

Announcements

- February 8th is the football Super Bowl. It's what we also call "**Souper Bowl Sunday**". Let's collect a lot of soup for the food pantry!
- **Lenten Bible Study** will begin on Feb 10 at 6 PM (zoom) and Feb. 19, at 10 AM in person. The link and chapter assignments will be emailed the week prior; please let the office know if you would like to receive these notices.
- From January through June your financial mission giving will go to:
 - Habitat for Humanity
 - The Salvation Army
 - Food Bank of DelawarePlease continue with your generosity; we are helping many in need.
- If you don't always receive church emails, they may be going to your SPAM—add secretarychesterbethel@gmail.com to your contacts.

Dates To Remember

Feb 8 – **Souper Bowl Sunday** food drive
Feb. 10 – Zoom Bible Study at 6 pm
Feb. 11- Administrative Council meeting at 6 pm
Feb. 19th-In-Person Bible Study at 10 am
Feb. 26 – Trustees Meeting at 6 pm

February 1, 2026

9:30 AM

4th Sunday after the Epiphany
Presentation of the Lord Sunday

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 15)

Leader: O Lord, who may abide in your tent?

People: **Who may dwell on your holy hill?**

Leader: Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart;

People: **who do not slander with their tongue, and do no evil to their friends, nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;**

Leader: who stand by their oath even to their hurt.

All: **Those who do these things shall never be moved.**

*OPENING HYMN – “Be Thou My Vision” UMH #451

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty and everliving God, we humbly pray that, as your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts by Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.¹

SPECIAL MUSIC

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy and gracious God, may your Holy Spirit give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that, with the eyes of our hearts enlightened, we may know the hope to which Christ has called us, the riches of his glorious inheritance among us, and the greatness of his power for those who believe. Amen.²

¹ The Episcopal Book of Common Prayer.

²http://www.valleypresct.org/uploads/8/0/1/6/80162/prayers_for_illumination.pdf.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Micah 6:1-8
NEW TESTAMENT READING 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

SERMON

SPECIAL MUSIC

*HYMN OF RESPONSE – “The Old Rugged Cross”
vv. 1-2 UMH #504

PASTORAL PRAYER

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

You may place your cash or check offering into the plates we pass around at this time or mail your tithes and offerings to the church office. Thank you for working as Christ’s hands and feet in the world!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY UMH #94

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Praise Him all creatures here below! Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise Him, the source of all our gifts; praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

INVITATION TO THE HOLY COMMUNION TABLE
CONFESSION AND PARDON³

O God of mercy, Micah reminds us that our prayers, fasting, and pious ritual must be lived out in compassion and justice. When we forget the fast you desire, which is to do justice and rise up for the powerless, Lord have mercy. When we forget the prayer you love, which is to show compassion and care for those in need, Christ have mercy. When we forget the rituals you require, which are to create relationships of righteousness and peace, Lord have mercy. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING UMH p. 13

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, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

BREAKING THE BREAD

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER HOLY COMMUNION UMH p. 11

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves to others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN – “Trust and Obey” UMH #467

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

**Standing in body or in spirit*

Music licensing CCLI #1642131, Streaming license CCLI #20705544

³ Adapted from original written by Rev. Susan A. Blain, posted on the *Worship Ways* website: <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/salty-bright-and-good-service-prayers-for-the-5th-sunday-after-epiphany-year-a-february-9-2020/>.