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HELPFUL TO KNOW

If you'd like to join virtually, please connect with the following link:
<http://upc-superior.com/youtube>
(If you are here in person we offer hearing assistance devices-see technology desk.)

NURSERY

Our nursery is open 15 minutes before the service begins for children who are newborn through 4 years old.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

After the Passing the Peace portion of our service, children ages 5 through 5th grade are invited to meet by the round table in the narthex for Children's Church.

PRAYER REQUESTS

The Pastor is always glad to share prayer requests during the worship service. Share a request in the comments section. Additionally, the Prayer Chain may be activated by calling Dorothy Burris 817-715-0968 (macb.dlb@sbcglobal.net) or Dean Hecht at 715-919-1325.

RIDE SHARE

Need a ride? Please check the bulletin board by the fire extinguisher in the narthex.

Choirmaster & Handbell Director

Jane Wester

Church Secretary

Reese Stariha

Custodian

Mariah Weiss

Director of Spiritual Formation

Laura Foote

Financial Secretary

Cathy Hecht

Interim Treasurer

Dawn Long

Nursery Coordinators Andrew Lisak, Gretchen Schiek, & Melinda Yingling

Organist & Pianist

Alexander Sandor

Pastor

Rev. Brett M. Foote

Cover Art: Emmett and Aurora—Photo provided by Kate Long



A CONGREGATION OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)



UNITED
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF SUPERIOR, WI



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www.facebook.com/UnitedPresbyterianChurch

Online Worship

Epiphany & Communion Sunday

January 4th, 2026 10:00 AM

If you're joining us online, please light a candle to remind yourself of the presence of God

* Please rise in body or spirit.

If the text is bolded, everyone is invited to say the words in unison.

PRELUDE

Alex Sandor

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP & INTROIT** He Came Down

#137

***PRAYER OF ADORATION & CONFESSION**

One: In the dark of morning,

All: the stars still shine.

One: In the depth of winter,

All: the birds still climb.

One: At the start of the year, tender and new,

All: God is here. God is near. God is someone in whom there is no longer fear.

One: Do not rest in your fear.

All: God is here. God is near.

One: So like the stars, the birds, and the lake...

All: Let us worship holy God as we pray.

One: Forgive us when we allow fear to stop us in our tracks.

All: Forgive us when our own fear prevents us from following your path.

Forgive us when fear is louder than love.

One: Forgive us, for we seek to follow Christ. Amen.

***HYMN** In Christ Alone

See Insert

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

One: Covenant community, whether you are brave and courageous or fearful and timid, God's love for you knows no end. So join me in these words of forgiveness:

All: Whether fear inspires us to action, or stops us dead in our tracks, God's love for us is boundless.

One: We are seen. We are surrounded with grace. We are sent to serve.

All: It is all because of Christ's birth, life, death, and resurrection that we are all forgiven. Amen.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

You are invited to bless those around you with the words, "**The peace of Christ be with you.**" In response, you may say, "**And also with you!**" (you may pass the peace in the comments section)

Children are invited to gather by the round table in the narthex for Children's Church.

***RESPONSE** Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me (vs 1) #582

CHANCEL CHOIR

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament

Sermon What Do We Do With Fear?

New Testament

Isaiah 60:1-6

Rev. Brett M. Foote

Matthew 2:1-12, 16-18

***APOSTLES CREED**

One: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP & MISSION

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Alex Sandor

***RESPONSE** Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow #606

***PRAYER OVER OFFERING**

One: Let us bless these gifts.

All: God of the magi and God of us, thank You for setting stars and lights in our Superior skies. May we always reach out to our neighbors, whoever they are, wherever they are from, with care. Help us to give of our time, talents, and treasures as we serve the Superior community. May we live Your expansive love. We give You thanks for all of these gifts and what they mean for the kingdom of God. Send Your Spirit so we can connect with, serve, and care for this congregation, Superior community, and world. May we live with the power and humility of Your Son Jesus and His birth as we navigate this fearful world. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

***COMMUNION HYMN** Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread #500

EUCARISTIC PRAYER

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God most High.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: Beckoning God, from every corner we have come looking for You. A thousand monsters reared their heads along the way, threatening to derail us. But we are here nonetheless.

All: We have gone over, around, under, and through our fear. And when we faced fears we couldn't evade, we took that fear by the hand and dragged it along with us on the journey, because we will stop at nothing to follow you.

One: Your star calls us forward, ever forward toward our convictions, toward our dreams, toward a world that reflects Your justice, peace, and love, toward our belonging in the great family of creation.

All: Your star calls us forward, and the gifts that await are too great to hand over to fear. In this communion we share, in the words we are about to receive, may we find courage and strength for the journey.

One: When fear threatens to stop us, may we hold onto these gifts and remember what lies ahead.

All: When the journey is challenging, lift our heads to see our companions on the journey and the shining star that lights the way. You go with us, and if You are with us, what shall we fear?

One: Beckoning God, we follow You into the unknown, with heads held high or knees quaking in fear. When the way ahead is unsure, we return to what we know:

All: You are Emmanuel, God-With-Us. So come Holy Spirit to this table of grace once again as we pray the prayer your son Jesus taught his disciples by saying...

LORD'S PRAYER (Here's our suggested version, but feel free to pray the version you are most familiar with.)

All: 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Sharing the Bread and Cup + Receiving Our Star Words

You are invited to participate in this sacrament regardless of age, church affiliation, or location. Here at the church we invite you to come forward in two lines, row by row, down the middle of the sanctuary to receive the elements. Return to your seat via the side aisles. Please raise your hand in your seat if you would like to receive the elements without leaving it. We will come around and offer them to you.

Before you receive the sacrament there will be a basket of Star Words that have been prayed over. You may take one and set it as an intentional word you have received from God to lead you into the next year. Keep it somewhere close and reflect on it often. Our prayer for you is that the word you receive will help guide you into what God is doing for you and in you in this new year just as the star guided the magi. It's normal for the word to feel weird at first, for it to feel startling and for it to feel like it really has no purpose in your life. Pray through that and be observant to where God may be at work.)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: Let us give thanks. Holy God, You always show up. Even in our fear, even in times of uncertainty, even when we can't seem to take the next step, You are with us. You are behind us, before us, and beside us, hemming us in with Your love.

All: As we sit with these star words, open our hearts to the wisdom they hold. Keep our minds nimble and flexible, awake to the constellation of meanings we may find in a single word. May they challenge us, comfort us, and call us forward.

One: Let these words be a reminder of Your presence with us. May they give us courage and guidance for the year ahead. Let them shine in the dark, pointing us toward You. And at the end of this year, may we look back at the paths we took and see how in every moment, You journeyed with us.

All: Gratefully we pray in the name of Your Son Jesus, amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

***CLOSING HYMN You Shall Go Out with Joy**

#80

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHOE DRIVE

Funds2org are planning to pick up shoes January 7th. If you still have shoes to drop off, should do so Monday or Tuesday January 5th or 6th at your churches, or bring to box outside PLC. Thank you all!

BIRTHDAY POTLUCK

Join us for our Birthday Potluck on January 18 following the service. Everyone is welcome to attend and celebrate together. Be on the lookout for sign-up sheets in the narthex.

ANNUAL MEETING

Following the service and Birthday Potluck on January 18, everyone is welcome to stay for the Annual Meeting.

NEW YEAR

Wishing you all a Happy New Year from all of us at United!

CHRISTMAS CLEAN-UP

Next Sunday, following the service, we will be doing Christmas clean-up. Anyone who is able to stay and help is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN DONATE ONLINE?

At United Presbyterian Church, we offer many opportunities to give of yourself to glorify God.

From signing up to volunteer to donating financially, if you'd like to support the mission and vision of the church you can do so at the following link:

<https://www.upc-superior.com/donate>

THE LORD'S SUPPER is open to all Christians. Celebrating the Eucharist is not a right conferred upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in curiosity, faith, repentance, and love. In preparing to be brought into the presence of Christ in this Sacrament, the person confesses sin and brokenness, seeks reconciliation with God and neighbor, and trusts in Jesus Christ for cleansing and renewal. Even one who doubts, or whose trust is wavering, comes to the Table to be assured of God's love and grace in Jesus Christ.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 60:1-6

OLD TESTAMENT

60:1 Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. **2** For darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples, but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. **3** Nations shall come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn. **4** Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together; they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms. **5** Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you; the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

6 A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Matthew 2:1-12, 16-18

2:1 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, **2** asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." **3** When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, **4** and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. **5** They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: **6** 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.' " **7** Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. **8** Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." **9** When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. **10** When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. **11** On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. **12** And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. **16** When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. **17** Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: **18** "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

WAYS TO SERVE

There are plenty of ways to get involved here at United!

*Sign-up sheets are in the narthex.

- Coffee Hour*—Make coffee and bring treats for everyone.
- Liturgist*—Being a liturgist is a great opportunity to get involved by leading the church in our scripture readings and our call to worship.
- Crafters Group—Every Wednesday at 10:00 AM in the crafting room inside the Fellowship Hall. Contact the office to learn more.
- Community Dinner—Volunteer for our Community Dinner the third Sunday in October, February, June, and August. To learn more, contact the office or Dawn Long at 218-590-9376.
- Nursery—Come spend time with our babies and toddlers in the nursery during the Sunday service! You will serve with a Nursery Coordinator once or twice a month (your choice). Contact Laura at laura.foote@upc-superior.com to learn more or sign up. *A background check is required.*
- Children's Church—Come support our young ones as they grow in their faith during Children's Church! This takes place during the Sunday service. You can volunteer once or twice a month (your choice). Contact Laura at laura.foote@upc-superior.com to learn more or sign up. *A background check is required.*
- Technology/AV Desk—Volunteer to run the AV on a rotating, weekly, or monthly basis. Training will be provided! Questions? Contact Mac Burriss 304-890-2375.
- Hotdish Initiative—We're looking for volunteers to help distribute meals to individuals and families in need. If you're looking to help out or learn more, contact Jane Wester at 218-591-7633.

WAYS TO LEARN, GROW, & GET INVOLVED

- Pickleball—Every Tuesday & Thursday at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall at UPC. All are welcome!
- Volleyball—Every Sunday at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall at UPC.
- Men's Breakfast—First Saturday of each month at 9:00 AM at Superior Family Restaurant. This month it is on January 3rd. Questions? Contact Tom Lisak at 218-348-5390.
- Presbyterian Women—Meet the first Wednesday of every month (except January, February, and July) at 9:30 AM. December and June meetings are lunches at 12:30 PM. To learn more, contact Bonnie Wallin at 715-392-7029.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY 1/4

8:45 AM Chancel Choir
11:15 AM SF Volunteer Meeting
6:00 PM Volleyball

TUESDAY 1/6

10:00 AM Pickleball
1:00 PM AA Meeting

MONDAY 1/5

2:30 PM Piano Lessons
3:30 PM Fellowship & Outreach
5:00 PM Worship Committee

WEDNESDAY 1/7

Annual Report Deadline
10:00 AM Crafters Group
12:00 PM Staff Meeting
2:00 PM CSA Pick-up
4:00 PM Piano Lessons
4:30 PM Deacons Meeting
6:00 PM Book Club

FRIDAY 1/9

THURSDAY 1/8

10:00 AM Pickleball
3:30 PM Piano Lessons
4:00 PM Kickstarters Soccer
5:00 PM Building & Grounds
6:00 PM Get To Know United

SATURDAY 1/10

Birthdays This Week

1/7—Barb Granquist
1/7—Monica Lenihan
1/8—Deborah Schlacks
1/10—Bob McClellan
1/10—Kirsten Standen

He Came Down

137

He came down that we may have love; he
 came down that we may have love; he came down that we may
 Leader: Why did he come?
 have love; hal-le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.

Additional stanzas:

... that we may have light
... that we may have peace
... that we may have joy

582

Glory to God,

Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Capo 3: (G) (D) (G) (D) (G) (D) (Em) (D)
 B♭ F B♭ F B♭ F Gm F

1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,
 2 World with - out end, γ with - out end. A - men.

(D) (G) (C) (G) (Em7) (A7)
 F B♭ E♭ B♭ Gm7 C7

and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,
 World with - out end, γ with - out end. A - men.

(A7) (D) (F♯) (Bm)
 C7 F A Dm

and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.
 World with - out end, γ with - out end. A - men.

(Bm7) (D) (Bdim7) (Em7) (Dm)(A7) (D)
 Dm7 F Ddim7 Gm7 Fm C7 F

As it was in the be - gin-ning, is now and ev-er shall be. A - men.

IN CHRIST ALONE

Words & Music Stuart Townend & Keith Getty

1. In Christ a - lone my hope is found, He is my
 2. (In Christ a) - lone! - who took on flesh, ful-ness of
 3. There in the ground His bo - dy lay, Light of the

light, my strength, my song; this Cor-ner- stone, this so - lid Ground, firm through the
 God in help - less babe! This gift of love andrigh-teous-ness, scorned by the up from the
 World by dark - ness slain: then burst ing forth in glor-ious day

fier - est drought and storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are
 ones He came to save: Till on that cross as Je - sus died, as the wrath of
 grave He rose a - gain! And as He stands in vic - to - ry sin's curse has

stilled, when striv-ings cease! My Com - for - ter, my All in All, here in the
 God lost was sa - tis - fied - for e - v'ry sin on Him was laid; here in the
 its grip on me, for I am His and He is mine - bought with the

In Christ alone

1. Eb Ab/Eb Eb Ab Bb Eb/G
 2. In Christ a - live. Christ.
 3. Eb

Abmaj7/Bb Gm7/Bb Ebm9 Fm/Eb Abmaj7/Bb
 4. No guilt in

Gm7/C Abm7add4 F7sus4
 N.C. N.C. N.C. N.C. N.C. N.C.

life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in me; from life's first

cry to fi - nal breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti - ny. No pow'r of

Abmaj7/Bb Gm7/Bb Abmaj7/Bb Gm7/Bb Abadd2
 hell, no scheme of man, can ev - er pluck me from His hand: Till He re -

Eb Ab Bb Eb/G Ab Eb/G Fm7 Ab/Bb Eb
 1. Eb To end Eb

- turns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand. No pow'r of stand.

Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread 500

1 Be known to us in break-ing bread, but do not then de - part;
 2 Here share with us, in love di - vine, your bod - y and your blood,

Sav - ior, a - bide with us, and spread your ta - ble in our heart.
 that liv - ing bread, that heaven-ly wine be our im-mor-tal food.

You Shall Go Out with Joy

The Trees of the Field

80

Em B7 Em B7 Em

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;

G C G D

the moun-tains and the hills will break forth be -

B N.C. Em B7 Em

fore you; there'll be shouts of joy, and all the

B7 Em B7 Em B7 Em

trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands.

D7 N.C. G C G D

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands;

D7 G D7 G

the trees of the field will clap their hands;

C G D

the trees of the field will clap their hands

B7 Em B7 Em

the trees of the field will clap their hands

while you go out with joy.

*Clap hands.