



Today's service is live-streamed. Those seated in rear remain off-camera

NATIONAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Wesley Campus
5312 Connecticut Avenue, NW Washington, D.C.

December 10 at 11:00 AM

Making the Love of God Obvious

ARTIST'S STATEMENT:

I wanted to create an image that spoke tenderly to the viewer as this text does to the reader. "Comfort, O comfort my people" (Isaiah 40:1)

When I've read this text before, the shepherding metaphor has only yielded masculine imagery in my mind. It makes sense with the text's pronouns that I would imagine a masculine figure. It was also ingrained in me—through translations, biblical art, movies, children's pageants, etc.—that shepherds were always men. I learned recently, however, that women were shepherds too. Some young women were trained and worked as shepherds before they were married; this notion completely added new dimension and depth to the shepherding metaphor.

I decided to use imagery of modern-day shepherds to inspire this image. A shepherd is at once fierce and tender, willing to face the most dangerous of predators in the dead of night while warmly cradling the most vulnerable of the flock.

In this image, the shepherd nurtures a lamb while leading the flock through fields of tall grasses and flowers. The fuchsia flowers in the foreground are marjoram



flowers that represent comfort and the steadfastness of God's word even in the midst of the leveling of the land. The shepherd's clothes have repeated medallions with simplified imagery of a straight highway in the wilderness. Within the stylized landscape, a voice proclaims the coming glory of the Lord. —**Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman**

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.



RECONCILING MINISTRIES NETWORK
A Reconciling Congregation

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 attendance registry 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

***OPENING PRAISE**

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

UMH 402
verses 1-2

WELCOME

Rev. Janet Craswell

***SONG of PRAISE**

He Came Down

TFWS 2085

***PRAYER of THANKSGIVING**

Paula Pree

LIGHTNG ADVENT CANDLES

ONE: How does a weary world practice peace?

ALL: By listening before we speak and saying sorry when we need to.

ONE: By advocating for justice and caring for our neighbor. By practicing Sabbath and forgiving seventy times seven.

ALL: By choosing grace over hate and opening the door for each other.

ONE: There are a million ways to practice peace. So today we light the candle of peace as a reminder and a charge.

ALL: With God's help, may we bring peace into a weary world. Amen.

***LIGHTING CANDLE OF PEACE**

***SHARING the PEACE**

Paula Pree

***A CAROL of CHRISTMAS**

Oh, Holy Night - Adolphe Adams

Tia Ade, soloist

CALL TO OFFERING

Rev. Dr. Rachel Livingston

We support the life of this church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. Ushers will receive our attendance sheets, prayer requests, and financial gifts at this time. Online gifts may be shared using this QR code. Today we are also consecrating prayer shawls.



***OFFERTORY**

Mary, Did You Know? - Mark Lowry and Buddy Green

Tia Ade, soloist

DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

DEDICATING OUR GIFTS to MINISTRY

Colin Davies

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.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Dr. Rachel Livingston

BIBLE LESSON

Isaiah 40: 1-11 and Luke 1: 24-45

Colin Davies

SERMON

Open to Joy, Open to Peace

Rev. Janet Craswell

INVITATION to DISCIPLESHIP

***HOLY COMMUNION**

Let Us Break Bread Together

UMH 618

***LORD'S PRAYER**

(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.*

***CLOSING SONG**

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

UMH 251

BLESSING

Rev. Janet Craswell

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Paula Pree and Rita Guenther

Announcements



Volunteers for Christmas Eve

Dinner/Carol Sing

Wesley Campus | 5PM

To sign up to be a singer or server, or chef, email communications@nationalchurch.org



Evening in Advent

December 17 | 5PM – 7PM

Metropolitan Memorial Campus | Great Hall

For info or volunteer opportunities email communications@nationalchurch.org



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Started in 2006, the Prayer Shawl Ministry combines knitting and crocheting with prayer. Our prayers are that each shawl will carry our strength, love, and energy to each who receives one. To date, we have given approximately 500 shawls to friends locally and internationally. **Reasons for the creation of Prayer Shawls include:**

- In need of comfort after a loss
- Undergoing medical procedures
- Caring for a family member or friend
- Making a life-style change
- Needing to be reminded of God's love

The Prayer Shawl Ministry welcomes all ages, experienced or beginners.

You can be a member of the ministry without attending meetings. Completed shawls can be left in the church office to the attention of "The Prayer Shawl Ministry".

Yarn is available either free or at a discounted price.

If you would like to join us in any capacity contact Mary Jo Marchant at mjmarchant@verizon.net or 703-517-8676



Volunteer at Jazzy Christmas, December 16th.

Help needed starting at 3pm

Contact Beth Beisel beisel_beth@hotmail.com

SEATING IS LIMITED!
Purchase Tickets in Advance

**HAVE
A JAZZY
CHRISTMAS**
With Bobby Felder
and Friends

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16
Holiday Dinner: 5:00-6:30 pm
Concert: 6:30-8:30 pm

 **TICKETS ON SALE AT EVENTBRITE**
[tinyurl.com/jazzatwesley](https://www.eventbrite.com/tickets/sale?aff=sourcecode&url=tinyurl.com/jazzatwesley)

Dinner & Concert: \$35 | Concert: \$20
must purchase in advance in advance or at door

5312 Connecticut Ave., NW, DC | www.nationalchurch.org/jazz