

# GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A Protestant church in the worldwide Anglican Communion.

#### **Christmas Eve**

December 24, 2025 – LARGE PRINT EDITION

Before the Service — Speak quietly to God During the Service — Let God speak to you After the Service — Speak to one another

#### LITURGICAL SEASON EXPLAINED

For the church, Christmas is a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. We celebrate this birth not because Jesus was simply a "good man," but because we believe Jesus was and is both the human son of Mary and the divine Son of God. That makes Christmas a time to reflect on a mystery that the church calls the doctrine of the Incarnation. This important theological term comes from the Latin word *carne*, which means "flesh," and has to do with the divine taking on human flesh and coming among us in human form. The Incarnation is absolutely central to the Christian faith, and yet it remains an unexplainable mystery in our Church and in our lives. The official liturgical term for our celebration of the birth of Jesus on December 25 is "The Feast of the Nativity," but we typically use the word "Christmas"; this season runs for 12 days up to the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6. White, the color assigned to the Christmas season, has a variety of symbolic meanings including purity, innocence, being washed clean, light, brightness, hope, and new life.

#### TO JOIN SERVICES ONLINE OR BY PHONE

To join the 8:30 service online, visit our website at gracechurchmtclemens.org and follow the links.

To join the 8:30 service by phone, call 312-626-6799
8:30 AM Service: Meeting ID: 881 8016 9300 Password: 246040

Follow the link on our website to watch the 10:30 service on YouTube.

Rector: The Rev. Steven Steinberger-Domienik
Cell: 203-641-2068
Clergy Emerita: The Rev. Deacon Betty Brogan
Mr. Josh Dulin, Minister of Music
115 South Main Street, Mt Clemens, MI 48043
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Visit us on the web at
www.gracechurchmtclemens.org



# CHRISTMASTIME

# **OPENING HYMN: O Come, All Ye Faithful**

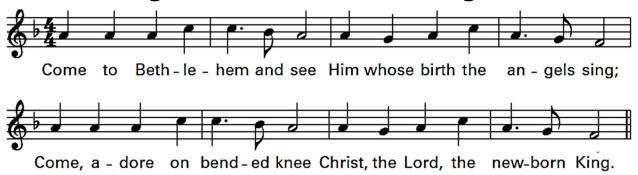


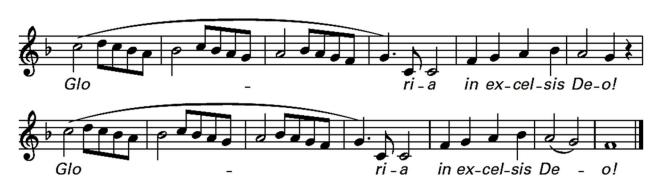
# **CANDLE-LIGHTING PRAYER**

Celebrant:

We have been watching and waiting, and Christmas is finally here! So for this last time, we light all four Advent candles and we now add the large white candle in the center of our wreath: the Christ Candle of Salvation. As all the candles are lit, let us remember that what was hidden in darkness is now bathed in light, and go forth to share God's illumination with the entire world. **AMEN.** 

# **GLORIA: Angels We Have Heard On High**





Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

# **COLLECT OF THE DAY**

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **AMEN.** 

# Tonight's Readers: (5 PM) **Selia Tuten**(9 PM) **Gay Gillespie & Scot Lau**Next Sunday's Readers (Lessons & Carols at 10 AM): **Cheryle Kahl, Gay Gillespie, Lydia Reed**

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please be seated

#### FIRST READING Isaiah 9:2-7

Reader A reading from the book of Isaiah.

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 the nation, 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. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

**RESPONSE** Psalm 96 – *Cantate Domino*Verses read alternately by the reader and people, breaking at the \*

- <sup>1</sup>Sing to the Lord a new song;\*
  sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
- <sup>2</sup>Sing to the Lord and bless his Name;\*
  proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- <sup>3</sup>Declare his glory among the nations\* and his wonders among all peoples.
- <sup>4</sup>For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;\*
  he is more to be feared than all gods.
- <sup>5</sup>As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;\* **but it is the Lord who made the heavens.**
- <sup>6</sup>Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence!\* **Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!**
- <sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples;\* ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

- <sup>8</sup>Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name;\* **bring offerings and come into his courts.**
- <sup>9</sup>Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;\*

  let the whole earth tremble before him.
- <sup>10</sup>Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King!\* he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."
- <sup>11</sup>Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it;\* let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- <sup>12</sup>Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord when he comes,\* when he comes to judge the earth.
- <sup>13</sup>He will judge the world with righteousness\* and the peoples with his truth.

# **SECOND READING** Titus 2:11-14

Reader A reading from the letter of Paul to Titus.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

# **GOSPEL HYMN: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly**



**GOSPEL** Luke 2:1-20

The Rev. Steven Steinberger-Domienik

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in

the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Celebrant The Gospel of our Lord.

**People** Praise to you, Lord Christ.

HOMILY

The Rev. Steven Steinberger-Domienik

# THE APOSTLES' CREED

This is an ancient baptismal creed, but using the words "I give my heart," a truer translation of the Latin word "credo" than "I believe."

I give my heart to God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I give my heart to Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried, and descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I give my heart to the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic and apostolic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN.

# **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** The People stand or kneel

Leader Sisters and brothers, rejoicing in the love of God that has taken flesh among us in Christ Jesus, let us confidently bring to the Lord the petitions of our heart this Christmas night, saying:

# People Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader For the believing community throughout the world, especially for those in positions of leadership: May they always work to give glory to God and to bring peace to our earth.

# People Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader For all the people gathered this night to worship and praise God around the world: May we always bear the good news of Christ, our light in the world.

# People Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For those lost in the darkness of prejudice, hostility, and fear; for those burdened by the yoke of injustice, terrorism, hunger, and war, especially in Ukraine, Israel and Palestine, Haiti, and Sudan; and for all our brothers and sisters in any type of need: May the love of Jesus touch their hearts, bringing them peace, hope, and healing.

# People Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader For the homeless, and for children born in the midst of poverty and pain: May there be room at the inn for all God's people.

# People Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader For the sick and the dying among us, and for those who care for them: May the love of our

Savior bless and comfort them, this night and always.

People Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all those who have asked for our prayers, including those on our prayer list. Are there others?

Bless, comfort, and protect all those for whom we pray.

People Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the children in our lives and in our world:
Grant us calm strength and patient wisdom that
we may teach them to love whatever is just, true,
and good.

People Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

#### **CONCLUDING COLLECT**

All-loving and gracious God, we thank you for gracing us with the gift of your Son this night. Confident of your continuing love for us, we have placed our needs before you. Hear and answer our prayers, through that same newborn Jesus whom we welcome and celebrate forever and ever. **AMEN.** 

# THE PEACE

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Please share a sign of peace with one another.

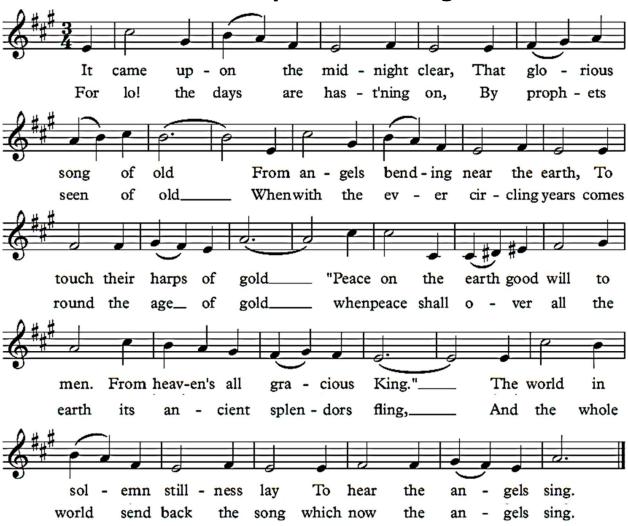
# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please be seated

# OFFERTORY HYMN (9 PM): What Child Is This?

(Instrumental, Brooke Lau)

# **DOXOLOGY: It Came Upon The Midnight Clear**





# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Please stand as you are able

Celebrant May God be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them up to our God.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to our God.

**People** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

#### Celebrant continues:

Almighty God, we gather around this table like those who thronged your Son's manger, longing for you to bring women and men, kings and queens, working people, homeless people, gay, lesbian, queer, and straight people, black, white, and brown people, to the place where our humanity and your divinity meet.

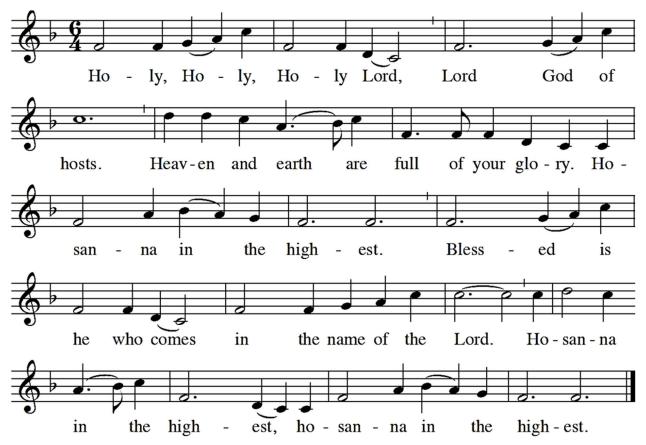
# We are your people, and the work of your hand.

You had too much love to keep it to yourself; and though we took up arms against you and one another, you disarmed us in coming into our midst as a defenseless baby. As his arms were tied in swaddling clothes, so later his hands were nailed to the cross; yet you made his birth the foretaste of our redemption and his death the gateway to resurrected life.

# We are your people, and the work of your hand.

You give us such joy and peace in your company that our hearts join the angels in the Christmas sky over Bethlehem, singing the hymn of your eternal praise:

# **SANCTUS**



#### Celebrant continues:

God of new birth, as you laid your Son in Mary's arms, you place these gifts of bread and wine in our hands. Sanctify your church to be as fragile and tender and true as the infant Savior.

We ask you, Lord God, to send your Spirit upon these gifts: Let this bread and wine become for us the Body and Blood of Christ. And send your Spirit upon us, also, that our lives may reflect your light in the darkness, and show the world whose people we are.

And so many years later, on the night before He died for us, Jesus was at supper with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again he gave thanks to you, gave it to them and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

# We are your people, and the work of your hand.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, from the ends of the earth to the heights of heaven, we praise you with the joy of the redeemed.

# Amen! Come, Lord Jesus, come!



# THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant says:

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

Our Father in heaven, holy is your Name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. AMEN.

# FRACTION: Lamb Of God



Celebrant The Gifts of God, for all of us, the holy people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith and with thanksgiving.

# **COMMUNION**

# Communion at Grace is Open to Everyone

Whoever you are, wherever you find yourself on the journey of faith, there is a place for you at God's table. You may choose to receive bread (gluten free wafers available upon request). You may choose to receive wine in the silver chalice or grape juice in the white and blue chalice. You may drink from either cup or intinct (dip) the bread into the chalice. You may refrain from the bread and chalice and just receive a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest.



# **COMMUNION HYMN: Wood Of The Cradle**



INSTRUMENTAL SELECTION (5 PM):
What Child Is This? / The Coventry Carol (Brooke Lau)
CHOIR SELECTION (9 PM):
Sing Noel!

#### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

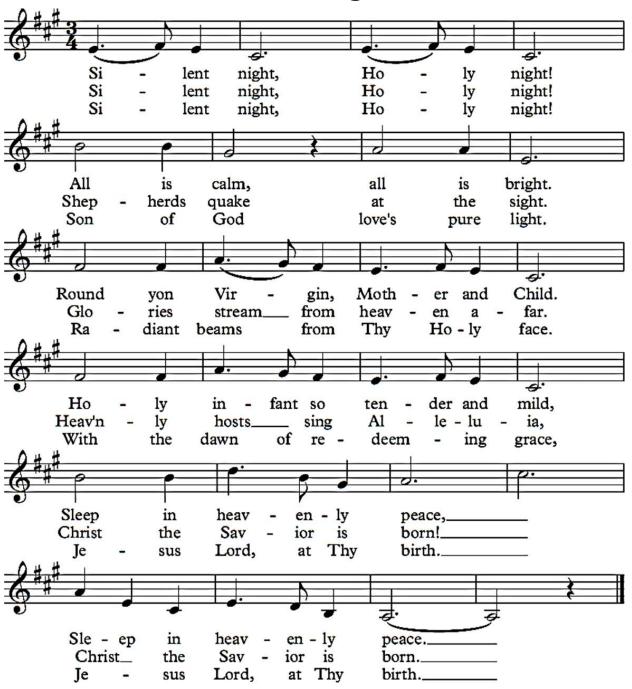
Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People say together:

We praise and thank you, God our Creator, for you have not left us alone. Each year you come to us as Emmanuel, God with us, in a manger; each time you come to us in the broken bread and cup we share. Give us courage to see your Christ in all who suffer; and to offer our hands to the helpless, food to the hungry, and rescue for the oppressed. In his holy Name we pray. AMEN.



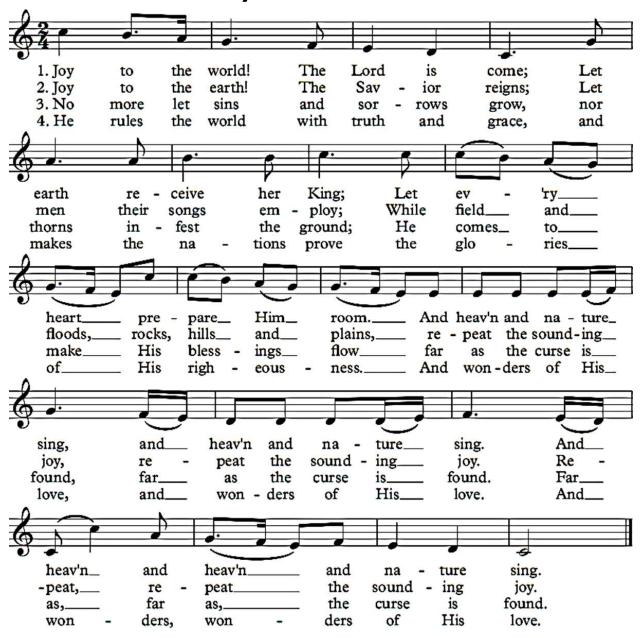
# **CANDLE-LIGHTING: Silent Night**



# **BLESSING**

May the newborn Jesus fill your hearts and minds with light, love, and peace; and may the blessing of God Almighty, God our Creator, God our Redeemer, and God our Sanctifier be with you this day and remain with you forever. **AMEN.** 

# **CLOSING HYMN: Joy To The World!**



#### **DISMISSAL**

Celebrant My sisters and brothers, our Christmas worship

has ended; let our rejoicing continue. Go in peace to love and praise our God. Alleluia,

alleluia, alleluia!

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

# The Prayers of this Congregation

Sean Rowe, our Presiding Bishop; our Bishop, Bonnie Anne Perry; Moises Quezada Mota, Bishop of the Diocese of the Dominican Republic; Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA Presiding Bishop; Donald P. Kreiss, ELCA Bishop, SE Michigan Synod; Craig A. Satterlee, ELCA Bishop, NW Lower Michigan Synod. Our retired bishop, Wendell Gibbs; our retired community, spouses, and companions. Our diocesan household: Committees, commissions, ministries, agencies, priests, deacons, lay leaders, volunteers, and staff members; Steven Steinberger–Domienik; Grace Church Mt. Clemens; Bonao, DR Church of the Pentecost.

For Donna Hanes; Katherine Domienik; Jasmine Gardner; Tom & Sandy Krell; Frankie Dion; Elliott Belair; Charlotte Kalligeros; Tom Stotz; Jennifer Holland; Joan Walsh; Elizabeth Gage; Logan & Teresa Davidson; Jeanne Nowak; Donna Powell; Pamela Sherry; Linda Fields; Michael Woodard; Pat Greenwood; Sara Mattocks; Gene Skladnowski; Sherie Borsa; Joan Donald; Rob Haynes; Scott Kadets; Brenda Steinberger-Domienik; Laurisa; Jason Zadorski; Pat Ruditis; Jean & Terry Hitchcock; Laura Mary Lake; Allen Clay; Mary Anne Jackson; Beth Smith; Martha Wehba; Holly Quintero; Jody Gorney; Tammy Murphy; Eka & Kiana Bassey; Suzanne LaMontagne; Vito Fontana; Christa Carpenter; Nancy & Bob Johnson; John Kelvin; Rick Ghersi; Rory Heinz; Louise Lambert; Carole Schwertman; the St. Peter family; Tish Germain; Shirley & Nelson Rumpel; Nicoletta Palazzolo; Lucy Smith & family; Helen Fitzgibbon; Joyce & Roy Schafer; Danielle; Leo Bradley, Jr.; Betty Brogan; the Biehl family; the family of Dolora Paull; Ulrike Lamb; Debbie H.; Sue Miller; Vickie Rose; Kristi Frangedakis; the family of Carolyn Siewert; Beverly Wolff; Ellen Laudicina; Beth Jarvis; Dave Salyer; Al Gazoul; Randy; Bill Atkinson.

Please note: Names will remain on the prayer list for one month.

In order to add someone or keep someone on the prayer list, please call the office.

Do you know someone who is ill? Please contact the office and we will add them to the list.

#### The MINISTRIES of GRACE CHURCH Currently

#### **WORSHIP SERVICES**

Sundays, in person & online 8:30 & 10:30 AM. Visit our website for more information. Bible Study: Sundays at 9:30 AM in the Guild Room

#### **OUTREACH MINISTRIES**

Community Suppers: Wednesdays at 4:00 Sunday Suppers: Sundays at 4:00, November-March

#### **Food Pantry:**

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 10 AM -12 noon, curbside pickup Serving from 250 - 350 people every month

#### Fueling Kids' Futures:

Tuesdays at 2:00 PM at Oakley Industries, Inc. Plant 4 35088 Automation Drive Clinton Township, MI 48035 No packing this Tuesday, December 30

All outreach ministries welcome volunteers, financial donations, or food and clothing donations.

Call the office to learn about helping or giving: 586-465-4573

#### **CURRENT ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please send all bulletin submissions to bulletins@gracechurchmtclemens.org

#### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

Please sign up for altar flowers on the bulletin board in the hallway leading to the sanctuary.

#### **COFFEE HOUR**

Please volunteer to host a coffee hour; the sign-up sheet is in the hallway. The host(s) makes and sets up the coffee and any snacks and then cleans up afterwards. You may also be reimbursed for any money you spend for snacks—just let Marchea (in the office) know! Thank you for sharing in the hospitality ministry of our parish!

#### **BIBLE STUDY**

Please join us on **Sundays** at **9:30 AM** in the Guild Room for our Bible study. No preparation needed; just come and listen and join in the conversation. Each session is self-contained so you do not have to attend

each week; come when you can. We learn a great deal about Scripture, our faith, ourselves, and each other! Hope to see you there!

#### **CHOIR**

Please join us for choir rehearsal on **Wednesdays** at **6:30 PM** in the sanctuary. No experience required; just bring your spirited heart and a friend! Thank you!

#### **MACOMB COUNTY WINTER SHELTER 2025-26**

The Macomb County Winter Shelter opens on December 21 and runs through March 21, 2026. It's located in the former Trinity Lutheran Church/School at 8150 Chapp Ave. in Warren, east of Van Dyke and just south of Stephens.

Our church volunteers will share a week with First United Methodist Church, January 4-10. First United volunteers will cook and serve from January 4-7, and we'll finish the week, working **January 8-10**. Kirsten Blackburn is our kitchen manager and will plan the menu and cook. She'll need help with cooking and transporting food to the shelter. There are a variety of other jobs for volunteers such as: line manager, registration, bag check-in, kitchen helpers, and light cleaning helpers. They need 2-6 people per job, and the hours are from 6 to 9 PM. Volunteers are asked to carpool to the shelter each night if possible. We can meet in our church parking lot and drive to the shelter together. There are sign-up lists and job descriptions on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please see me or Kirsten if you have any questions. I hope you will consider taking part in this important ministry. Thank you!

-Ann Farrell

#### **BOOK CLUB**

The book club will meet **January 8**, **2026** at **6 PM** at Grace Church. The book we will discuss is America's First Daughter by Stephanie Dray and Laura Kamoie. This is a book focused on Patsy Jefferson and how she shaped the legacy of a new nation with her father, Thomas Jefferson. Please join us in January for a lively and interesting discussion. Call Ann Strevel if you need any further information.

