



Chester Bethel UMC

January 4, 2026 9:30 AM

Sharing in Worship Leadership this morning:

Organist: Carmella Lynch
Bell Choir Director: Pam Manocchio
Special Music: Paul Wilson
Greeter: Dora Greer
Usher: Carol Williamson
Worship Leader: Yvonne Kaciuban

Prayer Joys and Concerns:

H=Health; L=Loss; LT=Long Term; O=Other

David D. (H); Dom D.(H); Millie Burke (H); Enya Hoyer's family (L); Janet Canavan (H); The Donahoe family (L); Keith Saulsbury (H); Steve Schellberg (H); Brione (H); Donna (H); Joseph Glasgow (H); Bill Hazel (H); Linda Lyons (H); KFK (O); Jean Andrews (H); Andrew R.(O); Bill and Doreen Jones (H); Mary Ann Box (H); Ramona Harlow (LT); Holly Dorner (H); Donna McCormick (H); DeBrock Family (O); Allison (H); Kim Nally; Amy (H); Gail Kracyla (H); Dominic King (LT); Jill Brownback (LT); Nancy Walker (LT); MaryAnn Rumford (LT); Rick Browne (LT); all peoples impacted by war (LT)

Please add prayer requests and updates to the list in the Narthex



2619 Foulk Rd., Wilmington, DE 19810
302-475-3549 <http://www.chesterbethel.org>
Service Live-Streamed on Facebook

Office Admin, Beth Burnam: Tues, Thurs, Fri, 9 AM – 1 PM;
secretarychesterbethel@gmail.com

Reverend Kelly Conner
revkellyconner@gmail.com / Cell: 302-249-6157

*CLOSING HYMN – “Go, Tell it on the Mountain”
UMH #251

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

**Standing in body or in spirit*

Music licensing CCLI #1642131, Streaming license CCLI #20705544

Announcements

- There will be a Missions Meeting next Sunday after the worship service; you are welcome to join us in the Narthex.
- In January we will switch to seasonal silk flowers for the altar. You may still dedicate special Sundays to loved ones by calling or emailing the office prior to Thursday before that Sunday.

Dates To Remember

Jan. 11 - Missions mtg. after service
Jan. 14 – Admin. Council at 6 PM
Feb. 26 – Trustees Mtg. at 6 PM

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January 4, 2026 9:30 AM
Epiphany / Wesley Covenant Service

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP – Litany of Thanksgiving (Wesley Covenant)

Leader: Let us give thanks for all of God's mercies.

People: **We praise your holy name, O God.**

All: **O God, our Covenant Friend, you have been gracious to us through all the years of our lives. We thank you for your loving care, which has filled our days and brought us to this time and place. You have given us life and reason, and set us in a world filled with your glory. You have comforted us with family and friends, and ministered to us through the hands of our sisters and brothers. You have filled our hearts with a hunger after you, and have given us your peace. You have redeemed us, and called us to a high calling in Christ Jesus. You have given us a place in the fellowship of your Spirit and the witness of your Church. You have been our light in darkness and a rock of strength in adversity and temptation. You have been the very Spirit of joy in our joys and the all-sufficient reward in all our labors. You remembered us when we forgot you. You followed us even when we tried to flee from you. You met us with forgiveness when we returned to you. For all your patience and overflowing grace, we offer our thanks. Amen!**

*OPENING HYMN – “We Tjthree Kings” vv.1-4 UMH #254

OPENING PRAYER

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the Peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through

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

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 60:1-6

NEW TESTAMENT READING Matthew 2:1-12

WESLEY COVENANT SERVICE *(see bulletin insert)*

***HYMN OF RESPONSE – “Morning Has Broken”** UMH #145

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**

Gracious God, we would like to be among those who saw the coming of the Christ Child, dropped all that they were doing, and traveled to worship the coming of God's love into this world. We would like to be those who cared for God in infant vulnerability. And yet, merciful God, we must recognize all the times we are more like Herod. We are like him whenever we, in our actions or in our inactions, find our own need for control more compelling than the needs of others for health and safety. We are like him whenever we cling to the security of our privilege, rather than standing up for the rights of the oppressed. We are like him whenever we are complicit in the harming of innocents for the sake of profit, or power, or because we fear to know and change the injustices of this world. We pray that you will fill us with your light, that we may live our lives as true disciples in your name without counting the cost. In the name of Christ, the one who showed us the way, we pray. 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 COMMUNION⁴

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ; and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(continued on next page)

¹ The Episcopal Book of Common Prayer.

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

³ Adapted from original written by Eliza Buchakjian-Tweedy:

<http://sermonizing.wordpress.com/>.

⁴ The Episcopal Book of Common Prayer.