

**Congregational Church of Birmingham
United Church of Christ**



**Better to Light One Candle:
Epiphany**

“The Light Shines in the Darkness”

**January 9, 2022
10:00 AM**

“But denunciatory rhetoric is so much easier and cheaper than good works, and proves a popular temptation. Yet is it far better to light the candle than to curse the darkness.”

*1907 Copyright, The Supreme Conquest
and Other Sermons Preached in America
by W.L. Watkinson, pp. 217,218.*

Welcome Visitors! We hope you enjoy this church home. Please take a moment to join us in signing and passing our Ritual of Friendship book. We heartily welcome you to this church family.

Our Nursery is available during worship. An usher can direct you.

You May Contact Rev. Ralph Brown for any pastoral request or emergency at 586-872-1618 or brown.ralph.h@gmail.com

Prayers? Text them to Rev. Brown (586-872-1618) before 11:30 AM Sunday mornings, or email them to the church office (ccbinfo@ccbucc.org) by 3 PM Friday, so they can be included in the Weekly Prayers email.

Get in the Loop! Stay current on CCB-UCC news. Contact the church office to receive our email communications.

View Sunday Worship Live Streams and all previously recorded services on the "Congregational Church of Birmingham, United Church of Christ" YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwfTgUDxKOY9u4KkZbExhpw>

WORSHIP IN OUR SANCTUARY IS LIVE STREAMED so that those unable to be with us in person can worship online via our YouTube channel (see link below). We are now accessible to everyone. We are grateful to Chris Hiner for creating the technological set up, and to our new Media & Communications Specialist, Daniel Jaros, who runs that technology during the service. Interested in how it works? Worship in the balcony and learn the ropes!

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwfTgUDxKOY9u4KkZbExhpw>

ALL CHILDREN & YOUTH ARE WELCOME TO SUNDAY SCHOOL: Pre-K through 8th graders will go to their classrooms after Children's Time in worship each Sunday, to be collected there later at 11:15 AM after worship. The Leadership Club (confirmation students) will meet again after worship on Sunday, January 23, at 11:15 AM in the Arlund Room, to explore their own faith in God. Questions? Contact Carmel at: carmelf711@yahoo.com

his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more. May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles render him tribute, may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts. May all kings fall down before him, all nations give him service. For he delivers the needy when they call, the poor and those who have no helper. He has pity on the weak and the needy, and saves the lives of the needy. From oppression and violence he redeems their life; and precious is their blood in his sight.

John 1:1-5, 14

Pastor Ralph

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

For the word of God in Scripture, for the word of God among us, for the word of God within us, **THANKS BE TO GOD!**

GOD HOLDS OUR LIVES IN HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor Ralph

Holy and Living One, as we gather to break bread once again, break us open to your love, to your peace, to your presence, to your transformative power. In the name of the One who invites us time and again, Jesus the Christ, let the people say, "Amen!" **Amen!**

DEEPENING CONNECTION

We are all invited to this table of God's loving grace. We respond to the invitation by letting go of all that separates us from God and one another. We turn away from the ways we have placed hardship rather than peace in the hands of others...

When we place peace in each other's hands, we place love in all the hands of the world. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Amen.

PEACE IN OUR HANDS

Will you make a gesture of extending your cupped hands toward others as a sign of offering the peace that Christ gives us? Meet the eyes of one another and when you have, share the peace by saying, **"Peace be with you. And also with you."**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

God be with you!

And also with you.

Open your hearts and lives to the Holy One.

We long for this communion.

Let us give our greatest thanks in the company of the beloved.

It is a good and joyful thing to give our thanks and praise.

Gift of Life, Creator of All That Is,
You have breathed life into us,
Filled our emptiness,
Loved us through our resistance.

Time and again you say, Listen!

Time and again you say, Live!

Time and again you say, Love!

And so we gather and give thanks in this moment.

We stop so we may listen,
We breathe so we may live,
We open so we may love.

Holy, holy, holy God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in God's name.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you God,
And beloved is your work in Jesus,
Peace-Giver, Life-Healer, Spirit Anointer,
Do your work in us, as in Jesus.

(continued)

**May we proclaim release, recovery,
Liberty and the end of all oppression.
May we savor the taste of your goodness
And shine the light of Christ on all.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND CONSECRATION

SHARING THE SACRAMENT

(Gluten Free elements are available in a marked basket at the sanctuary door; most elements are not gluten free this Sunday, due to supply chain issues.)

All who love Christ are welcome! As you are led, please open the bread as we are guided to eat together. Then open the cup as we are all guided to drink together. You are invited to a time of meditation to consider God's call on your life.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

COMMUNION ANTHEM "One Bread, One Body" arr. Schrader
Chancel Choir

TIME WITH CHILDREN Dr. Carmel Tinnes
(Pre-K through 8th grade children may now go to their lessons.)

SONG **"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"** CH #140
(Verses 1-3)

**Hail to the Lord's anointed,
great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to set the captives free,
to take away transgressions,
and rule in equity.**

**He comes with justice speedy
to those who suffer wrong,
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong,**

**to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying,
are precious in his sight.**

**He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth.**

**Love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
spring in his path to birth.**

**Before him, on the mountains,
shall peace, the herald, go,
and righteousness, in fountains,
from hill to valley flow.**

OUR CONVERSATION “The Light Shines in the Darkness” Rev. Ralph Brown

CLOSE TO GOD IN PRAYER

Pastor Ralph

We continue to pray for:

- Afghanistan citizens in dire circumstances
- All at risk in contracting COVID-19
- Annabelle, Cindy Kyle’s mother, frail and living alone at a distance
- Barry McBride, in rehab at home with Susan
- Ben Sharpe, with depression challenges
- Bob and Sharon Smith, making decisions for future housing
- David, brother of Paul von Oeyen, in stem cell transplant treatment for leukemia
- Drew Sharpe and family, mourning the death of his mother-in-law, Elizabeth (Gray) Krage
- Greg Peterson and family, mourning the death of his mother, Wilda, and extended family member, Nate
- Jacquie Wagoner, recovering from surgery
- Jean Thomson, in rehab following a stroke
- Judy, Greg Peterson’s aunt, in palliative care with terminal cancer
- Melissa Crook, denied custody and visitation of daughter, Calliope
- Oxford students, teachers, and families, grieving in the wake of gun violence

(continued)

- Rita, John Lindstrom's mother, hospitalized with serious health concerns
- Rob, Sue Potter's brother, with metastasized cancer in his bones
- Ruth Biersdorf, in treatment for cancer
- Steve Payer, continuing to recover from knee surgery
- Victims of war, violence, and natural disasters everywhere
- Youth and adults with mental health challenges

THE ECUMENICAL PRAYER OF JESUS

All People

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is 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.**

OUR GIFTS & SERVICE

Your offering is welcomed in support of our ministry and may be made online at www.ccbucc.org; placed in the offering plate at the worship welcome area before, during, and after worship; or mailed to the church Attn: Treasurer.

CLOSING SONG

"Of Eternal Love Begotten"

CH #104

**Of eternal love begotten,
ere the worlds began to be,
Christ is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he!
Of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore!**

**O ye heights of heaven sing praises;
angels and archangels sing!
And on earth let all the faithful
now your joyous anthems ring,
ev'ry tongue Christ's name confessing,
countless voices answering,
evermore and evermore!**

**Christ, to thee with God Creator,
and O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
and unwearied praises be:
Honor, glory, and dominion,
and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore! Amen.**

OUR BLESSING FROM GOD

Pastor Ralph

Go now from this place as bearers of the Word

So that all may hear in your words the Living Word of Christ.

Go from this place as bearers of the Light

So that all who see your deeds may see the light of Christ's love.

Go from this place as bearers of hope

So that all who you encounter may come to believe

The world is made a better place by those who walk in Christ's Spirit.

Amen.

POSTLUDE

"Joyful Day"

Hayes

[Live Streaming Ends Here]

Credits: A Sanctified Art LLC, www.sanctifiedart.org; CCLI #741179.

WE THANK our greeters, ushers, communion helpers, choir, Tech Team: Daniel Jaros & Chris Hiner, Worship Design Team: Leslie O'Day-Benyo, and Music Team: Joe Bentley & Yalan Piao, for all their help with today's service.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & MINISTRY UPDATES

Pastor Ralph

(Please sign and pass the Ritual of Friendship pad in your pew.)

OUR MINISTRY UPDATES

WELCOME REV. RALPH BROWN, BRIDGE PASTOR: We are very happy to welcome Rev. Ralph Brown, who is serving as our Bridge Pastor as we continue the search for our new Senior Pastor. Rev. Brown is a retired United Church of Christ clergy person who has served his entire career within the Detroit Metropolitan Association of the Michigan Conference, UCC. He and his wife, Cheryl, are the parents of 3 adult children and 4 grandchildren ranging in ages 3 to 23. Please join us after the service TODAY or next Sunday, January 16, to welcome and meet with Pastor Brown at our Social Hour.

UNDECKING THE HALLS – Please join us TODAY to take down our Christmas decorations after worship at 11:30 AM. All help will be much appreciated!

THE 2022 FUNDING FOR MINISTRY PLAN CONGREGATIONAL MEETING & VOTE will be held on Sunday, January 23, at the end of the worship service. The Funding Plan and Narrative documents were sent out via MailChimp email on Saturday, January 8th. Please plan to attend.

GOOGLE DOCS TRAINING - Join us in the Sanctuary after the Congregational Funding Plan Meeting & Vote on Sunday, January 23, for a training on Google Docs. Please bring your laptop, if you have one. No previous experience necessary!

SAVE THE DATE! Book discussion gathering, Sunday, January 30, 11:15 AM, Arlund Room. *Becoming Duchess Goldblatt*, A Memoir by Anonymous.

MINISTRY TEAMS SIGN-UP: We will be using the following link: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-SdAgQsKF_zVLNdWYhS-UYS8cuhK1U48_GWqE3PH-Bs/edit#gid=0 for the Google sheets document to sign-up for Ministry Teams throughout this winter. Please check it to see continuing and new opportunities to participate on CCB-UCC teams. You may access the document as many times as you wish and change your choices as needed. Paper sign-up sheets are also available in the Narthex on the window outside the Conference Room. Questions? Email Cathy Rupert at cathyrupert@hotmail.com

What's Happening @ CCB-UCC This Week

Bold indicates CCB and/or UCC related event. Regular font indicates outside usage.

Sunday <u>1/9/22</u>	9:00 AM	Choir Rehearsal (S)
	9:45 AM	Nursery
	10:00 AM	Worship w/Communion (S and/or YouTube)
	10:15 AM	Sunday School (classrooms)
	11:00 AM	Meet the Bridge Pastor & Social Hour (S & FH)
	11:15 AM	Leadership Club Catch-Up w/Carmel (AR)
	11:30 AM	Undeck the Halls (S & FH)
Monday <u>1/10/22</u>	7:00 AM	Sober Morning AA (outside or AR)
	12:00 PM	New Beginnings of B.H. AA (outside or AR & FH)
	1:00 PM	Piano Recording (S)
	7:00 PM	Stephen Ministry Meeting (Zoom)
	8:00 PM	Pastoral Search Meeting (Zoom)
Tuesday <u>1/11/22</u>	6:00 AM	Madeleine's French Patisserie (K & P)
	12:00 PM	New Beginnings of B.H. AA (outside or AR & FH)
Wednesday <u>1/12/22</u>	7:00 AM	Sober Morning AA (outside or AR)
	10:00 AM	New Beginnings Al-Anon (outside or AR)
	12:00 PM	New Beginnings of B.H. AA (outside or AR & FH)
Thursday <u>1/13/22</u>	6:00 AM	Madeleine's French Patisserie (K & P)
	9:30 AM	Birmingham Strings Rehearsal (FH)
	12:00 PM	New Beginnings of B.H. AA (outside or AR & FH)
	7:15 PM	Vision Circle Meeting (Zoom)
	7:30 PM	Nan's Group Women's AA (outside or AR)
Friday <u>1/14/22</u>	7:00 AM	Sober Morning AA (outside or AR)
	12:00 PM	New Beginnings of B.H. AA (outside or AR & FH)
	2:00 PM	Family Farms Cooperative (FH)
<u>Saturday - 1/15/22</u>		Nothing Today
Sunday <u>1/16/22</u>	9:45 AM	Nursery
	10:00 AM	Worship (S and/or YouTube)
	10:15 AM	Sunday School (classrooms)
	11:00 AM	Meet the Bridge Pastor & Social Hour (S & FH)

The complete church calendar is on our website: www.ccbucc.org

A Just World for All

First Sunday after Epiphany.....January 9, 2022

Welcome to CCB-UCC an "Open and Affirming" Church

We warmly welcome everyone to worship and into the full life and leadership of the church. Whatever your background - your race, your nationality, your physical or mental condition, your gender, your sexual orientation - whoever you are and wherever you come from, we welcome you in love as Jesus Christ welcomes all. Gathered by the Holy Spirit, may the comfort and challenge of God's presence renew and inspire us all throughout the coming week. Again, welcome!



A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Contact a Stephen Minister Leader:

Dr. Paul von Oeyen 248-646-0837

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BIRMINGHAM

1000 CRANBROOK ROAD (@ WOODWARD AVE)
BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MICHIGAN 48304-2725



a just
world
for all
ucc.org

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MICHIGAN CONFERENCE WEBSITE: www.michucc.org

DENOMINATIONAL WEBSITE: www.ucc.org

CHURCH LEADERSHIP & STAFF

Ministers - The Congregation

Dr. Carmel Tinnes, Director of Christian Education

Dr. Yalan Piao, Accompanist

Daniel Jaros, Media & Communications Specialist

Office Hours: Open Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM, lunch break 12:30 PM-1:00 PM

Rev. Ralph Brown, Bridge Pastor

Dr. Joe Bentley, Choral Director

Jasmin West, Preschool/Early Elementary Teacher

Beth Prevost, Church Administrator