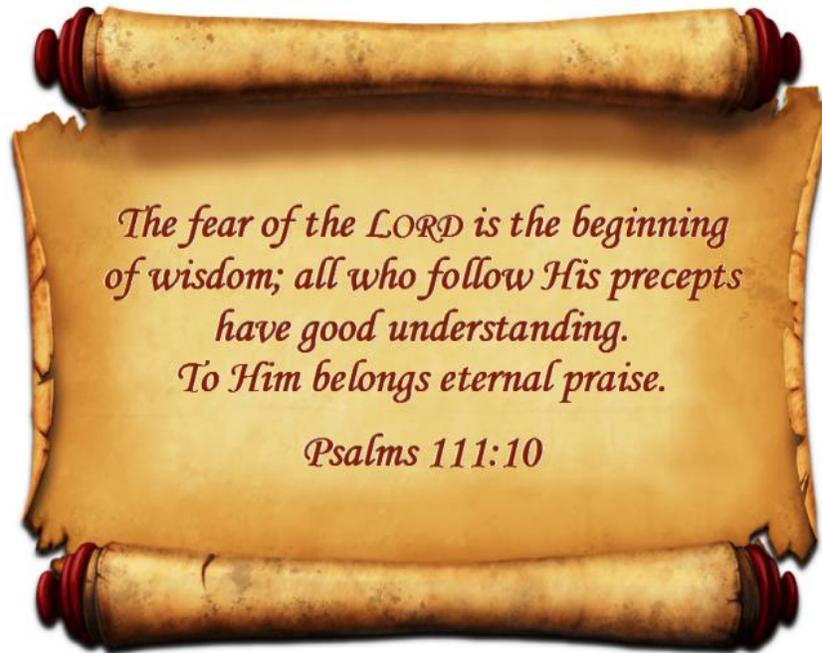


THIS WEEK AT GOLDEN HILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

January 31, 2021

4th Sunday After The Epiphany

Sermon Series: Follow Me



GHUMC'S Vision Statement:

“We are called to connect all people with Jesus in loving, faithful, and authentic relationships.”

Sunday Worship Experience - Let us gather and worship the Lord together!

Scripture readings for the Week of 1/31/21:

Deuteronomy 18:15-20; *Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; *Mark 1:21-28

*Used in Order of Worship

9:30 A.M. Adult Sunday School – (605) 475-4756
(Access Code: 899169)

10:45 A.M. Sunday Worship Experience

You are invited to join us prior to Worship Service on ZOOM -

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87951753982?pwd=NzV2RDZKS0JCRVVRVHFMVDBXK3JIQT09>

this Sunday at 10:25 for a special worship prelude of videos and sounds from YouTube.

You may also dial into the Zoom Conference Call at +1 (646) 558-8656

using Webinar ID 879 5175 3982# and Webinar Password 210. Worship Service can now also be seen on **Facebook Live** on Golden Hill UMC's Facebook page.

(For Dial In - put in Webinar ID, hit Pound# and join as an Attendee. To ensure a clear audio experience for everyone, phones will automatically be muted as you join the Webinar.)

~Grace Notes~

Sunday Worship Experiences: All worship information will be sent to you in a separate email. It will entail all needed information to access the Webinar as an attendee along with your worship bulletin.

Virtual Coffee Hour: Join us on Zoom for virtual coffee hour so we can do some catching up with one another! After Sunday's worship service log out of Zoom and then log back in at 12:30; bring some food and a beverage. All are welcome, so I hope to see you there!

Special GHUMC Zoom Link Recording of last Sunday's Service: If you missed last Sunday's (1/24/21) Worship Service follow this link to view it on Zoom –

- <https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/I6EjrlI-3B6YOawaYhN616BWRyCw4iUYtfsp8ZApYHve4kvx1UhzhauM3wVJ2S-.zNBVXQiKE2XQPxef>

Saying “Thank you” to Essential Hospital Workers! Golden Hill is working with other local Methodist churches to do four “thank you” luncheons in February for the staff at local hospitals. **How can YOU help?** Please **send or drop off** to the Golden Hill church office **thank you cards, Valentines, and homemade signs or banners** thanking the hospital staff members for their hard work and dedication. We need them by **Monday, February 8**. Volunteers will then deliver them to St. Vincent's, Bridgeport Hospital and St. Rafael's along with the luncheons on Feb. 11 or 12. If you wish to be creative on your computer, you can also email thank you cards as an attachment to office@goldenhill.org where they can be printed. Questions? Please contact Phyllis Machledt at pmachledt@gmail.com or 203-268-8737.

One-on-One Meeting with Pastor Rhonda: We still have 1 date remaining, if you are interested in having a one-on-one or group meeting with Pastor Rhonda via Zoom. For those who join the Sunday service via telephone, you will be able to access the gatherings the same way over phone. You can set up this meeting with Pastor Rhonda by either calling the Church Office at (203) 336-0152 or via email: office@goldenhill.org! If you would rather meet within a group setting, a host will be assigned to facilitate the gathering. Our Administrative Assistant, Kamisha, will send you the host name and contact information for the gathering you choose. Kamisha will also send out the Zoom Invites. Kindly note, each gathering will be limited to no more than 10 persons in attendance. With that in mind, it will be on a first come, first serve basis. The gathering date now available is:

- **Wednesday, February 3, 2021 (7:00PM)**

Nut Donation: Thanks to a donation of \$50.00 we were able to increase our profits from the 2020 Nut Fundraiser; with that donation our profit is now \$925!

Weekenders: We are once again blessed with the opportunity to be God's hands in the community as we put together 24 bags of food for students each weekend. We are currently looking for the following items: chocolate milk, juice boxes, individual applesauce, full size canned pasta, individual pasta, mac and cheese boxes and mac and cheese cups. Please feel free to drop off items during the church's office hours. Thank you so much!

Children's Messages: Due to copyright infringement legalities we are no longer able to provide videos during our Children's moment. We are looking for volunteers to record Children's Messages in their own homes for inclusion in Sunday Worship Services. Presenters may be parents with their children, adults or youth who enjoy preparing Children's Messages. If you are interested, please contact the Church Office at (203)336-0152 for more information.

Tower Update: Information or an event for April 1st, should be received by Thursday, 2/25/21 to reflect in March's Tower. Please send Tower information to office@goldenhill.org or call the church office at (203)336-0152 if you have any questions.

Lenten 2021: We have two exciting Lenten opportunities for you to participate in during this special season.

1) The theme for this year's Lenten Season is "*Reflections on the Heart*" by Illustrated Ministry. We are invited to intentionally focus on the spiritual discipline of evaluating what our heart treasures, why we store treasures, and the power these treasures have in our lives. This theme



falls into place with our current Stewardship theme "*Faithfully Serving God in Uncertainty*". If you and your family are interested in obtaining a copy of the resources for this study, please contact the church office at (203) 336-0152 or by email office@goldenhill.org.

2) **Journey with Jesus through Lent:** By Glenn E. Porter

Join friends of Golden Hill church to follow Jesus' footsteps on the road to Jerusalem and the cross. This Lenten study guide includes seven weeks of meditations. Each daily devotion includes a scripture reading from the Gospel of Luke and an African Proverb or other sayings. Weekly themes include: Prayer, Fasting, Almsgiving, Bible Study, Service and Gratitude.

Our seven-week study begins Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom on **February 22nd** or on Sunday mornings via teleconference at 9:15 a.m. on **February 21st**. We will also have the option of a daytime study lead by Byron Crosdale starting on Tuesday, **February 23rd** at 11:00 a.m. If you can contribute \$12.00 toward the cost of the book (for yourself or others), we are grateful! If that is not an option, we are also grateful for you to join us and participate in the study during this special season of the year. Since we were unable to get the Advent Study Books, for those of you who already contributed, your contribution will be forwarded to this study. Please confirm your interest by calling the church office at (203) 336-0152 or emailing Beth Collins at aocollins47@optonline.net and let us know which day you are interested in.

Daily Inspiration: You are invited to join us daily at 7:30 a.m. and 12 noon to listen to a brief devotional message, scripture reading and prayer from the Upper Room series. Call from any phone **(605) 475-4756**; listen for the instructions to enter the **pass code - 899169** and then the pound # sign. To ensure a clear audio experience for everyone, please put your phone on **mute**. If you do not have a mute feature, please call from a quiet location with no background noise like pets, TV or people talking. You can conference call in if you are interested in being a reader, please contact Beth Collins at (203) 521-1467.



Stewardship Journey

Theme: Faithfully Serving God in Uncertainty

Last year has proven to be quite a challenge in our church life due to COVID-19, but your continued support and generosity during these past several months has helped us continue our ministry in worship, teaching and compassion, and being a church that is the Body of Christ.

One of the side effects of the COVID-19 pandemic is that we are learning many new and different ways of being the church. Even when it is safe to gather in the sanctuary again, virtual worship will not likely be set aside. ZOOM and other virtual forms of communication have become the norm. Stewardship is also being practiced differently too.

We are reminded that “stewardship” is not just about finance; but a call to action...to discipleship, and is intended to be a way of life, because it is.

We have now begun our seven-month stewardship journey using the liturgical church calendar with the theme: ***Faithfully serving God in Uncertainty***. What does it mean to tithe our time, our talent, and financial treasure during a time of uncertainty? What does the Bible say about giving? What call to action is God calling You to participate in...

Tithes and Offerings: These are critical and important times in the life of the church and world. We recognize that for many, these times are challenging. As you are able, we invite you to mail in your check for your tithes and offerings to:

**Golden Hill United Methodist Church
210 Elm Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604**

Online Giving - As the situation around COVID-19 continues to evolve, we want to provide an opportunity for you to give electronically. We are using Vanco Payment Solutions which is a partner of the General Council on Finance and Administration (GCFA). By using Vanco, it will allow us to easily link your church donations into the giving platform, Servant Keeper.

What is the cost to the church?

The cost is 1% for a direct ACH transfer from a checking account and 2.75% for using a debit or credit card.

You can use the link below to give your tithes and offering or make a donation. It can also be accessed from our website at www.goldenhill.org:

[Golden Hill e-giving link](#)

Your financial gifts help us continue to engage in ministry and care for our church. We are grateful for your continual support of our church's ministry.

Please share any feedback you have with the process at egiving@goldenhill.org.

From the Health Team: WILL YOU TAKE THE COVID VACCINE?

When I am asked whether I will take the Covid vaccine, my response is that I will accept it at the first opportunity. As a physician working in a nursing home, I may actually have that opportunity before the end of December.

As Christians, we believe that we should care for our bodies as our temples and care for one another as ourselves. Keeping social distance, wearing masks, and taking the vaccine when it is available are ways to do this during the era of Covid.

The development of this vaccine in record-breaking time is a testimony to God's gift of intellect and great collaboration among many scientists, using techniques of vaccine development. The mRNA vaccine does not contain even an inactivated virus, so it cannot transmit the virus. The initial trials are very promising, and adverse effects so far have been infrequent. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines have had remarkable rates of suppressing infection. Over time, we hope to find that vaccination also reduces the severity of illness in individuals who do become infected, as does the flu vaccine (You have had your flu shot, haven't you?). Most reactions have been mild aches and pains, malaise, lowgrade fever, much like those of the flu vaccine. Rarely, in individuals who have a history of severe allergies, there have been more severe, but not life-threatening, reactions. Will more side effects become evident over time? --very possibly, but the risk of death from Covid is a greater risk. We don't yet know how long the immunity lasts after the vaccine; only time and experience will tell. We don't know yet whether we will have to have boosters in subsequent years. BUT this is a start, and I urge all of you to roll up your sleeves and accept the vaccine when your turn comes!

In the meantime, please be safe. Continue social distance and mask-wearing until the experts tell us it is safe to stop hiding from the virus.

TO SCHEDULE A COVID VACCINE:

Now: age > 75

In coming weeks: age > 65

*Younger individuals with chronic illnesses

Log in to ct.gov/covidvaccine

If you do not have internet access, call 1(877) 918-2224

You will register and then be contacted with an appointment ~ Pam Hoffman

Ministry Opportunities This Week: January 31st – February 6th

Sunday 9:30 A.M. Adult Sunday School - (605) 475-4756
(Access Code: 899169)

10:45 A.M. Sunday Worship Service - Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87951753982?pwd=NzV2RDZKS0JCRVVRVHFMVDBXK3JIQT09>
Dial In: +1 (646) 558-8656
Webinar ID: 879 5175 3982#
Passcode: 210

12:30 P.M. Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7016290965?pwd=Y0tQb2l0RGJYblRFYWRqaXk0TGZYvdz09>
Dial In: +1 (646) 558-8656
Meeting ID: 701 629 0965#
Passcode: 210

Monday 7:30 A.M. Daily Inspiration – (605) 475-4756
(Access Code: 899169)

12:00 Noon Daily Inspiration - (605) 475-4756
(Access Code: 899169)

Tuesday 7:30 A.M. Daily Inspiration – (605) 475-4756
(Access Code: 899169)

12:00 Noon Daily Inspiration - (605) 475-4756
(Access Code: 899169)

7:00 P.M. Congregation Growth & Evangelism Meeting - Zoom

7:30 P.M. Virtual Covenant Group
(Your Advisor will provide the link)

Wednesday 7:30 A.M. Daily Inspiration – (605) 475-4756
(Access Code: 899169)

12 Noon Daily Inspiration - (605) 475-4756
(Access Code: 899169)

5:00 P.M. Community Supper (Take-out Dinner)

6:30 P.M. Troop 34 Scout Meeting – Locke Hall

Thursday 7:30 A.M. Daily Inspiration – (605) 475-4756
(Access Code: 899169)

12 Noon Daily Inspiration - (605) 475-4756
(Access Code: 899169)

12 Noon Open & Affirming Meeting – Zoom

Friday 7:30 A.M. Daily Inspiration – (605) 475-4756
(Access Code: 899169)

12 Noon Daily Inspiration- (605) 475-4756
(Access Code: 899169)

Saturday 8:30 A.M. Covenant Group – Beth Collins (605) 475-4756
(Access Code: 899169)

(All meetings and groups will occur via ZOOM video conferencing and Conference call. Your ministry leader will contact you with the needed information.)

Covenant Groups: Are continuing to meet regularly; please consider joining a group to explore and develop your spirituality. We realize that no one can attend a session every week, but if you can commit to 2 or 3 sessions per month, you and the other members of the group will benefit from your participation. Groups meet:

Saturdays 8:30 a.m. (605) 475-4756 Leader Beth Collins
Access Code: 899169

Tuesdays 7:30 p.m. Virtual group Leader Jane Wakeman
(Your advisor will provide the link)

Grace, Hope & Love Encouragement Ministry: Let us find ways to give grace, share hope, and extend love during these times.

Call and Connect - Are you willing to help us call and connect with your GHUMC Brothers and Sisters in Christ? Members of this ministry will call to check in with you and your family. If you are interested, in being a part of this ministry, please contact Beth Collins.

Helping Hands - Are you in need of assistance? Are you willing to shop or pick-up medicine for our elderly and sick or shut in? If so, please contact Melodye Merola.

Care Ecards & Social Media - Send an inspirational message, share a song, etc.

Book Donations: We are looking for Literature, Novels, etc.. to be donated to distribute during Community Supper. If you have books that are in good condition and you would like to donate them, please contact the church office by email office@goldenhill.org or phone (203) 336-0152 to set up a time to bring them in.

Music Ministry: It has been my pleasure to be of service listening and watching YouTube in order to provide music and videos for the Sunday morning service. In response, I have been asked about what videos I have been using. I have playlists for most Sundays for most of the music... https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8yogqEXw_yXcwgz_hUPa6w. I hope you enjoy. Coming soon will be all sorts of Playlists for different sacred music for you to enjoy!

Prayer Chain: If you or anyone you know of is in need of prayer, please reach out to Melodye Merola at outreach@goldenhill.org.

Worship Attendance for last Sunday Service, January 24th: 41*

January 23rd: 8:30 am Covenant Group: 6

January 24th: Adult Sunday School: 5

January 27th: Community Supper: 38

(*Zoom Attendance based on number of log in phone numbers and emails)

GOLDEN HILL PARISH STAFF E-Mail:

The Reverend Rhonda R. Taylor, Senior Pastor – PastorRT@goldenhill.org

Melodye Merola, Director of Outreach Ministry – Outreach@goldenhill.org

Daniel Pettit, Director of Music Ministries – Dpettit@goldenhill.org

Kamisha Edwards, Administrative Assistant – Office@goldenhill.org

Jorge Moreno, Church Sexton – Sexton@goldenhill.org

Lawrence Sistrunk, Sunday Sexton

Bergeau Pierre, Parking Attendant

Office hours: Tuesday, 9:00 am to 2:30 pm

Wednesday, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm

Thursday, 9:00 am to 2:30 pm

Friday, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Office Phone: (203) 336-0152