

FOUNDED 1716  
*North Haven*  
*Congregational Church*  
United Church of Christ



North Haven, Connecticut  
*An Open & Affirming Congregation*

**NORTH HAVEN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**Sunday, January 11, 2026**

**9:30 a.m.**

**Baptism of Christ**

**GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE:** Intermezzo

by Flor Peeters

**\*OPENING HYMN:** “Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”

V375

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: Siblings in Christ, today we recall when Jesus came to the waters of baptism.

**People: In baptism, our Creator claims us and frees us from the power of hatred and death.**

Leader: In baptism we are joined to Christ and we are joined together in unity, recalling,

**People: “There is no longer Jew or Greek there is no longer slave or free there is no longer male or female for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”**

Leader: In baptism, the Spirit of God anoints us for ministry and makes us signs of divine love. It is the mark of acceptance into the church and the beginning of our growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

**People: Therefore on this day, the whole church, the Body of Christ, remembers and celebrates. Let us worship God!**

**\*LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE ~unison**

Make us worthy, Lord, to serve our siblings throughout the world who live and die in poverty and hunger. Give them through our hands, this day their daily bread, and by our understanding love, give peace and joy. Amen. Mother Teresa

**\*THE GLORIA PATRI**

**P513**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen. Amen.

## **PRAYER OF INVOCATION:~unison**

**Holy Maker of all that is and ever will be, in the beginning, you breathed over primal waters: speaking light out of darkness, separating evening from morning, creating the first night and the first day. When Jesus rose from the waters of his baptism, you spoke again, calling him your holy child as the Holy Spirit descended upon him like a dove. When Paul baptized the new believers at Corinth, your Holy Spirit came upon them, pouring out words of prophesy and story. In this day of celebration and memory, fill us with your word and bathe us in your Spirit, so that we may know ourselves as your beloved children, ready to give of ourselves for the sake of the world. Amen. ##**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER (*trespasses*) Choral Amen**

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.

## **NOISY OFFERING**

## **CHILDRENS MESSAGE**

## **THE GIFT OF MUSIC: “Down to the River to Pray”**

Traditional Spiritual arr. Sheldon Curry

Sung by the Chancel Choir

## **THE FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Isaiah 42: 1-9 The Message**

NRSV Page 660

God's Servant Will Set Everything Right

42 <sup>1-4</sup> “Take a good look at my servant.

I'm backing him to the hilt.

He's the one I chose,

and I couldn't be more pleased with him.

I've bathed him with my Spirit, my *life*.

He'll set everything right among the nations.

He won't call attention to what he does

with loud speeches or gaudy parades.

He won't brush aside the bruised and the hurt

and he won't disregard the small and insignificant,

but he'll steadily and firmly set things right.

He won't tire out and quit. He won't be stopped  
until he's finished his work—to set things right on earth.  
Far-flung ocean islands  
wait expectantly for his teaching.”

### The God Who Makes Us Alive with His Own Life

<sup>5-9</sup> God's Message,

the God who created the cosmos, stretched out the skies,  
laid out the earth and all that grows from it,  
Who breathes life into earth's people,  
makes them alive with his own life:  
“I am God. I have called you to live right and well.  
I have taken responsibility for you, kept you safe.  
I have set you among my people to bind them to me,  
and provided you as a lighthouse to the nations,  
To make a start at bringing people into the open, into light:  
opening blind eyes,  
releasing prisoners from dungeons,  
emptying the dark prisons.  
I am God. That's my name.  
I don't franchise my glory,  
don't endorse the no-god idols.  
Take note: The earlier predictions of judgment have been fulfilled.  
I'm announcing the new salvation work.  
Before it bursts on the scene,  
I'm telling you all about it.”

HERE ENDS THE READING.

**THANKS BE TO GOD.**

**Hymn:** “Fairest Lord Jesus”

V341

**THE SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON:** Matthew 3: 13-17 Pg 1149

The Baptism of Jesus

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup> John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” <sup>15</sup> But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. <sup>16</sup> And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

HERE ENDS THE READING. **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

**SERMON: “Beloved”**

Rev. Cindy

**PASTORAL CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS**

**PASTORAL PRAYER** Choral Response

**THE OFFERTORY**

\*Doxology

Old 100th

"Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God for all that love has done;

Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One." (United Church of Christ version).

\*Prayer of Dedication

**Gracious God, we come today with joy for your baptism; we come with praise for your glory; we come with gratitude for your love. As we offer these gifts to you, send your Spirit upon us, that our hands and our hearts may do your work in the world. As we offer our lives to you, bless us with your strength, that we may join with you to work for the blessing of peace throughout the world. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN “Wash, O God Our Sons and Daughters” V442**

**\*THE BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE:** Arabeske

by Flor Peeters

\*Those who are able, please stand.

## Today’s service prayers are from Thom M. Shuman’s “Playing Hopscotch in Heaven” Lectionary Liturgies for RCL A. Reprinted by permission

**Deacon** is Peter Hall. **Scripture Reader** is Susan Compton. **Greeter** is Beth Anderson. **Camera Operator** is Damon Quinn.

**Please join us for Fellowship Hour in Carroll Hall immediately following the service.**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Diane Lacobelli 01/15, Joanne Nottingham 01/15, Michael Masnato 01/18.


**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:** Suzanne & Nigel Light 01/18.

\*OPENING HYMN: “Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”


V375

Refrain (Unison)

D G A D Bm



Spir - it, Spir - it of gen - tle - ness, blow thro' the wil - der - ness



call - ing and free, Spir - it, Spir - it of rest - less - ness,



stir me from plac - id - ness, Wind, Wind on the sea.

Verses

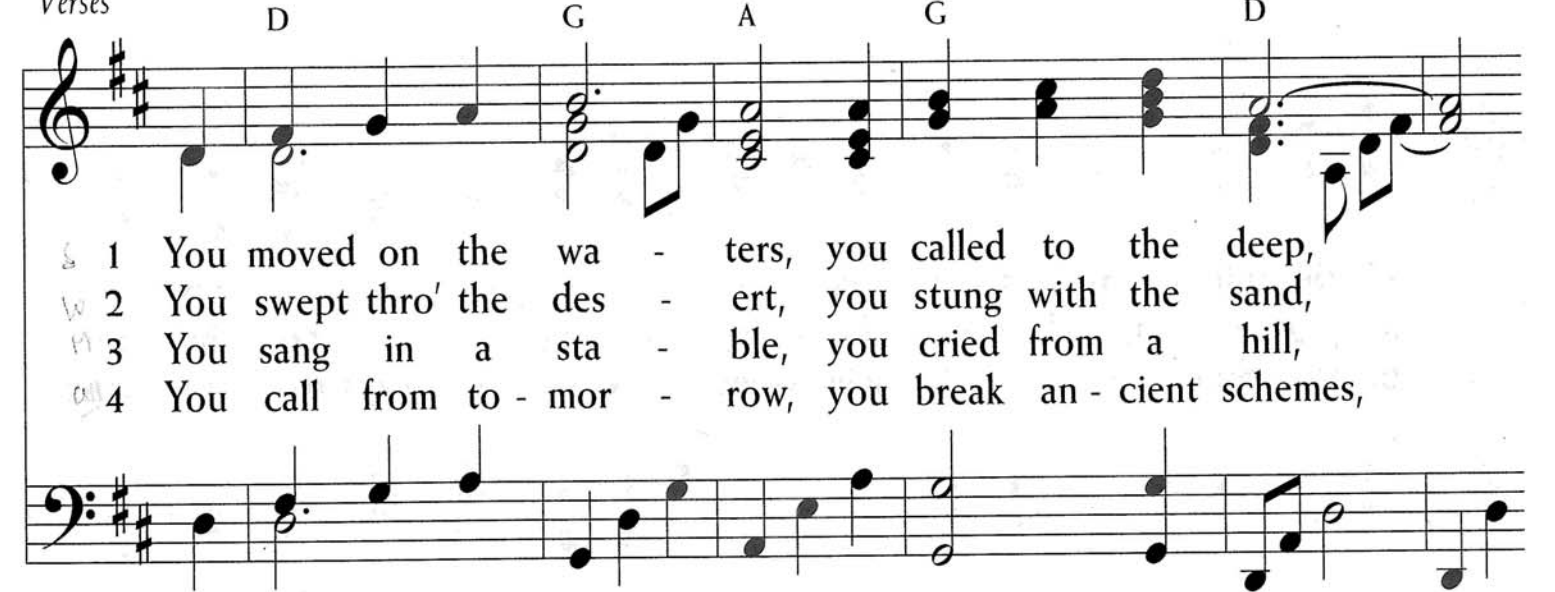
D G A G D

1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the deep,

2 You swept thro' the des - ert, you stung with the sand,

3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a hill,

4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient schemes,



D Bm Bm7 E A

then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the val - leys of sleep;  
 and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a law and a land;  
 then you whis - pered in si - lence when the whole world was still,  
 from the bond - age of sor - row the cap - tives dream dreams,

D G A G

and o - ver the e - ons you called to each  
 and when they were blind - ed with their i - dols and  
 and down in the cit - y you called once a -  
 our wom - en see vi - sions, our men clear their

D Bm G

thing: — wake from your slum - bers  
 lies, then you spoke thro' your proph - ets  
 gain, when you blew thro' your peo - ple  
 eyes, with bold new de - ci - sions

A7 D G/A D A D.C.

and rise on your wings.  
 to o - pen their eyes.  
 on the rush of the wind.  
 your peo - ple a - rise.



D G A D G A D G

1 \*Fair - est Lord Je - sus, rul - er of all na - ture, O thou of  
2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair - er still the wood - lands, robed in the  
3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair - er still the moon - light, and fair the  
4 All fair - est beau - ty heav - en - ly and earth - ly, won - drous - ly,

A D G D Asus4 A D B Em

God to earth come down: thee will I cher - ish,  
bloom - ing garb of spring; Je - sus is fair - er,  
twink - ling, star - ry host; Je - sus shines bright - er,  
Je - sus, is found in thee; none can be near - er,

Em A D Bm D Em D A7 D

thee will I hon - our, thou my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.  
Je - sus is pur - er, who makes the trou - bled heart to sing.  
Je - sus shines pur - er than all the an - gels heaven can boast.  
fair - er or dear - er than thou, my Sav - iour, art to me.



**In Our Prayers This Week are:** The Family of Michael Heaney, The Family of Herb Schneider, The Family of Paul DePoto, The Rev. Deb Ruotolo, Lee Guckert and her Family, Linda Rankin, Linda Shannon, Marlene Bellonio, Meg Adams, Ann Schneider, and Charlotte Shea.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

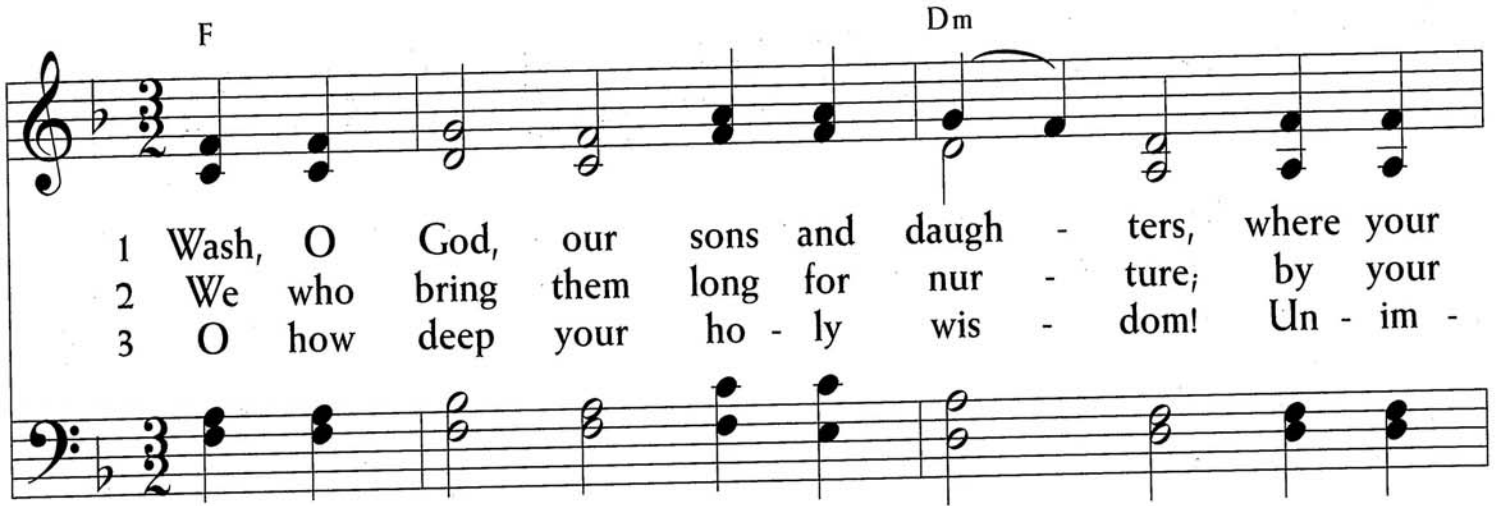
**Annual Meeting and Annual Reports** – the annual Meeting of the Congregation is scheduled for Sunday, January 25. Annual Reports will be available in the office starting Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, and at Sunday Worship on January 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Safety Mission Team** - We have been considering ways in which to make our church safer for members and visitors. The Safety Team has met with people from both the police and fire departments to get some advice. One plan we will initiate in the very near future is locking the doors on Sunday morning shortly after the service has started. Anyone who arrives late will have to ring the doorbell at the elevator entrance to be let in. Thanks for your cooperation. We all want our church to be a safe place. Cheryl Bogert, for the Safety Mission Team

**Food Pantry needs:** Bottles of apple juice, crackers, pasta sauce, canned mixed vegetables, and cereal.

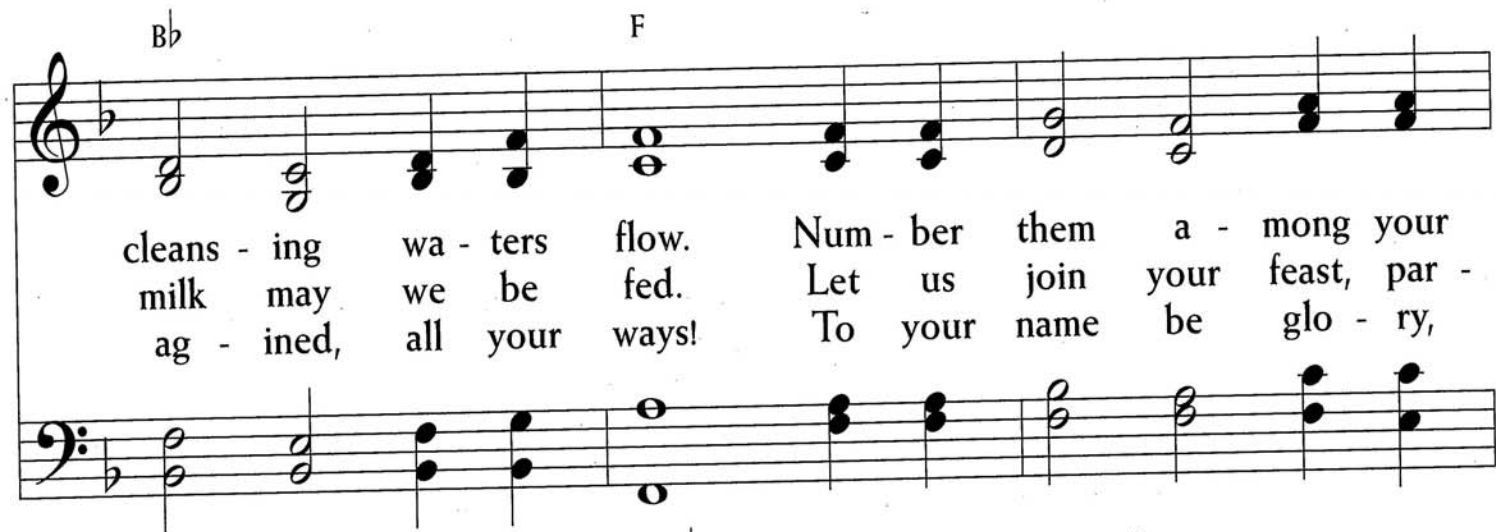
\*CLOSING HYMN: “Wash O God Our Sons and Daughters” V442

F Dm



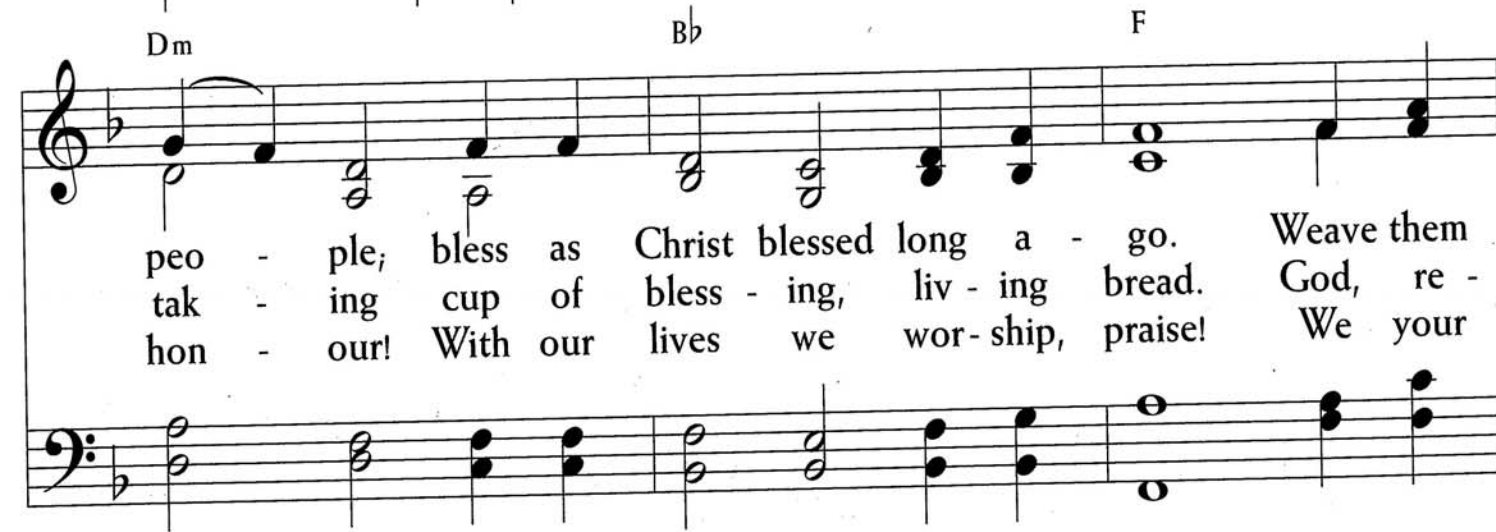
1 Wash, O God, our sons and daugh - ters, where your  
2 We who bring them long for nur - ture; by your  
3 O how deep your ho - ly wis - dom! Un - im -

Bb F



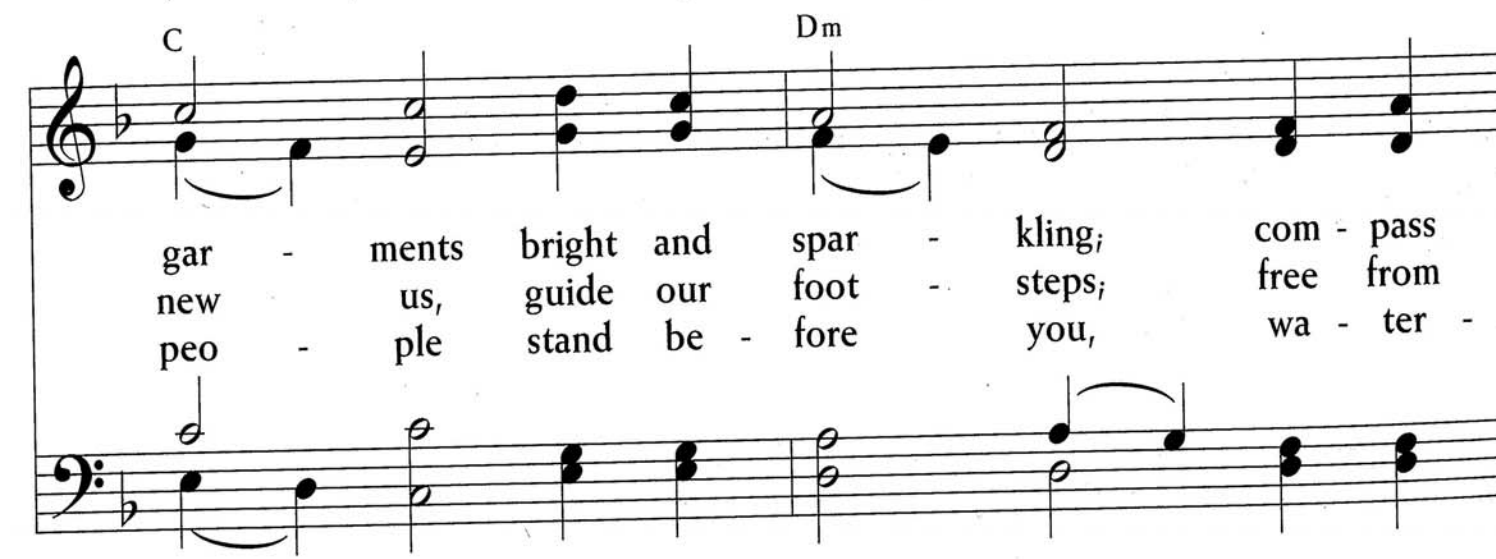
cleans - ing wa - ters flow. Num - ber them a - mong your  
milk may we be fed. Let us join your feast, par -  
ag - ined, all your ways! To your name be glo - ry,

Dm Bb F



peo - ple; bless as Christ blessed long a - go. Weave them  
tak - ing cup of bless - ing, liv - ing bread. God, re -  
hon - our! With our lives we wor - ship, praise! We your

C Dm



gar - ments bright and spar - kling; com - pass  
new us, guide our foot - steps; free from  
peo - ple stand be - fore you, wa - ter -

Am F Bb C Dm

them with love and light. Fill, a - noint them; send your  
sin and all its snares, one with Christ in liv - ing,  
washed and Spir - it - born. By your grace, our lives we

Bb F Gm7 Am Gm7 F

Spir - it, ho - ly dove and heart's de - light.  
dy - ing, by your Spir - it, chil - dren, heirs.  
of - fer. Re - cre - ate us; God, trans - form!

## MISSION

Our church's mission is to bind ourselves with Jesus Christ in:

- Worship together;
- Nurture of Christian discipleship; and
- Compassionate service to our community and beyond.

## VISION

We are a hub for the larger community as a church of action:

- Conducting regular, robust worship in a responsible and relevant way in an ever changing and challenging world;
- Welcoming all people from different and diverse backgrounds to become a community of disciples together; and
- Involved in purposeful action and activities through the structure of self-directed Mission Teams.

## VALUES

We:

- Pray together, encourage each other, and trust one another;
- Take personal responsibility for fellowship and our community; and
- Celebrate with honored traditions.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS\*

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>1/11</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> 2:00 p.m.	<b>WORSHIP:</b> Baptism of Christ Tibetan American (K,CR, RR)
<b>Monday</b>	<b>1/12</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> 10:00 4:00 p.m.	<b>Music Together (DBL)</b> FOOD PANTRY OPEN BIBLE STUDY (Zoom)
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>1/13</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> 10:00 10:30 12:00 p.m. 12:00 3:30 4:30 5:30 6:00	<b>Music Together (DBL)</b> Al-Anon (K) Music Together (DBL) PLP (Library) BUILDING & GROUNDS (H) United Girls' Choir (CH, K, Sanct) Music Together (DBL) Music Together (DBL) BIBLE STUDY (Zoom)
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>1/14</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> 10:00 10:30 4:00 p.m. 7:00	<b>Music Together (DBL)</b> FOOD PANTRY OPEN Music Together (DBL) BIBLE STUDY (Zoom) MLB (L)
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>1/15</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b> 7:00	<b>CHANCEL CHOIR</b> Garden Club (CH)
<b>Friday</b>	<b>1/16</b>	 9:30 a.m. 10:00 10:30	<b>NHCC ANNUAL REPORTS AVAILABLE IN THE OFFICE</b> Music Together (DBL) FOOD PANTRY OPEN Music Together (DBL)
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>1/17</b>	<b>7:30 a.m.</b> 9:30 10:30	<b>MENS FELLOWSHIP</b> Music Together (DBL) Music Together (DBL)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>1/18</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b> 11:00 2:00 p.m.	<b>WORSHIP:</b> Second Sunday after Epiphany Food Delivery: Catholic Churches Tibetan American (K,CR, RR)

\*Small print indicates non-Church function  
**Bold print starts new day.**