

February 16, 2025

By the Waters of Life



PRELUDE *Kingsfold* b arr.Callahan

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Happy are those who follow the ways of the Lord.

God's ways are just and merciful.

Those who follow God's ways are continually nourished in faith.

In all that they do, they prosper.

Come, let us open our hearts to God's compassionate love.

Let us celebrate God's mercy and justice. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing no. 400

OPENING PRAYER

We draw near to you, O God, source of all understanding, and ask you to draw near to us. Teach us your wisdom from above, that we may bear good fruit in our lives. Root us beside the streams of your wisdom, that the green leaves of our goodness, fed by your insight, may not wither. Amen.

SIGNS OF PEACE AND UNITY IN CHRIST

PASSING OF THE FRIENDSHIP FOLDERS

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

SUNG RESPONSE *Jesus Loves Me* no. 191, vs 1

**Jesus loves me! This I know,
for the Bible tells me so,
Little ones to him belong;
they are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

BAPTISM Hadley Mae Gray

Introduction to the Service

Presentation of the Candidate

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

Congregational Reaffirmation and Commitment

For all of you here...

Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your

commitment to Christ? **We do.**

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include Hadley now before you in your care?

With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround Hadley with a community of love and forgiveness, that she may grow in her service to others. We will pray for her, that she may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life.

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Do you believe in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Thanksgiving Over the Water

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray. Eternal Father: When nothing existed but chaos, you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light. In the days of Noah you saved those on the ark through water. After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow. When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt, you led them to freedom through the sea. Their children you brought through the Jordan to the land which you promised.

Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of God's mercy each day.

In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a womb. He was baptized by John

and anointed by your Spirit. He called his disciples to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection and to make disciples of all nations.

Declare his works to the nations, his glory among all the people.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, to bless this gift of water and she who receives it, to wash away her sin and clothe her in righteousness throughout her life, that, dying and being raised with Christ, she may share in Christ's final victory.

All praise to you, Eternal Father, through your Son Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns for ever. Amen.

Baptism with Laying on of Hands

Hadley, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
The Holy Spirit work within you, Hadley, that being born through water and the Spirit, you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**
Now it is our joy to welcome our new little sister in Christ, Hadley Mae Gray.

Baptism Song "God Claims You"

**"Hadley, Hadley," God claims you,
God helps you, protects you,
and loves you too.
We this day do all agree
A child of God you'll always be.**

**"Hadley, Hadley," God claims you,
God helps you protects you,
and loves you too.
We your family love you so,
We vow to help your faith to grow.**

**"Hadley, Hadley," God claims you,
God helps you, protects you,
and loves you too.**

SCRIPTURE Psalm 1

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked or take the path that sinners tread or sit in the seat of scoffers, but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper. The wicked are not so but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous, for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

ANTHEM *Sicut Cervus* Palestrina
Chancel Choir

MESSAGE *By the Waters of Life*

PRAYER HYMN *Lead Me, Lord* no. 473

TIME OF PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING

You may give your offering by text- Text UMCWC \$50 to 73256, by using the QR code on your screen, at umcwc.org, through the mail, by automated giving through Realm, or by dropping it off at our office. Thank you for your generosity.

OFFERTORY *Deep River* Doug Wagner
Carrillon Choir

OFFERING RESONSE no. 94

**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 up-lifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

OFFERING PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN *Guide My Feet* TFWS No. 2208

BENEDICTION

We are planted by the streams of God's wisdom.
**We meditate on the desires of God,
taking delight in the laws of God.**
Sink your roots deep into the soil,
and draw on God's wisdom.
For God will nourish us every day with insight.
Go forth, knowing that God watches over you.

POSTLUDE *Postlude in C*
Purcell/Birchwood

Bold text indicates congregational response

Today we welcome into our church family through baptism, Hadley Mae Gray, daughter of Codyanne Murtaugh and Sean Gray, and granddaughter of Kevin and Marianne Murtaugh.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS
Message: Rev. Cynthia Stouffer
Liturgist: Rev. Allen Keller
Reader: Cheryl Brown
Chancel Choir Director: Tom Sabatino
Carillon Choir Director: Dan Rotz
Organist: Steve Campitelli
Live Stream Team: Tim Case, CC Clark, Jake Joslin, Heidi Krug, Brad Rush, Jacqueline Rush, Cory Smith, Steve Stouffer

SACRED SPACES
Finding Our Place in God

SERMON SERIES BEGINS FEBRUARY 16
Feb. 16 - By the Waters of Life
Feb. 23 - Under the Shelter of God's Wings
Mar. 2 - Transfiguration Sunday: Up on the Mountain Top



Rise
AGAINST HUNGER
SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 2025
9:00 AM
Unloading the truck is at 7:30 AM

Registration in the Gathering Area or
online at UMCWC.org!

United Women in Faith

"For Every Time, There is a Season"
with
Pastor Shawn Callender Hogan

Saturday, March 15 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Continental breakfast
at 8:30 am.
No cost to attend.
Informational flyers
are in the
Gathering Area.



Register at
umcwuf@gmail.com

Ash Wednesday
Worship Service
Wednesday, March 5,
5:45 PM - Simple Soup Supper
6:30 PM - Worship in the Sanctuary
We will worship with the other churches in
the West Chester area UMC Missionlink.
Rev. Jeff Richards, pastor of Willistown UMC,
will deliver the message.

Entering the Passion of Jesus:
2025 Lenten Sermon Series

Week 1 - The Parade: Risking Reputation
Week 2 - The Temple: Risking Righteous Anger
Week 3 - The First Dinner: Risking Rejection
Week 4 - The Last Supper: Risking the
Loss of Friends
Week 5 - The Garden: Risking Temptation
Week 6 - Chancel Choir Cantata

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, February 16

8:45 AM - Worship
10:00 AM - Sunday School
2 yrs - Grade-5 (4,5),
Grades 6-12 (YR),
Adults (Chapel, 7, 12)
11:00 AM - Worship Café
6:00 PM - El Buen Worship
6:00 PM - Youth Group

Monday, February 17

Office Closed

6:30 PM - Lillian Circle
7:00 PM - Disciple 4 (Zoom)

7:00 PM - Narcotics
Anonymous

7:00 PM - El Buen Men/Women
7:30 PM - Boy Scouts

Tuesday, February 18

10:00 AM - Mary Jean Circle
1:00 PM - Sunshine Memory
Café

6:30 PM - SPRC

Wednesday, February 19

7:30 AM - Men's Bible Study
9:30 AM - Women's Bible
Study
5:45 PM - Wednesday
Night Out

6:00 PM - Stephen Ministry
Training

6:30 PM - Digital Disciple
6:30 PM - Prayer Journey Group
6:30 PM - Children's Choirs
7:15 PM - Praise Band
7:30 PM - Carillon Choir

Thursday, February 20

9:00 AM - Stephen Ministry
Supervision
6:30 PM - Chancel Choir

Saturday, February 22

8:00 PM - El Buen Prayer Vigil