

Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church



"Gathering the Fragments" by Rev. Jan Richardson

Worship for January 12, 2025

Worship for the Third Sunday of Christmas
Baptism of the Lord
January 12, 2025

*We are glad you are worshipping with us today.
Please join us for refreshments after the worship service.*

Meditations (In preparation for worship)

"Baptism of the Lord Sunday is thus more than simply a commemoration of an event in Jesus's life nearly 2000 years ago. It also the springboard for a congregation to engage in evangelism by inviting others to "come and see" what life with Christ may be like. On this day, the baptized recommit themselves to live out the baptismal vows alongside seekers listening to Jesus to find out what following him may mean for them."

Burton Edwards

"Our baptismal waters...all came from the same source. They trickled through the early disciples' fingers on the shores of the Jordan, flowed beyond the Mediterranean Sea into the Atlantic Ocean, streamed around each continent and into the bays and tidal pools of wildly diverse people whose ears were tuned to different sounds, bathing us in the unity of God's love from every time and place."

Mary Margaret Flanagan

"If you take this step, if you go into these depths, it will be transfiguring, exhilarating, life-giving and very, very dangerous. To be baptized into Jesus is not to be in what the world thinks of as a safe place."

Rowan Williams

Prelude *Whiter Than Snow (tune: FISCHER)* arr. Lani Smith

Welcome!

Please stand if you are able. The congregation reads aloud the **bold print.*

Call to Worship

Janine Bernard

In the beginning, darkness covered the deep, while a wind from God swept over the waters.

The voice of God is over the waters!

In the voice of the prophet, God said: When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.

The voice of God is over the waters!

When John baptized Jesus, suddenly the heavens opened, and a voice said: You are my beloved. With you I am well pleased.

The voice of God is over the waters! Let us worship God!

*Opening Hymn #688

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

Confession and Pardon

We are precious in your sight, yet we often forget that we are your beloved. We confess that our love is fickle and inconstant. We follow selfish goals and deny that our way of life harms others and hurts your world. We are sorry and we want to change. Create in us a clean heart, strengthen our resolve, reconcile us one to another, and bless us with your peace.

Hear now our silent prayers of confession...

Pardon

As a voice from heaven said to Jesus, so, in Christ, God speaks to us: You are my child, my beloved; with you I am well pleased. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Alleluia! Amen!**

*Sung Response #482

Baptized in Water

*Passing of the Peace

Children's Conversation

Children's Hymn (STF 2168)

Love the Lord Your God

Love the Lord, your God, _____ with all your heart. _____

Love the Lord, your God, _____ with all your soul. _____

Love the Lord, your God, _____ with all your mind. _____

Love the Lord, your God, _____ with all that you are. _____

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Lesson

Acts 8:14-17

Janine Bernard

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Gospel Lesson

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Now when all the people were baptized and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Sermon

"Sealed by the Spirit"

Rev. Courtney Steininger

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Offering

Offertory

This Is My Beloved Son

Knut Nystedt

***Doxology #606** *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

***Prayer of Dedication**

Announcements

Joys and Concerns

Prayers of Intercession and the Lord's Prayer

***Hymn #547** *Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

***Benediction**

Postlude *Sonata de 5. tono (in the fifth mode)* P. José Larrañaga



Welcome to our worship at Pebble Hill!

If you are with us for the first time, we hope that you find our worship meaningful and our fellowship inviting.

Please reach out to Pastor Courtney or Nancy Byrne to learn more about Pebble Hill Church.

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S ASSISTANTS:

DORIS GORMAN AND JEAN SOPER – USHERS

JANINE BERNARD – LITURGIST

This morning's flowers are given by Martha Maier.

Thank you.

THANKS TO THOSE WHO ARE LIVE STREAMING THIS MORNING'S SERVICE.

We livestream on our church website at www.phpchurch.org.

When you go to the website, click on the Live Stream picture, located on the Homepage, which will take you to the Pebble Hill Church YouTube channel. Once there, click on the "Live" video to watch.

Church Staff

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Announcements

Ron Cavanagh will be leading an **Adult Forum** today, on “God’s Love and Christianity in the 21st Century.” Please join us in the Forum room at 11:30 am.

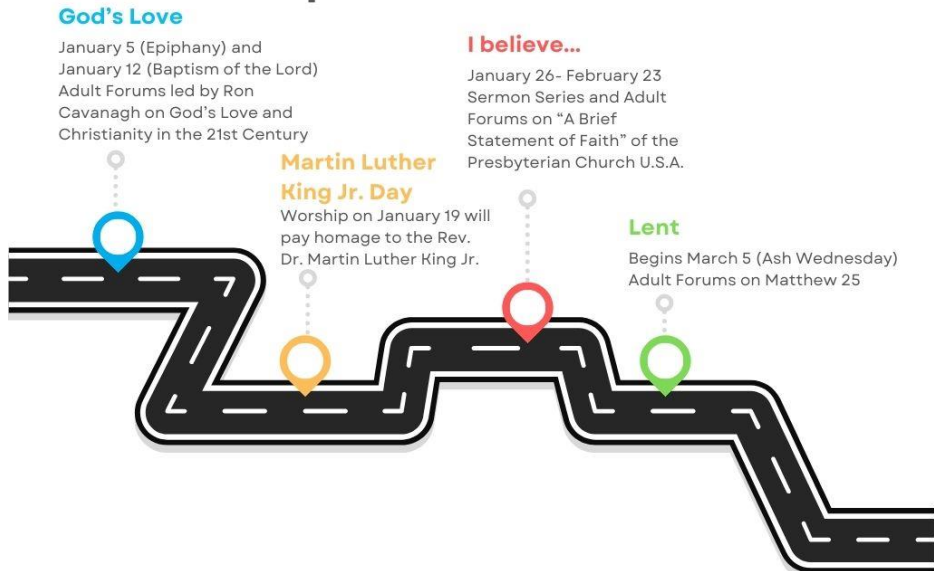
From the Witness to Racial Reconciliation Team

On Sunday, January 26th at 5 pm, Syracuse University will host their 40th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration at the Dome with a dinner and guest speaker. This year, the speaker is **Sarah Willie-LeBreton**, the 12th president of Smith College and daughter of Syracuse University’s first Black full professor, department chair, and vice president, Charles Willie. Pebble Hill has consistently filled an 8 seat table at the event and hopefully will again this year. Tickets for a table must be purchased all at once. JoAnn Ottman will order tickets on Jan.14th for all who wish to attend. Please contact her at jaottman10@gmail.com if you are interested.

Nancy Stewart is beginning a knitting (and other handwork) group at 1pm on Wednesdays at Pebble Hill! The group will likely begin on January 15th. Bring your needles and yarn and come to enjoy a relaxed social time. You do not need to be a good knitter to participate! Please contact her at nancystewart74@gmail.com for more information!

Join us on January 20th at 11:30 in Fellowship Hall for "**Breaking Bread, Building Bridges**" An Interfaith Day of Action with May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society. We will enjoy a potluck lunch (please bring a cold dish to share) and pack hospitality bags for unhoused individuals in Syracuse.

The Road Ahead: Worship and Adult Education



Please keep in your prayers this week:

- ❖ We pray for all those impacted by the wildfires in California. We pray that for the residents, first responders and all of God's creatures.
- ❖ We pray for unity and peace in America.
- ❖ We pray for the Eastern Farmworkers, who provide for those who work our central New York farms.
- ❖ All people living in Gaza, Palestine, Israel, Lebanon, Sudan, Yemen and those in Ukraine and Russia, who endure hatred and continued violence.

This Week at Pebble Hill January 12 – January 18

Sunday	10:00 am	Worship
	11:00 am	Coffee and Fellowship – Atrium
	11:30 am	Adult Forum – Forum Room
Monday	9:30 am	Bluebirds – KR
	11:00 am	DeWitt Rotary Club Lunch Meeting – FH
	4:00 pm	L. Stafford Flute Lessons – CE#3
	4:00 pm	Bluebirds – KR
Tuesday	9:30 am	Bluebirds – KR
	10:00 am	Membership Committee – Commons
Wednesday	3:30 pm	L. Stafford Flute Lessons – CE#3
	4:30 pm	Bluebirds – KR
	4:30 pm	ESCG – CH, Lounge, Forum
	5:00 pm	DeWitt Rotary Club Meeting – Commons
	6:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary (Choir Loft)
Thursday	9:30 am	Bluebirds – KR
	4:30 pm	Bluebirds – KR
	4:45 pm	L. Stafford Flute Lessons – CE#3
Friday	9:00 am	Bluebirds – KR
Saturday	9:00 am	Bluebirds – KR
	11:00 am	Salt City Ukulele – FH