

*"We seek to demonstrate God's Spirit through worship, witness,
and ministry to the needs of the people in the church and the community."*

Baptism of the Lord

January 12, 2025

10:00 A.M.

CHRISTIAN CONCERNS

Art Wallace

WELCOME & GREETING

•PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRELUDE & CENTERING PRAYER

Water has the power to both destroy and sustain life. In God's hands, water is a sign of the Holy Spirit. God's love keeps us safe and secure. As we hear the story of Jesus' baptism, we remember that we too are baptized and dwell safe in God's embrace. The waters of God's blessing flow through our lives, quenching our thirst, bringing forth new hope.

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come to the waters.

All: We gather at the river.

Leader: Come to the waters.

All: We are washed in God's love.

Leader: Come to the waters.

All: We are God's beloved children. Amen.

•HYMN OF PRAISE *Be in Our Midst, O Christ* Chalice Hymnal #373

•UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

God of strength, God of Love, surround us with your love. Gather us in as your beloved children. Open our ears to hear your voice. Open our hearts to the power of your transforming love. May your waters of grace pour over us, renewing us for your work in the world. Bless us in this holy time. Amen.

•THE GLORIA PATRI

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.

TIME WITH THE GROWING CHURCH

ANTHEM

GATHERING AND PRESENTING OF OUR GIFTS

Offertory

•Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below. Praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

•Prayer of Dedication

THE COMMUNITY AT PRAYER

Silent Prayer, Pastoral Prayer, and Our 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

Response

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 3:15-17 & 21-22

Dawn Drum, Deacon

Page 73 NT

SERMON

•HYMN OF CELEBRATION *In Water We Grow*

Chalice Hymnal #375

THE BENEDICTION

•CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *All My Day*

You know my words before they're said.

You know my need and I am fed.

You give me life. You know my ways, my strength,
my path, for all my days, my strength,
my path, for all my days. (Repeat)

POSTLUDE

•Those who are able, are invited to stand.

Rev. Amie McCarthy, Designated-Term Pastor

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SIX STONE JARS

The Economy of Jesus
(Starting next week.)



Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." ~Luke 3:21-22

Announcements for the week of January 12, 2025.

Greeting you today as you entered the sanctuary was Deacon, Dawn Drum.

Worship begins at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday. We welcome everyone to worship this morning. A special welcome is extended to all who are visiting us for the first time. If you would like more information about our church, and its programs and activities, or would like to be added to our mailing list, please speak to one of our Deacons or the Pastor. We encourage you to complete one of the "I Wish..." visitor cards located in the pew and drop it in the offering basket. Again, welcome, it is good to worship God together. We deeply appreciate all who participate in leading worship.

Please remember to silence your cellphones during the service. Thank you for your assistance.

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The candle by the sanctuary's American flag is lit to remember and honor those serving our country as military and first responders. May it remind us to say a prayer for those giving of themselves to keep us free from harm.

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The sanctuary is equipped with a "Hearing Loop System" which works with hearing aids that have a "T-Coil" setting, sending the sound directly to the hearing aid. We also have headphone devices that work with this system that are available from the ushers.



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**Let us keep in our prayers:**

- |                |                   |                |
|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Evelyn Grabber | Ginger McGuire    | Mary Meli      |
| Ellen Meseroll | Teddy Randall     | Barbara Rodman |
| Ruth Tilley    | Ruth Turner-Jones |                |

Those struggling with mental health issues and the loved ones caring for them.  
Those struggling with addiction and the loved ones caring for them.

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January Birthdays

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1st ~ Edwina Rechlin | 1st ~ Marge Page | 1st ~ Brigitte Boyce |
| 7th ~ Justine Battcher | 10th ~ Barbara McDermott | 10th ~ Wolf Rechlin |
| 11th ~ Ruth Turner-Jones | 14th ~ Duke York | 17th ~ Dale Dubina |
| 23rd ~ Diana Vickers | 26th ~ Asa Preli | 28th ~ Margaret Gillespie |

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**Church Office Hours:** Tues. ~ 1-5 p.m. Wed.-Fri. ~ 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

| Sunday                                                                                                                       | Monday                                                      | Tuesday                      | Wednesday                                                                     | Thursday                              | Friday | Saturday                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------------|
| 12<br>9:15am Choir Rehearsal<br>10:00am Worship (S)<br>11:30am Nominating Comm Mtg (MR)                                      | 13<br>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (S)<br>7:00pm Scout Leader Mtg | 14<br>6:00pm Boy Scouts (FH) | 15<br>5:15pm AFG Mtg (MR)                                                     | 16<br>7:00pm Brd of Trustees Mtg (MR) | 17     | 18<br>1:00pm Lukens' Memorial Service |
| 19<br>9:15am Choir Rehearsal<br>10:00am Worship (S)<br>11:30am New Member' Mtg (MR)<br>11:30am Church Food Communication Mtg | 20<br>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (S)                            | 21<br>6:00pm Boy Scouts (FH) | 22<br>5:15pm AFG Mtg (MR)                                                     | 23<br>7:00pm Council Mtg (MR)         | 24     | 25                                    |
| 26<br>9:15am Choir Rehearsal (S)<br>10:00am Worship (S)                                                                      | 27<br>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (S)                            | 28<br>6:00pm Boy Scouts (FH) | 29<br>1:00pm Community Meal Prep (K)<br>2:00pm Outreach Mtg<br>5:15pm AFG Mtg | 30                                    | 31     |                                       |

January 2025

**From the Board of Christian Outreach** ~ This year we have donated four boxes of items to the Willimantic No Freeze Shelter. We will continue to collect items through March. A box is in the foyer for this purpose. Following is a list of needed items. Homelessness isn't always a choice, but we can choose to help.

**WINTER NEEDS**

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|----------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Disinfectant Wipes   | Disinfectant Spray | Hand Soap     | Combs & Brushes |
| 55 Gallon Trash Bags | Tissues            | Paper Towels  | Razors Soap     |
| Toilet Paper         | Deodorant          | Shampoo       | Lotion          |
| Conditioner          | First Aid Supplies | Nail Clippers | Tweezers        |

**CLOTHING (men's & women's, med-xxl)**

- |              |            |                     |
|--------------|------------|---------------------|
| Sweatshirts  | T-Shirts   | Hand/Foot Warmers   |
| Thermals     | Underwear  | Waterproof Gloves   |
| Rain Ponchos | Sweatpants | Ear Buds/Headphones |

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Severe Weather Cancellations ~ In the event of severe weather, please check for cancellations of Sunday morning worship services and church activities on WFSB TV Channel 3, church website, or you may contact any deacon.

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The Stewardship Committee reports they have received 45 pledges for a total of \$103,232 to date. This is 65% of our goal of \$158,082.

## Our Weekly Calendar

(Please check with church office before scheduling any meetings or events.)

### Sunday ~ 1/12

9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal (S)  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service (S)  
11:30 a.m. Nominating Committee Meeting (MR)

### Monday ~ 1/13

7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (S)  
7:00 p.m. Scout Leader's Meeting (MR)

### Tuesday ~ 1/14

6:00 p.m. Boy Scout (FH)

### Wednesday ~ 1/15

5:15 p.m. AFG Meeting (MR)

### Thursday ~ 1/16

7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees' Meeting (MR)

### Friday ~ 1/17

### Saturday ~ 1/18

1:00 p.m. Paul Lukens Memorial Service (S & FH)

### Sunday ~ 1/19

9:15 a.m. Choir Rehearsal (S)  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service (S)  
11:30 a.m. New Member's Meeting (MR)  
11:30 a.m. Church Food Communication Meeting (FH)

(MR-Memorial Rm, FH-Fellowship Hall, LR-Lathrop Rm, K-Kitchen, S-Sanctuary, CR-Class Rm)

**Nominations for Senior and Junior Steward ~ Today is the last day to submit a nomination for the Senior and Junior Steward.** Forms are available at the back of the sanctuary or in the church foyer. Forms may be dropped in the box located in the church foyer.

**New Member's Meeting - January 19th** ~ If you are interested in becoming a member of our church, please contact Rev. Amie or any Deacon. New members will meet with the Pastor and the Board of Deacons on January 19th, following the worship service.

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Deacon's Fund Offering ~ There will be another Deacon's Fund offering on January 26, 2025. Our fund was depleted last winter when we had two extensive needs that arose. The Deacon's Fund was established to be used, at the discretion of the Minister, to meet the needs of people who come to our church for financial help during dire times. We had an offering in October, and although people were generous, we are looking to increase the fund for 2025. Thank you in advance for your understanding. ~The Deacons

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It is not a surprise to hear that we live in anxious times. Grappling with concerns about our well-being and the security of our livelihoods. Fear and the urge to prioritize self-preservation dominate the conversation. Yet, the Kin-dom of God calls us to a broader definition of "our own." Jesus commands us to care for all in need, especially the most vulnerable.

The Gospel readings following Epiphany highlight Jesus' radical vision of an economy where wealth is shared for the common good. This message goes beyond the church calendar and remains relevant today. Jesus' mission was clear: to bring good news to the poor. Who will stand with the vulnerable? This has been the Church's core mission from the beginning.

Over the next few weeks, we will journey together to explore the economy of Jesus, guided by the Worship Design Studio's "Six Stone Jars" series. We'll question what it means to measure true abundance for everyone, not just a select few. We will learn how we can each contribute to building God's Kin-dom by tapping into jars of Hope, Purpose, Healing, Meaning, Vision, and Grace for all people. The Economy of Jesus is one of abundance, in which all thrive collectively. Come, let's build this economy together.

373

Be in Our Midst, O Christ

*Unison*

1. Be in our midst, O Christ, for bless-ing
2. Held by your might - y arms en - fold-ing,
3. Coun-sel them, grant your Spir - it's guid-ing.
4. Shel-ter them with your ten - der car - ing.
5. Help them re - call their wa - ter's sign-ing.

1. your sons and daugh - ters loved by you.
2. wel - come them home by bound - less grace.
3. Lead them in paths of peace and love.
4. Here in God's house - hold be their host.
5. Bap - tized, their fear of death is gone.

1. They come, your glo - rious name con - fess - ing,
2. Safe - guard them al - ways in your hold - ing.
3. Keep them a - ware you are pro - vid - ing
4. Your gra - cious ban - quet ta - ble shar - ing,
5. Bap - tized, they break from sin's con - fin - ing.

1. seek - ing fresh lives washed clean and new.
2. Smile on them; show your lov - ing face.
3. wis - dom and strength sent from a - bove.
4. move them to give their ut - ter - most.
5. Bap - tized, they turn to face the dawn.

WORDS: Colbert S. Cartwright, 1993  
 MUSIC: Carlton R. Young, 1984

BEGINNINGS  
 98.98

In Water We Grow

*Unison*

1. In wa - ter we grow, se - cure in the womb,  
 2. In wa - ter we wash: the dirt of each day,  
 3. In wa - ter we dive, and can - not draw breath,  
 4. In wa - ter we dwell, for by its deep flow

and speech-less - ly know love's safe - ty and room.  
 its trou - ble and rush are car - ried a - way.  
 then sur - face a - live, re - bound - ing from death.  
 through blood-stream and cell, we live, think, and grow.

Bap - tiz - ing and bless - ing, we pub - lish for good  
 In Christ re - cre - a - ted by love's cleans - ing art,  
 Our old self goes un - der, in Christ dead and drowned.  
 Praise God, love out - flow - ing, whose well of new birth

the free - ing, ca - ress - ing safe - keep - ing of God.  
 self - will and self - ha - tred dis - solve and de - part.  
 We rise, washed in won - der, by love clad and crowned.  
 bap - tiz - es our know - ing, and wa - ters the earth.

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1989  
 MUSIC: Carl F. Schalk, 1987

STANLEY BEACH  
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