

Link for Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/94327921872?pwd=a05walRGK1MxcTRab0pLWC9DeFViQT09>

Meeting ID: 943 2792 1872

Password: 023012

To connect by phone, call (646)558-8656

When attempting to join our Sunday morning worship on Zoom, participants enter a “Waiting Room” and are allowed entrance only when recognized by a member of the UUC Tech Team. This means your Zoom login must have your name or some identifying information that we can recognize. “Zoom User” will not work!

Those joining us for worship on Zoom can present their tithes and offerings online through our [website](#) or by downloading the [Tithe.ly App](#) for your iPhone or Android device. You may also give using Venmo. Our Venmo “handle” is @UUCAlfred, but you can find us by searching for the name of the church, or you can scan this QR code to donate to UUC on Venmo:



**UNION UNIVERSITY CHURCH
ORDER OF WORSHIP
January 12, 2025
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & CELEBRATIONS
WELCOME & INTRODUCTION**

PRELUDE What a Friend We Have in Jesus

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather today under the shadow of a story that weaves together fear and courage, injustice and resistance. We hear the cries of the innocent, echoing across time—the cries of children lost, families displaced, and dreams shattered.

People: Yet we come, holding hope in our hearts, trusting that God is with those who mourn and those who flee.

Leader: The Herods of the world still rise, clutching at power through violence and oppression. They build systems that crush the vulnerable, exploit the weak, and silence the truth.

People: But we are called to follow a different way—the way of love, justice, and protection for the least of these.

Leader: Like the Holy Family who sought refuge in Egypt, so too do countless families today seek safety from war, poverty, and persecution.

People: We see their faces, we hear their stories, and we will not turn away, for Christ is present in their journey.

Leader: Let us lift our voices in lament for the innocent lives lost—then let us rise in courage to confront the Herods of today.

All: Come, Holy One, who was once a child fleeing danger, come and lead us to be a sanctuary for the vulnerable, a voice for the voiceless, and a light in the darkness. Amen.

*** GATHERING HYMN OF THE MONTH #22 What Is This Place**

PRAYER CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

SILENT PRAYER – LORD’S PRAYER *(debts/debtors)*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

(Offering plates are located at the back of the sanctuary. You may also give directly through your bank, or online through Tith.ly or Venmo. Our Venmo “handle” is @UUCAlfred, but you can find us by searching for the name of the church or use the QR code on the back of the bulletin.

OFFERTORY Blessed Jesus We Gather at Your Word *JS Bach*

***DOXOLOGY #71A & BLESSING**

Praise God, the source of life and birth.

Praise God, the Word who came to earth.

Praise God the Spirit, holy Flame.

All glory, honor to God’s name.

***HYMN# 278** **A Voice Was Heard in Ramah**

SCRIPTURE Matthew 2:13-18 *(pew Bible p. 836)*

MEDITATION Cello Suite Prelude *JS Bach*

SERMON Saying ‘No’ to Herod *Rev. Jennifer Harris Dault*

***CLOSING HYMN # 275 O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem**

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE #832 The Lord Lift You Up** *(sung through twice)*

The Lord lift you up, the Lord take your hand,

The Lord lead you forth, and cause you to stand

Secure in God’s word, seeking God’s face.

Abounding in love, abiding in grace.

POSTLUDE Rock of Ages

***Please stand as you are able.**

Please join us for coffee and fellowship in the Church Center following worship

Accessibility

Accessible parking and **ramp access** to the Church is available in the parking lot on West University St. **Hearing assistance** and **large print hymnals** are available. Ask the Usher for a Hearing Assistance device. The Hymnals are located at the back of the Sanctuary.

Serving Today

Guest Preacher.....Jennifer Harris Dault

Lay Leader.....Heather Meacham

Flowers.....the Cartledges

Greeter(s)the Cartledges

Coffee HourCatherine Chambers

Piano Peter O'Connor

Usher.....John Meacham

Zoom HostsJim Ninos

Looking Ahead – January 19

Lay LeaderTBD

Flowers.....Cathy Rees

Greeter(s)UUC Youth

Coffee Hour.....Mary Smith

Piano Peter O'Connor

Usher.....Mary Perkins

Zoom Hosts Jim Ninos

January Leadership: **Elder:**-Lana Meissner, **Trustee**-Jerry Jusianiec, **Deacon** -Nancy Evangelista, **Fellowship**-Luanne Crosby, **Christian Ed**-Jan Porter.

Prayer Concerns

Ding Jiayi & Family, Chang Weiping & Family, Clayton Stutzman, Hugh Langelier, Wes Bentz, Lowin, Michelle Garcia Escobar, Vangelia Perryman, Esther & Marcus Epps, Kenneth Williams, Bob & Deb Lewis, Steve Crandall, Bob Condrate, the Burdick family, Joan & Brad Bowden, Chrystal Dodge, Vaughn Mussmon (Joan Schulze' niece's youngest son), Sally Hopkins.

Upcoming Youth Sundays: January 19th, February 9th, March 9th

Typically, the youth meet on the 3rd Sunday of the month although for February and March the dates changed due to February & Spring break. The Youth meet at 9:30am in the King David Room for breakfast and an inspiring lesson.

Winter Café at Union University Church

Sundays, 1-3 PM | King David Room

About 20 people enjoyed the Winter Café last week. With the approval of the Trustees, UUC is opening the King David Room for families to get the kids out of the house, off screens, and playing together. There will be seating and tables for parents and toys and activities for the kids. This is **not** a drop off space. Parents are required to stay on site with their kids.

Collection of Items for the Allegany County Unhoused

Deadline is January 17! The UUC Board of Elders has agreed to help collect items for the unhoused in our county in cooperation with the Allegany Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (ACASA) and the Allegany County Democratic Committee. A collection bin is in the foyer of the Church Center until

Jan 17. Local collection bins will also be placed at the Alfred Pharmacy, Box of Books Library, and AU Alumni Hall. High priority needs include the following **new items**:

Sweats (L and XL tops and bottoms)	Hairbrushes
Long winter underwear	Deodorant
Winter socks	Aquaphor
Waterproof heavy gloves	Blistex SPF 15
New hats and scarves	Gatorade
Hand & foot warmers	Listerine (alcohol free)
Cheese and cracker packets	Wet-ones
Ouchless hair elastics	

To the UUC Pledging Family

For the months of May through December of 2024, as Financial Secretary, **I will be sending reports to only those who are behind, for one reason or another, in their pledging.** If you are up-to-date through these months, you will not be receiving a notice from me. Jan Porter

Holiday Luncheon Results: *from Jan Porter* Thanks to the hard work and generosity of UUC people and community attendance and enjoyment, the total earned was **\$2,146.65**. This is good news because it is the first time in the three years, since our two year hiatus, that we have made over \$2,000, all without raising prices for the luncheon options. Every \$2,000 helps the UUC budget.

Financial Update - Moving in the Right Direction

Our operating budget-operating income gap narrowed more in December than initially reported. We had additional donations after Sunday December 29 received by mail that narrowed the gap to 17%. (Down from 29% on November 30.)

Income through December 31: \$82,961

Income needed through December 31 to make budget: \$99,875

As an independent church, not affiliated with any denomination, UUC is funded entirely by individual members and donors. We need a steady stream of financial support and volunteers to enable us to pay salaries and utilities and to help maintain our facilities and programs.

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What Is This Place

KOMT NU MET ZANG 9.8.9.8.9.6.6

1 What is this place where we are meet-ing? On - ly a house, the
 2 Words from a - far, stars that are fall - ing, sparks that are sown in
 3 And we ac - cept bread at his ta - ble, bro - ken and shared, a

earth its floor, walls and a roof shel - ter - ing peo - ple,
 us like seed. Names for our God, dreams, signs, and won - ders
 liv - ing sign. Here in this world, dy - ing and liv - ing,

win-dows for light, an o - pen door. Yet it be-comes a bod - y that
 sent from the past are what we need. We in this place re - mem - ber and
 we are each oth-er's bread and wine. This is the place where we can re -

lives when we are gath - ered here, and know our God is near.
 speak a - gain what we have heard: God's free re - deem-ing Word.
 ceive what we need to in - crease: God's jus - tice and God's peace.

Text: Huub Oosterhuis (Netherlands), *Zomaar een dak boven wat hoofden*, 1968; trans. David Smith (England), © 1967 OCP Publications

Music: *Nederlandsche Gedenckclanck*, 1626; harm. Bernard Huijbers (Netherlands), harm. © 1984 TEAM Publications, OCP Publications

278 A Voice Was Heard in Ramah

LLANGLOFFAN 7.6.7.6 D

Gm D Gm Cm Gm D

1 A voice was heard in Ra - mah that could not be con - soled,
 2 O God, we hear the cry - ing for lit - tle ones of yours;
 3 O Prince of Peace, you lead us in ways of truth and grace.

E♭ F B♭ Cm E♭ D Gm

as Ra - chel wept for chil - dren she could no long - er hold.
 for man - y still are dy - ing in con - flicts and in wars—
 May we be brave to prac - tice your peace in ev - 'ry place—

B♭ Cm B♭ F D Gm Dsus D

For Her - od ruled the na - tion, yet feared the in - fant king.
 in ev - 'ry trou - bled na - tion, on ev - 'ry vio - lent street,
 to love each fear - filled na - tion, to serve each trou - bled street.

Gm D Gm E♭ D Gm

How great the dev - as - ta - tion that fear and an - ger bring!
 how great the lam - en - ta - tion when fear and an - ger meet!
 How great the cel - e - bra - tion when peace and jus - tice meet!

Alternate tune: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN (#325)

Text: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (USA), © 2004 Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

Music: Welsh traditional, Evans's Hymnau a Thonau, 1865, as in English Hymnal, 1906

275 O Beautiful Star of Bethlehem

BEAUTIFUL STAR OF BETHLEHEM 9.8.10.9.8.10 with refrain

G C

1 O beau-ti-ful star of Beth-le-hem, shi-ning a - far through shad-ows
2 O beau-ti-ful star, the hope of light, guid-ing the pil-grim through the
3 O beau-ti-ful star, the hope of rest for the re-deemed, the good, and

G E m D A/E D/F#

dim, giv-ing a light for those who long have gone, (have gone,)
night, o - ver the moun-tain till the break of dawn; (the dawn;)
blest, yon-der in glo - ry when the crown is won; (is won,)

G C

and guid-ing the trav-'lers on their way un - to the place where Je - sus
and in - to the light of per-fect day it will give out a love - ly
for Je - sus is now that Star di-vine; bright-er and bright-er he will

G A 7/E D 7 G C G

lay; beau-ti-ful star of Beth - le - hem, shine on. (shine on.)
ray; beau-ti-ful star of Beth - le - hem, shine on. (shine on.)
shine; beau-ti-ful star of Beth - le - hem, shine on. (shine on.)

Text: R. Fisher Boyce (USA), ca. 1940

Music: R. Fisher Boyce, 1940; harm. Adger M. Pace (USA)

© 1940, renewed 1967 James D. Vaughan Music Publisher (dist. Spirit Sound Music Group)

Refrain

O beau-ti - ful star D G of Beth - le - hem, C

Beau - ti - ful, beau - ti - ful star, star of Beth - le -

G shine up - on us un - til the glo - ry Em D A/E D/F# dawn;

hem, shine up - on us un - til the glo - ry, glo - ry dawn;

G oh, give us your light to light the way C in - to the land of per - fect

G day; beau - ti - ful star A7/E D7 G C G shine on. (shine on.)