



**Galatians 5:25, NRSV**

**GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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Third Sunday after the Epiphany  
January 25, 2026  
Sermon Series: *Reset*

**Greeting**

Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lord, show us how we should live.

**People: We are guided by the Spirit,**

Leader: caring for others with gentleness and respect.

**People: God is teaching us to value each other.**

**All: Glory to God. Amen.**

Family of God, I welcome you to worship this third Sunday after the Epiphany and the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of our *Reset* worship series. Today we reset our values to God's values. You are invited to hear Paul's letter to the Galatians as he reveals *how* God wants us to treat ourselves...and others.

I welcome you to worship in the name of the Holy Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Prelude 'Humoreske'** – Robert Ashfield (1911-2006)

*The Light of Christ Enters the Sanctuary*

**Call to Worship (responsive)**

Leader: Spirit of the Living God, we seek your guidance. We come in need of direction and encouragement, because the life of faith can be challenging.

**People: Spirit of the Living God, equip us for faithfulness,**

Leader: empower us to discern true kin-dom values,

**People: and inspire us to embody the gospel this very day.**

**Opening Hymn “Have Thine Own Way, Lord”**

**1. Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! Thou art the potter; I am the clay. Mold me and make me after thy will, while I am waiting, yielded and still.**

**2. Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! Search me and try me, Savior today! Wash me just now, Lord, wash me just now, as in thy presence humbly I bow.**

**3. Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! Wounded and weary, help me I pray! Power, all power, surely is thine! Touch me and heal me, Savior divine!**

**4. Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! Hold o'er my being absolute sway. Fill with thy Spirit till all shall see Christ only, always, living in me!**

**Opening Prayer (in unison)**

**Holy Spirit, you are welcome in this space today and always in our lives. Oftentimes we focus on ourselves rather than on you, but we want to be better in our walk with you. Remember and redirect our ways we pray, as we ask for your Spirit to dwell among us, leading each one on our journey. For your blessings we pray. Amen.**

**Children’s Message**

**Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 9:1-4**

***A reading from the prophet Isaiah.***

*The Righteous Reign of the Coming King*

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.  
You have multiplied exultation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.  
For the yoke of their burden  
and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

**Psalter: Psalm 27:1, 4-9**

***A reading from the psalms***

*Triumphant Song of Confidence*

Leader: The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

**People: The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?**

Leader: One thing I asked of the LORD; this I seek:

**People: to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,  
to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.**

Leader: For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;

he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

**People: Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD.**

Leader: Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!

**People: “Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!” Your face, LORD, do I seek.**

Leader: Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help.

**People: Do not cast me off; do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!**

**Epistle Reading: Galatians 5:24 – 6:10**

***A reading from Paul’s letter to the Galatians***

*Living by the Spirit*

And those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ***If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.*** Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.

My brothers and sisters, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor's work, will become a cause for pride. For all must carry their own loads.

Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.

Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh, but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all and especially for those of the family of faith.

*Here ends the reading of the Word.*

#### **Gospel Hymn “Be Thou My Vision”**

**1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art. Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord; thou and thou only, first in my heart, great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**3. Great God of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

#### **Prayer of Illumination (unison) *Pastor Dionne***

**Gracious God, illumine our minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed our eyes may see your kingdom, our ears may hear the call of Jesus, and our hearts may know the joy of your salvation. Amen.**

#### **Gospel Lesson: Matthew 4:12-23**

***A reading of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.***

*Jesus Begins His Ministry in Galilee*

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,  
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—  
the people who sat in darkness  
have seen a great light,  
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death  
light has dawned.”

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, ***“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”***

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. And he said to them, ***“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.”*** Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

**Pastor: “The word of God for the people of God.”**

**People: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**“Reset Values”**  
Galatians 5:24 – 6:10

Rev. Dionne T. Hall  
Matthew 4:12 – 23

**Prayer of Preparation: Take me to the water, Take me to the water, Take me to the water to be baptized.  
None but the righteous, None but the righteous, None but the righteous shall see God.**

Gracious God, thank you for the waters of baptism. Thank you for waters that change us. Thank you for waters that lead us to you and how you would have us treat others. **Amen.**

**Apostle’s Creed**

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 Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;

The third day he arose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at 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 Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. *Amen.*

### **Gloria Patri**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

### **Pastoral Prayer**

God of all creation, who called every being into life, who is mindful of humankind in all its diversity, who embodies us with dignity, granting different gifts and talents to shape life in this world, we ask for your Spirit to unite us where we face lack of understanding and disunity in our churches, in our communities, in our countries. And in silence, we lay before you the burdens of our hearts.

We ask for your Spirit to unite us in the face of the conflicts, hatred, and violation of life experienced in so many regions of the earth and, in silence, we bring to you the pain of the victims.

We ask for your Spirit to unite us wherever fear prevents us from caring for our neighbor, from meeting people of different ethnicities, cultures, and faith communities with respect and, in silence, we bring to you the brokenness of human relationships.

God of all creation, in Christ, we are reconciled, and so we ask for your uniting Spirit to help us overcome all our divisions that we may live in peace.

***Let us pray, as Jesus taught those whom God calls beloved...***

### **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.**

### **Call to Confession**

Let us confess our sins before God, the source of freedom and forgiveness.

### **Prayer of Confession (unison)**

Holy Christ, we come to You knowing that we have fallen away from your intentions for us. We have followed the paths of greed and envy, turned away from our brothers and sisters in need to satisfy our own desires. You gave your life for us, and yet we are willing to give so little. Forgive us for not understanding that You laid down your life for us. Forgive us for not recognizing the sacrifice of love, to live for others instead of ourselves. Call us back to repent and return to the kingdom of God. In your precious name, we pray. *Amen.*

### **Words of Assurance (responsive)**

Leader: Christ continues to lay down his life for us, so that we might have life. Christ continues to show us the way, so that we might live into the truth and the life. Christ continues to love us, so that we might love God and love our neighbors as ourselves. Know that you are forgiven, loved, and given new life.

All: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.**

### **Passing of the Peace (responsive)**

Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

People: **And also with you.**

### **Invitation to the Offering**

God has blessed us with life guided by the Holy Spirit. Paul told the Galatians that caring for the family of faith and working for the good of all are central to this new life. This message is for us too. You are invited to give generously today to support our family of faith and the work it does for the good of our community and world.

### **Offertory Anthem 'From The Rising Of The Sun' – Frederick Ouseley**

(1825-1889)

### **Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### Offertory Prayer (unison)

Abundant God, today we commit to giving you all that we are and all you have provided to us. Please keep us from only following the letter of the law, and instead help us be led by your Spirit in all things. Receive our tithes and offerings today and give us wisdom so we may use them to bring you glory. *Amen.*

### Closing Hymn "We've a Story to Tell to the Nations"

1. We've a story to tell to the nations, that shall turn their hearts to the right, a story of truth and mercy, a story of peace and light, a story of peace and light. For the darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright; and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth, the kingdom of love and light.

2. We've a song to be sung to the nations, that shall lift their hearts to the Lord, a song that shall conquer evil and shatter the spear and sword, and shatter the spear and sword. For the darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright; and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth, the kingdom of love and light.

3. We've a message to give to the nations, that the Lord who reigneth above hath sent us his Son to save us, and show us that God is love, and show us that God is love. For the darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright; and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth, the kingdom of love and light.

4. We've a Savior to show to the nations, who the path of sorrow hath trod, that all of the world's great peoples might come to the truth of God, might come to the truth of God. For the darkness shall turn to dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright; and Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth, the kingdom of love and light.

**Postlude 'Sortie'** – Noel Rawsthorne (1929-2019)

*The Light of Christ goes into the world.*

### Charge

God is our light, our hope, our all in all

Christ is our home, our life, our joy

Our worship concludes; our service continues.

### Benediction

May the grace of Christ who calls us go with you. May the power of the Holy Spirit who empowers us sustain you. May the salvation of God who loves us give you peace.

Grace Notes  
January 25, 2026

Mission Statement: *Glorify God ~ Draw All to Christ ~ Edify & Equip*

**From the Pastor:** If we were to all live guided by the Spirit, how would our relationships with one another and the world change? How might our community look as we reset our values to embody all that God is calling us to?  
Pastor Dionne

**Membership Reports:** As faithful members of Grace UMC, we faithfully strive to remember our membership vows to support the church by upholding the church with our ***prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.***

**Prayers** - Persons listed on Joys & Concerns will appear for two weeks. Please fill out a request card if you would like your request shared on Sunday morning and listed in Grace Notes. You may call or email the church office Monday thru Wednesday (**by 10am**) with those you would like to include or remove. If a person requires additional time, or has a long-term illness, request they be added to the "Long-term" list. The joys and concerns will list first name and last initial; no details will appear.

### **Joys & Concerns**

**Jan. 18:** Lynne U.

**Jan. 11:** Mike P., Susan C., Vickie S.

**Prayers (Long-term):** John S., Paul H., Ron S., Robin G., Lucy K.; Bill S., Erin B., Doris K.; Bill H., Wendi C., Margie C., Bev. B., Connie M.; Vickie S., Rhonda and Tony W., Harriett H., Frannie J.

### **The Daily Scripture Lessons**

Sunday – Galatians 5:24-6:10

Monday – Matthew 6:24  
Tuesday – Hebrews 13:5  
Wednesday – Proverbs 12:22  
Thursday – Luke 6:35-36  
Friday – Mark 11:25  
Saturday – Colossians 3:1

**Presence** – Join us for worship in person or via Facebook Live.  
Worship: 65 Sunday School: 38 Facebook Live: 133 Ladies T4U:

**GIFTS** – Your gifts offer HOPE to Grace Church and the community. When we tithe, we follow the example given to us in Genesis 28:10-22 by giving at least 10% to the **General Fund**. United Methodists value the tithe as a benchmark for giving, one we encourage our members to move toward and, once achieved, move beyond. We believe that there is joy in giving, and the greater the generosity the deeper the joy. The **General Fund** is responsible for ensuring all the needs of the church are met; this includes all of the ministries, missions, and operational costs of Grace Church. *The One Board (as of May 14, 2023) asks that all tithes and offerings be placed in the General Fund except those for T.H.R.I.V.E., Micah's Backpack & Building for the Future. Separate envelopes are provided for these ministries and located by the lectern. This is the only way to donate to these ministries.* This will allow Grace Church to move towards fully funding all ministries and missions of the church. This will bring us up to date with current UMC budget practices.

**General Fund:** \$1,936.16

**Endowment Withdrawal:** \$

**Estate Gift:**

**Music Fund:** \$200.00

**Needed for Weekly Budget:** \$4,500

**Building for the Future:** \$155.00

**T.H.R.I.V.E. & Micah's Backpack:** \$5.00

#### **Service and Witness:**

**Ushers:** J.C. Martin, Bill Thompson, Donna and Roy Shoop, Madison Shoop, Lucas Shoop, Ella Sholty, Justus Osuji

**Greeter:** Daisy Wolfensberger

**Lay Readers:** John Hess, Earlene Johnson, Sandy Kendall, Kurt Zimmerman

**Media Managers:** Donnie Bryan, Roy Shoop

**Choir:** Becca Bryan, Donnie Bryan, Patti Hull, Hannah Kamseuh, Polly Martin, Peace Osuji, Ryan Wetzel

**Congregational Care Committee/Communion Stewards:** Chris Jeter, Krista Zimmerman, Cindy Tedrick, Ruth Smith, Patti Hull, Helen Gilliam, Daisy Wolfensberger, Polly Martin, Rose Shank, Earlene Johnson, Sandy Kendall, Donna Bolinger, Amy Bryan, Becca Bryan, Jane Staley, Rhonda Weaver, Wanda Stouffer, Ruth Thompson, Pastor Dionne, Sonja Shearer, Cindy Swales, Patty Frazier, Caroline Jenkins and Vivienne, Margaret Hess

**T.H.R.I.V.E.** (Thankful, Hopeful, Revitalized, Intentional, Victorious, Educated). Continued needs are non-perishables, dry goods, feminine care products, hand soap, shower gel, razors, shave cream, individually wrapped paper towels and toilet paper, shampoo, toothpaste/toothbrushes, laundry detergent, etc. Monetary donations are gratefully accepted, and please use the indicated envelopes located by the lectern. **Closet 712** Volunteers are always appreciated. Donations drop off is Monday -Thursday 10am-12pm., **fall and winter clothing ONLY.** Both T.H.R.I.V.E and the clothes closet are open on Saturday, **February 14, 2026**, 10:00am – 11:00 am.

**Pastoral Care and Emergency Contact Information:** In case of an emergency, please contact Pastor Dionne at (240) 347-2345 (cell), Facebook Messenger, or [pastordionne.hall@gmail.com](mailto:pastordionne.hall@gmail.com). The church office number is (240) 850-2934. Please inform the hospital and/or funeral home that Pastor Dionne is the Pastor at Grace. **The Pastor and church should be notified of any illness or death of a member or family member first.** The Pastor will confirm availability dates for Services of Death and Resurrection with the funeral home director.

## CALENDAR

<b>Sun., Jan. 25</b>	8:30 & 10:00 am 9:00 am 10:15 am	Coffee, Donuts & Fellowship is provided in Rider Hall Worship, <i>Third Sunday after the Epiphany</i> Sunday school for all ages
<b>Tues., Jan. 27</b>	6:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Wed., Jan. 28</b>	1:30 – 3:00 pm	Pop Up Pantry
<b>Sun., Feb. 1</b>	8:30 & 10:00 am 9:00 am 10:15 am	Coffee, Donuts & Fellowship is provided in Rider Hall Worship, <i>Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany, Communion</i> Sunday school for all ages
<b>Mon., Feb. 2</b>	12:00 pm	T4U Luncheon and meeting in Rider Hall
<b>Tues., Feb. 3</b> attend)	10: 00 am	One Board meeting in Rider Hall (all are welcome to
<b>Wed., Feb. 4</b>	1:30 – 3:00 pm	Pop Up Pantry
<b>Sun., Feb. 8</b>	8:30 & 10:00 am 9:00 am 10:15 am 4:00 pm	Coffee, Donuts & Fellowship is provided in Rider Hall Worship, <i>Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany</i> Sunday school for all ages <b><i>Sylvan Waters Duo, Harp and Double Bass Concert</i></b>
<b>Tues., Feb. 10</b>	6:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Thurs., Feb. 12</b>	10:30 am	Senior Citizens meeting in Rider Hall

**The Chosen – Join us on Saturdays, February 21 (Episodes 3 & 4), March 21 (Episodes 5 & 6) and April 18 (Episodes 7 & 8) from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm for Chicken, Waffles, and The Chosen.**

