

Golden Hill United Methodist Church
Worship, Meditation & Praise
Fourth Sunday After The Epiphany
February 1, 2026



We welcome you to our in-person worship in our sanctuary. Thanks to technology, the full sanctuary is now included in the filming and broadcasting of our service! We are thankful that you have chosen to be part of our visible gathered faith family on this day.

Online or in the Sanctuary, We are the Body of Christ.
Let us Worship God together beginning with the Gathering Music at 10:25 a.m.

*The mission of the Golden Hill United Methodist Church,
a unique, diverse and dynamic Christian community,
is to serve Christ in the city and the world
through members who are ambassadors for Christ.*

***You are invited to rise in body or spirit**
UMH = United Methodist Hymnal (Blue Book)
FWS = Faith We Sing (Black Book) W&S = Worship and Song (Green Book)

CCLI # 2254377

Praise and Worship W&S #3008

“Open the Eyes of My Heart”

Welcome

Pastor Jeremiah J. Paul

Announcements & Acknowledgement of Visitors

Daniel Mpoyo

Opening Prayer

Pastor Jeremiah J. Paul

Oh God,
Our Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer-
How do we thank you?
How do we show our gratitude?
Do you want signs and sacrifices?
Do you want gold and cattle?
Can we turn over our children to you?
Would that repay our debt, make everything right?
Tell us, what do you require in return for all your goodness?

Oh God,
Our teacher, example, companion—
You have shown us what is good,
and call us to remember
that what you require is not
repayment of debt
or settling the score,
but obedience.
Show us, God,
When to do justice,
how to love kindness,
and where to walk,
humbly,
with you.
Amen.

Moment of Centering

“Come Sunday” by Duke Ellington

Reginald Roberts

***Call to Worship**

Daniel Mpoyo & Ashani Ross

Leader: Beloved, what worship does God desire of us?

All: To do justice, love kindness, and live humbly with God.

Leader: In our life together as the body of Christ, what worship does God desire of us?

All: To do justice, love kindness, and live humbly with God.

Leader: When we share the good news with all creation, what worship does God desire of us?

All: To do justice, love kindness, and live humbly with God.

Leader: Come, let us worship God with justice, kindness, and humility!

All: We come to worship God with our voices and our lives. Thanks be to God! Amen.

***Opening Hymn FWS #2208**

“Guide My Feet”

Prayer of Confession

Ashani Ross

Micah reminds us that our prayers, fasting, and pious ritual must be lived out in compassion and justice:

When we forget the fast you desire—

To do justice, and rise up for the powerless:

Lord, have mercy.

When we forget the prayer you love—

To show compassion and care for those in need:

Christ, have mercy.

When we forget the rituals you require—

To create relationships of righteousness and peace:

Lord have mercy.

Assurance of Grace and Peace

Friends, the love of God revealed in Jesus

forgives us, heals us, and sets us free

to rebuild, restore, and

raise up foundations for new generations. **Amen.**

Moments of Grace

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Jeremiah J. Paul

Passing of the Peace

Offering

Daniel Mpoyo

Four ways you can give:

- 1) *Place your offering into one of the offering plates*
- 2) *Mail your offering to Golden Hill UMC – 210 Elm Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604*
- 3) *Drop your offering off Tues-Thursday between the hours of 9:30am-12:00pm*
- 4) *Online: [Golden Hill E-Giving Link](#)*

Offertory

“Every Time I Feel the Spirit”

***Doxology UMH #95**

***Offertory Prayer**

Pastor Jeremiah J. Paul

God of Justice and Mercy, you do not ask for thousands of offerings or rivers of oil, only that we live with love, humility, and a hunger for what is right. Accept these gifts we bring—not as bargaining chips, but as signs of our desire to follow you. Use them and us to pour out kindness where the world is aching, to walk alongside the weary, and to bring your healing presence into troubled places. May our giving be our “yes” to your call, our response to your grace, and our witness to your hope. In Jesus’ name we pray. **Amen.**

Youth Discipleship Message

Pastor Jeremiah J. Paul

Scripture Lessons

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 15

Ashani Ross

***Gospel Lesson**

Matthew 5:1-12

Daniel Mpoyo

Ministry of Music

“My Lord, What a Morning”

The Chancel Choir

Sermon

Pastor Jeremiah J. Paul

Sermonic Song

Pastor Jeremiah J. Paul

Holy Communion

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Father Almighty (almighty God), creator of heaven and earth.
Before the mountains were brought forth, or you had formed the earth,
from everlasting to everlasting, you alone are God.
You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth.
You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.
When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.
You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and spoke to us through your prophets.
And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ,
in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation.

You sent a star to guide wise men to where the Christ was born;
and in your signs and witnesses, in every age and through all the world,
you have led your people from far places to his light.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.
Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.
Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (*God*), now and forever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Breaking the Bread

Because there is one loaf,
we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.
The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.
The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

Giving the Bread and Cup

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**
The blood of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

***Closing Hymn** “What Does the Lord Require of You” by Mark Miller

***Benediction**

Pastor Jeremiah J. Paul

May the holy wisdom of God
Guard your ways and guide your paths
May the living truth of God
Enlighten your hearts and open your minds
And may the living Spirit of God
Give you life, and life to the full!
Amen!

Postlude

“I Have Decided”

Daniel Pettit



The Worship Has Ended: Our Service Begins



THIS WEEK AT GOLDEN HILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**Worship, Meditation & Praise
Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany
February 1, 2026**

An Open and Affirming Congregation

Our Vision Statement:

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

Online Worship Information

Zoom Webinar Link and Log-In Information

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87318253668?pwd=ZElIS1lhTnVlaUg3NDJ6cGJhUUxZdz09>

Webinar ID: 873 1825 3668

Passcode: 210

Phone Dial In: (646) 931-3860

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@GoldenHillWorship/streams>.

~Grace Notes~

Worship Attendance for last Sunday's Service, Jan 25th: 32

Jan 24th: Covenant Group 10:30: 7

Jan 25th: Adult Bible Study:

Jan 25th: In-Person Attendance: 0

Jan 25th: Online Attendance: 32

Jan 28th: Community Supper:

**Worship Resource for February 1st –
Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany:**

Opening Prayer - *Written by Dana Cassell, a former BVS volunteer. Posted on the Church of the Brethren website, <https://www.brethren.org/>. Re-posted on the re:Worship blog at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2014/01/prayer-micah-6-6-8.html>.*

Call to Worship - *Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2025*
Benediction - *Posted on Literature & Liturgy,*

<https://jesusscribbles.wordpress.com/>. Re-posted on the re:Worship blog at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2018/09/blessing-wisdom-of-god.html>.

Prayer of Confession - *Adapted from Rev. Susan A. Blain, posted on the Worship Ways website at <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/salty-bright-and-good-service-prayers-for-the-5th-sunday-after-epiphany-year-a-february-9-2020/>.*

Lectionary Scriptures for the Week of 2/1/26:

Micah 6:1-8, *Psalm 15, 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, *Matthew 5:1-12

***Used in Order of Worship**

This Sunday at Golden Hill

10:30 A.M. Worship Experience ~ Sanctuary

Hospitality Team: Mishkia Lewis, Opal Crosdale & Carl Moore

Fellowship Time Host: The Health Team

Sanctuary Liturgists: Daniel Mpoyo & Ashani Ross

Tech Team: Daniel Pettit, Diana Moore & Jasmine McLaughlin

Drummer: Ryan Sands

Pastor's Office Hours - Rev. Jeremiah Paul will be available for meetings:

- Tuesday: 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. • Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- Thursday: 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Please note: These are designated hours of availability, but appointments must be scheduled in advance.

Community Supper – Coffee Request

Our supply of coffee is running low. If you're able to donate ground coffee to help warm our neighbors, please reach out to *Phyllis Jackson*.

Weekenders:

Thanks so much for your help in providing 25 bags of food each weekend for students who are food insecure. Whether you can contribute one item or many, it is all much appreciated. We are currently looking for the following items: condensed soup, Vienna sausage, individual white milk, juice boxes individual pasta, individual nut packages, cold cereal, individual applesauce and fruit cups.

Scarf Donations

In the past, Golden Hill has made winter scarves available to our neighbors by hanging them on the fence on Golden Hill Street. If you would like to help or donate new/gently used warm scarves, please speak to Jane Wakeman.

Coffee Hour

Jovonn Sokolovic will host coffee hour on 2/8 in honor of Black History month

THIS WEEK'S HAPPENINGS 2/1 – 2/7

~Church Council Meeting. In the Parlor
Sunday, 2/1 – Immediately following Worship Service

~SPPRC Committee Meeting. via Zoom
Thursday, 2/5 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Meetings that happen weekly at Golden Hill UMC

Every Sun. 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday Bible Study is held in the Parlor (Unless in Summer Hours)

Every Monday thru Friday – 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 Access 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.

Every Wed. 5:00 p.m. Community Supper (Take Out)

6-9 p.m. Boy Scouts & Girls Troop 38 in Locke Hall & Library

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – all who love to sing are welcome!

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 Access Code: 899169

Saturdays 10:30 a.m. (Church Library) Leader Pam Hoffman

Last Week's Service can be found in date order at :

<https://www.youtube.com/@GoldenHillWorship/pastlivestreams>.



Please Remember in Prayer...

Homebound: Harry Clauss, Ruth Hurd, Wally Hurd Jr., Sandra Ericson, Mildred Fuller, Bruce Hunter, Carlton & Dorrette Johnson, Picardy Marshall, Barbara Nelson, Cynthia Smith, Julie Lewis.

Healing Prayers: Brenda (Co-worker and Friend to Rene Reed), Shirley Kerr, Rev. Jim & Barbara Stinson, Dick & Linda Deible. Leon Walker – battling cancer. Henni Payne recovering from surgery. Kathy, Aurora and Joan. David Alamo Jr. (Friend to Joesette & Lawrence Sistrunk)

Health Concerns: Prayers for Ina Rockhead (Louise Crosbie’s friend). Hector Garcia. **Under Doctors Care:** Christine (Sonya Green’s Sister).

The Prayer Chain: The Prayer Chain is available to all who would like specific prayers said for a particular person or issue. Your request will be held in strict confidence by the members of the chain. By policy, members of the Prayer Chain will pray daily for two weeks or until told that the issue is resolved. Requests may be sent to: jane.edla.52@gmail.com.

GOLDEN HILL PARISH STAFF E-Mail:

The Reverend Jeremiah J. Paul, Senior Pastor – PastorJ@goldenhill.org

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

Andre Nelson, Administrative Assistant – Office@goldenhill.org

Lawrence Sistrunk, Sunday Sexton Sexton@goldenhill.org

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

Wednesday, 9:00 am to 2:30 pm

Thursday, 9:00 am to 2:30 pm

Friday, 9:00 am to 12:30 pm

Office Phone: (203) 336-0152