

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

TODAY, January 24

- 9:00 AM - In-Church Sunday School
- 10:00 AM - In-Church & Zoom Worship Services

TUESDAY, January 25

- 6:30 PM - Finance Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

THURSDAY, January 28

- 7:00 PM - Al-Anon Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

SUNDAY, January 31

- 9:00 AM - In-Church Sunday School
- 10:00 AM - In-Church & Zoom Worship Services

~~~~~

**OUR PRESENCE: 1/17/2021**

|                                                                      |            |                            |                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>OUR GIFTS:</b> Tithes, offerings, and gifts received.             |            |                            |                      |
| <b>OUR GIVING IS A REFLECTION OF OUR COMMITMENT TO JESUS CHRIST!</b> |            |                            |                      |
| <b>2021 Annual Operating Budget: \$168,891</b>                       |            |                            |                      |
| NEED EACH WEEK                                                       | \$3,247.90 | NEED TO-DATE:              | \$ 9,743.70          |
| RECEIVED 1/10/2021                                                   | \$3,096.00 | RECEIVED TO-DATE:          | \$ 4,714.00          |
| RECEIVED 1/17/2021                                                   | \$ 476.00  | <b>(SHORTAGE)/SURPLUS:</b> | <b>(\$ 5,029.70)</b> |
| <b>Renovation Loan for December 31, 2020</b>                         |            |                            |                      |
| MONTHLY PAYMENT                                                      | \$624.06   | BALANCE AS OF 12/31        | \$18,495.54          |
| RECEIVED IN                                                          | \$         |                            |                      |
| <b>2021 Connectional Apportionment ~ \$20,341</b>                    |            |                            |                      |
| MONTHLY PAYMENT                                                      | \$1,695.08 | Total for Year             | \$                   |
| Mo Payment at 50.0%                                                  | 847.54     |                            |                      |
| Payment for January                                                  |            |                            |                      |
| <b>2020 Final Amount Paid ~ \$16,946.40 (78.3% of Asking)</b>        |            |                            |                      |

**2021 Flower Chart and Bulletin Sponsors** ~ The charts for 2021 are posted in the Main Vestibule. Flowers and bulletins will be ordered provided we are open on the date you pick.

Thanks to Chris VanDervort for operating the PowerPoint for today's service and to Liz Bucholz for charting the attendance. They are volunteering to fill these positions and are not locked in. If you would like to help, please contact Terry in the church office (724) 845-8761 during the week.

**January 24, 2021**  
**Third Sunday after the Epiphany**

**Opening Praise "We Are the Church" # 558**

[Refrain:]  
I am the church! You are the church!  
We are the church together!  
All who follow Jesus, all around the world!  
Yes, we're the church together!

1 The church is not a building,  
the church is not a steeple,  
the church is not a resting place,  
the church is a people.  
(Refrain)

2 We're many kinds of people,  
with many kinds of faces,  
all colors and all ages, too,  
from all times and places.  
(Refrain)

3 Sometimes the church is marching,  
sometimes it's bravely burning,  
sometimes it's riding, sometimes hiding,  
always it's learning.  
(Refrain)

4 And when the people gather,  
there's singing and there's praying,  
there's laughing and there's crying  
sometimes, all of it saying:  
(Refrain)

5 At Pentecost some people  
received the Holy Spirit  
and told the Good News through the world  
to all who would hear it.  
(Refrain)

### Call to Worship

Compassionate God,  
all creation delights in your radiant presence of your Word.  
May the authority of your Spirit  
bring understanding into our confused minds  
and truth into our troubled hearts,  
that we may praise and serve Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Responsive Reading

#### Psalm 62:5-12

For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him.  
He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

**On God rests my deliverance and my honor; my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.**

**Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.**

Those of low estate are but a breath, those of high estate are a delusion; in the balances they go up; they are together lighter than a breath.

Put no confidence in extortion and set no vain hopes on robbery; if riches increase, do not set your heart on them.

**Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God, and steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord. For you repay to all according to their work.**

### Sharing of Praises and Concerns

#### Morning Prayer and 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, the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

should write to them, telling them to abstain from food polluted by idols, from sexual immorality, from the meat of strangled animals and from blood. <sup>21</sup> For the law of Moses has been preached in every city from the earliest times and is read in the synagogues on every Sabbath."

### Message

"Acts of Council"

Rev. Beverly A. Spore

### Prayer of Saint Boniface

Eternal God, the refuge and help of all your children,  
we praise you for all you have given us,  
for all you have done for us,  
for all that you are to us.  
In our weakness, you are strength,  
in our darkness, you are light,  
in our sorrow, you are comfort and peace.  
We cannot number your blessings,  
we cannot declare your love:  
For all your blessings we bless you.  
May we live as in your presence,  
and love the things that you love,  
and serve you in our daily lives;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Closing Song

"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

# 557

1. Blest be the tie that binds  
our hearts in Christian love;  
the fellowship of kindred minds  
is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne  
we pour our ardent prayers;  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,  
our comforts and our cares.
3. We share each other's woes,  
our mutual burdens bear;  
and often for each other flows  
the sympathizing tear.
4. When we asunder part,  
it gives us inward pain;  
but we shall still be joined in heart,  
and hope to meet again.

### Benediction

## Hymn of Preparation

“Christ for the World We Sing”

# 568

1. Christ for the world we sing,  
the world to Christ we bring,  
with loving zeal;  
the poor, and them that mourn,  
the faint and overborne,  
sin-sick and sorrow-worn,  
whom Christ doth heal.

2. Christ for the world we sing,  
the world to Christ we bring,  
with fervent prayer;  
the wayward and the lost,  
by restless passions tossed,  
redeemed at countless cost,  
from dark despair.

3. Christ for the world we sing,  
the world to Christ we bring,  
with one accord;  
with us the work to share,  
with us reproach to dare,  
with us the cross to bear,  
for Christ our Lord.

4. Christ for the world we sing,  
the world to Christ we bring,  
with joyful song;  
the newborn souls, whose days,  
reclaimed from error's ways,  
inspired with hope and praise,  
to Christ belong.

## Scripture Reading

Acts 15:1-21

Certain people came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the believers: “Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved.”<sup>2</sup> This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some

other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question.<sup>3</sup> The church sent them on their way, and as they traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria, they told how the Gentiles had been converted. This news made all the believers very glad.<sup>4</sup> When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them.

<sup>5</sup> Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, “The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to keep the law of Moses.”

<sup>6</sup> The apostles and elders met to consider this question. <sup>7</sup> After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: “Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. <sup>8</sup> God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. <sup>9</sup> He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. <sup>10</sup> Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors have been able to bear? <sup>11</sup> No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.”

<sup>12</sup> The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them. <sup>13</sup> When they finished, James spoke up. “Brothers,” he said, “listen to me. <sup>14</sup> Simon has described to us how God first intervened to choose a people for his name from the Gentiles. <sup>15</sup> The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written:

<sup>16</sup> “After this I will return  
and rebuild David’s fallen tent.  
Its ruins I will rebuild,  
and I will restore it,

<sup>17</sup> that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord,  
even all the Gentiles who bear my name,  
says the Lord, who does these things’—

<sup>18</sup> things known from long ago.

<sup>19</sup> “It is my judgment, therefore, that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God. <sup>20</sup> Instead we