

# WESTBY UMC

January 2, 2022

*\* please stand in body or spirit*

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONGS      *Great is Thy Faithfulness*      #140 UMH  
                                 *Star Child*      #2085 TFWS (verses 1, 3 & 5)

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

L. The heavens are telling the glory of God

**P. May our worship reflect God's glory.**

L. The firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

**P. May we see each other as the handiwork of God.**

L. Let our prayer and praise, our singing and proclamation project the love of God.

**P. We commune with Christians around the world, with Christians throughout time.**

L. With Christians across geography and across time,

**P. Let us worship!**

\* OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

**God of light, shining in darkness, through a little child, born in Bethlehem, you open to us the treasure of your grace. Help us to search diligently for him, so that we may offer our lives to you with thanksgiving, joy, and praise; through Jesus Christ, the rising star. Amen.**

JOYS AND CONCERNS

COMMUNITY PRAYER

\* HYMN OF PREPARATION      *We Three Kings of Orient Are*      #254 UMH

SCRIPTURE READING      Matthew 2:1-12

MESSAGE      *"Star Words"*

PRAYER OF REAFFIRMATION.

**Gift-giver, you call us together, with our different gifts, our different ideas, our different tastes. You call us together, to share what makes us special, to build each other up, to serve each other in love. You call us together, knowing that we need all parts of the body if we are to be whole. You call us together, to sing, to pray, to listen, to speak. To be refreshed so that we can go out and serve. Be with us, walk with us, stay with us. Amen.**

THE LORD'S SUPPER

OFFERINGS OF GIFTS, LIVES, AND SERVICE

*\*\* Please place your offering in the plate as you leave, or send your offering by mail, or drop it off in the church mailbox by the south doors. \*\**

\* DOXOLOGY      #95 UMH      *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

\* OFFERING PRAYER

**Loving God, we offer you our gold: The morning on the wing. The glow on the faces of children at play. The shining moments that brighten our lives.**

**We offer you our frankincense: The quiet reassurance of familiar things. The grace of care and friendship. The blessing of bread and our heart's yearning in prayer.**

**We offer you our myrrh: The ashes of our dreams. The bitter taste of our failures. The shadows through which we stumble. Transform our inadequate gifts, that they may be an acceptable sacrifice of praise, and transform our lives to reflect more deeply your justice and joy in the life of the world. Amen**

\* CLOSING HYMN      *Child of Bethlehem*

\* SENDING FORTH (Unison)

**Holy One, you have come among us to lead us in paths of righteousness. Guide our feet through the wilderness toward the living water of your grace, following in the steps of our Savior: Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen**

\* BENEDICTION

\* POSTLUDE

## WELCOME TO ALL WORSHIPPING WITH US TODAY!

*Welcome in the name of the Lord.  
If you are visiting with us for the first time,  
please fill out a visitor information card.*



### Coming Events:

**Jan. 2** 10:00 AM – Fellowship  
**Jan. 9** 9:00 AM – Worship  
10:00 AM – Fellowship & Sunday School

Sunday school class will resume on Sunday, Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>.

### PRAYERS

*Izzy (Verna's niece), Michelle & Jenny (Verna's daughters), Scott & Skip (Verna's brothers), Hudson (Verna's grandson), Tom, staying safe as COVID cases are increasing, Adey and the other confirmation students and their mentors, Norsesland residents, our church family, Sunday School families, Pastor Erika, unnamed concerns, our church in ministry.*

### Pastor Erika Available on Sunday Mornings

If you have something you'd like to discuss with Pastor Erika in person, but don't have time to do it during the week, she is available on Sunday mornings, just before church begins, from 8:30-8:50 AM. Just come to church early and Pastor Erika will be happy to talk with you.

### Mission of the Month – Food Pantries (Bethel Butikk)

Since the local food pantries needed to help many families during the holiday season, they need help restocking their shelves. The best way we can help them is through financial donations because they can buy food at a greatly reduced price and make our financial donations go farther. If you want to donate to the Bethel Butikk, you may place your contribution in the offering plate and label it to indicate it's for the Bethel Butikk. You can also make a direct donation to a local food pantry of your choice:

- Bethel Butikk: PO Box 53, Westby, WI 54667
- Living Faith Food Pantry: 209 Sand Road, Viroqua, WI 54665
- New Hope Food Pantry: #2290 State Highway 82, De Soto, WI 54624 or
- Cashton Cupboard & Closet: 1213 Front St, Cashton, WI 54619

### Donate Your Used Christmas Cards

If you want to put your used Christmas cards to a good use, you can donate them to the St. Jude's Ranch for Children (StJudesRanch.org). They use old holiday cards to make new cards that they sell, with the proceeds going to St. Jude's programs for children in need. Verna Drake will be sending a box of used cards to St. Jude's and will gladly add more cards to her box. Please bring your used Christmas cards to church by Sunday, Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>. You can place your cards on the table in the narthex.

## WESTBY United Methodist Church January 2, 2022



**9:00 AM Worship**  
**10:00 AM Fellowship after Worship**  
**10:00 AM Sunday School**

**Westby United Methodist Church**  
**202 East State St., Westby, WI 54667**

*Our calling is to reach all people  
with the life-changing power of God's Love and Grace  
available to all through Jesus Christ, our Lord.*