

**Who Are We?**

**Our Core Values**

We are a welcoming church that wants everyone to know God's love.

Love First  
Grace-Powered

Foster Belonging  
Hope, Help, and Healing

PRELUDE / WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*CALL to WORSHIP:

Leader: Although the beckoning star heeded by wise travelers long ago no longer leads the way,

**All: The manger-born Christ is still to be found and followed.**

Leader: We are not brought to our knees in surprise as were those journeyers of old,

**All: Yet our desire to worship can be as deep as theirs.**

Leader: And though we do not bear gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh,

**All: We offer ourselves and what we have.**

Leader: The story continues. The good news abounds. There is a living Christ to discover and worship and serve.

**All: Let us rejoice and be glad!**

\*OPENING HYMN

**UMH 245**

**"The First Noel"**

\*OPENING PRAYER:

**Radiant God, all nations are drawn to your light; all people proclaim your praise. You befriend the forsaken and the hated; you are the help of the oppressed; for you have come to us in Jesus Christ. We rejoice in your great love for the world, and rise to praise you, together with people of all the nations Glory to you, O God! Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 40:3-5

A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

*\*Indicates stand as you are able.*

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

*This is the word of God for the people of God.*

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Dee Dee Hart

SERMON

**"What's Your Star?"**

Renee Wilson

\*HYMN of INVITATION

**UMH 230**

**"O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

PASTORAL PRAYER / LORD'S PRAYER (UMH 895)

OFFERING

\*DOXOLOGY

**UMH 95**

**"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"**

\*PRAYER of THANKSGIVING:

**All things come from you, O God,  
and with praise and thanksgiving we return to you what is yours.  
You created all that is, and with love formed us in your image.  
When our love failed, your love remained steadfast.  
You gave your only Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior,  
that we might have abundant and eternal life.**

*(over)*

All that we are, and all that we have, is a trust from you.  
 And so, in gratitude for all that you have done,  
 we offer ourselves, and all that we have,  
 in union with Christ's offering for us.  
 By your Holy Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other,  
 and one in ministry to all the world;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

# Byron United Methodist Church

\*CLOSING HYMN

UMH 261

"Lord of the Dance"

BENEDICTION and POSTLUDE

Pianist: Chris Miller

*Do good, be rich in the good things you do, be generous, and share with others. When you do these things, you will save a treasure for yourselves that is a good foundation for the future. That way you can take hold of what is truly life.* 1 Timothy 6:18-19

Offerings may be placed in plates or given online through our website. Offerings can be made using electronic fund transfers from your bank account or by credit/debit card, with the option to be set as a recurring gift. Please go to <https://byronmn.umchurches.org/giving>, or scan the QR code with your smartphone to be directed to the giving page.



**COUNTERS SCHEDULE:**

- Jan. 5 – Terri Nelson, Paul Riggs
- Jan. 12 – Roger Vick, Nancy White
- Jan. 19 – Al Miller, Marty Nelson
- Jan. 26 – Al Miller, Marty Nelson

**COMMUNION STEWARDS:**

- Jan. 5 -- NO communion
- Jan. 12 – Pastor Andy, Aubree Hart
- Jan. 19 – Chris Miller (RSW)
- Jan. 26 – Nancy White

**Byron UM Church contact info:**

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 Email: [byronumchurch@gmail.com](mailto:byronumchurch@gmail.com)

**Pastor Andy Petter contact info:**

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## Epiphany Sunday

January 5, 2025 -- 9:30 a.m.

## TO PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER

### ***For those who need healing:***

God of compassion, source of life and health, strengthen, restore, and relieve those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially now: Suze Anderson; Karin Byers; Loren Walters; Donna Walters; Jim Miller (brother of Suze Anderson); Claire Field; Nancy Kelly; Doris Frey; Treaver Bleichner (grandson of Julene Bleichner); Dick Hart (brother of Judy Luttmers); David Larsen, Calvin Bell, Vicki McIntosh, Paige Reder, Sara (granddaughter of Anita Carlson), Max Smith (family of Barb Smith), Wayne Petersen (friend of Julene Bleichner), Debbie Webb, so that they may receive healing and help in You.

### ***For those who have died:***

Eternal God, by Your steadfast love, open Your arms of mercy to those who have died, especially now: Russ Wright; Anita Nelsen; Rev. Deanna Woodward (daughter of the late Kenneth and Lennis Sigrist); Greg Rud; Dawn Bidwell; Jean Franklin (mother of Rev. Sharon Nelson); Loyola Shappell, Dirk Dehn, George Beech; that they may find their place with You.

### ***For those who mourn:***

Gracious God, whose Son knew our sorrows, our tears, and our death, look with compassion on those who grieve, especially now: the family of Russ Wright; the family of Anita Nelsen; the family of Rev. Deanna Woodward; the family of Greg Rud; the family of Dawn Bidwell; the family of Jean Franklin; the family of Loyola Shappell; the family of Dirk Dehn; the family of George Beech; and all their friends who mourn with them, so that they may be comforted by Your sure presence and filled with hope in Your goodness.

### ***For the homebound, those in care facilities, and their caregivers:***

God of all seasons of life, bring comfort to those who are vulnerable, tired, or weak, especially now: Calvin Bell, Loren Walters, Donna Walters, Alan Bourquin, Debbie Byers, John Lloyd, Carol Ramthun, Barb Smith; so that they may be blessed and at peace each day. Inspire and encourage those who care for them, so that their work may be filled with grace and their love may be multiplied.

### ***For those who celebrate:***

God of blessing, we praise You for the joy we have received and the gift we have in one another. We lift up special thanks for those who celebrate milestones in life – birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, the birth of a child, graduations, promotions, and new jobs – and we ask Your continued blessing upon them, now and always.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*If you or someone you know would like to be included in these prayers, please contact Pastor Andy directly at 210-288-9477 or [Andrew.L.Petter@gmail.com](mailto:Andrew.L.Petter@gmail.com).*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS and INFORMATION

**APPORTIONMENTS UPDATE:** Apportionments for 2024 have been paid in full making it 16 consecutive years paying the full amount. Thank you to all who responded with extra giving to apportionments to help meet the goal.

**LIGHT FOR UKRAINE FUNDRAISER:** The youth Sunday school class are raising money to send solar light kits to those who have lost connection to power due to the war in Ukraine. Their goal is to purchase and assemble at least 10 kits. ***Please join them for a crepes and sausage brunch fundraiser on Sunday, January 19th.***

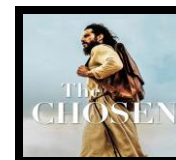
**SAVING GRACE PROGRAM:** Starting in January, we will offer *Saving Grace*, a United Methodist program designed to help people achieve financial well-being. Would you like to be less stressed about money? Do you want to be more generous, but struggle to make it happen? Do you have a family member, friend, or neighbor who needs to work on these things? *Saving Grace* can help. Speak with Pastor Andy or Al Miller to register. Registration: \$30. ***Saving Grace will start on Monday, January 13th, at 6:30 pm*** with an introductory session, and it will run for six weeks.

**GRIEF GROUP:** Our next ***grief group meeting*** at Byron UMC is ***Wed., Jan. 8th from 10-11 a.m.*** The group offers opportunities to talk about things that cannot be discussed in other settings and to find others who can relate to their situation. For more information, please contact Pastor Andy or Marlene Abel.

**READY, SET, WORSHIP!:** On the third Sunday of each month, our regular worship service is replaced by an engaging, kid-centered worship service for God's children of all ages called Ready, Set, Worship! ***Our next Ready, Set, Worship! is Jan. 19. We are looking for adult greeters for our Ready, Set, Worship! services. Contact Pastor Andy to be added to the list.***



**DINNER AND THE CHOSEN:** Dinner and the viewing of *The Chosen* - Season 3, Episode 4 (*Clean – Part 1*) is ***Jan. 19, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.*** All are welcome! To watch previous episodes search *The Chosen* on your smartphone, smart TV or computer.



**WOMENS SHELTER AND SUPPORT CENTER:** Please support the ***Women's Shelter and Support Center*** in its mission of assisting victims of domestic abuse by donating household items for their use. Please check out the list of needed items located on the box in the narthex. ***Some special Wish List items:*** for adults – bathrobes, pajamas, manicure sets, gift cards, bath sets, slippers, perfume, journals, adult coloring books and colored pencils. For children – infant/toddler toys; science kits; sporting goods; play food sets; Barbie dolls; multi-cultural dolls; headphones; coloring books; games/puzzles; educational toys; electronic games; craft paints; wood building kits; activity gift cards; Mega blocks; remote control vehicles; fidgets. if you have any questions, you can contact Janet Sinning at [jsinning@charter.net](mailto:jsinning@charter.net). Thank you for your donations.

**FELLOWSHIP TIME:** There is a sign-up sheet on the counter in the dining room to volunteer to prep coffee, cookies, donuts, etc. for coffee time on Sundays. Please sign up in advance as it's very helpful for us to know the upcoming Sundays are covered. Please contact the coordinator, Sue Vick, with any questions. Thank you to all who serve in Fellowship time.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL 2024-2025:** We have classes for pre-K to 1st grade, 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade, and youth. All are welcome! If you have any questions or would be interested in helping with Sunday school, please speak with Kelly VanDeWalker. ***Please scan the QR code to open the registration form*** to register your child/children.



**BEARPACK PROGRAM:** Byron UMC continues its commitment to giving \$200 monthly toward the BearPack Program with Byron Schools. This program helps those families with children in need in our schools. *All donations at coffee fellowship will help fund this pledge.* Please consider supporting this great need in our community by giving generously to the cookie jar each week!

**CHURCH ADDRESS FOR MAILING:** When sending mail to the church, please be sure to include the PO Box 146 in the address. The post office has been returning mail to senders when the PO Box # is not included. Please use 503 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. NW, PO Box 146, Byron, MN 55920.