

*The United Methodist Church  
12 Commerce Street  
Clinton, CT*



**January 18, 2026  
Human Relations Day**

## WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

\*Please stand in body, and/or spirit

Welcome, Acknowledgements of first-time visitors and announcements

*Words to Ponder: Our faithful God strengthens us for the task and has already given us the support we need through Jesus Christ.*

Introit

Chancel Choir

\*Call to Worship (Responsively)

Children of God, who has God called you to be?

**A light to all the nations!**

When confusion, disunity, and misinformation threaten to undo us, who are you called to be?

**A light to all the nations!**

When wars and rumors of wars in our communities and around the world overwhelm us, who are you called to be?

**A light to all the nations!**

When the vulnerable are left without care or hope for flourishing, who are you called to be?

**A light to all the nations!**

Come! Let us worship God, who gives us as a light of good news to all the nations!

**We come to worship God, who calls us and equips us to reflect God's glory and abundant life into all the world. Amen.**

\*Opening Hymn

"I Love to Tell the Story"

No. 156

Opening Prayer (Unison)

**Guide our feet, Lord. Show us the light of grace when we would judge others too harshly. Warm our hearts with the glow of your love when we would spew icy words of spite. Illumine our souls with joyful delight when sadness tries to take over the day. Shine brightly on us today, Lord, until we reflect your glory as a witness to this world. Amen.**

Prayer of Confession (Responsively)

And so, we live our lives imperfectly, for we are flawed. But we are also loved by the God in whose image we were created. Let us remake ourselves toward that image as we make our confession before God and each other, first in silent prayer.

Gracious and loving God, hear our prayer. We know we do not always live as we ought: We turn away from you, from our neighbor, and from our true selves. We know we dim your light within us, With our pride, our self-righteousness, and our need for control We know that you love us, that you do not abandon us, and that again and again you call us back to you, back to love, back to grace, back to your light. Forgive us, we pray, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### *Brief moment of silent confession*

## Words of Assurance

Friends, hear the good news: the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting. Let us proclaim the good news: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia! **Amen.**

## 1<sup>st</sup> Scripture Reading      Isaiah 49:1-7 (Old Testament, CEB Version)

Leader: This is the Word of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## Anthem

## Chancel Choir

## Children's Moment

Pastor Rhonda Taylor

## \*2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture Reading

## John 1:29-42 (Gospel, CEB Version)

Leader: This is the Word of God.

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

## WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

“Never the Less, Come and See” Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor

## Offertory

Offerory

## Doxology

\*Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

**Ever-Present and Calling God, knowing us from the beginning, naming us as your own, you have entrusted us with the holy work of bearing your light to the world. Though we often feel unworthy or uncertain, you remind us that your grace goes before us, and your strength works through us. Receive these gifts, offered with gratitude and hope. Use them—and us—to proclaim your justice, to shine your love to the ends of the earth, and to glorify your name. In the name of Christ, your Servant and our Savior, we pray. Amen.**

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

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.**

\*Closing Hymn

“Christ for the World We Sing”

No. 568

Benediction

\*Response

“Bless Us Now”

Frank Milnes

Bless us now as we depart, watch o'er us, God, while we're apart; Give strength to conquer daily strain, and bring us to Thy house again. Amen

Postlude

*Flowers are from Laurie Bell in memory of her loving mother, Laura Burdette.*

Worship Resources

Call to Worship

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/glory-revealed/second-sunday-after-the-epiphany-year-a-lectionary-planning-notes/second-sunday-after-the-epiphany-year-a-liturgical-resources>

Opening Prayer

Written by Kwasi Kena, The Africana Worship Book Year A (Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 2006), 84.

Prayer of Confession & Words of Assurance

Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, “Hold Fast to What Is Good.” Used with permission. Posted at <https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/prayer-of-confession>.

**SUNDAY, JAN 18**

9:00 Sunday School  
10:00 Worship  
11:00 Fellowship/Soup Sale

**MONDAY, JAN 19-Martin Luther King's Day*****Office Closed***

WIC 8-5 pm

**TUESDAY, JAN 20**

10:00 Clever Crafters  
7:00 Bible Study Online

**WEDNESDAY, JAN 21**

9:30 TOPS  
5:00 Community Supper

**THURSDAY, JAN 22**

10:00 Bible Study  
7:30 Choir

**FRIDAY, JAN 23**

5:30 AA meeting

**Jan 18 (Human Relations Day)**

Ushers: Jeane Howard, Diana Vincent, Rick Gilcher, Sherry Hynes

Camera Operator: Val Gilcher

Video Coordinator: Erica Babjak

Worship Leader: Lydia Templeton

Sermon: Pastor Rhonda R. Taylor

Lectionary scriptures: Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 40:1-11 (UM774), 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42

Fellowship Host: Laurie Bell

Counters: Robin Patten and Barbara Cubberly

Music/Choir Director: Bob Hale

Organist: Patty Hurlburt

***Office Staff***

Donna Carpenter-Bronson, 860-669-8396, 9-1 weekdays

Email: [office@clintonctumc.org](mailto:office@clintonctumc.org)

Financial Secretary: Jackie Blomberg

Treasurer: Carol Bell

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS NEW STUDY SUNDAY, JANUARY 25th.**

Christianity Family Tree by Adam Hamilton. DVD and student guide.

What other Christians believe and why. Covers: Methodist, Orthodox, Catholic, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Anglican, Baptist and Pentecostal.

Meets on Sundays, 9:00 AM to 9:45 AM in Rm. 103 of Kathy Fell Bldg.

Call Lyle Cubberly at 618-567-6472 with questions.