



United Presbyterian Church  
1701 E. Second St.  
Bloomington, IN 47401

## November 23, 2025 Worship Guide

Guest Speaker  
Benjamin Watkins

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[upcbloomington.org](http://upcbloomington.org)

### United Presbyterian Church Staff

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**Welcome and Announcements** Elder Allen Pease

**Prelude**

Benjamin Watkins, piano

**Call to Worship**

James Rogers, Liturgist

Liturgist: This is the day that the Lord has made,

**People: We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

Liturgist: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

Liturgist: Let us pray.

Bless to us, O God, this day, fresh made.

In the chorus of the birds, bless us.

In the scent of blossoms, bless us.

In the wet grass and the spring flowers, bless us.

Bless us and heal us,

for we come to you in love and in trust.

We come to you in expectant hope,

God of the morning and all beginnings.

**People: Thanks be to you, O God! Amen.**

**\*Hymn of Praise** *I Danced in the Morning* #302

**Call to Confession** (Liturgist)

To all and to each where regret is real,

God pronounces pardon and gives us the grace to begin again.

Let us pray.

**Prayer of Confession** (in unison with Liturgist)

**Gracious and Holy God, whose mercy comes fresh every morning:**

**we confess to you our faithlessness, our lack of trust in your promises,  
our lack of hope in your reign.**

**Forgive us our sins and free us from our fears,**

**that we may serve you with joy and confidence,**

**offering ourselves as instruments of your providing love.**

**In the strong name of Jesus we pray** (*all pray in silence....*). **Amen.**

**Declaration of Forgiveness** (Liturgist)

Liturgist: Sisters and brothers, hear the good news: the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting  
to everlasting. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**People: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**\*Gloria Patri** #579

**Passing of the Peace**



Liturgist: God sends this message of joy to all people,  
preaching peace by Jesus Christ, the Lord of all.  
The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also, with you.**

Liturgist: Let us share Christ's peace with one another

**Music for Meditation**

UPC Quartet

**Prayer for Illumination** (Liturgist)

Gracious God, illumine these words by your Spirit, that we might hear what you would have us hear and be who you would have us be, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.



**The First Lesson** – *Luke 1: 67 - 80* – Liturgist Rogers

**The Second Lesson** – *Colossians 1: 1 - 20* – Speaker Watkins

Speaker: The word of the Lord    **People: Thanks be to God**

**Reflections**    *Prepare for the Best (a Prelude to Advent)*    Benjamin Watkins

**\*Hymn**    *Abide with Me*    #543

**Affirmation of Faith**—The Apostle’s Creed (traditional) led by Benjamin Watkins

**I Believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer** – Elder Don Root

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

**Call for the Offering** – Elder Don Root

**Offertory**

*\*Doxology* #592

Prayer of Dedication – Elder Root

**\*Closing Hymn**    *Now Thank We Our God*    #555

**Charge and Benediction**    **Elder Don Root**

**Postlude**    Benjamin Watkins, piano

\*Please stand if you are able

**UPC Prayer List** - Email requests to: [upcbloomington@gmail.com](mailto:upcbloomington@gmail.com).

The family of Darian McBride as they mourn the loss of his father Michael McBride.

The family of Sue Lorimer as they mourn the loss of her brother Tim Masters

Kevin Jones Roby Lorimer Virginia McCartney Kathleen Olds Anita Steverson

His Eyes Mission in Honduras led by Valerie & Felipe Colby

Nyaka Global in Uganda led by Jackson Kaguri

The food pantries of Monroe County as they struggle with increased demand

Our students at all levels as final exams approach

The first responders of our community

The people of Georgia, Nigeria, Middle East and Ukraine

**Presbytery of Ohio Valley Staff:** Administrative Associate for Office Support, Rhonda Seymour lives in Bloomington with her husband, Ken. Their two adult sons, Roman and Donovan, both live close by, for which she is very grateful. Rhonda appreciates your prayers for all those coping with long term health challenges. **Administrative Associate for IT Support, Stephanie Worden** lives near Ellettsville with her husband, Bill, children, Logan and Caroline, and dogs, Molly, Tut, and Laguna. She appreciates your prayers for continued health, peace, and happiness. **Jean Brown (Treasurer)** lives in Frisco, Texas with her husband, Larry. She is thankful for family nearby--eleven Browns within 30 minutes of each other and that includes her only grandchildren, Maxton and Preston. She requests prayers for families struggling in these difficult economic times, praying that help will be available to all in need. **Stated Clerk, Joe Kimmel** lives near Paoli with his wife Nancy, 1 dog, 2 cats, and 11 bee hives. Their 3 sons & daughters-in-law & 11 grandchildren (one in heaven) celebrate family. Prayers appreciated for each in their varied missions with people of all races, disabilities and religions. **Susan McGhee** is in her seventeenth year of service as the Executive Presbyter. She lives in town with her kitty, Abby Cadabby. Susan welcomes your prayers for her family and friends, the congregations and pastors in our POV and a spirit of civility in government and society.



### THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

One of the missions we support is Pantry 279, a food pantry serving needy families in Monroe County. They will be providing Thanksgiving dinner boxes for 2500 underprivileged families. They are in need of items to fill those boxes as well as everyday food items. We will be collecting food items for them in our little red wagon leading up to Thanksgiving. Here is a list of items most needed:

**Thanksgiving:** Turkeys, canned yams, deserts (pie filling, pudding, cake mix,), cranberry sauce, gravy packets, stuffing, green beans, corn, jiffy cornbread mix, cream of mushroom soup, mac n cheese.

**Everyday items:** Pasta, pasta sauce, canned meats, canned beans, spaghetti type things, soups, Ramin, pasta and rice dishes like Knorr noodles or Rice-a-Roni, oatmeal, baking items like flour, oils, sugar, baby formulas, etc.



Financial support is also needed to complete the Thanksgiving boxes. The best way to do that is through their website: [pantry279.org](http://pantry279.org).

### **Marching Mustangs Win Acaain!**



For the fourth consecutive year, Edgewood High School Marching Mustangs have won the 2025 ISSMA Class C State Championship oh the Indiana State School Music Association. Caroline Worden, daughter of Bill and Stephanie Worden, has been marching with the band since her freshman year at ESHS. Her brother Logan marched with them all four of his high school years. Logan is now a freshman at Tennessee.



**2025 Hat & Mitten Tree** will be in Fellowship Hall this week. Please decorate it with hats, mittens, gloves, earmuffs and scarves in sizes from toddlers to Teens. The decorations will be given to agencies serving children in need. Stephanie Worden has volunteered to shop. Don't have the time? Simply bring in check/cash and she'll

shop. Last day to decorate is Dec. 15.