

Events

Sunday, January 7
 8:45 AM Sunday School
 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School
 10:00 AM Worship
 Macklan Myhre Baptism
 8:30-12:30 Kiwanis
 Pancake & Omelet Breakfast
 @ the VFW

Monday, January 8
 4:00 PM Intercessory Prayer @Emerald Oaks
 7:00 PM Dig In Bible Study @Church Library

Tuesday, January 9
 No Shekinah Praise Team Rehearsal

Wednesday, January 10
 1:30 PM Upper Room @Emerald Oaks
 3:30 PM 345 Alive
 5:00 PM Confirmation
 6:00 PM Jr./Sr. UMYF
 6:00 PM Bell Choir Practice
 6:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting
 7:30 PM Admin Council Meeting

Thursday, January 11
 6:00 PM Intensified Prayer @War Room

Friday, January 12
 Office Closed

Sunday, January 14
 8:45 AM Sunday School
 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School
 10:00 AM Worship

Empowering EFUMC Ministry

**Sunday Morning Service
 & End of Year**

General Fund	\$ 7,601.17
Scholarship Fund	\$ 1,000.00
Fellowship Hall	\$ 7,500.00
Total	\$16,101.17
Attendance	72

Thank you for snacks for 345 Alive, suppers for Jr/Sr UMYF, Sunday school teachers, serving on committees, prayers, presence, time, passion, love, and all other ways you serve our church!

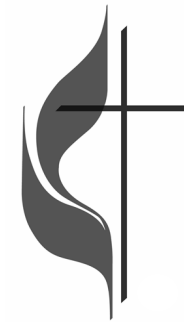
Happy Birthday & Anniversary*

- 7 Robert Darrah Jr.
*Howard & Rosie Argabright
- 8 Maureen Horsley
- 9 Brock Grimm Jr.
Gerard Ruiz
*Kevin & Jennifer Long
- 11 Mary Lou Morrison
- 12 Ted Ellis
Pam O'Leary
- 13 Vicki Schmidt

Ministry Opportunities

Liturgist, Greeters, Ushers, Acolytes, Children Sermon, Shekinah praise team, providing snacks and meals for 345 Alive, Jr. UMYF, and Sr. UMYF, pick up members who need a ride to worship service, volunteer to teach Sunday School, supporting in prayers and many other opportunities available. Sign-up at the information table in the Narthex.

GET INVOLVED!



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
Emmetsburg First United Methodist Church

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Epiphany Sunday

January 7, 2018, 10:00 AM



ISAIAH 43:19



Welcome!
We're glad you're here.
When you see the [], people are invited to arise as able.*

Liturgist Kyle Kogel
Organist Rosemary Matthews
Bell Choir Melanie Flynn
Presentation Operator The Embrock Family

Prelude

Bringing In the Light of Christ

Announcements

* Call to Worship

L: From the waters of Creation,
the earth sprang forth.

**P: From the waters of a womb,
God's blessed Son was given to us.**

L: From the waters of a river,
people were baptized and marked as God's Children

**P: Praise be to God,
whose loving gifts and presence have called us together.**

L: Let us shout our love to God for God's abundant love.

P: AMEN.

* Opening Hymn UMH #400 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

* Opening Prayer

L: Holy God, source of all that is good,
we gather before you seeking your grace and love.

P: Be present in our lives.

Fill us with your light.

Be generous with your love.

Count us among your children.

Be compassionate toward our mistakes.

Forgive our failings.

Be gracious with your power.

Strengthen us for your service.

traditions was celebrating Epiphany with a big parade through the streets of Spanish Harlem. The Magi were depicted as three enormous, colorfully painted, papier-mâché "king" puppets leading a procession that included a camel, lots of parents and children, toys for children in the neighborhood and huge papier-mâché gifts for the baby Jesus in a crèche scene stationed at a church on the route.

A sight like that made me think about the Magi. Who were they? How could a star constellation be so unusual as to move rich kings to leave the comforts of wealth and to cross deserts spanning East to West in search of the Christ Child? How did they know the special star signaled the birth of a Christ Child? What book of prophesy was that written in? They weren't looking at the Hebrew scriptures, because why would they then have had to stop to inquire of King Herod, who called in the Jewish priests and scholars? What was the religion of Magi anyway? They weren't Jews, so how is it that God was talking to them through their religion, which apparently included astrology, which I'd been taught was not Christian?

Epiphany Lessons

Nearly 30 years later, I still have no substantial answers to these questions about the Magi. But Epiphany continues to reveal to me important lessons about following Jesus the Christ on a shrinking earth and in a nation that's increasingly diverse.

Here are a few Epiphany lesson for me, found in Scripture and from my neighborhood:

- Jesus the Christ can be revealed in different ways, places, times and cultures.
- Unexpected strangers can bring unexpected, but needed, treasures.
- With God, acts of love and kindness trump theology and protocol.
- God spoke to the Magi over 2,000 years ago, and after 30 years of asking, I still don't know who they were or why God was talking to them. There's no reason to believe God's not doing things like this in my neighborhood, our nation and in the world today.

Joys, Concerns, Prayers

You are in our prayers: Mona Knudson's family, Gene Twait, John and Lana Williams Family, Rose Spears (Mother of Lynette McGrath), Reba Williams, Carol Ensley, Jordan Anderson, Nancy Hinrichs, Bernice Hersom, Rosie Culbertson, Carol Henderson, Sharon Hobart, John & Stacey Strohman, Kort Freeman, Scott Sanne (Grandson of Pearl Whitmore), Devin Morey, Mike & Lea Schipull, Philip Christenson (brother of Marge Solberg), Jon Williams, Cole McDonough, Curtis Boekemeier, Cindy Kassel, Ted Strohman, Deb Nissen (sister-in-law of Deb Wickman), Jane Stevens, Adolph Knobloch (Tami Culver's Uncle), Lois Lowman, Vi Sampson, Joyce Muller, Marjorie Solberg, including those who have been hospitalized and our military members.



Lessons of Epiphany

By Yvette Moore
Director of communications for United Methodist Women.

Read: Jesus as the Christ.
Matthew 2:1-12; 3:13-17; John 2:1-11.

Epiphany is a loaded day on the Christian calendar.

Epiphany is the 12th day after Christmas, January 6, which is also the day before the Orthodox Church's Christmas Day, January 7. That means Epiphany is also Orthodox

Christmas Eve. So how and what Epiphany celebrates depends on where you are in the Christian community.

And it's a lot.

The word *Epiphany* comes from the Greek word *ἐπιφάνεια*, which means *divine manifestation*, and it references a visit of a god to earth.

In some Christian traditions, Epiphany celebrates the day Jesus is baptized: His divinity and role on earth are revealed as he comes up out of the water, the Holy Spirit descends on him and the Witness in Heaven says, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

Other Christian traditions include Jesus' miracle of turning water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana in Galilee in Epiphany celebrations of the revelation of



In The United Methodist Church and many other Western traditions, Epiphany marks the arrival of the Magi from the East who bring worship and gifts of devotion to the Christ Child, revealing his divinity.

Other traditions yet cite all of the above in their

Epiphany celebrations of the Divine Visitation in the life of Jesus Christ.

Old Christmas

Growing up, my mother called Epiphany "Old Christmas," a term that reflects the West's switch from the Julian calendar to our current Gregorian one and explains why Orthodox Christmas is on January 7. In our family tradition, the day marked the end of the holidays, because when even Old Christmas was over, it was time to take down the Christmas tree. Other than that, we really didn't pay much attention to Epiphany.

That is, until the local news started covering Three Kings Day.

In the mid-1970s the Hispanic community in my city had grown to the point that their traditions began to garner attention — especially since one of their

L: We ask these things
through the name of Jesus Christ our Savior,
who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever.

P: Amen.

Bell Choir "We Three Kings"

Children's Sermon

* **Praise and Worship** Shekinah Praise Team

* **Scripture Reading** Matthew 25,31-46

Message of Life "From Grace Receiver to Giver" Pastor Hojin Shin

Joys, Concerns, Prayers

Holy Communion

The Brief Great Thanksgiving

Lift up your hearts and give thanks to God.
Blessed are you, O God,
who with your Word and Holy Spirit
created all things and called them good.

In Jesus Christ your Word became flesh and dwelt among us.
Through Jesus' suffering and death
you took upon yourself our sin and death
and destroyed their power for ever.

You raised from the dead this same Jesus,
who now reigns with you in glory,
and poured upon us your Holy Spirit,
making us the people of your new covenant.

On the night before meeting with death
Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to the disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over Jesus took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to the disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts,
that in the breaking of this bread and the drinking of this wine
we may know the presence of the living Christ
and be renewed as the body of Christ for the world,
redeemed by Christ's blood,
until Christ comes in final victory
and we feast at your table for ever.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God,
now and for ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Giving the Bread and Cup

Prayer After Receiving

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.
Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Offering

* **Doxology** UMH #95 "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"

* **Offertory**

The Baptismal Covenant

Candidate: Macklan Douglas Myhre

Parent: Craig and Bridget Myhre

Witnesses: Brian Merrill & Janice Sorensen

* **Closing Hymn** UMH #428 For the Healing of the Nations

* **Blessing**

* **Song of Sending Forth** FWS #2166 Christ Beside Me (verse 1)

Postlude

"God Is Good All the Time!"

Isaiah 42:18-19

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.
See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.