

Potsdam United Methodist Church



Third Sunday After Epiphany
January 25, 2026

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Celebrating the Gift of Christ's Resurrection in Potsdam United Methodist Church

Large print bulletins and listening assistive devices are available, *Please stand, whether in body or in spirit

At Potsdam UMC, all persons are welcome and celebrated regardless of gender, culture, nationality, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender identity, economic circumstance, age, physical and mental ability, marital status or family structure.

WE GATHER IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

ANNOUNCEMENTS / SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRELUDE

Grove of Light by Terri Hutchings

As we listen to the prelude, take time for quiet contemplation and prayer

INTROIT

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright [UMH #247 vss 1&2]

*CALL TO WORSHIP

[Based on Psalm 27]

L: The Lord is our light and our salvation.

P: Whom shall we fear?

L: The Lord sets us high on a rock, above our enemies.

P: The Lord shelters us in our day of trouble.

L: We, who have walked in darkness, have seen a great light.

P: We, who have dwelled in a land of deep darkness,
on us, light has shined.

L: The Lord is our light and our salvation.

P: Whom shall we fear?

*HYMN

The Church's One Foundation

UMH #545

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

All: The light of God's love shines into the dark places of our world,
healing its brokenness and bringing hope to places of despair.

The light of God's love makes us a forgiven people. Thanks be to God! AMEN

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

*PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

All: Faithful, loving God, strengthen us in this hour.

Nurture our lives, and bless us, we pray.

You have given us all that we need to be your church.

Help us trust that your grace is sufficient.

As we worship, let your Spirit move through us,
and open our hearts and minds to hear your call.

With gratitude and trust, we pray. AMEN

THERE IS A TIME TO PRAISE GOD WITH SONG...

CHOIR ANTHEM

Christmas Joy [written by, Mark Schweizer]

From a poem by Howard Thurman. Edited by The University at Albany Music Department.

... AND THERE IS A TIME TO PRAISE GOD WITH WORD!
READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

*HYMN	Jesus Calls Us	UMH #398 - verses 1 & 2
READING FROM THE GOSPELS		Matthew 4:12-23
THE MESSAGE		Fish, or Cut Bait?

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN	We Are One in Christ	TFWS #2229
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THE PRAYER OF GOD'S PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER (UMH #270)

Responding to God's invitation, in joy, we offer our gifts

OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Sweet Hour of Prayer* by William B. Bradbury arr. by Ross Farnworth

*THE DOXOLOGY	Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow <i>Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!</i>	UMH #94
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*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: Gracious God, we thank you for this day—
 a day blessed with light and joy,
 a day blessed with hope and abundance.
May these offerings bring light to those who dwell still in
darkness, or who cower in the shadow of death.
Bless our lives to your service, in the name of your Son,
 who calls us to follow him and share your light with others. AMEN

GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN	I Have Decided to Follow Jesus	TFWS #2129
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*THE BENEDICTION

L: Jesus, the light of the world, calls us to follow.
Go and tell the news of God's love.
Cast the nets of grace wide, that all may see the glory of God.
Go forth and shine with God's light!
May God — Source, Word, and Spirit — bless you with the radiance of love.

P: AMEN

POSTLUDE *Light* by Tiffany Hobson

Go forward, to live the church, in ministry to all the world!

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

slow poke – Rev. Thom Shuman © 2011

a dawdler by nature, a straggler by avocation, i could manage to lose a race to a pro- crastinator;	me-lingering through life, i barely can find the energy to get up and do nothing constructively; strolling down the street,	stopping at the outdoor cafe at the corner of apathy and inert, i while away my hours, making a cup of expresslow last all afternoon;	but immediately? immediately! that's the scariest word in the Book.
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Worship & Prayer resources for this week: Used by permission – excerpted from *MinistryMatters.com* ©2017 & 2026

MEETINGS, EVENTS, AND SPECIAL SERVICES

- **The Good Cup:** Enjoy conversation and a “cuppa” with Pastor Heidi & Pastor Carl, Wednesdays at noon at Jernabi Coffee House.
- **Worship Team Meeting:** - February 1st, immediately following our Worship Service
- **Hearts and Hands on a Mission Craft Group:** 1st Thursday of each month, 2-4pm at the Parsonage. The next meeting is February 5th.
- **A Journey Through Grief:** 2nd Thursday of each month, 4-6pm in Fellowship Hall. The next meeting is February 12th.
- **Finance Meeting:** Tuesday, January 27th at 10:00am.
- **Ash Wednesday:** February 18th.

Worship Participants	
Microphone: Norm Gardner	Acolytes: Jordyn Fish, Ben Fish
Counters Jan. 25: Carrie Livernois, Tom Ortmeyer Feb. 1: Robin Howard, Debby Nikkari Feb. 8: Christa Carroll, Carrie Livernois Feb. 15: Debby Nikkari, Robin Howard Feb. 22: Tom Ortmeyer, Christa Carroll	Readers Jan. 25: Kathy Demo Feb. 1: Nancy Mathews Feb. 8: Sharon Hutchinson Feb. 15: Collen Gondo Feb. 22: Tom Ortmeyer
Greeters/Ushers Jan. 25: Kathy Demo Feb. 1: Carrie Livernois Feb. 8: Norm Gardner Feb. 15: Robin Howard, Judy Haer Feb. 22: Nancy Matthews	Fellowship Time Hosts Feb. 1: Carol Willmert March 1: Carrie Livernois April 5: Robin Howard & Judy Haer May 3: Carol Willmert June 7: Sue and John Loope

Pastor: Heidi Chamberlain

Musician: Dr. Risa Okina ♦ Choir Director: Anthony Steen

Potsdam United Methodist Church ♦ 26 Main Street, Potsdam NY 13676

Pastor's Office Hours as scheduled with Pastor Heidi Chamberlain

To schedule a pastoral conversation please call: 315-528-4709 (cell) **OR** the Church office: 315-265-7474

Pastor Heidi: pastorheidi@potsdamumc.org ♦ Church email: info@potsdamumc.org

Website: www.potsdamumc.org ♦ Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PotsdamUMCNY>

If you prefer to make your offering electronically you can contribute via **PayPal** - <https://tinyurl.com/2s3mtnr5>