



Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023
11:00 A.M.

National United Methodist Church
Wesley Campus | 5301 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC
“Making the Love of God Obvious”

Our Commitment



We celebrate God’s gift of diversity and value the wholeness made possible in community equally shared and shepherded by all. We welcome and affirm people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, who are also of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, and family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status, and so much more. We acknowledge that we live in a world of profound social, economic, and political inequities. As followers of Jesus, we commit ourselves to the pursuit of justice and pledge to stand in solidarity with all who are marginalized and oppressed.

An Invitation

As faith awakens in you and you seek to deepen your discipleship of Jesus Christ, we invite you to become a member of National United Methodist Church. Indicate your interest in membership on the welcome card today and our Minister of Discipleship will extend an invitation to upcoming orientations and then an introduction to the faith community.

www.nationalchurch.org | (202) 363-4900 | communications@nationalchurch.org

PRELUDE

Christmas in Ghana —Mike Wheaton

Mike Wheaton, piano

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Rachel B. Livingston

*SONG OF PRAISE

Christmas Prayer — Aaron Neville
Greg Barnhill & Will Robinson

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Paula Pree

ONE: How does a weary world practice love?

ALL: By sending cards, and picking up the phone.

ONE: By practicing empathy, and assuming the best in others. By learning people’s stories and finding common ground.

ALL: By advocating for justice, and saving a place at the table.

ONE: There are a million ways to practice love. So today we light the candles of Hope, Peace, Joy and LOVE as a reminder and a charge.

ALL: With God’s help, may we bring love into a weary world.

We light the Advent Candles

ONE: How does a weary world hold onto hope, practice peace, spread joy, or know love?

ALL: How does a weary world combat cruelty?

ONE: How does a weary world shine a light into our bleakest night?

ALL: We do all these things with God's help. For today, a child is born in Bethlehem.

ONE: Today, Christ draws near.

ALL: Today, we light the Christ Candle.

ONE: Today, we are not alone.

ALL: God is near. Love has drawn close. Rejoice! For God loves this weary world.

AMEN

***SHARING the PEACE**

CAROL

Away in a manger, no crib for the bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me I pray
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Dr. Rachel B. Livingston

Please consider making an online donation directly to the United Methodist Committee on Relief through the QR code on the back of your program. UMCOR offers immediate response to national and international suffering.

OFFERTORY

Emmanuel -- Norman Hutchins
Daryl L. Coley

Wesley Choir

DEDICATING OUR GIFTS TO MINISTRY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise Him all creatures here below, praise Him above ye heavenly hosts, praise Father-Son-and Holy Ghost. Amen.

We Pray:

**Work through us and our gifts Lord, so what comes to us as seed, goes forth as flower.
And what comes to us as flower, goes forth as fruit.**

SONG of PREPARATION

He Who Began a Good Work in You

TFWS 2163

SACRAMENT of BAPTISM

Rev. Doug Robinson-Johnson and Rev. Dr. Rachel B. Livingston

Chisara Achebe Iweala
born November 24,
2020



Amara Achebe Iweala
born September 15, 2022

daughters of Uchechi Iweala and Chioma Achebe

We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

RESPONSE

He Who Began a Good Work in You

TFWS 2163

BIBLE LESSON

Luke 2:1-20

Curtis Pree

This is the word of God for us, the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE for TODAY

The Red Ribbon

Rev. Doug Robinson-Johnson

INVITATION to DISCIPLESHIP

If I could give you words
for the very beginning—
for the stretches
and the yawns,
and the opening of eyes,
for the first hiccups,
and the first smiles,
and the first purse of your lips,
I would say,
“Oh, dear child,

how you are loved.”
But the thing about love
is you can’t stop there,
so I would go on to say,
“You are strong,
stronger than you think.
And you are not alone—
look at these parents
who adore you
and these doctors and

nurses fighting for you.
And you are enough,
already enough.
You haven't done anything yet.
You've just been here,
breathing,
sleeping,
and already, you are enough.
And then I might say,
"This world is a mess,
but it is your home,
and you can make it better,
so always try to make it better.
And maybe most important
of all:
there is a love
that is bigger than

my understanding,
that moves through
this world,
and I call that love God.
And that love is here,
here in this room,
and that love knows
your name by heart."
Those are the words
I would say to you
as you stretch and yawn
and open your eyes
on the very first morning
of your very first day.
Let that be your foundation,
like Zechariah did for John.
Let love be your beginning.

HOLY COMMUNION

Let Us Break Bread Together

UMH 618

THE LORD'S PRAYER

In English

**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**

In Spanish

Padre nuestro que estás en el
Cielo, Santificado sea tu nombre,
Venga [a nosotros] tu Reino,
Hágase tu[*/su*] voluntad en la Tierra como
[*es*] en el Cielo,
Danos hoy [nuestro/*el*] pan de cada día,
Y perdona nuestras ofensas,
Como también nosotros perdonamos a los
que nos ofenden,
No nos dejes caer en la tentación,
Y líbranos del mal,
[Porque Tuyo es el Reino el Poder y la Gloria
por Siempre Señor]
Amén

THE GOSPEL of JOHN

In the beginning was the Word...

CAROLS

Silent night, holy night!

All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,

Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born

Joy to the world, the Lord is come
Let Earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And Heaven and nature sing
And Heaven and nature sing
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God love's pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth

Joy to the Earth, the Savior reigns
Let all their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy!

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

As the light is passed from person to person, please tip the unlit candle toward the lit candle as we sing.

BLESSING

Rev. Doug Robinson-Johnson

POSTLUDE

Feliz Navidad-- José Feliciano

Wesley Choir

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Paula Pree

How do we make the love of God obvious? Here's our good NEWS!

Nurture

We seek to make the love of God obvious through the ways we welcome and care for one another. Here are some upcoming community events:

February 13 Shrove Tuesday | Mardi Gras Pancake Dinner
February 22 Be a greeter at the UMW's Book and Bake Sale

Weekly Opportunities

- Learn how we offer warm hospitality on Sundays at 9 or 11am or online at 10am Sundays or 6pm Wednesdays.
 - Join us any Sunday for free lunch @ Wesley Campus | noon.
 - Submit a prayer request or call our emergency pastoral care line at 202-510-8555. Join a prayer call any weekday morning at 8am by calling 551-258-5131.
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Education

National UMC is a learning community. Adults study the Bible together, discuss social justice issues, and learn spiritual practices that strengthen our faith and ability to serve in the world. Children and youth are cherished here, and encouraged to wonder, explore, and learn in open, creative environments that reflect God's love. In addition to our regular Sunday school offerings (10 AM-10:55 AM at the Metropolitan Memorial campus) and on-going mid-week classes, here are some upcoming opportunities that we are excited about:

- January 7 New Members Class, 12:30-2 PM, Metropolitan Memorial Library
Youth Fellowship 5-7pm Metropolitan Memorial Room 201
- January 14 Liberating Faith Bible study, 5 pm, Wesley campus – just starting now!
- January 21 Youth Fellowship 5-7pm Metropolitan Memorial Room 201
- January 24 On-line discussion (3 weeks) of *Incompatible: How the Church Cast Out LGBTQ Christians and Where We Go Next* by Charlie Baber. National UMC affirms LGBTQ people. Will our denomination?
- February 15 Beginning of Lenten study
- February 25 Start of Confirmation Classes. Parents of youth in grade 6 and above contact apupino@nationalchurch.org for more information.

And this summer, don't miss

- Vacation Bible School, June 24-28, 9 am-noon, ages 4 and up
Youth Service Week, July 8-11
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Worship

9am and 11am Metropolitan, 11am Wesley, 6:30 Online Wednesdays

We come together to praise God and be nourished for the week ahead. In worship, God's spirit moves to transform us and transform the world.

- December 31 Celebration of Kwanzaa, 11am @Wesley Campus, followed by free community meal.
- January 14 MLK Sunday featuring attorney, activist, and author Debbie Hines, *Get Off My Neck: Black Lives, White Justice, and a Former Prosecutor's Quest for Reform* (book release March 2024). Ms. Hines will offer the message at 9am Metropolitan Memorial followed by a 10am question and answer session, and then an 11am message at nearby Wesley Campus.
- February 14 Lent Begins. Join us February 18 for the start of a series "A Sacred Voice is Calling." Do you dare follow where you feel led these days?
- March 31 Easter Sunday. Join us the week before for Holy Week
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Service

During his ministry, Jesus healed the sick, fed the hungry, welcomed children, forgave sinners and sought out society's outcasts. We seek to continue his work for human wholeness by addressing both immediate needs and long-term sustainable solutions.

We engage in a variety of social justice ministries with both local and global partners. Join us in advocacy for Gun Violence Prevention, Literacy (Project Transformation), Affordable Housing (Washington Interfaith Network), Help with groceries and meals (Campus Kitchen). Visit our website to learn how to get involved.

January 10 1-3 pm the dementia support group Club Memory offers a survivor's monologue entitled "Dementia Man."

February 7 9 am to 3 pm, America Red Cross Blood Drive. Donors as well as hosts needed.

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

This year, our Outreach team has determined that 100% of the Christmas Eve Offering will go to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). UMCOR is the humanitarian relief and development arm of the United Methodist Church. UMCOR journeys alongside people as they experience natural and human disasters; they are usually the first to arrive on the scene and the last to leave once a disaster occurs. Their efforts span the globe and include efforts such as disaster response, creation care, aid in war torn areas, migration, hunger and poverty, community development, water and sanitation, and so much more. For more detail about UMCOR you can visit: <https://umcmmission.org/umcor/>



DONATE WITH QR CODE



**REMEMBERING &
HONORING OUR
LOVED ONES THIS
CHRISTMAS EVE**

Given By... In Memory of

Alexandra McPherron: Barry Spargo
 Alice Sartain: Tom Parks
 Ann Michel: James and Phyllis Albrecht
 Art Rynearson: Our Parents
 Bob & Jeri Weaver: Their parents
 Carolyn and Suzanne Clewell: Our Parents
 Marion and Warren Clewell
 Cheryl Mickey: Robert Cheaney
 Christian Martine: Adolph & Peggy Pedri
 Circle 9: Mary Frances Walker
 Dick & Carol Schleicher: Their families
 Jeanie Mah: Kathy Portus
 Joan Topalian: Her three sisters
 Laura Harper Powell: Susan and Scott Harper
 Marla Bosta: William Krueger
 Mary Jo Marchant: Her brother and parents
 Mary Rollefson: Jeanie Murphy
 Nancy Riker: Temp Johnson
 Tony Brown: Mike Heffner
 William Schofield: Patricia Schofield
 Sharis Pozen: Mary and Burleigh Arnold
 Shirley Fall: John Fall
 Stacy Krogh: Paul H J Krogh & Dorothy Krogh
 Stephen D. Potts
 Terry and Wayne Rusch: Tyler Christian Rusch
 The Vieth Family: Ray and Eunice Stokes;
 Richard and Jean Vieth

Given By... In Honor of

Alexandra McPherron: Shirley Fall
 Alice Sartain: John Sartain
 Bob & Jeri Weaver: Their children and 5
 grandsons
 Cheryl Mickey: Marjorie Cheaney and John
 Mickey
 Dayspring Choir: In Honor of Rev. Grayland
 Snead, Jr
 Eugene Beye and Rev. Janet Craswell: In
 memory and honor of their parents
 Jeanie Mah: Heidi Holgate, Rev. Grayland Snead,
 Jr, and Rita Guenther
 John & Barbara Tate: Their children,
 grandchildren, and Caralee
 Mary Jo Marchant: Prayer Shawl Ministry
 Sheldon and Sue Smith: Rev. Dr. William A. &
 Nancy Holmes
 Stacy Krogh: Irene Potts & Rev. Grayland Snead,
 Jr
 Susan Staines: My Husband Verdon Staines
 Terry and Wayne Rusch: Departed Family and
 Friends
 The Duroski-Leidl Family: In Honor and Joy of our
 United Methodist Church Family
 William Schofield: Elsie Schofield

