

**Welcome to Stanton Reformed Church!**  
**We're so glad you've joined us for worship today!**

If you're visiting, we would like to extend a special welcome to you. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask an usher - they're the folks who gave you this bulletin!

**Restrooms** - From the back of the sanctuary, head left, pass the coat closet and go through the double doors, they're straight ahead of you.

**Nursery** - We provide nursery care and our loving adults would enjoy meeting your littlest ones. To get to the nursery, head left from the back of the sanctuary, pass the coat closet and it is on your right. Feel free to stay with your little one if you'd like. But we also want you to enjoy worship so the nursery staff is happy to take your cell phone and can text you with updates. We want you to feel comfortable!

**Children** - About 15 minutes into the worship service, children are invited forward for a special message just for them. You're welcome to join your child up front if you prefer.

**Sunday School** - After the children's sermon, we have classes for children from preschool through high school. Younger children meet weekly, the classrooms are in our lower level; the stairs are immediately to your right when you leave the sanctuary. Middle school students meet the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month, and high school students meet the 3rd Sunday of each month. There are loving adults in the foyer directing children to the right class. If you have questions, again don't hesitate to ask an usher. You can pick up your child after worship in their classroom.

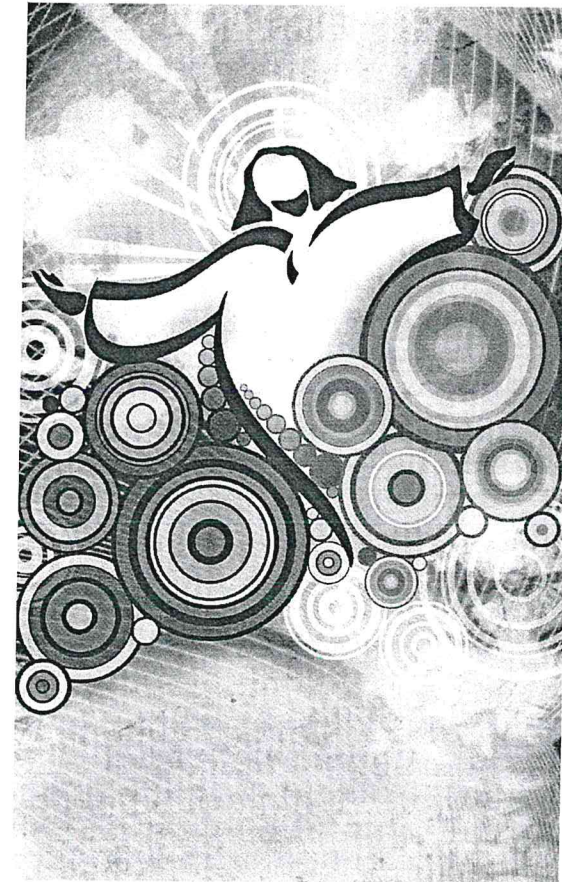
**Fellowship Time After Worship** - After worship, we gather as a community for coffee, tea and snacks. If you're able, please join us.

**Want to know more?** There are cards in the back of the pews for you to provide your name and contact information if you would like more information about our community of faith. Again, welcome! We're so glad you're here!

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Stanton Reformed Church  
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Rev. Beth Scibienski, Interim Pastor  
Sara Haviland, Consistory Vice President  
Carole Falar, Office Administrator  
Peter Tueber, Interim Treasurer  
Donna Morris, Financial Secretary  
Megan Petrushun, Music Director  
Philip Stevenson, Organist



**Stanton Reformed Church**  
**Founded 1833**

**A Congregation of the**  
**Reformed Church in America**

**Sunday, January 12, 2019**  
**First Sunday after Epiphany: Baptism of the Lord**

## We Assemble in God's Name

\* invites you to stand with us, in body or in spirit, as you are able.

**Bold** indicates parts read by the congregation.

Greetings and Announcements

Prelude *I Surrender All* Weeden, arr. Sorenson

Preparation for Worship

*Jesus invites us to come and see, inviting us to the deeper questions. Living as those who are called in service to God's love, we become the proclaimers of hope, the host at the banquet, the banquet guest, and the beacon of love. We are all a part of God's gathering, each with a role to play. We are not players in a performance, but rather participants in a glorious experience. God has called us, claimed us, and sends us into the world to be servants of God's love. However calm or turbulent our culture may be, what does it mean to serve Love in today's context?*

Choral Introit *Teach Me Thy Way, O Lord* CAMACHA

*Teach me thy way, O Lord, teach me thy way!*

*Thy guiding grace afford – teach me thy way! Help me to walk aright,  
more by faith, less by sight; lead me with heavenly light, teach me thy way!*

Call to Worship

Every morning, God calls us from complacency into compassion.

**We are here to sing songs of God's love and faithfulness.**

God, gather us into loving arms and become a shelter in difficult days.

**We are here to offer our thanks and share that God is good.**

God calls us into this time and place with full hearts and open hands.

**We embrace the world with open hearts and open eyes.**

Let us stand to offer ourselves as a blessing to the Lord.

\*Hymn of Praise #41 *Stand Up and Bless the Lord* ST. MICHAEL

Call to Confession

God calls us to be stewards of light and love, to share messages of hope and healing. Let us pray for God's compassion and care for us as we seek to walk in God's light and love.

Prayer of Confession

God, we sometimes struggle with the in-between – the push and pull of being called kind and actually being kind. We struggle with the in-between of being a voice for love and being silent so as not to offend. We struggle with believing we are enough and actually being enough.

**God, when we join your limitless love, we find ourselves filled with hope and purpose, grounded in support.**

**Consistory Members** - Our Church is governed by a board of Elders and Deacons, together they make up our "Consistory." The Consistory oversees the worship and work of the church. If you have questions or comments, one of these folks will be happy to serve you.

Diane Clapp, *Personnel and Finance & Stewardship Committees*

Scott Clarke, *Learning Center and Personnel committee*

Michele D'Amico, *All Are Welcome committee*

Sara Haviland Jackson, *VP of Consistory and Communications Committee*

Lauren Huelsebusch, *Worship committee*

Melody Landon Simerson, *Congregational Nurture Committee*

JP Magron, *member at large*

Erik Petrushen, *Nominating Committee*

Ed Scheuermann, *Interim Liaison Buildings and Grounds*

Tanya Tuccillo, *Mission Committee*

Bud Tunison, *Finance & Stewardship Committee*

Michele White, *Christian Education Committee*



**2020 Calendars** - Please feel free to help yourself to a 2020 calendar. They're located in a box on the table in the Narthex.

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**Prayers and Birthdays** - If you would like to have a prayer request in the bulletin, please contact Pastor Beth, or Carole at the church office. If you would like to send cards or notes to anyone on our prayer list, please contact the church office for an address.

**Please remember in your prayers:**

- Prayers for Tanya Tuccillo's friend, Joy (and her kids), who is newly divorced, as they navigate this first holiday season in their new family structure.
- Prayers for Cheryl & Brian Galloway, and the boys, grieving the loss of Cheryl's dad.
- Prayers for the Vandal family, on the difficult anniversary of the loss of their daughter Ally.
- Prayers for those who are grieving/depressed this holiday season.
- Susie Emery is recovering from having stomach surgery. Painful, but healing well.
- Adele asked for patience, joy, peace and love for the coming year.
- A friend of Tanya's, Michael, is struggling with drug addiction.
- Scott Barton's mom, Karen, undergoing surgery after a fall which broke both wrists. Prayers for a successful surgery, speedy recovery, and also for her caretaker.
- Jay Kitchener is having a hard time dealing with complications from leukemia.
- Melody Landon's friend, Rob Kalesse, is no longer able to receive treatment for his cancer and is at home with his wife, Cristina, preparing for his journey into God's arms. Please keep them in your prayers as this young couple goes through this difficult time.

**Birthday Blessings:**

Jan 12 - Kim Fraser	Jan 14 - Amelia Magron	Jan 16 - Steve Haynes
Jan 17 - Philip Frey	Jan 17 - Austin White	Jan 17 - Matthew White
Jan 17 - Tyler White	Jan 18 - Craig Martino	Jan 22 - Ann Sauerland
Jan 24 - Sandy Adam	Jan 24 - Kathy Bernhardt	

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**Forgive us for our insecurities.**

**Forgive us for the times we fail because we fail to try, fail to speak, and fail to believe.**

*Silence*

You call us to live fully into ourselves, living as our whole selves to become a people of God. Too easily we tap into excuses "someone else can do or be better." Rather we should run and shout for joy, "God has called me!" "I have love to share!"

**God of wonder and delight turn our hearts and minds to you.**

**Offer your strength where we are weak.**

**Join our hearts and minds so that we may seek your mission for our community of faith. Amen.**

Kyrie Eleison

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Assurance of Pardon, Summary of the Law and Passing of the Peace

Let us never tire of God's assurance – we are seen, we are known, we are loved. God sees us as we are, knows us by name, and loves us deeply.

**When we confess with our heart, God pours love upon us, anointing us to love and serve.**

Indeed, with God's love poured upon us, we shall love the Lord our God with all of our heart, our mind and our strength.

**And we shall love our neighbor as ourselves.**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

**And also with you.**

\*Gloria Patri (#807)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;**

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.**

**Amen.**

Choral Anthem

*The Gift of Love*  
Though I may speak with bravest fire,  
And have the gift to all inspire,  
And have not love, my words are vain,  
As sounding brass, and hopeless gain.  
Though I may give all I possess,  
And striving so my love profess,  
But not be given by love within,  
The profit soon turns strangely thin.  
Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,  
Our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed;  
By this we worship, and are freed.

Hal Hopson

**Proclamation of the Word**

Children's Moment

Prayer for Illumination      *Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil*  
*Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your word.*  
*Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is understood.*  
*When my heart is hard, break the stone away.*  
*When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.*  
*When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.*  
*Lord, let my heart - Lord, let my heart - Lord, let my heart be good soil.*

Scripture Lesson:      Isaiah 49:1-7  
Page 638, regular print  
Page 830, large print

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

John 1:29-42  
Page 86, regular print  
Page 112, large print

This is the Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Call, Hope and Purpose

Opening Star Word Prayer:

*God, we acknowledge that we are not always ready to receive your best gifts for us. You have given us an epiphany word in order that our searching will bring us to you. It is often our habit to turn aside, stumble over, or even reject experiences and encounters that we later understand to have been precious gifts. Help us to be open to the gift that you offer us now through our star words. We acknowledge that we do not fully understand what this word might mean for our faith, but we receive it from you with gratitude and pray that your Spirit will enable us to live into our word with intention and faithfulness. Amen.*

Look up the word in the dictionary or on Wikipedia.

Questions for reflection:

What does this word mean to you today? What has it meant in the past?

In what way does this word challenge you? Why?

Turn the word around - if you were thinking it meant something for you to do for others, what would it mean if it were for others to do for you? Or vice versa.

Tell a trusted friend about your word and what you are thinking so far.

Put the star somewhere you can see it regularly. From time to time throughout the year, go through this exercise again and see how your "Star Word" is guiding you.

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**Kind Reminder to Parents of School Aged Children:**

As we are in the middle of cold and flu season, we are reminding all parents of our policy when your children are sick. For the safety and well being of our teachers and other students, if your child has had any of the following symptoms in the previous 24 hours, they are not permitted to attend Sunday School:

Fever of 100 degrees or higher (without any medication)

Vomiting

Diarrhea

Significant amount of nasal discharge or uncontrolled cough

While we love all our little ones, we want to be sure to keep everyone healthy. Thank you in advance for your consideration of our policy.

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**January Mission of the Month**

Anderson House for Women, located in Whitehouse Station, is a residential program for women in recovery from substance abuse and co-occurring disorders. Services include individual, group and family counseling. They utilize a holistic approach, focusing on all aspects of addiction; the physical, psychological, emotional & spiritual.

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Our usual worship service will be abbreviated to 45 minutes, so that everyone can move down to the Fellowship Hall to grab a plate and settle in. Adults will sit in the Fellowship Hall and children in the nursery, where our older youth will make sure they are well-fed and cared for.

We will begin our congregational meeting at the usual time, about 11:05. We will discuss our budget and church business, including committee updates and how to get involved. It is very important for all of our members and regular attendees to attend so you can stay informed - this is YOUR church!

A freewill donation will be collected, with all proceeds benefiting Starfish and CHOP - we suggest \$10 per plate or \$30 per family. The Youth encourage everyone to wear a jersey or other fan gear to support their favorite team! PLEASE RSVP ASAP so we know how much food to make - you can follow this link: [Stanton Souper Bowl RSVP](#) or email the church office directly ([stantonchurch@gmail.com](mailto:stantonchurch@gmail.com)).

### Seeking Acolyte Lighters!

Ever wonder how those adorable kids get chosen to light our candles in church every week? Well wonder no more! ALL ARE WELCOME to volunteer to be our Acolyte candle lighters each week. If your child would love a chance to participate in our service, we would love to have you! Parents we ask that you use the sign up sheet posted on our bulletin board to sign your sons or daughters up to light as a volunteer. We would love to see some new faces lighting our candles in the new year and bringing smiles to our congregation each week. Parents will be asked to stay with your child in the narthex until the candles are lit. Directions will be posted in the narthex. THANK YOU!!

### A Prayer for Our Star Words

Last week, we shared the ways in which we learned and grew as a result of our "Star Word" from 2019. And then we picked a new word for 2020. There are plenty of stars left to pick. You can find them in the narthex in a basket. There are also words specifically for children, also in the narthex in a different basket.

Some folks have asked "what do I do with this?" or "What is this about?"

Just as the Magi were guided by a star that led them to find the Christ child, we can imagine our "Star word" as a guide for this upcoming year. The Holy Spirit is always guiding us, teaching us, challenging us. God wants to be with us in our everyday life. This "Star word" can be one way for God to be with us and to grow us.

Here are a couple simple steps to get you started.

## Our Response to God's Word and Spirit

Hymn of Response

*Come, Live in the Light!*

749

**Come! Live in the Light!**

We Are Called

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. It consists of five staves of music with corresponding lyrics and guitar chords. The chords are: G, C, D, G, C, Em, Em7, C, G, Am7, G, C, Dsus, D, G, C, D, G, C.

1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the  
 2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your  
 3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that

joy and the love of the Lord! We are called  
 mer - cy to all those in fear! We are called  
 great day when all will be one! God will reign,

to be light for the king - dom, to live in the  
 to be hope for the hope - less so ha - tred and  
 and we'll walk with each oth - er as sis - ters and

free - dom of the cit - y of God.  
 vio - lence will be no more.  
 broth - ers u - nit - ed in love.

Refrain

Our Gifts of Thanksgiving  
 Invitation to Giving

We are called as God's beloved to be good stewards of our time, our energy, and our resources.

**God takes what we offer and uses them to serve the world we are called to love.**

The ushers may come forward to receive today's offering.

Offertory

*Barcarolle Impromptu*

Bruce Berr

\*Doxology (#809 in unison)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

Prayer of Dedication

All that we have and all that we are returns to you, O God.  
**Gather these offerings and make them sufficient for the needs of the world.  
We give you all our thanks and praise, for you alone are worthy. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

*What joys and concerns do we want to share with one another?  
Let's pause in silence for those prayers that were not shared but remain in our hearts and minds.*

*And let us wrap these prayers together with the prayer Jesus taught,*  
**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.**

\*Hymn of Sending #539 *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* HOUSTON

\*Benediction

\*Choral Benediction *Lord, Help Me Keep My Life in Balance* David Angerman  
*Lord, help me keep my life in balance.  
Help me focus on you, Lord, in my work and my play.  
Lord, help me keep my life in balance.  
You, Lord, are my hope, my strength for the day.*

Postlude *Rhapsody in D minor* Melody Bober

**THANK YOU FOR SERVING!**

- Leading us in worship today:
  - Preaching: Pastor Beth Scibienski
  - Liturgist: JP Magron
  - Organist: Philip Stevenson
  - Music Director: Megan Petrushun
- Darleen Manchen and Ruth Crommelin for ushering.
- Thank you to all who helped with Pizza Sunday today.
- The flowers on our altar are given in the glory of God by Betty Berner.

**UPCOMING VOLUNTEERS**

<b><u>Acolytes</u></b>	Jan 19	<b>Please sign up!</b>
	Jan 26	<b>Please sign up!</b>
<b><u>Fellowship Hour</u></b>	Jan 19	Betty Berner & Irma Hotz
	Jan 26	<b>Please sign up!</b>
<b><u>Flowers</u></b>	Jan 19	The Borea-Cerciello Family
	Jan 26	<b>Please sign up!</b>
<b><u>Ushers</u></b>	Jan 19	<b>Please sign up!</b>
	Jan 26	<b>Please sign up!</b>

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

Sunday, Jan 12	Middle School Sunday School	10:20 AM
	Pizza Sunday	
	Second Cup with Pastor Beth	11:30 AM
	Undecorating SRC	
Monday, Jan 13	Finance Committee Meeting	7:00 PM
Tuesday, Jan 14	Prayer Shawl	2:00 PM
Wednesday, Jan 15	Bible Reading Group	10:00 AM
	Christian Education Meeting	5:45 PM
	Bible Reading Group	7:00 PM
Friday, Jan 17	SLC Kids Night	6:00 PM
Sunday, Jan 19	High School Sunday School	10:20 AM
	Second Cup with Pastor Beth	11:30 AM

**GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Pizza Sunday Today**

Please join us for Pizza Sunday today, immediately following worship.

**Undecorating Also Today**

Please stick around a little bit longer to help undecorate the Sanctuary and Narthex ... many hands make for light work.

**A SOUPER CONGREGATIONAL MEETING!**

On Sunday, January 26, we have a double header - the Stanton Youth Group is hosting a brunch fundraiser for Starfish and CHOP, and the Consistory is hosting a Congregational Meeting. How's this going to work?