

# Power of Water



## ***Baptism of the Lord***

*January 11, 2026*

Prelude

***Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring***

Bach

Greetings

*The assembly responds or joins in unison when our text is **bold**.*

Centering Words:

God accepts and affirms us and fills us with light. Let God take you by the hand and sense God's benediction, recall God's covenant and dare to live by it.

Call to worship:

In the very beginning, God separated the darkness and the light. God called the Light "Day" and the Darkness, God called "Night".

**We were once people who dwelled in darkness, but God has given us the true Light, Jesus Christ.**

God has blessed us and adopted us as God's own beloved children, through the sacrament of Baptism.

**The water of baptism brings to us healing and reconciliation; it is a symbol of nourishment and cleansing.**

This day is the day of the remembrance of Jesus' Baptism.

**As we hear the words of his baptism, let us be reminded of our own adoption by God and celebrate the joyous connection to the Almighty God.**

\*Opening Hymn

*I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry*

♯FWS# 2051

**"I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.**

**I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.**

**I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;**

**In a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell."**

**"When you heard the wonder of the Word I was there to cheer you on;**

**You were raised to praise the living Lord, to whom you now belong.**

**If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,**

**I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk 'till rising sun."**

**In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,**

**I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.**

**When the evening gently closes in, and you shut your weary eyes,**

**I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise."**

**"I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.**

**I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold."**

The Faith We Sing Number 2051

Words: John Ylvisaker

Music: WATERLIFE; John Ylvisaker

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Call to Confession

Silent Prayers of Confession

Words of assurance

Old Testament Reading: **Isaiah 42:1-9**

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Epistle Reading: **Acts 10:34-43**

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Anthem

***Peace Like a River***

Raney

\*Gospel Reading: **Matthew 3:13-17**

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**

Hymn of Preparation

***Seek Ye First***

♪ UMH # 405

1.

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God And His righteousness;  
And all these things shall be added unto you.**

**Hallelu, Hallelujah!**

2.

**Ask, and it shall be given unto you; Seek, and you shall find.  
Knock, and it shall be opened unto you.**

**Hallelu, Hallelujah!**

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 405

Words: Karen Lafferty , 1972

Music: Karen Lafferty, 1972

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Message

***Power of Water***

Hymn of Response

***Baptized in Water***

♪FWS# 2248

*During the hymn, you are invited to come forward to remember your Baptism.*

1.

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit cleansed by the blood of Christ our king;  
heirs of salvation, trusting his promise - faithfully now God's praise we sing.**

2.

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, dead in the tomb with Christ our king;  
one with his rising, freed and forgiven thankfully now God's praise we sing.**

3.

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ our king;  
born of one Father, we are his children - joyfully now God's praise we sing.**

The Faith We Sing Number 2248

Words: Michael Saward

Music: BUNESSAN; Trad. Gaelic melody

Words © 1982 Jubilate Hymns, admin. by Hope Publishing Co.

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Invitation to the Offering

*Please submit your offering as you feel led by placing it in the plates on the altar railing, or text your gift to 833-756-0325, or on our website: [www.elyriafirstumc.org](http://www.elyriafirstumc.org).*

Offertory

***Jesus Loves Me***

Bradbury

\*Doxology

**Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow  
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

♪ UMH # 95

The United Methodist Hymnal Number 95  
Words: Thomas Ken, 1674  
Music: OLD 100TH; Attr. to Louis Bourgeois, 1551

\*Offertory Prayer:

**Sovereign God, we have signed on to be your people, so we bring gifts that represent our best, that your might bless them and multiply their effectiveness among us and in ministries in Christ's name. We thank you for time of renewal and blessing, which equip us to give ourselves more fully in the tasks you set before us. Amen.**

Announcements

\*Closing Hymn

***Loving Spirit***

♪FWS# 2123

**Loving Spirit, loving Spirit, you have chosen me to be --  
you have drawn me to your wonder, you have set your sign on me.**

**Like a mother you enfold me, hold my life within your own,  
feed me with your very body, form me of your flesh and bone.**

**Like a father you protect me, teach me the discerning eye,  
hoist me up upon your shoulder, let me see the world from high.**

**Friend and lover, in your closeness I am known and held and blessed:  
in your promise is my comfort, in your presence I may rest.**

**Loving Spirit, loving Spirit, you have chosen me to be --  
you have drawn me to your wonder, you have set your sign on me.**

The Faith We Sing Number 2123  
Words: Shirley Erena Murray  
Music: V. Earle Copes  
Words © 1987 The Hymn Society, admin. by Hope Publishing Co.  
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Benediction

Postlude

***Onward Christian Soldiers***

Sullivan

*\*Please stand as you are comfortable*

♪ UMH ~ *United Methodist Hymnal* (hard cover hymnal)

♪FWS- *The Faith We Sing* (soft cover hymnal)

## Worship Participants

Preaching: Pastor Marcus Atha

Liturgist: Kim Foster

Media Specialists: Denise Smith and David Wilm

Musicians: Jack Roberts and the Chancel Choir

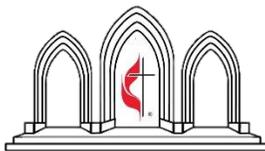
Sound room: Neal Hubbard

Ushers and Greeters: John Hammond, Kris Long, and Mike Zahnke

This service is broadcast live on the radio station WOBL 1320 AM and 107.7 FM. Today's radio broadcast is sponsored with money given for our radio ministry. Thank you to those who donate which allows us to continue our radio ministry as we share God's love with the radio audience and the community.

The altar flowers are sponsored by Denise Smith in loving memory of her dad's January 11<sup>th</sup> earthly birthday.

***If you are interested in joining our church family, or if you have any pastoral needs or prayer concerns, please call the church office at 440.322.6622.***



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

312 Third Street, Elyria, Ohio 44035 440.322.6622

[www.elyriafirstumc.org](http://www.elyriafirstumc.org)

An equal opportunity provider

***Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*** by Bach. ***Peace Like a River*** by Joel Raney. ***Jesus Loves Me*** by William Bradbury. ***Onward Christian Soldiers*** by Sir Arthur Seymour Sullivan. All songs are performed under license # 673591.

# Third Street Review



January Mission focus:

January 11, 2026

First United Methodist Church

312 Third Street, Elyria, Ohio 44035

Phone: 440.322.6622

Email: church@elyriafirstumc.org

## ***Human Relations Day***

Human Relations Day, **Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>**, is a denominational wide Special Sunday designed to celebrate and raise awareness to further the development of better human relations outreach. Gifts received for the offering builds programs such as Community Developers and United Methodist Voluntary Services and Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs. You may give on-line via our website: [elyriafirstumc.org](http://elyriafirstumc.org) or submit a check to: ***Elyria First United Methodist Church***, indicate *Human Relations* on the memo line. Thank you for your generosity!

## ***Share Your Gifts/Talents***

**YOU have gifts and talents** to share. The Community Breakfast and our Free stores need you!

***Volunteering once a month can make a big difference in the life of our ministries, the community, and YOU!***

Please contact the church office to cheerfully offer your gifts and talents to serve in these vital ministries in 2026!

## ***Fellowship Time***

Come, enjoy goodies and wonderful fellowship in the **Parlor** on **Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>**. If you would like to bake or host this monthly time of fellowship in the future, please see Carol Stomieroski or call the church office.

## ***Community Breakfast***

Thank you to those who have joined a breakfast team! There are a few spots still available. ***Prayerfully consider joining a breakfast team in the new year***, then call Julie Joy in the church office (440.322.6622) to volunteer!

## ***Free Clothing Store***

***Thank you Volunteers!***

The clothing store is well organized and tidy thanks to some dedicated volunteers. The store will be open to the community on **Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup> 10 am-12 pm**. Please contact the church office at 440.322.6622 with questions or to volunteer for this wonderful ministry.

## ***Open Sponsorship Dates***

Altar Flower dates:

**Cost \$22**

**January 25; February 1, 8, and 15**

Radio dates:

**Cost \$300 (includes advertising!)**

**January 18; February 1, 8, 15, and 22**

Please call the church office at 440.322.6622 to reserve your special date!

## ***New Church Plan***

God is purposely making us new this coming year. Our church has enabled us to serve our community and each other, while it has ministered to us for generations. We are fortunate to have been part of that history and heritage. Throughout this time, our church has evolved and grown as we have adapted to the changes of our community and our world. God has always been by our side and will continue to lead us with his light as we embark on a new chapter.

***Pray for our community and ask God  
to lead us to people who are thirsting  
for Christ's love and grace.***

## ***Free Hygiene Store***

We are grateful for your continued support of this much needed ministry. Being open to the community and filling in the gap for many families is a blessing!

Our needs for November include:

- **Baby wash and lotion**
- **Cleaning Supplies** (glass, bathroom, and toilet bowl cleaners)
- **Laundry & Dish Soap**
- **Shampoo & Conditioner** (dry shampoo too)
- **Women's and men's Body wash,  
Deodorant, and Razors**

Please place these items in the box located on the main level. The store will be open on **Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup>** from **10 am-12 pm!**

## ***312 Happy Hour***

Happy Hour is a twice per month event held on the **2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays** at **noon** in **Fellowship Hall!**

Join us for a great meal, fun, and fellowship on  
**January 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>**

## ***Giving Envelopes***

The 2026 giving envelopes are in! They are on the table by the Chapel. Take a box for your year of giving!

## **2025 Year-End Statements**

If you would like to receive your year-end statement electronically instead of in the mail, please indicate your desire on today's Connection Card! Please be sure to include your email address.

### ***Scripture readings for the week:***

Sunday, January 11: **Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17**

Monday, January 12: **Psalm 89:5-37; Genesis 35:1-15; Acts 10:44-48**

Tuesday, January 13: **Psalm 89:5-37; Jeremiah 1:4-10; Acts 8:4-13**

Wednesday, January 14: **Psalm 89:5-37; Isaiah 51:1-16; Matthew 12:15-21**

Thursday, January 15: **Psalm 40:1-11; Isaiah 22:15-25; Galatians 1:6-12**

Friday, January 16: **Psalm 40:1-11; Genesis 27:30-38; Acts 1:1-5**

Saturday, January 17: **Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Kings 19:19-21; Luke 5:1-11**

Sunday, January 18: **Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9;**

**John 1:29-42**