

**BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**10:30 a.m. Sunday 12 February 2023**

**Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany**

**ENTRANCE**

Prelude and Lighting of Candles

Announcements *(To help us connect, please sign  
the attendance pad in your pew)*

Praise Choruses: 2133 "Give Me a Clean Heart"  
2169 "God, How Can We Forgive"

\*Greeting\*\*:  
Let us praise God with upright hearts.  
**Let us come and learn of the ways of God.**  
Let us seek God with our whole hearts.  
**And find our joy in serving the Lord.**  
*(after Psalm 119)*

\*Opening Hymn: 545 "The Church's One Foundation"

\*Opening Prayer: 892 Prayer of Confession

**PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

Prayer for Illumination: 600 *(Verse 1 only)*  
"Wonderful Words of Life"

First Lesson: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalter: 840 *(Verses 1-8 only)* *(Response 3)* Psalm 119:1-8

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

\*Hymn of Preparation: 468 "Dear Jesus, in Whose Life I See"

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\*Gospel: Matthew 5:21-37

Sermon: *"The real thing"*

Affirmation of Faith: 886 "The World Methodist  
Social Affirmation"

Joys, Concerns, Prayers

\*The Peace: Let us offer one another signs  
of reconciliation and love.  
The peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

**THANKSGIVING**

Invitation: As forgiven and reconciled people, let us offer  
ourselves and our gifts to God.

Offering/Offertory

\*Doxology: 95 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

\*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Petition^:

God, like a bakerwoman,  
You bring the leaven which causes our hopes to rise.  
**With your strong and gentle hands, shape our lives.**  
**Warm us with your love.**  
**Take our common lives, and these our gifts,**  
**And touch them with your grace**  
**That we may nourish hope among humanity.**  
**We pray trusting in your name,**  
**Through Jesus our Christ.**  
**Amen.**  
*(Ruth Duck, U.S.A., 20<sup>th</sup> Cent., Alt.)*

\*The Lord's Prayer: 895

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**SENDING FORTH**

\*Closing Hymn: 408 "The Gift of Love"

\*Dismissal with Blessing: Page 15

\*Extinguishing of Candles and Postlude/Going Forth

\*Indicates the people standing, if able and willing

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