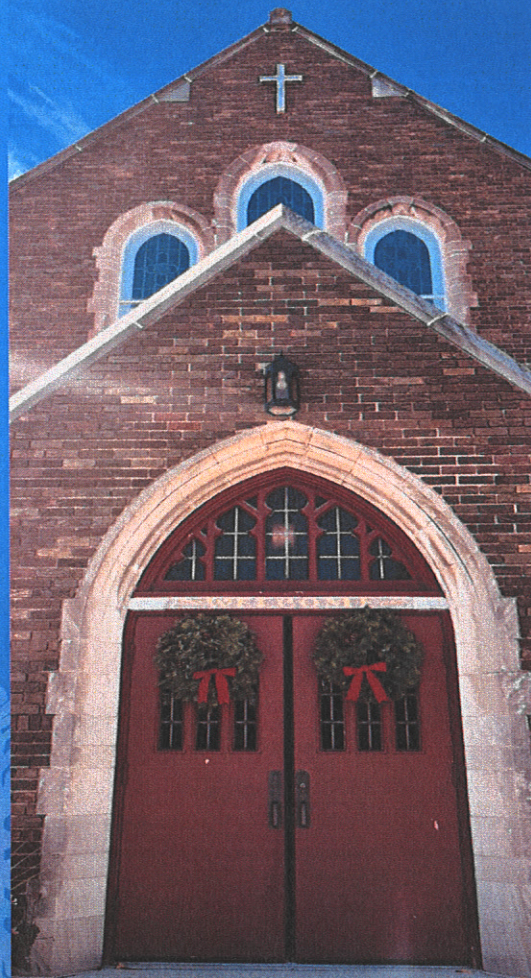
Pick up your copy of "Prayers of Liberation," a short prayer resource from the United Methodist General Commission on Religion and Race available where bulletins are found, in the Atrium, outside the church office, and digitally through Keeping in Touch.

Your **2025**
PLEDGE

Thank you for your support!

Paper Forms can be found in the Atrium
and Church Office.

You can submit your pledge online at
wesleynaperville.org/giving or scan the QR code.





Pastoral Letter Addressing the Plight of Migrants, Immigrants and Refugees in the US Epiphany 2025

Jesus said, “When you welcome the stranger, you welcome me....” Matthew 25:35

At no time has the church in the US had a greater opportunity to welcome Jesus among us as he journeys with migrants, immigrants, and refugees than today. We your bishops are clear that the situation these beloved of God face as the Trump Administration comes to power threatens their humanity, livelihood, and basic human rights.

For decades, a broken immigration system in the U.S. has kept migrants, immigrants and refugees in this country living in the shadows of society in a state of perpetual fear. They have come to the U.S. under forced circumstances fleeing extreme poverty, hunger, political and religious persecution, war, cartel and gang violence, and the severe impact of climate change. Some are actively recruited by large U.S. companies who need their labor. Yet migrants, immigrants and refugees help to sustain the U.S. economy, serve our families caring for our children and our elderly, cleaning our homes, landscaping our properties, building our roads and the houses we live in, and cultivating and picking the crops that feed our families. They are our neighbors, our friends, and members and pastors of our churches.

Deplorably, racist, xenophobic, nationalistic, and anti-migrant hate speech has become standard rhetoric for many US politicians, including President-elect Donald Trump. He has stated that under his administration he will order the mass deportation of the 11 million undocumented migrants who live and work in the U.S. He has threatened to use military and law enforcement at all levels for this mass deportation. If allowed, this mass deportation of migrants will cause further racial profiling, the separation of families, the undermining of communities and congregations, the weakening of the economy of this country and its democratic systems of law and justice. President-elect Trump has also threatened to end birth-right citizenship, dismantle Refugee resettlement in this country and further strip away the possibility of the U.S. welcoming Asylum Seekers onto this land.

We are living in a dark time that more than ever calls us to be the light of Christ, people of faith who take our baptismal vow to “resist evil in all its forms,” with utmost seriousness.

As United Methodists we have firmly declared through our *Social Principles* that we are called to actively welcome the migrant, immigrant, and refugee among us.

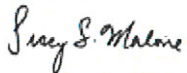
- Affirming the dignity, worth and rights of migrants, immigrants and refugees.
- Recognizing that displaced people are particularly vulnerable as their in-between status often provides them with few protections and benefits, leaving them open to exploitation, violence and abuse.
- Urging one another to welcome migrants, refugees, and immigrants into our congregations, providing concrete support, to them including help with navigating

restrictive and often lengthy immigration policies, and assistance with securing food, housing, education, employment and other kinds of support.

- Opposing all laws and policies that attempt to criminalize, dehumanize or punish displaced individuals and families based on their status as migrants, immigrants or refugees.
- Decrying attempts to detain displaced people and hold them in inhumane and unsanitary conditions.
- Challenging policies that call for the separation of families, especially parents and minor children.
- Opposing the existence of for-profit detention centers that are used for the purpose of detaining migrants, immigrants, and refugees including minor children.

(Social Principles of The United Methodist Church, The Political Community Basic Rights and Freedoms, Section G. Migrants, Immigrants and Refugees)

We your bishops call upon the people of The United Methodist Church to pray for migrants, immigrants, and refugees among us and to welcome them with the fullness of Christian love, remembering that as we welcome these, our brothers, and sisters, we welcome Jesus our Lord.

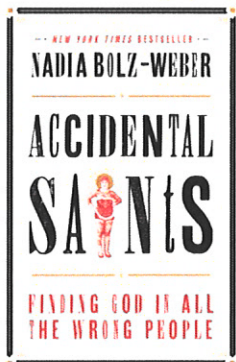


Bishop Tracy S. Malone
President - Council of Bishops
The United Methodist Church

ADULT ONE-TIME DISCUSSION OPPORTUNITIES—LAST CHANCE!

If you have interest in being a part of any of these one time gathering and discussion opportunities, reach out to Pastor Megan at 630-355-1834 ext. 102 or pastor@wesleynaperville.org. The interested group determines the date(s) and time(s) of gathering. Together, we will coordinate refreshments.

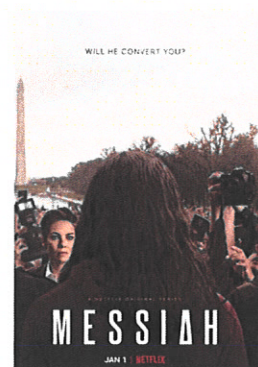
*Accidental Saints:
Finding God
in All the Wrong People*
by Nadia Bold-Weber
book discussion (books \$12)



The Miracle Club
Movie viewing and discussion



Messiah
Netflix
series
viewing and discussion
(selected episode)



CHILDREN and YOUTH

Time for Young Disciples in worship, immediately followed by Sunday School (2nd—4th Sundays). On 5th Sundays we worship through hands on mission at 10am.

WESLEY KIDS DAY OUT

Part-time daycare ministry Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 9am to 2pm for children 6 months to 5 years of age. Contact Ken for more information and tours (630) 355-1758 wesleykidsdayout@gmail.com. If you have a love for children ages 6 months to 5 years and are interested in working with them part-time, the Staff Parish Relations Committee would love to hear from you. We are presently considering applications for Teacher, Substitute Teacher, and Director. Please visit wesleynaperville.org/kdo for more info.

WESLEY KIDS DAY OUT BOOSTERS

If you would like to help support this ongoing ministry through volunteering your ideas and time, contact wesleykidsdayout@gmail.com or call (630) 355-1758 to let us know!

GIVING TO OUR ENDOWMENT FUND

The Endowment Fund invests donations to provide for outreach programs and to supplement the church budget. You can donate directly, dedicate a leaf on our Wesley Family Tree or put Wesley in your will. I am happy to help answer your questions. Please contact Barbara Burke, 239-405-5898, or email barbaraburke123@att.net for information on contributing to the Endowment Fund.

MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

Chancel Choir rehearses on most Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. All voices are welcome. Instrumentalists are also welcome to share their gifts. Contact Nicole Melody (Director of Music) info@wesleynaperville.org

STYROFOAM RECYCLING

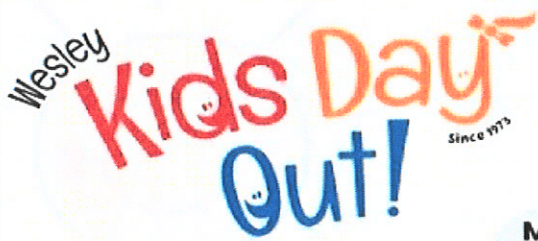
You are welcome to bring your styrofoam recycling to the special recycling bins on the lower level. Stained and soiled items are not accepted. Please rinse ahead of time.

LITURGIST OPPORTUNITIES

To be a liturgist, please sign up in the Atrium or contact the office (details on back).

COFFEE HOUR

Join us after Worship in the Atrium for a cup of coffee or tea, and a little nibble. If you would like to bring a treat or help with set-up, contact our church office at 630-355-1834 or infowesley@naperville.org



DAYCARE ENROLLMENT

AGES 6 MONTHS - 5 YEARS

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Full days: 9am-2pm
Half days: 9-11:30 or 11:30-2

SUMMER PROGRAM
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
Full days: 9am-1pm

630-355-1758

wesleykidsdayout@gmail.com

If you enjoy working with children of this age, job opportunities are available!
Visit wesleynaperville.org/kdo

Sundays Additional parking is allowed in the Old National Bank (formerly, Midwest Bank) lot

10:00 AM (Hybrid): **Worship in-person or online** wesleynaperville.org (Sanctuary—Level 1)
2nd - 4th Sundays: **Sunday School** immediately following the time for Young Disciples.

After Worship In Person **Fellowship in the Atrium** (Coffee and Nibbles—Level A)

5th SUNDAYS ARE WORSHIP THROUGH MISSION

5:00 PM **Center Street Table Dinner Dialogues**
(Across the Street @ Community UMC).

A community meal. All are invited. All can serve.

IN PERSON HOURS

CHURCH OFFICE

(630) 355-1834

Emily Torres, Administrative Assistant

Sundays: 9am—1pm

M-T: Closed

W, TH, F: 8:30 am—3:30 pm

ext. 110

Building Events

events@wesleynaperville.org

WESLEY KIDS DAY OUT

Ken Tobola, Transitional Administrator

Sherice Horton, Assistant Director

M, W, F 9am—2pm

(630) 355-1758

wesleykidsdayout@gmail.com

Rev. Megan Tobola, ext. 102

Lead Pastor

Tuesdays are sabbath

pastor@wesleynaperville.org

Alexander Dungan, ext. 104

Minister of Family & Justice

W, TH 9am—2pm

alexander@wesleynaperville.org

Rev. Duane Mevis, Pastor Emeritus

Nicole Melody, Director of Music

Svetlana Mars, Accompanist

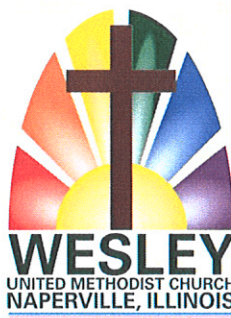
Chelsea Guanzon, Pastoral Intern

Lectons: "SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS" *A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church, Year C* by Wilda C. Gafney © 2024 Church Publishing, Cover Image: Baptism of Christ, detail, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=54494> [retrieved January 8, 2025]. "New Service of the Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant" July 16, 2009 UM Discipleship Ministries, *The United Methodist Hymnal, The United Methodist Book of Worship*, UM Discipleship Ministries "They All Gather Together Re-Membering the Body Second Sunday after Christmas Day / Epiphany, Year C," Racial Justice Prayers of Liberation from GCORR <https://www.r2hub.org/library/racial-justice-prayers-of-liberation>, The Great Thanksgiving, Great Thanksgiving Communion Liturgy Celebrating Cultural Diversity from GCORR: <https://www.r2hub.org/library/great-thanksgiving-communion-liturgy-celebrating-cultural-diversity>, Doxology: Text and tune adapted by Dean McIntyre, The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, PO Box 340003, Nashville TN 37203-0003. Telephone 615-340-7073. Website <http://www.umcworship.org>. Email address: music@gbod.org. Text and tune are public domain. Scripture: NRSV and NRSVUE, CVLI #505421815 CCLI #11444135

Keeping In Touch

Our weekly e-news helps us stay connected.

We can also send it in the regular post per



*God, as known to us
in Christ Jesus
welcomes ALL people.
So do we.
wesleynaperville.org*