

NATIONAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Metropolitan Memorial Campus 3401 Nebraska Avenue, NW | Washington, DC

December 31 at 9:00 AM



“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”

–Luke 2:29

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

Wi-Fi Password: Welcome!

* Standing as you are able | **UMH:** United Methodist Hymnal | **TFWS:** The Faith We Sing

PRELUDE

Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella- Grant Colburn

Todd Beckham, piano

*Children are invited to gather at the back to receive bells to ring.
At the sound of the chime, please be seated while the children walk forward.*

WELCOME

Rev. Doug Robinson-Johnson

***CALL to WORSHIP**

ONE: Every year we celebrate Christmas. Every month we break bread.

ALL: Every week we gather for worship. Every day we count our blessings.

ONE: Every minute God is near. Yes, every minute God is near.

ALL: These are the rituals of our faith. Let us worship Holy God.

***CHRISTMAS CAROLS**

Joy to the World

UMH 246

The First Noel

UMH 245

***PRAYER of THANKSGIVING**

Rev. Janet Craswell

CALL to OFFERING

We support the life of this church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. Ushers will receive our welcome cards, prayer requests, and financial gifts at this time. Online gifts may be shared using this QR code.



OFFERTORY

Even Me – Michael Reed

DaySpring Choir

***DEDICATING our GIFTS TO MINISTRY**

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks, to the Holy One, give thanks, for God has given Jesus Christ in Love. And now, let the weak say “I am strong,” let the poor say “I am rich,” because of what the Lord has done for us! Give thanks! Give thanks!

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Rev. Janet Craswell

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:21-38

MESSAGE for TODAY

Rooted in Ritual

Rev. Doug Robinson-Johnson

INVITATION to DISCIPLESHIP

In this time of meditation and commitment, participants may move to a prayer station around the sanctuary featuring the following options today:

Left Chapel—Poverty in the United States affects nearly 38 million people. About 11.6% of the population is living below the poverty line set at \$27,479 for a family of four individuals. The communities that are most affected, in order, are Native Americans, African Americans, and Hispanics. Light a candle today for people you know who, like Charles Dicken’s character Trotty Veck, are shunned by society.

Right Hallway—Adding “Watch Night” to New Year’s Eve celebration tonight.

Front Altar Kneeler—Receiving individual prayer from a pastor.

Seated and Online—Consider the words of Alfred Lord Tennyson as an invitation for response.

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky, The flying cloud, the frosty light:
The year is dying in the night; Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new, Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go; Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor, Ring in redress to all humankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause, And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life, With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin, The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place and blood, The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right, Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease; Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old, Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free, The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land, Ring in the Christ that is to be.

***CLOSING SONG**

Go, Tell it on the Mountain

UMH 251

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

The Bells - Nicolas Lebeque

Todd Beckham, piano

New Members Class: All Newcomers Welcome!

On Sunday, January 7, 12:30-2 PM, there will be a class for those who wish to join National UMC. The class will be in-person only. We'll meet in the library at the Metropolitan Memorial campus. The class will cover what it means to be United Methodist, what it means to be part of National UMC, and ways you can connect with the life of the church. Lunch will be provided. RSVP: JCraswell@NationalChurch.org

United Methodist Women Recognition Brunch

Join National Church's UMW on 13 January at 11:00 am in Wesley's fellowship hall for the annual **Recognition Brunch**. During the brunch, we will celebrate the significant contributions of individuals whose work during 2023 has improved lives within our Church and broader community. Additionally, we will welcome babies born or adopted within our Church family and remember with gratitude those who died this past year. One doesn't have to be a UMW member to attend. All are welcome!

Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday Features NUMC Author Debbie Hines

*Sunday, January 15th, 9am | Metropolitan Memorial Campus, 11AM | Wesley Campus
10AM Dialogue with author in Metropolitan Great Hall*

In *Get Off My Neck*, Debbie Hines draws on her unique perspective as a trial lawyer, former Baltimore prosecutor, and assistant attorney general for the State of Maryland to argue that US prosecutors, as the most powerful players in the criminal justice system, systematically target and criminalize Black people. Hines describes her disillusionment as a young Black woman who initially entered the profession with the goal of helping victims of crimes, only to discover herself aiding and abetting a system that prizes plea bargaining, speedy conviction, and excessive punishment above all else. In this book, she offers concrete, specific, and hopeful solutions for just how we can come together in a common purpose for criminal justice and racial justice reform. *(from MIT Press review)*

NUMC Leadership Retreat: Newly Nominated Leaders Encouraged to Attend!

Saturday, January 20th 10am to 2pm (Lunch provided)

Metropolitan Memorial Campus Vestry

Part One: Orientation for new and returning leaders

Part Two: 2024 Budget Review

Please RSVP: 202-363-4900 In-person only